



Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

22nd October 2025

PQ 56411/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the total number of patients classified as delayed transfers of care across all HSE run and section 38 operated hospitals; and the average and longest length of delayed transfer. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Business Information Unit (BIU) is a central repository for activity information for Acute and Non Acute Services. The BIU collects, collates and validates extensive amounts of data which is used in performance monitoring and measurement to support the HSE in operational and strategic decisions.

Delayed Transfer of Care occurs when a patient is ready to leave inpatient care but is still occupying a HSE funded bed. A patient is ready to leave inpatient care when all of the following three conditions are met:

- A clinical decision has been made that the patient is medically ready for discharge to their home or for transfer to a non-acute setting (MFFD)
- A multidisciplinary team (MDT) have reviewed the patient and a decision has been made that the patient is ready for transfer home or to an alternate care setting
- The patient is considered to be safe to discharge to their home /transfer to a non-acute setting.

There are a number of possible reasons why a patient may not leave an acute setting despite being clinically discharged. These can include patients who are awaiting arrangement of suitable home support or residential care and patients with complex clinical needs or legally complex circumstances.

The HSE publish a weekly urgent and emergency care analysis report every Monday; <https://www2.hse.ie/services/urgent-emergency-care-weekly-update/>

The report looks back at the week previous and shows:

- the number of people who went to an emergency department (ED) and who were admitted for care.
- year-on-year comparisons of the weekly ED numbers.
- average wait times for admission or discharge through the ED.
- average weekly number of people on trolleys.
- year-on-year comparisons of the weekly trolley numbers.
- how many beds were used as part of a hospital's surge capacity.
- analysis of the number of patients experiencing a delay in discharge.



The report is a weekly analysis and comparison of the figures we publish in our daily urgent and emergency care report:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/urgent-emergency-care-report/>

The information requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the Acute BIU.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith
Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

Please note data contained in this report is preliminary and may be subject to change

If information contained within this file is used in other reports then as a minimum requirement BIU must be referenced.

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* Please note September is up to and including 20/10/2025
**Please note the average length of delayed transfer of care is the number of days

year	Total number of delayed transfer of care patients added to the list for each calendar year	Average length of delayed transfer of care **Days	Longest length of delayed transfer of care **Days
2022	9256	26.0	797
2023	9544	21.5	893
2024	9262	17.7	560
2025 *	6998	16.5	288