

# NHS

This page provides information about working in public health roles within the NHS.



## Public health roles in the NHS

The NHS employs public health staff in a number of roles. The range of roles available in the NHS varies in each of the UK countries. For example, in England, from 1 April 2013, many public health roles moved into local authorities, so fewer roles are now based in the NHS.

- England

Expand / collapse

The NHS in England is an employer for the following core public health roles:

- school nurses [1]
  - public health practitioners [2]
  - health visitors [3]
- Wales

Expand / collapse

Public Health Wales [4] is the national public health agency in Wales and exists to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for people in Wales.

The organisation provides the public health knowledge, scientific expertise and intelligence to lead transformational change and to drive a focus on ensuring that it delivers tangible improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes and reduces health inequalities in Wales.

Public Health Wales is an employer of the following core public health roles:

- knowledge and intelligence professionals [5]  
There are a range of staff working in the Public Health Wales Observatory [6]. The Observatory provides health intelligence services to Public Health Wales and consists of the Library and Knowledge Management Service [7] and the Observatory Analytical Team [8]. Public Health Wales hosts a range of surveillance data and health intelligence [9] programmes which employ Consultants, epidemiologists, analysts, programme managers, project officers and people in support function and other roles.
- consultants and specialists [10]  
Consultants and specialists in Public Health Wales may be working in generic public health or in specialist roles such as environmental health protection, dental public health, virology, microbiology and pharmaceutical public health.
- public health nurses [11]  
Public Health Wales employs public health nurses in roles such as safeguarding, communicable disease or infection control. In addition there are health protection practitioners and screening and immunisation staff that undertake similar roles, but do not have a clinical element to the role.
- public health academics [12]  
Academics are typically employed by universities, often alongside another role through an honorary contract with Public Health Wales.
- public health practitioners [2]  
Employed at bands 5 to bands 7/8 of Agenda for change [13] these individuals may be in generic roles working on several topic areas or in specific roles in areas such as smoking cessation, workplace health, substance misuse, healthy lifestyles, healthy schools / pre-schools, healthcare improvement, mental health, dental public health, public health policy, public health dietician, breastfeeding, early years etc.
- public health scientists  
Public Health Wales employs scientific staff working in health protection, microbiological and development production services and a range of people in support functions and other roles.
- Other staff with specialist skills and experience

Other roles in NHS Wales include:

- director of public health [14]  
Directors of public health are employed by the Health Boards and work closely with Public Health Wales.
- school nurses [11]  
Registered nurses who work in school nursing include Specialist Community Public Health Nurses.
- public health practitioners [2]

- health visitors [3]
- Health Board emergency planners
- other public health roles
- Scotland

Expand / collapse

The NHS in Scotland is an employer for the following core public health roles:

- director of public health [14]  
in local NHS Health Boards
- consultants and specialists (including specialty registrars) [10]  
in local NHS Health Boards, NHS National Services Scotland, and other NHS Health Boards (such as NHS Scotland, Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
- public health managers [15] and public health practitioners [2]  
in local NHS Health Boards, NHS Health Scotland, Community Health Partnerships and Health and Social Care Partnerships
- public health scientists  
in NHS National Services Scotland (Health Protection Scotland)
- public health knowledge and intelligence professionals [5]  
in SCOTPHO, NHS National Services Scotland, local NHS Health Boards
- health visitors [3]  
in local NHS Health Boards, Community Health Partnerships and Health and Social Care Partnerships
- school nurses [1]  
in NHS Health Boards
- public health nurses [11]  
in local NHS Health Boards, NHS National Services Scotland (primarily Health Protection Scotland)
- environmental health professionals [16]  
in local NHS health Boards and Special Health Boards  
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- Northern Ireland

Expand / collapse

The ?Public Health Agency [17]?is an employer of the following core public health roles:

- director of public health [14] (one position)
- consultants and specialists [10]
- knowledge and intelligence professionals [5]
- public health nurses [11]

The NHS also employs:?

- school nurses [1]
- health visitors [3]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-public-health/employers-public-health-staff/nhs>

### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/school-nurse>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-practitioner>

- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/health-visitor>
- [4] <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/home>
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-knowledge-and-intelligence-professional>
- [6] <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/>
- [7] <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/page/36481>
- [8] <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/page/36480>
- [9] <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/46778>
- [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-consultants-and-specialists>
- [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-nurse>
- [12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-academic>
- [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>
- [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/director-public-health>
- [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/public-health-manager>
- [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/environmental-health-professional>
- [17] <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>