

IPEM

Institute of Physics and
Engineering in Medicine



Clinical and Medical Engineering Workforce Survey Summary Report 2024

Introduction

The data in this summary report is compiled from IPEM's Clinical and Medical Engineering Workforce Survey 2024, carried out in November 2024 with a capture date of 15th November 2024. An invitation to respond was sent to heads of Clinical or Medical Engineering Services in the UK, including NHS and Independent providers. Rehabilitation Engineering, Wheelchair services, Physiological Measurement and Clinical Computing are outside the scope of this survey as they get surveyed separately.

At the time of compiling this report, we achieved a response from 46 out of the 156 services across the UK. Combining this with historical data from the previous Clinical and Medical Engineering Workforce Survey carried out in 2020 we hold data on 116 of the services in the UK.

We collected data on "Scientific and Technical staff" (which includes Clinical Scientists and Clinical Technologists, Technicians and Engineers) along with any "Other staff", these are other clinical staff essential to the provision of the service.

Aim

The aim of this summary is to give headline figures from the survey results with a full report to follow. The summary shows the estimated totals of Clinical Engineering staff, their NHS Agenda for Change banding, age profile, staffing provision satisfaction and activities carried out.

Workforce Headlines

- There are an estimated 3011 Scientific and Technical staff working in Clinical and Medical Engineering, working a total of 2830 Whole Time Equivalent hours (WTE)
- From the responsive received we found Clinical and Medical Engineering has a 6% vacancy rate with 80 known vacant positions from an establishment of 1396 WTE
- The profession has an aging workforce with 40% of Scientific and Technical staff over the age of 50
- Equipment maintenance and management are the most reported activities performed with research and development, along with design are the least performed activities
- 72 % of respondents felt their staffing provision was either too little or far too little

Staffing Establishment

The following data shows total estimates of the UK workforce, taken from the latest survey responses, responses to previous workforce surveys and estimating the remaining missing locations using average staffing across smaller and larger centres depending on the type of services they provide.

Headcount, Establishment and Vacancies

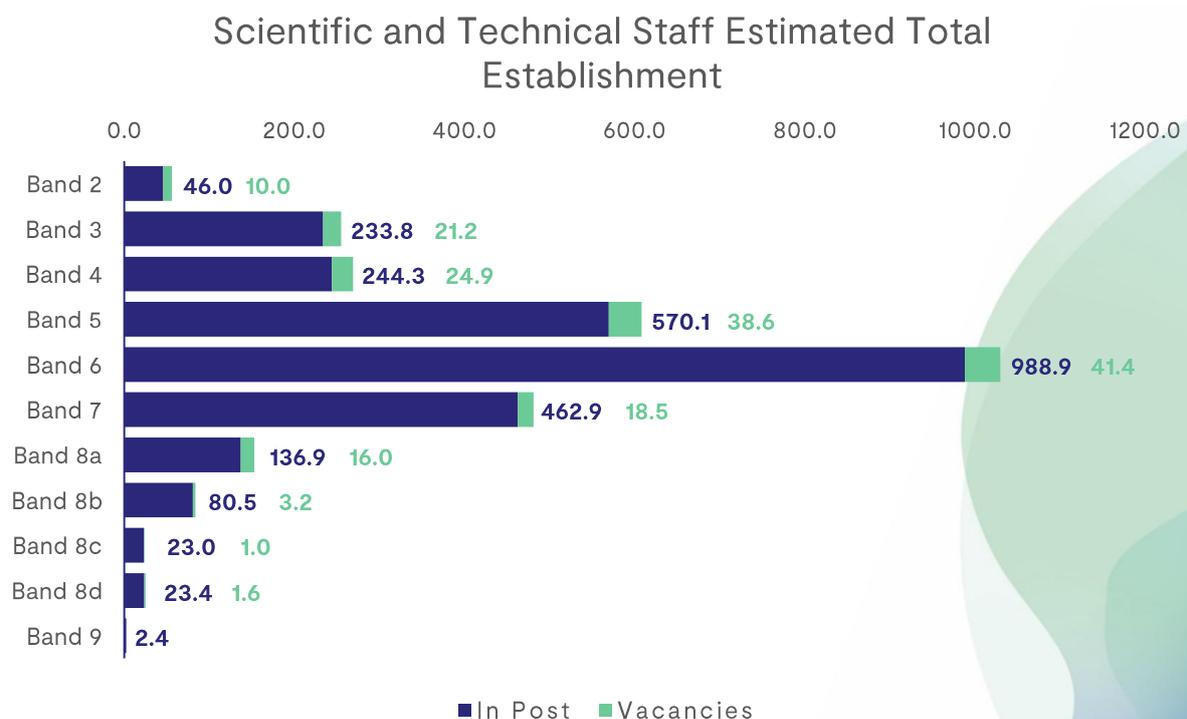
Estimated total Headcounts, establishment and vacancies across the UK.

	Headcount	Establishment	In Post	Vacancies	Vacancy Rate
<i>Scientific and Technical Staff</i>	3099	3010.9	2830.3	180.7	6%
<i>Other Staff</i>	835	975.7	946.4	29.3	3%

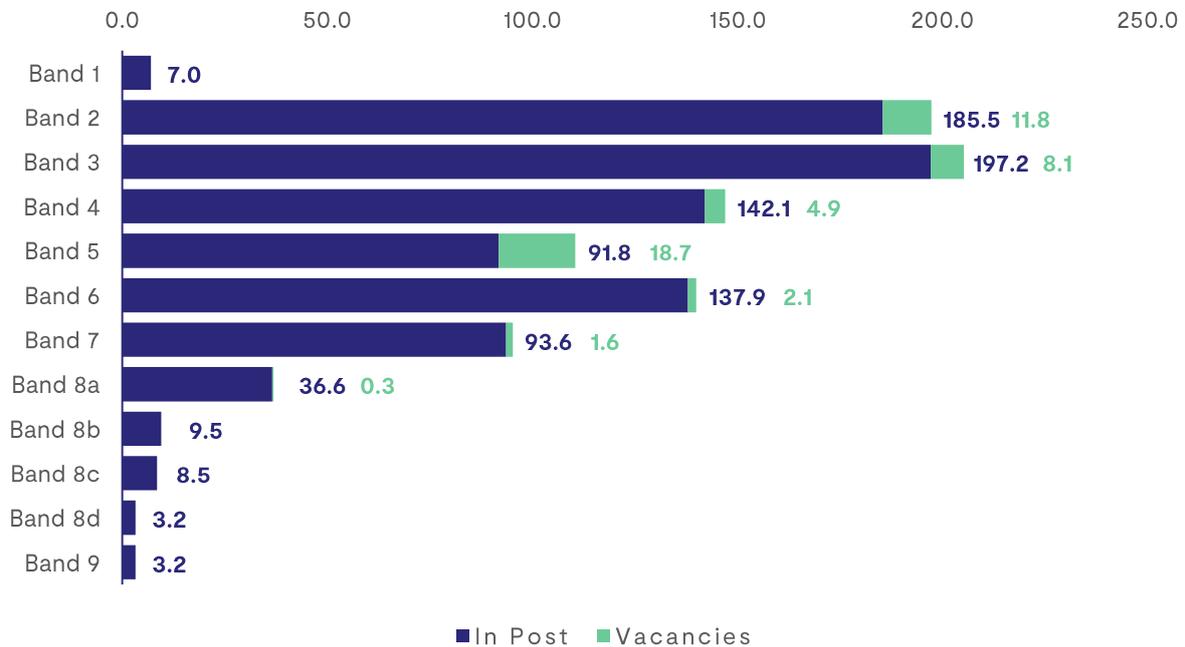
Estimated values come from current and historical data and average staffing of smaller and larger centres

Agenda for Change Banding

Estimated total establishment split into Agenda for Change banding across the UK.



Other Staff Estimated Total Establishment



Estimated values come from current and historical data and average staffing of smaller and larger centres where we don't hold data

Age Profile

40% of the Scientific and Technical staff are aged over 50, with 26% aged over 55, while 20% of this workforce are aged below 30. 35% of Other staff are aged over 50, with 17% under 30.

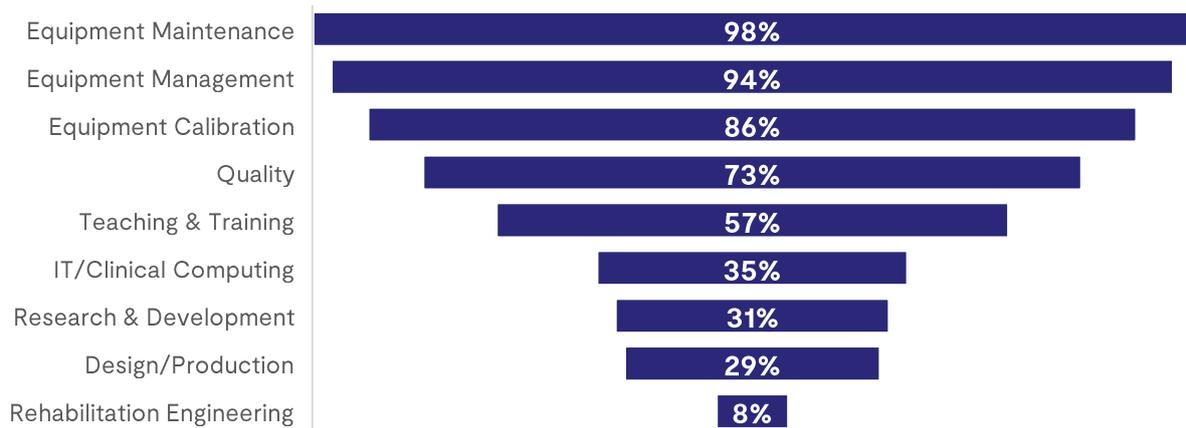
Staffing Provision Satisfaction

Only 28% of respondents believe their staffing provision for Scientific and Technical staff is sufficient, with half of respondents believe their provision for Other staff is sufficient.

Activities Performed

Respondents were asked to state which Clinical Engineering activities were carried out in their departments. The below shows the percent of departments that responded, that perform each activity.

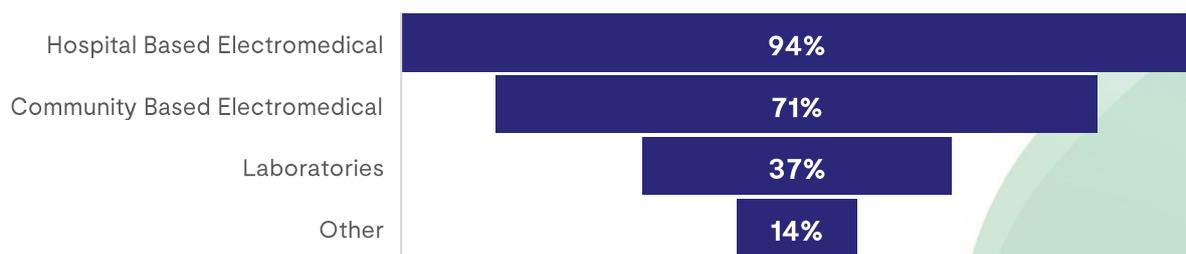
Clinical Engineering Activities Performed by Percent of Respondents



Technical Support

We asked respondents to state which areas they provide technical support to within their organisation.

Technical Support Provided Within Their Organisation



Other responses include GP Practices, Hospice, Care Homes, Private Residence, Councils and Charities.

Services Provided to External Organisations

Just over half of all respondents (58%) provide services to external organisations.