

Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Quarterly Workforce Bulletin March 2022

Key Findings

- The Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Workforce, at 31st March 2022, stood at 73,239 (64,359.3 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 16,773 WTE. This represented an increase of 397 WTE (or 2.4%) from the previous March.
- Between March 2018 and March 2022, there was a net increase of 1,566 WTE (19.2%) 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 ~618 WTE (14.8%) between March 2018 and March 2022. The annual increase from March 2021 was ~2 WTE (0.1%).

Table 1: HSC Workforce (WTE) March 2018 – March 2022

Staff Group	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2018-22	% Change 2021-22
Generic	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%
Administration & Clerical	11,067.4	11,295.0	11,670.6	12,373.8	12,864.8	16.2%	4.0%
Estates Services	685.9	722.3	767.5	~779.6	811.2	18.3%	3.8%
Support Services	4,801.8	4,993.7	5,018.2	5,239.1	~5,183.0	8.0%	-1.0%
Qualified Nursing & Midwifery	15,112.4	15,303.3	15,692.1	16,375.5	16,772.7	11.0%	2.4%
Nurse Support Staff	4,373.9	4,433.0	4,446.8	4,719.0	4,629.7	5.8%	-1.9%
Social Services (excluding Home Helps)	7,325.8	7,498.3	~7,816.1	~8,201.6	~8,208.7	12.1%	0.1%
Professional & Technical	8,137.1	8,505.9	~8,952.7	9,412.2	9,703.3	19.2%	3.1%
Medical & Dental	4,199.0	4,307.1	~4,501.2	4,815.9	~4,817.4	14.8%	0.1%
Ambulance	1,099.7	1,187.8	1,216.4	1,327.2	1,359.4	23.6%	2.4%
Total	57,513.5	58,246.5	60,089.8	63,247.8	64,359.3	11.9%	1.8%

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Table 2: HSC Northern Ireland Workforce by Trust, March 2022 - 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	3,662	3,245.7	261	254.6	2,375	1,790.4	5,751	5,221.8	1,762	1,546.9	2,118	1,923.1	3,902	3,467.7	1,203	1,114.9	36	28.1	0	0.0	21,070	18,593.1
Northern HSC Trust	2,031	1,692.8	166	165.3	1,103	784.4	3,122	2,735.1	849	720.3	1,915	1,717.3	1,924	1,639.2	398	360.7	23	17.2	0	0.0	11,531	9,832.4
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,789	1,565.9	99	99.0	1,183	904.8	3,227	2,904.0	831	719.8	1,696	1,499.9	1,538	1,364.9	481	434.5	40	28.3	0	0.0	10,884	9,521.0
Southern HSC Trust	2,218	1,837.7	139	136.2	867	666.1	3,371	2,860.5	928	794.4	1,776	1,585.2	1,875	1,586.0	511	456.9	15	12.7	0	0.0	11,700	9,935.8
Western HSC Trust	1,977	1,758.3	152	151.0	1,180	910.0	3,256	2,964.7	907	816.5	1,538	1,432.4	1,629	1,465.8	447	422.6	29	25.6	0	0.0	11,115	9,947.0
NI Ambulance Service	153	149.3	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	1,384	1,359.4	1,545	1,516.7
Trusts Total	11,830	10,249.7	-817	-806.2	-6,708	-5,055.8	18,727	16,686.0	5,277	4,597.9	9,043	8,158.0	-10,868	-9,523.5	-3,040	-2,789.6	143	111.9	1,384	1,359.4	67,845	59,345.9
Business Services Organisation	1,530	1,467.0	-	-	125	121.9	40	37.5	0	0.0	-	-	60	60.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-1,755	-1,686.4
Health & Social Care Board	421	402.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	9	8.8	54	42.6	27	13.9	14	9.5	0	0.0	-525	-477.4
NI Blood Transfusion Service	54	45.2	0	0.0	7	5.3	16	13.2	36	31.7	0	0.0	58	56.7	5	4.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	176	157.0
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	21	18.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	45	41.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	66	60.7
NI Medical and Dental Training Agency	77	74.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,970	1,829.2	25	21.2	0	0.0	2,072	1,924.6
NI Practice & Education Council	7	7.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-7	-7.0
NI Social Care Council	57	55.2	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	57	55.2
Patient Client Council	29	26.5	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	29	26.5
Public Health Agency	500	421.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	29	29.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	16.0	41	37.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	587	504.1
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	101	96.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0.0	0	0.0	112	106.5
Regional Services Total	2,797	2,615.1	-0	-0.0	132	127.2	92	86.7	36	31.7	-54	-50.7	-189	-175.3	-2,043	-1,885.2	39	30.7	0	0.0	5,394	5,013.4
Northern Ireland Total	14,627	12,864.8	822	811.2	-6,840	-5,183.0	18,819	16,772.7	5,313	4,629.7	-9,097	-8,208.7	11,062	9,703.3	-5,083	-4,674.8	182	142.6	1,384	1,359.4	73,239	64,359.3

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.