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About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 December 2020, on the Psychology Services workforce staff in post and vacant posts.

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

- Within Psychology Services in NHSScotland as at 31 December 2020, there were a total of 1,282.1 WTE (1,548 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is an increase of 102.1% (647.7 WTE) from September 2006, 5.6% (67.7 WTE) from December 2019, and 1.3% (16.2 WTE) from the previous quarter.
- The WTE of All Applied Psychologists increased by 1.5% (13.4 WTE) from the previous quarter: 903.1 WTE in December 2020 compared to 889.7 in September 2020. This represents a total headcount of 1112 Applied Psychologists. Of these, 672 headcount (60.4%) held one or more part-time posts, while 440 headcount (39.6%) held one whole-time post.
- Out of the total of 143.6 WTE advertised vacancies, 57.7% (82.9 WTE) had been advertised for less than three months, 30.5% (43.8 WTE) for three to six months and 11.8% (16.9 WTE) for longer than six months. The vacancy rate was 10.1%, compared to 10.7% in December 2019. A further 32.7 WTE vacancies were approved but not yet advertised.

Psychology Workforce census data - 31 December 2020



CLINICAL STAFF
IN POST

1,548
Headcount

1,282.1
Whole Time Equivalent

+102.1%
Increase

since
Sept 2006
(+647.7 WTE)

+5.6%
Increase

since
December 2019
(+67.7 WTE)

+1.3%
Increase

from
previous quarter
(+16.2 WTE)



APPLIED
PSYCHOLOGISTS

▲ 13.4 WTE The WTE of All Applied Psychologists increased by 13.4 WTE from the previous quarter

903.1 WTE in December compared with **889.7** in September

THIS REPRESENTS:

1112

Total Headcount

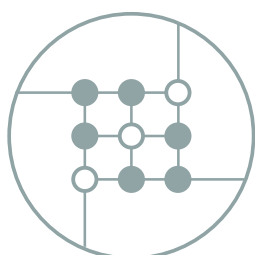
OF THESE:

672

(60.4%)
held one or more
part-time posts

440

(39.6%)
held one
whole-time post



VACANCIES

143.6 WTE Advertised Vacancies

57.7%

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

30.5%

Were advertised for
3-6 months

11.8%

Were advertised for
more than 6 months

10.1% Vacancy Rate



Compared to
10.7% in December 2019

32.7 WTE vacancies



Approved but not
yet advertised

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.

Contact

LIZ JAMIESON,
Workforce Information Manager,
NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

ANITA GEORGE,
Information Analyst Business Partner,
NHS Education for Scotland (NES)

E-MAIL: datagroup@nes.scot.nhs.uk

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](#) 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 June 2021.

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](#).