

Psychological Service Workforce in NHS Scotland

AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 1 September 2026.

About this release

This release by Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSDS) provides a quarterly update, at 30 June 2026, on the 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

At 30 June 2026:

- ▶ There were a total of 1764.8 WTE (2134 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is an increase of 0.9% (15.5 WTE) since the previous quarter, an increase of 1.4% (24.1 WTE) from the previous year, and an increase of 62% (672.7 WTE) since the previous decade. Of the total staff in post, 4.5% of staff were on maternity/paternity leave and 1% were on long-term sick leave.
- ▶ Applied Psychologists were the largest staff group in this workforce, accounting for 62.6% (1105 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since last year, this staff group has grown by 31.5 WTE (3%). Other Clinical Staff, comprising Clinical Associates in Applied Psychology, Psychology Assistants and other therapists, accounted for 37.4% (659.8 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since last year, this staff group has decreased by 7.4 WTE (1%).
- ▶ There were 89.6% (1581.5 WTE) working in permanent posts, 8.1% (142.6 WTE) working in fixedterm less than two years posts and 2.3% (40.7 WTE) working in fixed-term more than two years posts. This is an increase of 6% (84.4 WTE) for permanent posts and decrease of 25% (60.3 WTE) for fixed-term posts since the previous year.
- ▶ The vacancy rate was 4.3% (79.0 WTE), an increase in vacant posts of 26.2 WTE over the last year and an increase of 0.1% over the last quarter (78.9 WTE). A further 28.8 WTE vacancies were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised and 61.7 WTE had not yet been approved for recruitment. The majority of advertised vacancies, 63.9%, had been advertised for less than three months, 33% for three to six months, and 3% for longer than six months.

Psychology Workforce census data - 30 June 2026



Clinical staff in post

1,764.8 Staff in post
Whole-time equivalent (2,134 headcount)

+0.9%
WTE increase

since previous quarter
(+15.5 WTE)

+1.4%
WTE increase

over the last year
(+24.1 WTE)

+62%
WTE increase

since previous decade
(+672.7 WTE)



Professional Groups

1,105 Whole-time equivalent
Applied Psychologists

+3 %
Increase

since last year
(+31.5 WTE)



of clinical staff in post

659.8 Whole-time equivalent
Other clinical staff

7.4 %
Decrease

since last year
(1 WTE)



of clinical staff in post



Vacancies

4.3%
Vacancy rate
(79 WTE)

+26.2
WTE increase

over the last year

+0.1
WTE increase

since previous quarter

63.9%

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

33 %

Were advertised
for 3–6 months

3 %

Were advertised for
longer than 6 months

Background

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

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Further information

The next release of this publication will be in December 2026.

The full data from this publication is available to download as [Excel tables](https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/02-june-2026psychology/data-tables) (<https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/02-june-2026psychology/data-tables>).

Data is also available on the [Psychology dashboard](https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/dataandreports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-psychology/) (<https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/dataandreports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-psychology/>).

Publications prior to 5 June 2018 can be accessed through the [National Records of Scotland Archive](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/index.asp?ID=2169) ([webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20180620014527/http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/index.asp?ID=2169](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/index.asp?ID=2169)).

PSD and Official Statistics

Public Services Delivery (PSD) 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](#).