

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 3 December 2024

About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, at 30 September 2024, on NHS Scotland 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 headcount to take account of part time working.

Main Points

As at 30 September 2024:

- There were a total of 1714.5 WTE (2056 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is a decrease of 1.6% (28.6 WTE) since the previous quarter, an increase of 6.6% (106.7 WTE) since the previous year, and an increase of 69.2% (701.4 WTE) since the previous decade. Of the total staff in post, 3.7% were on maternity/paternity leave and 1.0% were on long-term sick leave.
- Applied Psychologists were the largest staff group in this workforce, accounting for 61.3% (1050.4 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since last year, this staff group has grown by 82.9 WTE (8.6%). Other Clinical Staff, comprising Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology, Psychology Assistants and other therapists, accounted for 38.7% (664.1 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since last year, this staff group has grown by 23.9 WTE (3.7%).
- The vacancy rate was 5.4% (97.9 WTE), a decrease of 55.7 WTE over the last year and an increase of 2.6 over the last quarter. A further 21.4 WTE vacancies were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised and 69.7 WTE had not yet been approved for recruitment. The majority of advertised vacancies, 47.6%, had been advertised for less than three months, 31.5% for longer than six months, and 20.9% for three to six months.
- In September 2024, 84 students started training for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, 45 at the University of Edinburgh and 39 at the University of Glasgow. This compares with an average DCLinPsych intake of 61 trainees per year, 36 at the University of Edinburgh and 25 at the University of Glasgow.
- As at 30 September 2024, 45 students had graduated from the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, 18 from the University of Glasgow and 27 from the University of Edinburgh. These numbers are anticipated to rise once more graduates have been registered. There is a 0.96 probability of completing these courses within ten years of starting.

Psychology Workforce census data - 30 September 2024



CLINICAL STAFF IN POST

1,714.5 Staff in post
Whole Time Equivalent

+ 6.6%
WTE Increase

over previous 12 months
(+106.7 WTE)

- 1.6%
WTE Decrease

since last quarterly census
(-28.6 WTE)

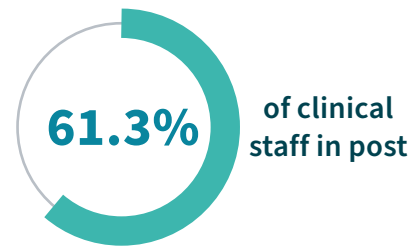


PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

1050.4 Whole Time Equivalent
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGISTS

+ 8.6%
Increase

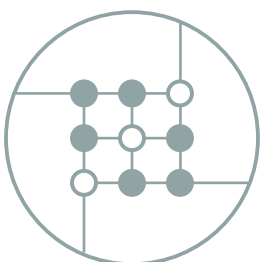
since 30 September 2023
(+82.9 WTE)



664.1 Whole Time Equivalent
OTHER CLINICAL STAFF

+ 3.7%
Increase

since 30 September 2023
(+23.9 WTE)



VACANCIES

5.4%
Vacancy rate
(97.9 WTE)

- 55.7
WTE Decrease

since 30 September 2023

47.6%
(46.6 WTE)

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

20.9%
(20.5 WTE)

Were advertised for
3-6 months

31.5%
(30.8 WTE)

Were advertised for
longer than 6 months

Background

Information on members of staff is collected directly from Psychology Services in each health board and held within the National Services Scotland (NSS) Psychology Workforce Information Database. The data are verified by Psychology Heads of Service, who work closely with NES to ensure a high level of accuracy and improve quality. Previously published data may change from one publication to the next to reflect these improvements. Further information is available on [Turas Data Intelligence](#).

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Further Information

The next release of this publication will be in March 2025.

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

Publications prior to 5 June 2018 can be accessed via the [National Records of Scotland Archive](#).

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](#).