

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, MARCH 2019**

**Main Findings – MARCH 2019:**

**Delayed Transfers of Care**

- There were 138,800 total delayed days in March 2019, of which 90,200 were in acute care. This is a decrease from March 2018, where there were 154,500 total delayed days, of which 102,400 were in acute care.
- The 138,800 total delayed days in March 2019 is equivalent to 4,478 daily DTOC beds. This compares to 4,984 in March 2018 and 4,545 in February 2019.
- Both the NHS and Social Care sectors have seen reductions in the volume of delayed transfers of care in the last year.
- 61.9% of all delays in March 2019 were attributable to the NHS, 28.9% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 9.2% were attributable to both NHS and Social Care.
- The proportion of delays attributable to Social Care has decreased over the last year to 28.9%.
- The main reason for NHS delays in March 2019 was “Patients Awaiting further Non Acute NHS Care”. This accounted for 26,400 delayed days (30.8% of all NHS delays). The number of delays attributable to this reason showed an increase between August 2015 and January 2017. Since March 2018, the number was generally decreasing, but has shown an increase again this month.
- The main reason for Social Care delays in March 2019 was “Patients Awaiting Care Package in their Own Home”. This accounted for 13,200 delayed days (33.0% of all Social Care delays). The number of delays attributable to this reason had been increasing steadily since April 2014 and reached a peak in December 2016. Delays attributable to this reason have been generally decreasing since March 2018.
- Delays can occur in either an acute or non-acute care setting. The proportion of delays occurring in acute care in March 2019 was 65.0% compared to 66.3% in March 2018.

**Table 1** shows information on delayed transfers of care from March 2016 to March 2019.

**Table 2** shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for March 2019.

Details of delayed transfers of care data for individual organisations are available at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/delayed-transfers-of-care/delayed-transfers-of-care-data-2018-19/>

**Table 1 – Delayed Transfers of Care – March 2016 to March 2019**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Total Days Delayed	DTOC Beds
March 2016	169,882	5,480
April 2016	168,018	5,601
May 2016	172,294	5,558
June 2016	173,122	5,771
July 2016	184,578	5,954
August 2016	187,851	6,060
September 2016	196,570	6,552
October 2016	200,095	6,455
November 2016	193,206	6,440
December 2016	195,445	6,305
January 2017	197,511	6,371
February 2017	186,490	6,660
March 2017	199,641	6,440
April 2017	176,886	5,896
May 2017	178,209	5,749
June 2017	177,881	5,929
July 2017	181,891	5,867
August 2017	180,285	5,816
September 2017	168,041	5,601
October 2017	169,864	5,479
November 2017	155,137	5,171
December 2017	145,040	4,679
January 2018	151,383	4,883
February 2018	140,364	5,013
March 2018	154,494	4,984
April 2018	145,181	4,839
May 2018	139,533	4,501
June 2018	134,726	4,491
July 2018	140,361	4,528
August 2018	146,841	4,737
September 2018	144,536	4,818
October 2018	146,861	4,737
November 2018	137,388	4,580
December 2018	129,374	4,173
January 2019	135,683	4,377
February 2019	127,281	4,546
March 2019	138,800	4,478

Notes:

1. As of April 2017, patient snapshot data is no longer being collected.

**Table 2 – Delayed Transfers of Care by Type of Care, Reason for Delay and Responsible Organisation – March 2019**

Type of Care	Reason For Delay	Total Days Delayed		
		NHS	Social Care	Both
Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	5,540	4,731	1,365
	B) Awaiting public funding	1,023	376	143
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	22,601	NA	NA
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	3,101	5,612	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	7,015	3,809	699
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	6,550	8,239	3,654
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	2,315	304	391
	G) Patient or family choice	9,606	786	NA
	H) Disputes	458	158	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	1,735	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	2,019	1,394	383
	B) Awaiting public funding	823	681	766
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	3,826	NA	NA
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	3,545	4,924	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	1,939	2,283	2,635
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	2,483	5,010	2,302
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	662	147	117
	G) Patient or family choice	5,082	1,014	NA
	H) Disputes	387	335	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	4,006	NA	NA
O) Other	1,176	365	316	
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>85,892</b>	<b>40,168</b>	<b>12,771</b>

Notes:

1. NA means the combination of reason and responsible organisation is not permitted.
2. As of April 2018, a new 'Other' category has been added for non-acute delays. This category is used for delays reported in NHS Digital's Mental Health Services Data Set (MHSDS v2.0) which cannot be mapped to existing codes within the Monthly Delayed Transfers of Care collection.

**Table 3 – Revisions to Delayed Transfers of Care April 2018 – February 2019**

Revisions have been made this month to published data from April 2018 to February 2019. A summary of the impact at national level is shown in Table 3 below. Details of the trusts who have submitted revisions can be found in the individual monthly Excel downloads.

Month	Total Delayed Days	
	Previous	Revised
April 2018	145,181	145,347
May 2018	139,533	139,812
June 2018	134,726	135,088
July 2018	140,361	140,938
August 2018	146,841	146,866
September 2018	144,536	144,595
October 2018	146,861	146,610
November 2018	137,388	136,183
December 2018	129,374	128,799
January 2019	135,683	135,397
February 2019	127,281	127,259

## Statistical Notes to Editors

### 1. Delayed Transfers of Care data

A delayed transfer of care occurs when a patient is medically fit for discharge from acute or non-acute care and is still occupying a bed. For a more detailed definition please read the guidance on NHS England's website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/>

The daily DTOC beds measure is calculated by dividing the total number of delayed days in the month by the number of calendar days.

As of April 2017, the count of patients delayed on the last Thursday of the month is no longer being collected. Historical data for this measure will remain available on the NHS England Statistics website.

Data on delayed transfers of care is collected from providers of NHS funded care and is split by:

- Local Authority that is responsible for each patient delayed
- Agency responsible for delay (NHS, Social Services or both)
- Type of care that the patient receives (acute or non-acute)
- Reason for delay

A detailed breakdown of the data can be found on NHS England's website in CSV format at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/delayed-transfers-of-care/delayed-transfers-of-care-data-2018-19/>

### 2. Trust and Local Authority level data

Delayed transfers of care data covers NHS patients in English Hospitals, who may or may not reside in England and is published on both a trust and Local Authority basis.

Trust level reflects data at organisation level for those organisations that provide NHS funded care, for example acute Trusts, community providers, mental health trusts and Social Enterprise organisations.

Local Authority data reflects data on a regional population basis, i.e. Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibility (CASSRs) that are responsible for all patients who reside in their region.

### 3. Data Quality

Monthly delayed transfers of care data has been collected and published since August 2010. Prior to August 2010, data was collected weekly and was un-validated management information.

Delayed transfers of care data published during the early months of the collection from August 2010 to December 2010 should be treated with a degree of caution as a change from a weekly to a monthly data collection led to data quality issues. Since December 2010, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

#### **4. Data Availability**

Delayed Transfers of Care data is published approximately six weeks after the end of the reference period. The next publication of this report and accompanying data will be 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### **5. Revisions**

Revisions to previous months' data are made in line with NHS England and NHS Improvement's revisions protocol for performance monitoring data. Future revisions will be made on a six monthly cycle. The revisions protocol can be found on the NHS England website at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/>

#### **6. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of Delayed Transfers of Care statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on NHS England's website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the SitReps data and statistics, to: [england.nhsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhsdata@nhs.net)

#### **Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959. Emails enquiries should be sent to: [nhsengland.media@nhs.net](mailto:nhsengland.media@nhs.net)

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

Paul Steele  
Performance Analysis Team (PAT), Central  
NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Room 5E15, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE  
For data queries, email: [england.nhsdata@nhs.net](mailto:england.nhsdata@nhs.net)