

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 7 December 2021

About this release

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, as at 30 September 2021, on the 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

- Within Psychology Services in NHSScotland as at 30 September 2021, there were a total of 1333.4 WTE (1606 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 110.7% (700.5 WTE) higher than in September 2006, 5.3% (67.5 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously and 0.2% (2.8 WTE) lower than the June 2021 census.
- The headcount of applied psychologists working part-time remains substantially higher than those working whole-time. As at 30th September 2021, 667 (60.1%) applied psychologists worked part-time and 443 (39.9%) worked whole-time. This compares 300 (40.3%) part-time and 445 (59.7%) whole-time in September 2011.
- There were a total of 196.7 WTE vacancies as at 30 September 2021, which is 5.3% (9.9 WTE) higher than in June 2021. Of these vacancies, 68.0% (133.7 WTE) had been advertised for less than three months, 21.7% (42.6 WTE) for three to six months and 10.4% (20.4 WTE) for longer than six months. 58.8% (115.6 WTE) were replacement posts, 38.5% (75.7 WTE) were new posts, and 2.7% (5.4 WTE) were maternity leave cover/unknown/other. The vacancy rate was 12.9%, compared to 12.3% in June 2021 and 8.5% in September 2020. A further 41.1 WTE vacancies were approved but not yet advertised.
- 80 students began training on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2021, 34 at the University of Glasgow and 46 at the University of Edinburgh. This compares with 71 in 2020 and an average yearly intake of 58 since 2003. Of the 578 doctoral graduates between 2007 and 2021 for whom National Insurance numbers are available, 417 (72.1%) were employed in NHSScotland as at 30 September 2021.

Psychology Workforce census data - 30 September 2021



CLINICAL STAFF IN POST

1,606
Headcount

1,333.4
Whole Time Equivalent

+110.7%
Increase

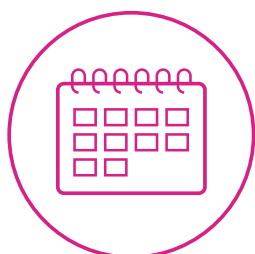
since
Sept 2006
(+700.5 WTE)

+5.3%
Increase

over
previous 12 months
(+67.5 WTE)

-0.2%
Decrease

since June 2021
(-2.8 WTE)



WORK PATTERN

667 (60.1%)

Applied Psychologists
worked **part time** (WTE)
as at 30 September 2021

443 (39.9%)

Applied Psychologists
worked **whole time** (WTE)
as at 30 September 2021

compared to

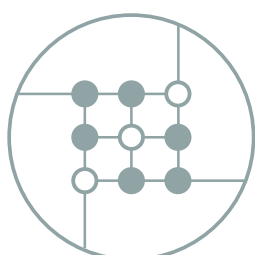
300 (40.3%)

worked **part time** (WTE)
as at September 2011

compared to

445 (59.7%)

worked **whole time** (WTE)
as at September 2011



VACANCIES

196.7 WTE Advertised Vacancies

68%

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

21.7%

Were advertised for
3-6 months

10.4%

Were advertised for
more than 6 months

12.9% Vacancy Rate



Compared to
12.3% in June 2021

41.1 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

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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 March 2022.

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](#).