

Outcome of the review of the National Treatment Centre workforce Official Statistics in Development

June 2026

Data Group, Datagroup@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Overview

NES has [published statistics on the National Treatment Centre \(NTC\) workforce](#) as Official Statistics in Development (OSiD) since December 2023. In December 2025 we [announced on TDI](#), and in an email to our users, that we will be assessing these statistics in line with [guidance on producing official statistics in development](#). On the 10 February, a paper setting out the background and plan for reviewing these statistics was circulated to all stakeholders and made [available](#) on TDI.

Review

The National Treatment Centre (NTC) workforce statistics answers two questions:

1. how many people are employed by the Scottish Government's additional funding in the National Treatment Centres, and
2. how many of these people are new entrants to NHS Scotland.

The evidence to support this review was gathered from: a survey sent to data providers and stakeholders; data derived from Google Analytics on access to these statistics on Turas Data Intelligence; and a search of Freedom of Information Requests made to NES.

The following sections summarise the findings of the review.

Purpose

The publication of the statistics was largely influenced by the [NHS Recovery Plan](#) commitment to recruit at least an additional 1,500 staff to expand the NTC workforce. It would facilitate the public's ability to transparently assess the commitment to increase the workforce.

NTCs in Golden Jubilee (Eye Centre and Surgical Centre), NHS Fife, NHS Highland and NHS Forth Valley are operational. Due to a [halt in construction announced after the Scottish Government budget update in December 2023](#), building of the NTCs in the remaining five health boards has not started.

The Scottish Government have confirmed that they are no longer required to provide briefings or regular updates on the NTC workforce. We presume that counting the NTC workforce, or those that are new entrants to NHS Scotland, is no longer a key priority.

Scope

Data providers at Health Board have been supportive in providing data and sharing their knowledge of their local systems. Feedback from two providers highlighted that this publication is used in workforce planning, particularly to compare roles between NHS Boards. This publication is the one of the few sources where information on the NTC workforce between NHS Boards can be found.

One respondent highlighted that the current statistics are limited because they do not include staff that are based in an NTC but are not part of the Scottish Governments additional funding. This suggests that widening the scope to report all staff based in an NTC would be of more value.

Consistency and quality

NES was required to develop [new methodology](#) to produce the statistics. This methodology required developing and circulating national guidance to all data providers to implement.

Implementing the guidance was not a straightforward process for all data providers. One Board was unable to adopt the national guidance because of its hybrid workforce model and financial coding structure. Whilst we put an alternative approach in place, it meant that the employment measures were not directly comparable between all NHS Boards.

Value

A key measure of demand for statistics is the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests that we receive on a specific topic. NES has not received any FOI requests regarding the NTC programme.

According to Google Analytics, the NTC publication released on 2 December 2025 has received 70 unique visitors in just over three months. For reference, there was 85 unique visitors to our new Medical Specialty Training publication released on a similar date.

NTC workforce supported the provision of over 20,000 procedures in NTCs in 2024/25 ([Acute Hospital activity and NHS beds information publication](#), Public Health Scotland). The production of these workforce statistics therefore complements other published statistics.

Outcome

[Guidance on producing official statistics in development](#) states that the OSiD labelling should not be used indefinitely.

We have determined that these statistics need further refinement.

The further refinement required is detailed below.

1. The last release of the NTC workforce who are new entrants to NHS Scotland report will be published on 2 June 2026.
2. We will investigate widening the scope to include all staff who are based in an NTC.
3. We will stop reporting data for National Waiting Times Centre (NWTC) sourced from their recruitment tracker after the 2 June 2026 publication.

What to expect

The publication released in June 2026, will continue to report all measures and outputs as usual.

Before the December 2026 publication we will investigate widening the scope to report all staff who are based in the NTCs. We will consider whether it is still important to include a breakdown of the staff funded by the Scottish Government's additional funding. Furthermore, we will work with National Waiting Times Centre to understand how their data can be best reported.

We will provide an update on our progress, including what to expect in the December 2026 publication, by the end of September 2026.