

An Official statistics publication. Publication date: 4 June 2024

About this release

Revision to data as at 31 December 2023

These statistics contain new data; the first release of data for quarter December 2023 has been revised. This revision does not affect the overall interpretation or conclusions to be drawn from the previously published data, but due to the correction of a data entry error for December 2023, the WTE for NHSScotland staff in post is 1634.3 (1958 headcount), and not 1600.3 WTE (1922 headcount) as previously reported. The data affected are marked with an 'R'.

This release by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) provides a quarterly update, at 31 March 2024, on 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

As at 31 March 2024:

- There were a total of 1717.2 WTE (2052 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is an increase of 5.1% (82.9 WTE) over the last quarter, an increase of 11.6% (179 WTE) since last year, and an increase of 75.2% (736.9 WTE) in the last decade.
- Applied Psychologists are the largest staff group in this workforce, accounting for 60.2% (1033.6 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since last year, this staff group has grown by 80.3 WTE (8.4%).
- The vacancy rate was 7.5% (138.9 WTE), a decrease of -18.4 WTE over the last year. Most of these vacancies, 37.7%, had been advertised for longer than six months, 34.8% for three to six months and 27.6%, for less than three months. A further 37.1 WTE were approved for recruitment but not yet advertised and 40.9 WTE were awaiting approval.
- There were 85 trainees at the latest intake in September 2023, 38 at the University of Glasgow and 47 at the University of Edinburgh. This compares with an average DClinPsych intake of 60 trainees per year, 28 at the University of Edinburgh and 25 at the University of Glasgow. 57 students graduated from the clinical doctorate in 2023, 27 from the University of Glasgow and 30 from the University of Edinburgh. The probabilities of completing these courses within ten years of starting are 0.96 and 0.97 respectively.
- 50 trainees enrolled onto the MSc Psychological Therapy in Primary Care (MSCPTPC) in January 2024 and 37 trainees enrolled onto the MSc in Applied Psychology for Children and Young People (MSCAPCYP). This compares to an average annual intake of 28 for the MSCPTPC and 22 for the MSCAPCYP. In early 2024, 46 students graduated from the MSCPTPC, and 34 graduated from 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 2024



CLINICAL STAFF IN POST

1,717.2 Staff in post
Whole Time Equivalent

+ 11.6%
WTE Increase

over previous 12 months
(+179.0 WTE)

+ 5.1%
WTE Increase

since last quarterly census
(+89.2 WTE)



PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

1033.6 Whole Time Equivalent
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGISTS

+ 8.4%
Increase

since 31 March 2023
(+80.3 WTE)



TRAINEES

85 Trainees
SEPTEMBER 2023 INTAKE



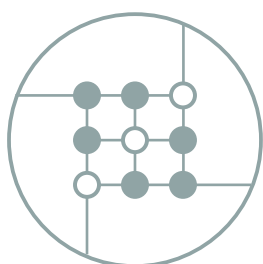
38

University of Glasgow



47

University of Edinburgh



VACANCIES

7.5%
Vacancy rate
(138.9 WTE)

-18.4%
WTE Decrease
since 31 March 2023

27.6%
(38.3 WTE)

Were advertised for
less than 3 months

34.8%
(48.3 WTE)

Were advertised
for 3-6 months

37.7%
(52.3 WTE)

Were advertised for
longer than 6 months

Background

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

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Further Information

The next release of this publication will be in September 2024.

Full data are available to download as [Excel Tables](#) or to view in the [Psychology Dashboard](#).

Publications prior to 5 June 2018 can be accessed via the [National Records of Scotland Archive](#).

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](#).