NHSScotland Workforce
Quarter ending 30 June 2018
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD) provides a quarterly update on the number of staff employed by NHSScotland and vacancy information for nursing and midwifery, allied health professions and consultants as at 30 June 2018. When describing the size of a particular staff group figures are presented either as headcount (actual numbers of staff) or whole time equivalent (WTE) which adjusts the headcount to take account of part time working.

Main Points
At 30 June 2018:

- The number of staff employed by NHSScotland is 162,254. The WTE, which adjusts for part time working, has risen by 0.1% over the last year to 139,095.2. Whilst there have been six consecutive years of annual growth, the rate of growth has slowed.

NHSScotland Total Workforce Trend

Notes:
1. Workforce data was published annually until September 2010 and then quarterly from March 2011 onwards.
2. Information for the Special Health Boards is available in the Overall dashboard.
There were 5,261.4 WTE medical and dental consultants in post, representing an annual increase of 2.4% (121.8 WTE). There were 7.6% (433.7 WTE) consultant posts vacant, compared to 8.5% (475.4 WTE) at 30 June 2017. Of these vacancies, 268.7 WTE were vacant for six months or more, an annual increase of 17.9% (40.8 WTE).

There were 59,455.9 WTE nursing and midwifery staff in post, representing an annual increase of 0.1% (77.9 WTE). The proportion of qualified nurses and midwives remains similar to last year at 73.0% (43,364.5 WTE). There were 5.3% (3,311.2 WTE) nursing and midwifery posts vacant, compared to 5.2% (3,232.6 WTE) at 30 June 2017. The proportion of nursing and midwifery posts vacant for three months or more remains unchanged over the past year at 1.5% (957.2 WTE).

There were 11,604.1 WTE allied health professions staff in post, representing an annual increase of 1.0% (111.5 WTE). The number of vacant allied health professions posts is at a recorded high of 4.8% (588.4 WTE), up from 4.5% (543.4 WTE) at 30 June 2017.

Background

The NHSScotland workforce has a significant role to play in the delivery of quality services that meet the needs of patients, their families and the general public in a modern health service. Information on staff directly employed is sourced from each NHS Board’s human resources and payroll systems. These are dynamic, operational systems and data can change over time. ISD works with NHS Boards to improve data quality and previously published information may change from one publication to the next to reflect these improvements.

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Further Information

The data from this publication are available to download from our data tables web page and dashboards web page along with a background information and glossary document. This is the first release of a fifth dashboard covering all other staff groups. Aggregated data underlying the dashboards for 30 June 2018 is available on the NHSScotland Open Data platform as five CSV files to meet the 3* criteria for ‘open data’. The latest annual report, published on 5 June 2018, is available on the publication web page.

For more information on workforce statistics see the workforce section of our website.

The next release of this publication will be 4 December 2018.

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.