

Questions to Board 30 September 2026

Question 3: The month 5 finance report (item 3.2, page 6) records 10,415 delayed days so far this year in PTHB-provided beds, 5,507 of them attributed to social care. How was delayed discharge accounted for in the bed modelling in the Pre-Consultation Business Case?

Response: The bed modelling in the Pre-Consultation Business Case recognises that delayed discharges are an important factor affecting hospital capacity and patient flow. Rather than assuming current levels of delay will continue unchanged, the modelling tested how strengthening community-based support could help reduce avoidable delays, support more people to return home sooner, and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.

The assumptions used were informed by clinical expertise, local data, national best practice and evidence from established approaches such as "Home First" and "Discharge to Assess" pathways. The modelling therefore includes an assumption that improved coordination between health services, social care, voluntary organisations and communities can help people receive the right support in the right place at the right time. It is important to note that the modelling was designed as a demand and capacity exercise. It did not include detailed modelling of future social care workforce or provider capacity. Any workforce, financial and implementation requirements associated with these assumptions would need to be explored further with partner organisations as part of subsequent planning and implementation work following consultation.