

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 6 June 2023

About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 31 March 2023, on NHSScotland 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 figures to take account of part-time working.

Main Points

As at 31 March 2023:

- There were a total of 1538.4 WTE (1844 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 7.5% (107.3 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously. Since the last quarterly census, the WTE of staff in post has increased by 1.8% (26.9) WTE.
- There were a total of 953.3 WTE (1186 headcount) Applied Psychologists in post: an increase of 1.7% (16.3 WTE) from 31 March 2022 and 0.2% (2.4 WTE) from 31 December 2022. The biggest increase was in Clinical Associate in Applied Psychology (CAAP) roles. As at 31 March 2023, 211.2 WTE (239 headcount) Clinical Associates were in post in NHSScotland. This is an increase of 8.8% (17 WTE) from 31 March 2022 and 7.3% (14.3 WTE) from 31 December 2022.
- There were 157.3 WTE advertised vacancies, which is -40.6% (-107.6 WTE) lower than 31 March 2022 and -23.1% (-47.2 WTE) lower than 31 December 2022. Of these vacancies, 52% (81.8 WTE) had been advertised for less than three months, 25.9% (40.8 WTE) for three to six months and 22.1% (34.7 WTE) for longer than six months. The vacancy rate was 9.3%, compared to 11.9% at 31 December 2022 and 15.6% at 31 March 2022.
- In early 2023, 43 students graduated from the MSc in Psychological Therapy in Primary care, and 34 graduated from the MSc in Applied Psychology for Children and Young People. This compares with an average yearly graduation figure of 25 for the MSCPTPC and 20 for the MSCAPCYP. The probabilities of completing these courses within two years of starting are 0.96 and 0.97 respectively.

Psychology Workforce census data - 31 March 2023



CLINICAL STAFF IN POST

1,538.4 Staff in post
Whole Time Equivalent

+7.5%
WTE Increase

over previous 12 months
(+152.2 WTE)

+1.8%
WTE Increase

since last
quarterly census



PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

953.3
Whole Time Equivalent
APPLIED
PSYCHOLOGISTS

+1.7%
Increase

since 31 March 2022
(+16.3 WTE)

+0.2%
Increase

since 31 December 2022
(+2.4 WTE)

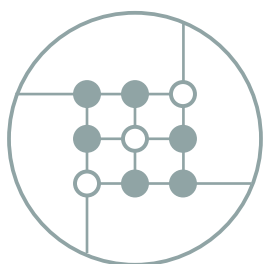
211.2
Whole Time Equivalent
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE IN
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

+8.8%
Increase

since 31 March 2022
(+17 WTE)

+7.3%
Increase

since 31 December 2022
(+14.3 WTE)



VACANCIES

157.3 Advertised vacancies
as at 31 March 2023

52.0%
(81.8 WTE)

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

25.9%
(40.8 WTE)

Were advertised
for 3-6 months

22.1%
(34.7 WTE)

Were advertised for
longer than 6 months

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](#) [346Kb] 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 2023.

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](#).