

Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Quarterly Workforce Bulletin March 2021

Key Findings

- The Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Workforce, at 31st March 2021, stood at 72,184 (63,247.8 whole-time equivalent [WTE]). This figure excludes staff on career breaks, bank staff and Home Helps, due to the variable nature of their contracted hours, members of staff with a WTE of less than 0.03, Chairs/Members of Boards and Out of Hours GPs.
- The largest single staff group was Qualified Nursing & Midwifery, with 16,375 WTE. This represented an increase of 683 WTE (or 4.4%) from the previous March.
- Between March 2017 and March 2021, there was a net increase of 1,583 WTE (20.2%) in the Professional & Technical staff group. This group includes the Allied Health Professions and support staff (e.g. physiotherapists, radiotherapists, dieticians and podiatrists) along with Scientific & Technical staff (e.g. laboratory staff).
- The Medical & Dental workforce increased by 718 WTE (17.5%) between March 2017 and March 2021. The annual increase from March 2020 was ~315 WTE (7.0%).

Table 1: HSC Workforce (WTE) March 2017 – March 2021

Staff Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2017-21	% Change 2020-21
Generic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
Administration & Clerical	11,019.5	11,067.4	11,295.0	11,670.6	12,373.8	12.3%	6.0%
Estates Services	685.8	685.9	722.3	767.5	~779.6	14.0%	1.8%
Support Services	4,619.8	4,801.8	4,993.7	5,018.2	5,239.1	13.4%	4.4%
Qualified Nursing & Midwifery	15,134.1	15,112.4	15,303.3	15,692.1	16,375.5	8.2%	4.4%
Nurse Support Staff	4,267.3	4,373.9	4,433.0	4,446.8	4,719.0	10.6%	6.1%
Social Services (excluding Home Helps)	7,129.5	7,325.8	7,498.3	~7,816.1	~8,201.6	15.1%	4.9%
Professional & Technical	7,829.5	8,137.1	8,505.9	~8,952.7	9,412.2	20.2%	5.1%
Medical & Dental	4,098.1	4,199.0	4,307.1	~4,501.2	4,815.9	17.5%	7.0%
Ambulance	1,093.3	1,099.7	1,187.8	1,216.4	1,327.2	21.4%	9.1%
Total	56,352.3	57,513.5	58,246.5	60,089.8	63,247.8	12.2%	5.3%

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Table 2: HSC Northern Ireland Workforce by Trust, March 2021 - Headcount (HC) and WTE

HSC Organisation	Administration & Clerical		Estates Services		Support Services		Qualified Nursing & Midwifery		Nursing & Midwifery Support Staff		Social Services (excl. Home Helps)		Professional & Technical		Medical		Dental		Ambulance		Northern Ireland Total	
	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE	HC	WTE
Belfast HSC Trust	3,700	3,269.1	258	252.8	2,433	1,836.0	5,609	5,058.3	1,842	1,612.6	2,256	2,026.1	3,821	3,381.8	1,683	1,579.3	57	47.1	0	0.0	21,659	19,063.1
Northern HSC Trust	1,988	1,657.4	154	153.5	1,129	794.9	3,086	2,682.8	841	721.2	1,904	1,704.5	1,883	1,596.6	517	475.6	23	16.3	0	0.0	11,525	9,802.8
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,660	1,437.0	92	92.0	1,186	895.0	3,132	2,795.1	820	714.4	1,666	1,461.2	1,463	1,292.2	596	540.9	43	32.5	0	0.0	10,658	9,260.2
Southern HSC Trust	2,095	1,730.9	132	129.2	876	673.6	3,310	2,815.3	927	794.9	1,706	1,526.9	1,808	1,550.1	617	559.0	19	14.0	0	0.0	11,490	9,794.0
Western HSC Trust	1,947	1,727.8	147	147.0	1,208	920.2	3,224	2,942.2	929	840.8	1,542	1,431.8	1,600	1,434.0	525	499.7	28	24.4	0	0.0	11,150	9,967.9
NI Ambulance Service	134	130.6	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	1,353	1,327.2	~1,487	~1,457.8
Trusts Total	11,524	9,952.8	~783	~774.6	6,832	5,119.6	18,361	16,293.8	5,359	4,683.9	9,074	8,150.5	10,575	9,254.8	~3,938	~3,654.5	170	134.3	1,353	1,327.2	~67,969	~59,345.8
Business Services Organisation	1,416	1,352.3	5	5.0	117	114.7	43	40.7	0	0.0	-	-	52	52.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	~1,633	~1,564.7
Health & Social Care Board	415	394.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	8	7.8	44	35.7	23	13.7	12	7.6	0	0.0	~502	~459.0
NI Blood Transfusion Service	57	48.0	0	0.0	6	4.8	14	11.2	39	35.1	0	0.0	56	53.7	5	4.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	177	157.2
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	21	18.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	46	43.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	67	62.1
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency	74	71.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,048	954.8	6	2.8	0	0.0	1,128	1,029.4
NI Practice & Education Council	10	9.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	~10	~9.6
NI Social Care Council	56	53.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	56	53.6
Patient Client Council	26	24.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	24.6
Public Health Agency	410	348.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	23	22.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	11.6	45	40.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	491	422.5
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	104	100.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	-	-	5	4.5	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	115	110.3
Regional Services Total	2,589	2,421.0	5	5.0	123	119.5	88	81.7	39	35.1	~54	~51.1	170	157.4	~1,121	~1,013.2	18	10.4	0	0.0	~4,205	~3,892.8
Northern Ireland Total	14,113	12,373.8	~788	~779.6	6,955	5,239.1	18,449	16,375.5	5,398	4,719.0	~9,128	~8,201.6	10,745	9,412.2	5,063	4,671.3	188	144.7	1,353	1,327.2	72,184	63,247.8

Source: HSCNI Human Resources, Payroll, Travel & Subsistence. Figures exclude staff on career breaks, bank staff, Chairs / Members of Boards, Out-of-Hours GPs, and staff with a whole-time equivalent of less than or equal to 0.03. Figures include students employed to assist medical and nursing staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The recorded whole-time equivalent for home helps does not adequately reflect the full contribution of these staff, due to the variable hours of contracts. Home Helps are therefore excluded from this analysis.

A dashed line (-) represents a cell count between 1 and 4 inclusive. This symbol is used in order to minimise the risk of personal disclosure, where it may be possible to identify an individual from the data provided. As a result of this protocol overall totals are correct although some row and column sub-totals may have been changed; the cells affected have been marked with a tilde (~). This will not affect the accuracy of overall staff totals but may mean that some individual columns or rows do not sum.

Revised as at 23rd July 2021