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About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 March 2020, on the Psychology Services workforce staff in post and trainees.

Figures are presented as headcount (actual number of staff) and whole time equivalent (WTE), which adjusts the figures to take account of part-time working.

Main Points

- Within Psychology Services in NHSScotland as at 31 March 2020, there were a total of 1214.1 WTE (1,475 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 91.4% (579.7 WTE) higher than in September 2006, 3.2% (37.8 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously and 0% (0.3 WTE) lower than the December 2019 census.
- The number of female staff in post has dropped slightly compared to the previous quarter (9 headcount, 0.7%). However, female staff still comprise the majority of the NHSScotland psychology workforce (85.2%). The majority of female staff work part-time hours (58.3%), while the majority of male staff work whole-time (70.8%).
- The 2020 intake of trainees to both NHSScotland MSc programmes was relatively high this year compared to previous years. For the MSc Psychological Therapy in Primary Care, there was an intake of 35 students in 2020, compared to 30 in 2019 and an average intake of 24 between 2005 and 2020. The intake to the MSc Applied Psychology for Children and Young People was 29, compared to 30 in 2019 and an average intake of 18 between 2007 and 2020.

Background

The Scottish Government 10 year Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027 was published in March 2017 (<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750>).

The strategy highlights the need to increase the supply of the workforce and to ensure the skill mix across a wide range of services meets the needs of the population.

Psychology Workforce census data - 31 March 2020



**CLINICAL STAFF
IN POST**

1475
Headcount

579.7
WTE

Increase
since
Sept 2006
(+91.4%)

1214.1
Whole Time Equivalent

37.8
WTE

Increase
since
Mar 2019
(+3.2%)



**2020
INTAKE**

**MSc Psychological Therapy
in Primary Care**

35 students

Compared to:

30 in 2019 | **24** Average intake

**MSc Applied Psychology for
Children & Young People**

29 students

Compared to:

30 in 2019 | **18** Average intake



85.2% of Staff are **Female**

58.3% | work Part-time hours



14.8% of Staff are **Male**

70.8% | work whole-time

Contact

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Further Information

As of 1st October 2019, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has taken responsibility for some national workforce data, statistical and intelligence functions. A joint [letter](#) by the Chief Executives of NSS and NES, dated 23rd August 2019, details the rationale for the changes and arrangements for the transfer of these functions.

Find out more in the [full report](#).

The data from this publication is also available by downloading the [data](#) from this publication and as [dashboards](#). Publications prior to 3 December 2019 can be accessed via the [ISD Workforce publications page](#).

For related topics, please see the ISD [Mental Health](#) pages.

The next release of this publication will be September 2020.

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](#).

NES [voluntarily applied](#) the Code of Practice for the publication released on 3 December 2019.