



Our ref: WQ88436

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

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27 July 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me what assessment Welsh Ministers have made of the cost to the Welsh Government of excess bed days due to late discharges in the Welsh NHS.

Excess bed days are complex and can occur for numerous reasons. In addition, excess bed days are compared to a set number of bed days for a given admission/procedure code, so they are a population-level measure that do not always reflect the differences in complexity for individual patients, and the challenges, for instance, in smaller hospitals.

The cost of excess bed days is not directly representative of a potential cost saving, as most costs in the NHS are fixed and do not represent cash releasing to the system. However, efficient patient discharge provides our service with wider benefits such as released capacity to support the wider health system.

Being able to closely monitor patient pathways and discharge is a key benefit of our work to reintroduce formal reporting through our Pathways of Care Delays reporting framework, after the previous reporting structure was ceased during the pandemic to allow frontline staff to focus on delivering direct care. The new framework was implemented fully from April 2023, and we are currently reviewing the baseline data as well as the latest monthly reports to develop trends and analysis of this information.

The data from this reporting framework is not currently used as part of any cost analysis of excess bed days, however we are considering how we can use the information we collect on pathways of care delays to strengthen other areas of data collection within the NHS. The output of our reporting framework gives us more detailed information than we have previously had access to on the total numbers of delays, their location, and the reasons behind the delays. We are reviewing this information closely with health boards and their regional

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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.

partners, so that we can support efforts to make continued improvements to patient flow in their areas. We are also working with health boards to develop their plans to address the delays in their regions and the actions they propose to undertake to reduce delays as a whole system approach with local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services