

NHS Staff Vacancies

The six-monthly statistical release and associated StatsWales tables on vacancies covered the period 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2011.

A user consultation on a proposal to stop collection and publication of these statistics on NHS staff vacancies was held between 30 August 2011 and 11 October 2011. As a result of the consultation the data collection was terminated.

A summary of responses can be seen at

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/nhsstaffing/?lang=en&status=closed>

Background

The data collection and publication for NHS Staff Vacancies was set up in 2001 to monitor the large number of posts that were vacant for three months or more (1,400 at 31 March 2001 and a peak of over 1,700 at 31 March 2002). The data related to all staff directly employed by the NHS. General Medical and Dental Practitioners (and staff employed by these practitioners) were excluded.

NHS organisations in Wales provided information every six months on the number of NHS staff posts that had been vacant for three months or more. The information was published in a six-monthly statistical release that was used by the Welsh Government and the NHS to monitor trends in NHS staff posts vacant for three months or more.

The number of posts vacant for three months or more has declined substantially to less than 100 in recent years. While this data collection was useful ten years ago to highlight problems in recruitments, NHS workforce information managers in Wales told us that the NHS staff vacancies publication was not very useful to them, and didn't reflect the current staffing and recruitment situation in the NHS.

Other sources of data

All of the NHS organisations in Wales use the NHS Electronic Staff Record to store and manage information about their staff. Although information on long-term NHS staff vacancies is no longer collected and centrally published by the Welsh Government, individual NHS organisations still have access to their own management information and will continue to use it for planning purposes as they do at present in preference to the published figures.

Knowledge and Analytical Services
Welsh Government