

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref WAQ75385 and WAQ75386

Andrew R T Davies AM  
Assembly Member for South Wales Central  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

8 January 2018

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your questions regarding the number of bed days lost due to delayed transfers of care. You asked how the numbers lost in 2016/17 compared with the previous year and also, for information on the estimated costs of delayed transfers of care to the NHS each year in Wales.

An annual statistical release for delayed transfers of care in Wales covering the period 2016 to 2017 was published on 21 December. This is accessible via the following link:  
<http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2017/171221-delayed-transfers-care-2016-17-en.pdf>

Chart 1.5 shows the number of bed days lost to delays each month since October 2004. You will note that, despite some periodic fluctuation over the last 8 years, the numbers have reduced significantly since 2005. These are the total accumulated days lost at each census date, so patients who have been delayed for more than a month will be included in each month they are delayed.

The daily cost associated with a general medical bed is £391. However, it is important to recognise that a sizeable proportion of that cost would otherwise have been spent on alternative care arrangements. For example, if the patients who were delayed had been discharged to Continuing NHS Healthcare (CHC) placements, the costs are likely to have been roughly the same. Placements with an element of funded nursing care and local authority funded residential care or home care packages meanwhile would also have incurred a cost.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

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