

# Number of people spending Christmas period stuck in hospital doubled

Research

by Labour has revealed that the number of people spending the Christmas period stuck in hospital due to Delayed Transfer of Care almost doubled between 2010 and 2016.

The

Patient Snapshot, which is the number of people who are stuck in hospital at midnight on the last Thursday of the month, showed that this had increased from

1,995 people on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 to 3,929 on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The

last time the snapshot fell directly on Christmas was 2015 when 3,155 spent Christmas Eve stuck in hospital.

**Barbara**

**Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Minister for Social Care, said:**

"The

shocking rise in delayed transfers of care is directly attributable to the cuts

imposed by the Tory Government and will mean those needing care will have to spend their Christmas stuck in hospital.

"Tory

cuts to local authorities since 2010 will have seen reductions in social care budgets of £6.3 billion by March 2018 and a 26% drop in the numbers of older people receiving publicly funded care – some 400,000 people.

"Families

of people with care needs will be concerned by the possibility of their vulnerable relatives being stuck in hospital unnecessarily over Christmas because of the lack of available care in their community.

"The

Tory Government offered no additional funding for social care in either the Budget or the Local Government Finance Settlement. It is clear that only Labour

can ease this Tory social care crisis: Labour would invest £8 billion across the Parliament with £1 billion pledged this year to offer more publicly-funded care services."

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## Little Red white and blue riding hood – a topical Christmas story

One day Little Red, white and blue riding hood decided to visit her grandmother. She was told by her Mum to gather together a fish they had recently caught, some vegetables they had grown and some beef left from their big roast meal and take it with her to her Grandmother's cottage in the woods.

She told Little Red, white and blue riding hood she needed to be very careful not to encounter the big EU wolf who these days prowled freely in their local area. She was to rush to her Grandmother's without delay.

Little Red, white and blue riding hood thought this fear of the wolf was all a bit exaggerated. So what if she met the wolf? Other people said he was quite a nice wolf, and was likely to be friendly if you met him. No-one had ever been eaten by him and some said he wanted to help people grow food and look after their neighbours. So she set out with plenty of delay, pausing on her way to pick some wildflowers to add to her basket of goodies for Granny. She was secretly hoping she met the wolf, so she could tell everyone it was fine.

Before long Mr EU wolf appeared. He seemed quite polite, though his accent was a bit gruff. He told her she need not be afraid. He also said he now controlled the local woods, and needed to check her basket before she went on to her Granny's. Little Red white and blue riding hood thought that sounded possible, and decided anyway as he was a lot bigger than her she had better co-operate.

When the Wolf saw the fish he was very cross. This fish is not the sort we let you fish he said. You must throw it away, as we have to conserve our fish stocks.

"How does throwing away this dead fish help conserve the fish?" , asked Little red white and blue riding hood. "Well if you can't see that" said Mr Wolf "I can't help you. It's obvious. More importantly it's our policy, so you either throw it or I have to arrest and fine you."

Little Red white and blue riding hood decided there was no point in arguing, so she threw away the fish. There were plenty of other goodies left in her basket, after all. When the Wolf saw the wildflowers he wanted to know where they had come from. He thought maybe they came from a special site of scientific interest where the wildflowers needed protecting. .

The Wolf then spied the vegetables. Goodness, he said, you usually import these vegetables from the continent. I did not know you were still growing them around here. Anyway, in order to trade them you have to pay a large

contribution to the EU, so I will need proof of payment before I can let you take these to someone. As he looked round to see how she responded, he realised he was talking to himself and she had run off in the direction of her grandmother's house.

Not to be outdone Mr EU wolf knew a short cut and bounded to the cottage before Little red white and blue riding hood arrived. He knocked and pretended to be the old lady's granddaughter, to get access. Once inside he demanded a substantial payment for the EU and proceeded to rifle the money from the old lady's purse and from the stash under her mattress.

A little later Little red white and blue riding hood arrived. She was horrified to see the wolf taking money from her granny. Before she could escape the wolf told her he was not like the story book wolf. He was a nice EU wolf who did not go round eating people's grannies. He did however govern the wood and both Little red white and blue riding hood and her granny had to follow his rules.

He was busily inspecting the vacuum cleaner to see if it complied with EU regulations to limit the power. He also sized up the bananas before joking that it was of course a myth that the EU wanted them to be straight. They were just fine, bent as they were.

Granny took on the wolf. She told him they had recently decided not to be in the EU any more so she had no need to obey its rules. She wanted to know what had happened to all the things she had been promised. Surely, she said there could be no rule that applied to her granddaughter just trying to help her out? The wolf told her it was not so easy getting out of the EU, and in the meantime all the rules still applied. Granny told him what she thought of the rules, and told him to mind his own business.

Whilst the argument was going on Little red white and blue riding hood slipped out and rushed to the local woodman to help. He immediately came, slipped an instant sleeping pill into the wolf, and got the money back the wolf had been seizing. He then took the knocked out wolf far away from the cottage and his own home, into a deep foreign wood where he could no longer demand money with legal menaces of anyone or anything in red white and blue land. They all lived happily ever after, including the wolf who found lots of other woods to wander in, and plenty of new rules to enforce there. They got on better once Red white and blue land was out than they ever had before.

(Some versions of this story have a different ending. They say the Wolf had some powerful friends in red white and blue land who helped him carrying on taking money from people for many more years after he had gone. They say he persuaded people to carry on obeying his rules and importing their food. The poor old woodman was prosecuted for assault and Little Red Riding Hood's granny had to accept his rules after all). I like happy endings so I don't believe this second version.

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# Updated aviation safety rules and new rules on drones approved by the Council

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EU ambassadors (Permanent Representatives Committee) today endorsed the deal concluded with the European Parliament on 29 November on revised common **safety rules for civil aviation** and a new remit for the **European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)**. The reform includes the first ever EU-wide rules for **civil drones**, that will allow remotely piloted aircraft of all sizes to fly safely in European airspace and will bring legal certainty for this rapidly expanding industry.

The purpose of the new rules is to create the right conditions so that the EU has the capacity to handle the expected air traffic increase of 50% over the next 20 years and to ensure that the EU aviation sector is prepared for tough global competition.

It is our responsibility to ensure that civil aviation safety rules are adapted to take account of new developments, including the increasing use of drones. With this agreement, we have new rules which meet today's need.

*Kadri Simson, Estonia's Minister for Economic affairs and Infrastructure*

The regulation on EU civil aviation safety covers all key areas of aviation including airworthiness, aircrew, aerodromes, air operations and the provision of air navigation services. It also sets out a division of tasks between the EU and national authorities.

The reform introduces **proportionate and risk-based** rules designed to reduce red tape and encourage innovation. For example, sport and recreational aviation will be subject to simpler and cheaper approval procedures than those applicable for commercial air transport.

The rules on **drones** will provide the basic principles to ensure safety,

security, privacy and the protection of personal data. There will also be rules on the noise and emissions generated by drones, as is the case for any other aircraft. Higher-risk drone operations will require certification, while drones presenting the lowest risk will simply need to conform with the normal EU market surveillance mechanisms. Drone operators must be registered if they operate drones which can transfer more than 80 Joules of kinetic energy upon impact with a person. This threshold can be amended in the future without lengthy procedures by means of delegated act to take account of developments in this area.

In relation to areas other than the registration threshold, the EASA will develop more detailed rules on drones on the basis of the principles laid down in the regulation, and these detailed rules will be enacted through a Commission implementing act. The EASA has already published a 'prototype' regulation for drones.

The agreement extends the EASA's mandate to safety-related aspects of security, such as cyber security, and to the protection of the environment. It establishes a framework for the pooling and sharing of aviation inspectors and other specialists to support member states in certification and oversight tasks. The agreement will also create a new support mechanism for member states that will include technical assistance for certification, oversight and enforcement tasks.

In addition, the text provides new rules for the safe provision of ground-handling services and closes a number of other safety gaps.

#### **How will it become law?**

Once the agreed text has undergone legal-linguistic finalisation, it must be formally approved first by the Parliament and then by the Council (agreement at first reading). The procedure is expected to be completed in spring 2018. Following adoption, the regulation will be published in the EU's Official Journal. It will enter into force twenty days after publication.

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## **Retail company and construction contractor fined over safety failings**

Martin McColl Limited and JMS Retail Concepts Limited have both been sentenced today after two members of the public tripped and fell over construction work outside a convenience store in Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan.

Cardiff Magistrates' Court heard that during the three-day construction of a

concrete disabled ramp in January 2016, two members of the public were injured whilst attempting to enter the store. On 12<sup>th</sup> January an elderly member of the public tripped over the construction work breaking her wrist, hitting her head and suffering severe bruising. The following day, the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 another elderly member of public fell from the partially constructed ramp breaking his collar bone and suffering severe bruising.

An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) found that construction work which was undertaken while the store was open, meant customers were required to walk through the construction site to enter and exit the store. It would have been reasonably practicable to close the store during the construction of the ramp and install barriers and signs to prevent access by members of the public.

Martin McColl Limited of Ashwells Road, Brentwood, Essex pleaded guilty on the first day of a two day trial after initially pleading not guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and have been fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,520.

JMS Retail Concepts Limited of Stump Lane, Chorley, Lancashire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and have been fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,038.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Gemma Pavey said "These incidents could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

Commercial clients and companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We seek to prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](http://legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

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# ESMA publishes updated key transparency calculations for MiFIDII/MiFIR implementation

MiFID II's implementing measures on transparency for financial instruments require NCAs to compute and publish transparency calculations on financial instruments, including transitional ones prior to the date of application of MiFIR. NCAs from the European Economic Area (EEA), with the exception of Poland, have delegated to ESMA the compilation of TTC. ESMA has already provided TTC for non-equity instruments in July and September 2017.

ESMA has performed these calculations with due care and to the best of its ability. However, given the scope and complexity of the calculations, including the various underlying data sources, future corrections of the TTC cannot be ruled out. ESMA expects to continuously supplement and update the information provided, where necessary.

## **Next Steps**

The TTC will be applicable starting 3 January 2018 and the equity instruments TTC will apply until 31 March 2019 and for bond instruments (liquidity assessment) until 15 May 2018. Further information is available on [ESMA's website](#).