

# Review of the National Treatment Centre workforce Official Statistics in Development

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## Aim

The purpose of this paper is to detail the process of reviewing the National Treatment Centre (NTC) workforce statistics published as Official Statistics in Development.

## Background of publication

The National Treatment Centre (NTC) programme is an investment by the Scottish Government to support a national network of purpose-built healthcare facilities across Scotland for planned and diagnostic care. The new facilities will be an [important resource both locally and nationally](#) providing:

- an increase in capacity to support patients to access treatment
- increased flexibility for patients accessing treatment
- support collaborative working across territorial NHS Boards

The NTC workforce statistics reports the number of people employed by the Scottish Government's additional funding in the NTCs, and how many of these people are new entrants to NHS Scotland.

These statistics have been available as Official Statistics in Development since December 2023 and are published twice a year in December and June.

There are many benefits to producing these new statistics. The NTC programme is a key component of the [National Recovery Plan](#) and the workforce is critical to the delivery of service. Providing these statistics in the public domain will enhance public discussion and understanding of factors affecting the NTC wider healthcare workforce. It will also facilitate decision-makers to transparently assess the commitment to increase the workforce.

In addition to the value to our users, these statistics allowed us to create a novel method to identify a workforce within a service in a health board. It is likely that we use this method to report the workforce in other services in the future.

## Current situation

Following a Scottish Government budget update in December 2023, NHS boards were instructed to [halt development on projects that were not already under construction](#). This has resulted in a delay in the building of NTCs.

Of the 11 planned NTCs, three are currently operational: [Golden Jubilee Eye Centre](#) (Nov 2020), [NHS Fife Orthopaedics](#) (March 2023), and [NHS Highland ophthalmology and orthopaedic](#) (April 2023). NHS Forth Valley and Golden Jubilee Surgical Centre are still in

progress. NTCs planned in NHS Lothian (St John's and the Eye pavilion), NHS Grampian, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Tayside and NHS Ayrshire & Arran are still awaiting business case approval.

NES has continued to provide these statistics for operational NTCs during this period.

## **Review of statistics**

The purpose of these statistics, timing of releases, explanation of the data and methods are [detailed on Turas Data Intelligence](#). However, in December 2023, we did not describe the process we would take to review these statistics. The delay in reviewing these statistics has in part been due to the pause in the building of NTCs. However, [guidance on producing official statistics in development](#) states that the OSiD labelling should not be used indefinitely, and after two years we feel it is now time to assess these statistics to determine one of the following outcomes.

1. The statistics are of sufficient quality and value to be used in a meaningful way and so be published as official statistics.
2. The statistics are of insufficient quality or do not meet the required need and so production will be stopped.
3. There is insufficient evidence to reach a conclusion, or further refinement is required – producers would continue the development and be clear about extent of further testing.

The process to review the NTC statistics is as follows.

In December 2025, we [announced on our website](#), and in an email to our users, that we will be reviewing these statistics. We will now write to our data providers and data users to ask for feedback on if and how they use these statistics using a [short form](#) by 20 February 2026. We will also add a note to our website inviting people to get in touch.

Importantly, we will try to understand what the future demand for these statistics might be once the other NTCs are operational.

We will review the feedback from stakeholders to understand the value and assess the quality of data and methods used to provide the statistics. A summary paper with recommended outcome will be discussed with NES's lead official and colleagues in Statistical Governance.

We aim to publish the outcome to our users by the end of March.