

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to mental health workforce in NHS Lothian.

### Question:

I already use NES Turas official statistics for staff in post and advertised vacancies in Psychology Services, CAMHS and the NHS Scotland workforce dashboards (including consultant psychiatry specialties). I also have NHS Lothian FOI 10779, which pointed a consultant psychiatrist question to Turas. Please do not only signpost those dashboards. This request is for recorded information Turas does not publish in one table.

As at the most recent date for which figures are held (please state the date), please provide Whole Time Equivalent for:

1. Consultant psychiatrists
2. Other career-grade / SAS psychiatrists, if recorded
3. Psychology services clinical staff (as you report to NES), with applied psychologists separately if held
4. Registered mental health nurses

For each of 1–4 please provide:

- a. funded establishment WTE
- b. staff in post WTE
- c. vacancy WTE
- d. locum or agency WTE covering vacancies, if recorded

If you hold a split by adult mental health, CAMHS, and older-age psychiatry/nursing, please provide that split. If not held, board totals are sufficient.

### Answer:

Where information is publicly available, we are not required to provide this separately. Under section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under the Freedom of Information Act is exempt. NHS Lothian's workforce information is kept on the publicly

available TURAS database, and this is where NHS Lothian employees also access this information.

Most of the information you have requested can be found on TURAS as follows:

#### 1. Consultant Psychiatrists, SAS Psychiatrists and Registered Mental Health Nurses

Please use the NHS Scotland Workforce Dashboard: <https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-workforce/dashboards/nhs-scotland-workforce/?pageid=16876>

To obtain Establishment, Staff in Post (WTE), and Vacancy information:

1. Select Vacancy from the Reports menu on the left-hand side.
2. Apply the following filters:
  - Census Date: Select the relevant census date.
  - NHS Board: NHS Lothian.
  - View Data: Select either:
    - *Medical & Dental Consultants*, or
    - *Nursing & Midwifery*, as appropriate.
  - Specialty/Sub Job Family: Select the relevant specialty (e.g. General Psychiatry, Old Age Psychiatry, Mental Health Nursing).
  - Band: (Nursing only) select the required band.
  - Vacancy Measure: Select *Establishment*, *Staff in Post WTE*, or *Vacancies*.
  - Measure Type: Select either *Number* or *Vacancy Rate* as required.
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For additional Whole Time Equivalent information, select Employment Over Time from the Reports menu and apply the relevant filters. This report also allows users to view other medical career grades such as SAS.

#### 2. Psychology Clinical Services Staff

Please use the Psychology Workforce Dashboard: <https://turasdata.nes.nhs.scot/data-and-reports/official-workforce-statistics/all-official-statistics-publications/01-september-2026-psychology/dashboards/psychology/?pageid=16816>

To obtain Establishment, Staff in Post (WTE), and Vacancy information:

1. Select Establishment from the Reports menu on the left-hand side.
2. Apply the following filters:
  - Date: Select the appropriate reporting date(s).
  - NHS Board: NHS Lothian.
  - Professional Group: Select the required professional group.
  - WTE/Headcount: Select *WTE*.

For additional information on Staff in Post and Vacancies, select the relevant reports from the Reports menu and apply the appropriate filters.

### 3. Locum or agency WTE covering vacancies

The table below shows the average WTE bank and agency staff used per week with the reason code 'Vacancy' across NHS Lothian:

| <b>Bank and agency mental health staff covering vacancies, March – August 2026, NHS Lothian</b> |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Job category</b>                                                                             | <b>Average WTE per week</b>               |
| Consultant psychiatrists                                                                        | 3 WTE (this includes 1 WTE on call hours) |
| Other career grade / SAS Psychiatrists                                                          | 4 WTE                                     |
| Psychology Services Clinical staff                                                              | 0 WTE                                     |
| Registered Mental Health Nurses                                                                 | 33.8 WTE                                  |

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
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 Cc: Chief Executive