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About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 December 2020. This includes the number of staff directly employed by NHSScotland and the number of vacant posts there were for nursing and midwifery staff, allied health professions, and medical and dental consultants. When describing the size of a particular staff group figures are presented either as headcount (actual number of staff) or whole time equivalent (WTE) which adjusts the headcount to take account of part time working.

Key Workforce Figures



148,636.7

Number of Staff employed
by NHSScotland (172,577 HC)

+1.4%
Quarter
change

+4.3%
Annual
change

+7.5%
5 Years
change

+10.7%
10 Years
change

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

KEY FIGURES



5,604.2

NUMBER OF
CONSULTANTS (WTE)

▲ 0.3% INCREASE OVER THE LAST QUARTER.

39 years

MEDICAL AND
DENTAL MEDIAN AGE

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

KEY FIGURES



62,346.6

NUMBER OF STAFF
(WTE)

▲ 0.9% INCREASE OVER THE LAST QUARTER.

45 years

NURSING AND
MIDWIFERY MEDIAN AGE

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

 KEY FIGURES



12,241.3

NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 0.1% INCREASE OVER THE LAST QUARTER.

42 years

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS MEDIAN AGE

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

 KEY FIGURES



27,473.6

NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 3.7% INCREASE OVER THE LAST QUARTER.

49 years

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MEDIAN AGE

Background

Information on staff directly employed is sourced from each NHS Board's human resources and payroll systems. These are dynamic, operational systems and data can change over time. Work is undertaken with NHS Boards to improve data quality and previously published information may change from one publication to the next to reflect these improvements.

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NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in NHS Performs.

NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS Board colleagues who normally provide data, we do not have full vacancy data as at 31 December 2020. We have reported all data available in our tables and dashboards.

During the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic Nursing students in their second or third year were added to the NHS Scotland Workforce. The majority of the second year Nursing students returned to their normal studies at the end of August 2020 leading to a drop in the number of staff in post shown here.

More information is available on [Turas Data Intelligence](#).

NES and Official Statistics

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is NHSScotland's education and training body. It is the authoritative source of information on the people who work for NHSScotland. NES became an accredited provider of Official Statistics in December 2019 and as such this release is produced in accordance with UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Statistics.