

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 1 December 2020

About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 30 September 2020, on the Psychology Services workforce staff in post, vacant posts 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 30 September 2020, there were a total of 1,266.9 WTE (1,539 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is an increase of 99.7% (632.5 WTE) from September 2006 and 7.7% (90.8 WTE) from September 2019, but a decrease of 2.0% (26.3 WTE) from the previous quarter.
- The WTE of All Applied Psychologists increased by 0.5 WTE from the previous quarter: 889.7 WTE in September compared to 889.2 in June. The biggest reductions in WTE were seen in Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology: 139.2 WTE in September 2020, which is -9.9%, 15.3 WTE less than in June, and in Psychology Assistants: 78.3 WTE, which is -10.2% (-8.9 WTE) less than in June 2019. This may reflect staff leaving these roles to undertake doctoral training.
- Out of the total of 117.9 WTE advertised vacancies, 59.5% (70.1 WTE) had been advertised for less than three months, 27.1% (32.0 WTE) for three to six months and 13.4% (15.8 WTE) for longer than six months. The vacancy rate was 8.5%, compared to 10.8% in September 2019. A further 30.9 WTE vacancies were approved but not yet advertised.
- 70 students began training for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2020, compared to 59 in 2019 and an average yearly intake of 56. Of the 508 graduates from this course between 2007 and 2019 for whom National Insurance numbers were available, 373 (71.9%) were employed in NHSScotland as at 30th September 2020.

Psychology Workforce census data - 30 September 2020



**CLINICAL STAFF
IN POST**

1,539
Headcount

1,266.9
Whole Time Equivalent

+99.7%
Increase

since
Sept 2006
(+632.5 WTE)

+7.7%
Increase

since
31 March 2016
(+90.8 WTE)

-2.0%
decrease

from
previous quarter
(-26.3 WTE)



**APPLIED
PSYCHOLOGISTS**

▲ 0.5 WTE The WTE of All Applied Psychologists increased by 0.5 WTE from the previous quarter

889.7 WTE in September compared with **889.2** in June

**BIGGEST
REDUCTIONS
IN WTE SEEN IN...**

**CLINICAL
ASSOCIATES**
-9.9% less
than in June

**PSYCHOLOGY
ASSISTANTS**
-10.2% less
than in June



**CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGY**

70 Students

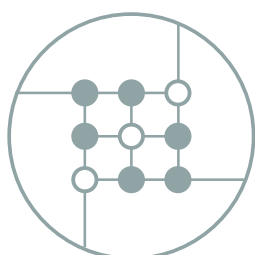
began training for the Doctorate
in Clinical Psychology in 2020

↑ Compared to
59 students in 2019

↑ and an average yearly
intake of 56 students

508 Graduates
of this course between 2007 -2019

71.9% are employed
in NHSScotland



VACANCIES

117.9 WTE Advertised Vacancies

59.5%
Were advertised for
less than 3 months

27.1%
Were advertised for
3-6 months

13.4%
Were advertised for
more than 6 months

8.5% Vacancy Rate **→** Compared to
10.8% in September 2019

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.

Contact

LIZ JAMIESON,
Workforce Information Manager,
NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

ANITA GEORGE,
Information Analyst Business Partner,
NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

E-MAIL: datagroup@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Further Information

As of 1 October 2019, ownership and responsibility for collecting and reporting workforce data transferred from Information Services Division (ISD) to NES.

Full data are available to download as [Excel Tables](#) or to view in the [Psychology Dashboard](#).

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 in 2 March 2021.

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](#).