

Executive Summary

- In September 2005 the UK paediatric career grade workforce was made up of 4417 individuals (3997 whole time equivalents). Of these, 2723 were consultants, 1337 were staff and associate specialist grade doctors and 357 were other grades, mainly Trust Grade doctors.
- Although there has been an increase in the career grade workforce (Consultants and SASGs) since 2003, the 2.7% growth is less than the 7.2% increase between 2001 and 2003.
- Consultant numbers in the UK grew by 8.1% between 2003 and 2005, an annual growth rate of 4.0% compared with 7.3% between 2001 and 2003.
- The number of SASGs in the UK (1337) has fallen by 6.8% since 2003. (3.5% per annum decline).
- It is estimated that there were 1762 Higher Specialist Trainees, 2492 SHOs and 234 foundation year posts in paediatrics in September 2005.
- The number of nurses participating in the rota in 2005 (162), has increased by almost 40% since 2003.
- The number of Trust Grade doctors in 2005 (285) has increased by 18.3% from 241 in 2003.
- The growth rate in the SHO workforce is 3% per annum. The number of doctors at SHO level, if foundation year posts and trust grade SHOs are included, show an increase of 13% from 2003.
- The number of Higher Specialist Trainees rose over 25% in the 18 months between March 2004 and September 2005, despite no new funded NTN's being created in this period.
- The census shows that the number of academic paediatricians has fallen for the 3rd consecutive census to 179.
- For the UK overall, consultants (including honorary consultants) comprise 62% of the paediatric workforce with proportions ranging from 50% in Northern Ireland to 63% in England.
- Although consultant numbers have increased in every region since 2003, growth has not been uniform. Between 2003 and 2005 the greatest increases were in Wales (23.1%) and Oxford

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(21.4%). The reported number of consultants fell in two regions, by 7.3% in North Central London and by 4.8% in the West Midlands.

- Since 2001 the total number of 100% general paediatricians has grown by more than two-thirds, compared to relatively static numbers of 100% community paediatricians. In 2005 the total number of career grade paediatricians working 100% of the time in general paediatrics exceeded those working 100% in the community, a complete reversal of the situation in 2001. This suggests trusts perceive there is a need to create these posts due to increased acute workload.
- The numbers of paediatricians reported as spending at least 75% of their time in community paediatrics have fallen slightly from 1549 in 2003 to 1521 in 2005.
- 10.2% of consultant posts in Community Only Trusts were vacant in 2005 (7.4% in 2003), compared to 2.6% in Acute Trusts and 3.1% in Trusts where acute and community paediatrics were combined.
- The census identified 876 consultants working as specialists in the 39 UK Tertiary Trusts
- In all regions with the exception of West Midlands and Northern, over 90% of consultants are on the new contract.
- In 2005 women outnumbered men in the total career grade workforce (53.6% to 46.4%) – a 1.2% rise since 2003.
- The majority of doctors in paediatric training are female, with the proportion close to 60% across all the main training grades.
- The proportion of female consultants rose to 43.6% in 2005 – the highest level recorded in a College census.
- Among consultants aged 60 years and above men outnumber women by more than two and a half to one, whereas in the under 40 age group this falls to 0.9 males to every female. Amongst 40–44 year olds the difference is declining (1.1 males to every female in 2005 compared to 1.4 males to every female in 2003).

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- 51.7% of community consultants (working 75% or more in the community) are aged 50 years or over compared to only 35.7% of consultants working 75% or more in acute paediatrics.
- The proportion of part-time consultants fell from 17.3% (437/2519) in 2003 to 16.7% (456/2723) in 2005 whereas the proportion of part-time SASGs rose slightly to 42.1% (563/1337) from 41.7% (599/1435) in 2003.
- The overall average contracted PAs for full time consultants was 11.5 (an approximate 46 hour week), with on average 8.5 of these being clinical PAs.
- The number of consultants regularly exceeding the WTD has fallen from 62% in 2003 to 28%. In 2005, 50% worked fewer than 48 hours a week.
- The majority of SHOs and foundation year post holders (99%) are reported to be working fewer than the 56 hours required by the WTD 2007.