

Publication Summary



NHSScotland Workforce Information

Quarterly update of staff in post, vacancies
and turnover at 31 December 2015

Publication date – 1 March 2016



About this Release

This release from the Information Services Division provides a quarterly workforce update of information on staff in post across all NHS staff groups in Scotland. It also includes information on staff turnover and vacancy information for nursing and midwifery, allied health professions and consultants as at 31 December 2015.

Key Points

- At 31 December 2015, NHSScotland employed 161,415 staff (headcount), which is equivalent to 138,310.0 whole time staff (referred to as whole time equivalent or WTE). This represents an increase of 0.6% when compared to the previous year.
- Of the 798.2 WTE increase in staff, the biggest increase was in nursing and midwifery with an additional 283.6 WTE compared to the previous year.
- The number of consultants in post increased by 3.7% to 5,082.1 WTE.
- There were 2,188.7 WTE vacant nursing and midwifery posts, a vacancy rate of 3.6% which is similar to the previous year (3.4%).
- At 31 December 2015, 5.9% (320.8 WTE) of consultant posts were vacant, a decrease from the rate of 7.5% at December 2014. Of these vacancies, 144.9 WTE were vacant for more than six months, a decrease of 18.8 WTE compared to a year ago.

Background

NHSScotland workforce information is sourced from each NHS Board's human resources and payroll systems. These are dynamic, operational systems and data can change over time. The Information Services Division works with NHS Boards to improve data quality and previously published information may change from one publication to the next to reflect these improvements. The figures in this report are shown as headcount, the actual number of staff employed as well as Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) which adjusts headcount staff figures to take account of part-time staff.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [NHSScotland Workforce Information quarterly report](#).

[Workbooks containing the data](#) from this publication are available to download.

The Information Services Division publishes a wide range of workforce statistics. [You can find out more by visiting our workforce homepage](#).

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further information [about our statistics](#).