

Statement regarding the clinical scientist trainee intake 2023

Recent information about the number of clinical scientist supernumerary trainees in prospect for the 2023 intake has led to some misunderstanding about the funding position at NES and our ambitions for this workforce.

NES recognises the significant contribution the healthcare science workforce make to good patient care and is keen to support Scottish Government in delivering on their strategic direction for the future of healthcare science.

NES also recognises the significant contribution trainers and supervisors are making in supporting the trainee workforce.

There has been no reduction in the projected funding for clinical scientist trainees in 2023 compared to previous years. NES currently receives funding from Scottish Government on an annual basis and works in collaboration with Boards to identify service need for healthcare science training. At present, there are 132 clinical scientist training places supported by NES and Scottish Government for the period 2022 – 2026. The numbers of training places currently being supported includes an additional 9 training places commissioned in 2021 over a three-year programme and there have been unprecedented demands placed on training costs as a result of the pandemic. Of the total (as yet unconfirmed) allocation to NES we are projecting that funding can only support an additional 4 training places in 23/24. Discussions regarding the final resource allocation are still in progress.

We have attempted to maximise the projected intake by, for the first time, sharing costs with service on a 75% (NES) 25% (service) basis. We recognise this is a challenge for some specialties. In the 43 applications for 2023 support from service, we tried to prioritise a training post from each division of healthcare science. This is the current position.

We look forward to continued collaboration with colleagues to explore additional ways in which we can support the wider healthcare science workforce.

<https://www.hcstraining.nhs.scot/>