Psychology Services Workforce in NHSScotland
Quarter ending 30 June 2019
A National Statistics publication for Scotland
Publication date: 3 September 2019

About this release
This release by Information Services Division (ISD), in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland (NES), presents Psychology Services workforce information at 30 June 2019.

As of 1 April 2019, responsibility for collecting workforce data and producing national statistics transferred from ISD to NES. The publications will be co-produced by ISD and NES until 30th September 2019, after which NES will take on full responsibility.

Figures are presented as headcount (actual numbers 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 at 30 June 2019:

- There were a total of 1,179.9 WTE (1,431 headcount) clinical staff in post. This is 0.6% (7.6 WTE) higher than reported 12 months previously. Since the last quarterly census the WTE has increased by 0.3% (3.6 WTE).

- Clinical Psychologists remain the largest staff group in this workforce, accounting for 65.4% (771.6 WTE) of clinical staff in post. Since June 2018, this staff group has grown by 2.0 WTE (0.3%).

- There are currently 110.5 WTE vacancies being advertised for recruitment, of which 75.7 WTE (68.5%) are for Clinical Psychology positions. New posts account for 41.0% (45.3 WTE) of the total vacancies. Compared with previous census years, the current vacancy rate of 8.6% across Psychology Services is the highest vacancy rate ever reported in June.

- There are 237 individuals in Scotland training for various post-graduate qualifications in applied psychology, including 174 on the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, who will be fully qualified to become Clinical Psychologists upon course completion.
WTE of all Clinical Staff in NHSScotland Psychology Services from 30 September 2002 to 30 June 2019\(^1,2\).

1. As at 30 June 2019 there were 65.1 WTE (5.5%) staff on maternity leave and 10.8 WTE (0.9%) on long term sick leave.
2. Quarterly data collection began from March 2011. Prior to this there was only an annual census at 30 September.

**Background**

The Scottish Government 10 year Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027 was published in March 2017 ([http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/1750](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.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the full report. The data from this publication are available to download from our web page. For more information on Psychology Workforce see the Psychology Workforce section of our website. For related topics, please see the Mental Health pages.

The next release of this publication will be December 2019.

**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.