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About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 March 2022, on the Psychology Services workforce staff in post, vacant posts and staff in training.

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

- There were a total of 1431.1 WTE (1714 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 9.2% (120.5 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously. Since the last quarterly census, the WTE of staff in post has increased by 5.3% (71.9 WTE).
- Clinical Psychologists remain the largest staff group in this workforce, accounting for 59.2% (846.9 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since 31 March 2021, this staff group has grown by 23.1 WTE (2.8%).
- Out of the total of 264.9 WTE advertised vacancies, 72% (190.6 WTE) had been advertised for less than three months, 19.1% (50.6 WTE) for three to six months and 8.9% (23.7 WTE) for longer than six months. The vacancy rate was 15.6%, compared to 12.3% at 31 December 2021 and 10.7% at 31 March 2021.
- In early 2022, 37 students graduated from the MSc in Psychological Therapy in Primary care, and 30 graduated from the MSc in Applied Psychology for Children and Young People. This compares with an average yearly graduation figure of 24 for the MSCPTPC and 19 for the MSCAPCYP. The probabilities of completing these courses within two years of starting are 0.95 and 0.97 respectively.

Psychology Workforce census data - 31 March 2022



**CLINICAL STAFF
IN POST**

1,714
Headcount

1,431.1
Whole Time Equivalent

+9.2%
Increase

over
previous 12 months
(+120.5 WTE)

+5.3%
Increase

since
last quarterly census
(+71.9 WTE)



**CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGY**

Clinical Psychologists
account for

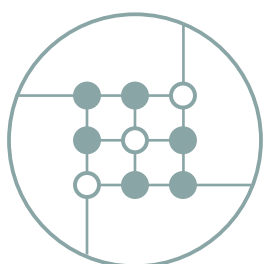
59.2%
(846.9 WTE)

of clinical staff in post

Clinical Psychology
staff group has grown

▲2.8%
(23.1 WTE)

Since 31 March 2021



VACANCIES

264.9 WTE Advertised Vacancies

72%

(190.6 WTE)

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

19.1%

(50.6 WTE)

Were advertised for
3-6 months

8.9%

(23.7 WTE)

Were advertised for
longer than 6 months

15.6%
Vacancy Rate



Compared to **12.3%** at
31 December 2021



Compared to **10.7%** at
31 March 2021

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.

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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 & intelligence functions. A joint [letter](#) (346Kb) 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. 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 September 2022.

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](#).