

Comparison of Ireland's Publically Funded Medical Workforce with UK and Australia

Comparison of Irelands Publically Funded Medical Workforce with the UK and Australia, NCHDs and Consultants (2019/20)												
Country	Population	Total NCHDs	Total NCHDs per 100,000 of population	Total Trainees	Trainees per 100,000 of population	Total Non-trainees / SAS doctors	Non-trainees / SAS doctors per 100,000 of population	Total Consultants	Consultants per 100,000 of the population	Ratio of total NCHDs to Consultants	Ratio of trainees to Consultants	Ratio of Non-trainees / SAS doctors
Ireland	4.98 million ¹	7426	149	4390 ⁵	88	3036 ⁸	61	3425 ¹¹	69	2.16 : 1	1.28 : 1	0.9 : 1
England	56.29 million ²	69960	124	58881 ⁶	105	11079 ⁹	20	52212 ¹²	93	1.33 : 1	1.13 : 1	0.2 : 1
Scotland	5.46 million ²	6985	128	5850 ⁶	107	1135 ⁹	21	5522 ¹²	101	1.26 : 1	1.05 : 1	0.2 : 1
Wales	3.15 million ²	4338	138	3426 ⁶	109	912 ⁹	29	2822 ¹²	90	1.54 : 1	1.21 : 1	0.32 : 1
Northern Ireland	1.9 million ³	2686	141	2074 ⁶	109	612 ⁹	32	1919 ¹³	101	1.39 : 1	1.08 : 1	0.32 : 1
Total UK	66.8 million	83969	126	70231 ⁶	105	13738 ⁹	21	62475 ^{12, 13}	94	1.34 : 1	1.12 : 1	0.22 : 1
Australia	25.7 million ⁴	27675	108	20281 ⁷	79	7394 ¹⁰	29	34170 ¹⁴	133	0.8 : 1	0.59 : 1	0.2 : 1

Please note the following caveats in interpreting this data

- A significant caveat is that the data for Ireland includes those employed in the public sector only, it does not take into account those working exclusively in the private sector. The private sector in Ireland is responsible for a significant portion of care delivered, this is not the case in countries such as the UK and this information should therefore be interpreted with caution
- The data for the UK is from the NHS and includes only those working in the public sector
- The Australian medical workforce is distributed relatively evenly across the private and public sector and the bulk of the workforce are in hospitals and group private practices. This data includes those working publically and privately as it was not possible to distinguish however the number working in solo private practice is decreasing

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¹ Population as at end of April 2020 (CSO, 2020)

² Population as at mid-2019, (Office for National Statistics, 2020)

³ Population as at mid-2019 (Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency)

⁴ Population as of January 2021 (Australian Bureau of Statistics 'Population Clock')

⁵ All Intern, Registrar IMGTI and SHO IMGTI posts are assumed to be training posts by default. Registrar, Sen. Registrar., SHO and SpR posts are considered to be training posts once they have been claimed by the relevant training body on DIME

⁶ Trainees include those categorised as Core training, Foundation Doctor Year 1, Foundation Doctor Year 2, SHO (Relevant only for Wales) and Specialty Registrar. The foundation programme consists of foundation year one (FY1) and foundation year two (FY2). The programme acts as a bridge between undergraduate medical training and specialty and general practice training.

⁷ Includes interns

⁸ Registrar, Sen. Registrar., SHO and SpR posts are assumed to be non-training if they have 'No Training Programmes' listed under the training body in DIME

⁹ The term 'SAS doctor' includes staff grade, associate specialist and specialty doctors with at least four years of postgraduate training, two of which are in a relevant specialty. Prior to 2008, SAS doctors were appointed to staff grade or associate specialist posts. Since 2008 these grades have been closed to new entrants, with all new SAS doctor appointments being specialty doctors.

¹⁰ The category of Hospital Non-Specialists (HNS) is used to count doctors that work as a salaried medical officer in a hospital setting in Australia. The HNS workforce makes a major contribution to the provision of medical services in hospitals. This workforce includes doctors in training as interns, resident medical officers (RMOs), career medical officers (CMOs), hospital medical officers (HMOs), principal house officers (PHOs) and other salaried hospital doctors who are not specialists or in recognised vocational training programs to become specialists. There were 3365 interns in 2018, these are categorised as trainees in Ireland so to compare like with like they have been included in the trainee numbers here and excluded from the non-training numbers.

¹¹ DIME does not contain information on Consultants in Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Medical Ophthalmology therefore they are not included in these figures

¹² Consultants in Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Medical Ophthalmology have been excluded

¹³ A breakdown by medical specialty is not available for Northern Ireland therefore it was not possible to exclude consultants in Public Health, Occupational Medicine and Medical Ophthalmology however those categorised as 'other medical' were excluded from this analysis

¹⁴ Consultants in Occupational Medicine, Public Health and Medical Ophthalmology have been excluded, this figure is based on the number of specialist registered doctors in Australia in 2020

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Data sources:

- Ireland: Doctors Integrated e-management system (DIME), NDTP (2020)
- England: NHS workforce statistics, available [here](#) (2020)
- Scotland: Public Health Scotland, available [here](#) (2020)
- Wales: Statswales: available [here](#) (2020)
- Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Workforce Census March 2020, available [here](#) (2020)
- Australia: Department of Health available [here](#) (2019)