

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_02_24

You asked:

I am requesting under Freedom of Information the following data from the local health board, in reference to Pathway of Care Delays.

Could you please provide:

1. The median time period for the delay experienced by patients ready for discharge each month from April 2023 to December 2023 or latest month available. With the delay defined as a patient occupying an NHS hospital bed, who is 'clinically optimised' ready to return home or move on to the next stage of care, who experienced a delay in their transfer of more than 48 hours beyond the point they were clinically optimised.
2. The longest time period for a delay experienced by a patient ready for discharge, each month from April 2023 to December 2023 or latest month available. If available, the reason for the delay experienced by the patient with the longest delayed discharge.

Our response:

Please see information provided in the table below, noting the following:

- The information is based on nationally reportable data for Pathway of Care Delays – census taken each 3rd Wednesday of calendar month for those patients who are clinically optimised post 48 hours.
- Only includes delays in relation to National Guidance for inclusion.
- Delays are a snapshot of delays at particular census date.
- Same patients could be included in each months data of delays, albeit with a different delay reason.
- Max patients (2) are at census date (this could be the same patient for the previous 6 months with the length of stay (LOS) just increasing month on month if they are still delayed, for example).
- Covers both Acute and Community Hospitals with Acute, Community and Mental Health Ward Types therefore median is based on all hospitals and ward types which may not be the most effective way of showing this.
- Delay reasons are at a point in time therefore these could change depending on the patient journey from admission to discharge.
- A patient could become Clinically Optimised and then not optimised multiple times during a hospital stay and reasons for delays could change in line with COFD (*Clinically Optimised for Discharge*) status.
- The days delayed (2) does not reflect the overall delay for the reason at the date of census. A patient can have different delay reasons depending on what the circumstances are at the point of census. The reason for delay would not correspond with the length of the stay as delay reasons change during the course of the discharge journey and are calculated differently and have therefore, not been provided.

Monthly Census Date	(1) The median time period for the delay *	(2) The longest time period for a delay **
19-Apr-23	56	381

17-May-23	48	409
21-Jun-23	22	336
19-Jul-23	35	364
16-Aug-23	23	319
20-Sep-23	40	354
18-Oct-23	30	382
15-Nov-23	36	410
20-Dec-23	37	445
<i>* Median delays based on same principle as **</i> <i>** Please note that the delay length is based on Clinically Optimised for Discharge date to Census Point and not the current delay reason start.</i>		