

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 1 June 2021

## About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 March 2021. 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. Data on the cost of Medical agency locums, Bank and Agency nursing staff and the number of dentists working in Scotland are also available. 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



**152,395.9**

Number of Staff employed  
by NHSScotland (177,710 HC)

**+2.5%**  
Quarter  
change

**+6.2%**  
Annual  
change

**+10.1%**  
5 Years  
change

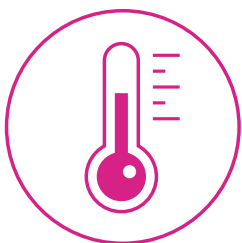
**+14.3%**  
10 Years  
change



In 2020/21 there were:

**16,280.4** People who joined NHSScotland (WTE)

**7,168.7** People who left NHSScotland (WTE)



In Financial year 2020/21 there was a:

**4.67%** **Sickness Absence Rate\***

\*Does not include COVID-19 related absences.

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## MEDICAL AND DENTAL

 KEY FIGURES



**5,669.9**

NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS (WTE)

▲ 3.3% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

**39 years**

MEDICAL AND DENTAL MEDIAN AGE

**£87.6 M**

SPENT ON AGENCY LOCUMS

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## NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

 KEY FIGURES



**63,761.8**

NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 4.9% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

**45 years**

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY MEDIAN AGE

**£196.7 M**

SPENT ON BANK STAFF

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## ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

 KEY FIGURES



**12,360.9**

NUMBER OF STAFF (WTE)

▲ 2.5% INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR.

**42 years**

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS MEDIAN AGE

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## 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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## COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout this year there have been significant challenges in collecting data on the workforce as it adapted and grew throughout this past year.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NHS Board colleagues who normally provide data, we did not have full vacancy data as at 31 March, 30 June and 31 December 2020. Vacancy data as at 31 March 2021 are incomplete with no submission from NHS Western Isles and a partial submission for Consultants from NHS Dumfries & Galloway (WTE only). We have reported all data available in our tables and dashboards.

We highlight some of the ways COVID-19 has impacted the workforce statistics in our annual report.

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

## 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.

## 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.