



1 March 2019

Information Rights & Compliance Team  
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Our Ref: FOI 3113

Thank you for your request concerning delayed discharged.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**1) How many delayed discharges from inpatient wards were recorded by your trust during the following date ranges (please break down the data into the date ranges specified below):**

Requested Date Range	Delayed Discharge Number of Patients
1st November 2017 to October 31st 2018	226
1st November 2016 to October 31st 2017	214
1st November 2015 to October 31st 2016	222

**2) What was the total amount of time spent by delayed discharge patients in hospital wards managed by your trust between patients being ready for transfer and the patients being fully discharged from hospital during the following date ranges (please break down the data into the date ranges specified below. Please use whichever time measurement is used by default by your trust):**

This information is already in the public domain<sup>1</sup>. Please follow this [link](#) to the NHS England Website.

Please see below the information for October 2018, which is not currently available on the NHSE website.

	Total Number of Days
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2018	750

**3) What is the average cost per day to your trust of a patient staying in hospital to your trust, excluding costs specific to their medical condition (i.e. the basic cost of providing a bed, food and care but excluding condition specific drugs, care or medical procedures)**

The Trust considers the breakdown of daily bed costs to be commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act<sup>2</sup>. Information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding the information.

This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test. We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

<sup>1</sup> Section 21 – Information is accessible through other means has been applied

<sup>2</sup> Section 43 – Information that constitutes a trade secret or may prejudice commercial interests has been applied.

**Reason in favour of disclosure**

There is considerable interest in ensuring the Trust is transparent about its spending of public money at a time when public finances are under considerable scrutiny.

**Reason against disclosure**

We provide beds to other Trusts and in addition may use clinical services of other organisations. Should we provide this level of breakdown it could prejudice our bargaining position as a Trust.

We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this breakdown under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

We feel that there is a greater public interest in non-disclosure due to the importance of ensuring best value in negotiations for public sector contracts.

**4) Does your trust currently have a plan in place to reduce the delayed discharge of patients in the future?****Essex : Learning Disability**

Yes, this is included in the Essex Transforming Care Plan and overseen by the Essex Transforming Care Board.

**Hertfordshire : Mental Health**

In order to reduce delayed transfer of care, inpatient services have implemented Predicted Date of Discharge for all service users within 48 hours of admission. We monitor progress towards this through a daily Multi-disciplinary team handover and a weekly ward based bed meeting, where barriers to discharge are identified and flagged for action. A clinically led inpatient oversight group meets weekly to oversee flow through inpatient services and challenge length of stay and progress. There is a weekly Delayed Transfers of Care conference call, chaired by a Service Line Lead, to monitor progress towards discharge. Delayed Transfers of Care are covered as part of the Trust OPEL metrics and Surge and Escalation Plan, with appropriate actions in place to manage these.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith**  
**Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

