



The British  
Psychological Society

**HCPC registered Psychologists in the UK**

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## 1. Introduction

This report provides the first information and analysis of UK psychologists registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) since psychologists came under the remit of the HCPC as their regulatory body in 2009. There are currently just over 21,500 psychologists registered with the HCPC as May 2016.

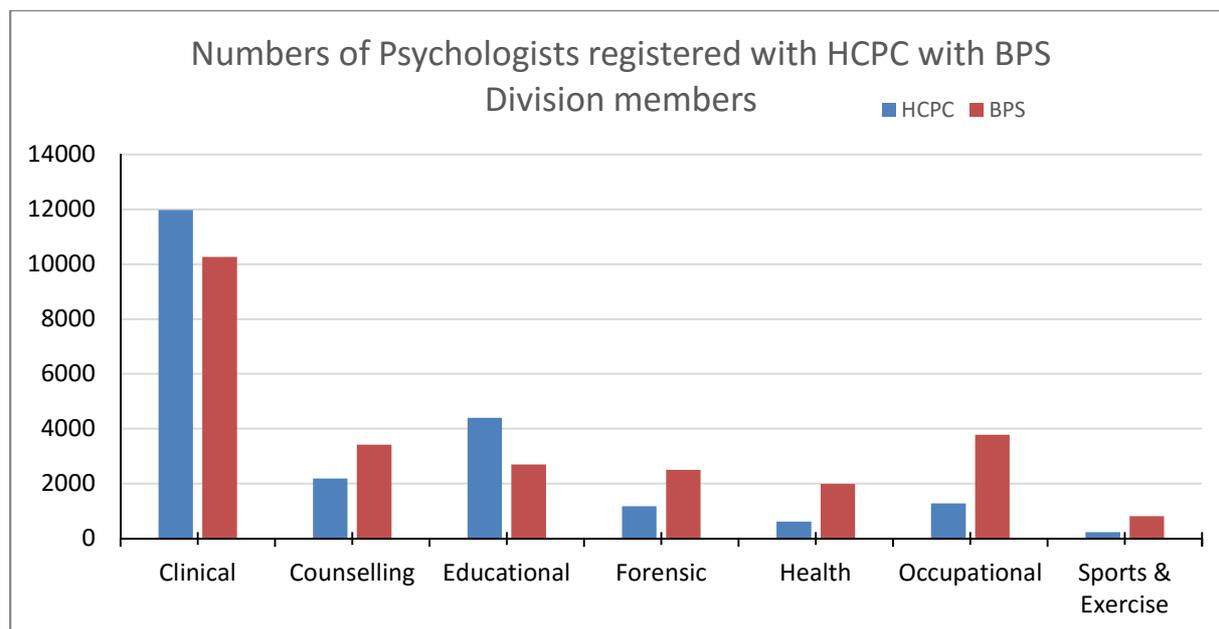
The HCPC regulates seven protected titles for psychologist: clinical, counselling, educational, forensic, health, occupational and sports and exercise. Some HCPC registrants (around 3%) are registered under more than one title, for this report each registration of a title is counted meaning that some individual psychologists will have been counted more than once; at the moment it is not possible to provide more information about this area.

This report is analysis of the data received from the HCPC regarding registered psychologists including protected title, gender, age and address/geographical area, registration and deregistration. The report will give statistics both by characteristic and by each protected title and make inferences about the implications of this data to the profession.

This report uses data from HCPC received between May and August 2016, data from the British Psychological Society Membership database and data from the office of National Statistics.

It is intended that this report is primarily for internal use within the BPS but that the data will be a resource to be used for specific purposes by individual divisions.

## 2. Protected Title



The table above demonstrates that the vast majority (56%) of psychologists registered in the UK are registered as clinical psychologists.

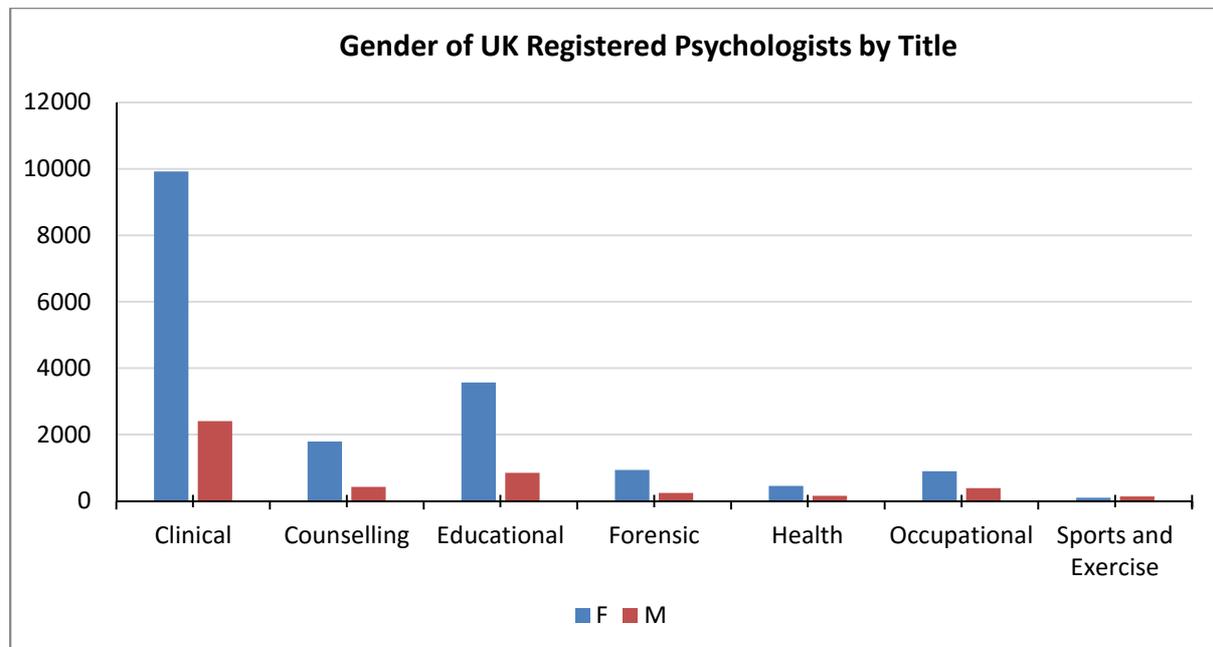
It can be seen that the *number* of Clinical and Educational psychologists registered with the HCPC is higher than the number of psychologists who are members of the related division, whereas the other titles have more Divisional members than HCPC registrants.

However, the relative *proportions* of registrants under each title (compared to the other titles) roughly replicates the proportions of members of the related BPS divisions.

The exceptions are that there are a higher proportion of members of the Division of Occupational Psychology (15%, second largest division) than there are psychologists registered as occupational psychologists (6%, 4<sup>th</sup> largest protected title).

Similarly there are a lower proportion of members of the Division of Educational and Child Psychology (11%, 4<sup>th</sup> largest division) than there are registered as educational psychologists (20%, second largest protected title). There is no known explanation for this.

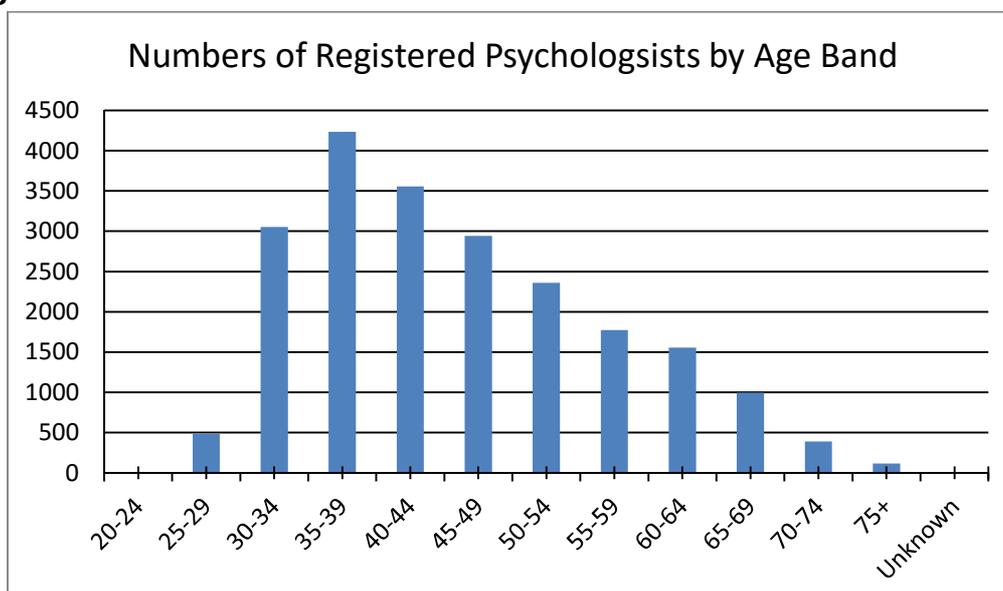
### 3. Gender



The percentage of female to male registered psychologists is around 80% female to 20% male.

This is similar for all protected titles except occupational where it moves to 70% female to 30% male and sports and exercise where it moves to 40% female and 60% male. These proportions mirror those of society members of the corresponding divisions.

### 4. Age



The above table shows the age ranges of all psychologists registered with HCPC. The ranges for the separate protected titles varies slightly according to title – this will be discussed in the sections below for each title.

It can be seen that the numbers of registered psychologists appear to decline after age 50. This is younger than the age of retirement so it is unclear why this would be. It may be that they are retiring early, however, there is no current data on age at deregistration.

## **5. Region**

HCPC address data is supplied via region based on the information provided by the registrant, however regions recorded by the HCPC do not fully mirror counties or other commonly known regions of the UK. For the purposes of the report will be grouped into the following areas: Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Greater London, South East, South West, South Midlands, East Anglia, Midlands, East England, Northern England, West England, Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man. A full break down of how regions are recorded by HCPC and how they have been grouped for this report can be found in the Appendix.

Numbers of psychologists for each region have been compared with population estimates for the same regions. On average there are 28 psychologists for every 100,000 people in each region and across the protected titles there is an average of 4 registered psychologists per 100,000. This significantly increases in the South Midlands where there are 38 registered psychologists for every 100,000 people and London where there are 46 registered psychologists for every 100,000 people.

There are figures supplied for the small islands around the UK – Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. The Isle of Wight is included in the South East Region. These islands have populations of 100,000 or less and have very low numbers of psychologists – only one or two in many cases. Although it is not ideal for the people of these islands to not have full access to all psychologists, the numbers are so small as to skew the overall data, for this reason data on these Islands will not be included in the overall analysis.

There are regional variations between the protected titles which will be discussed in the separate sections below.

## **6. Registration and Deregistration**

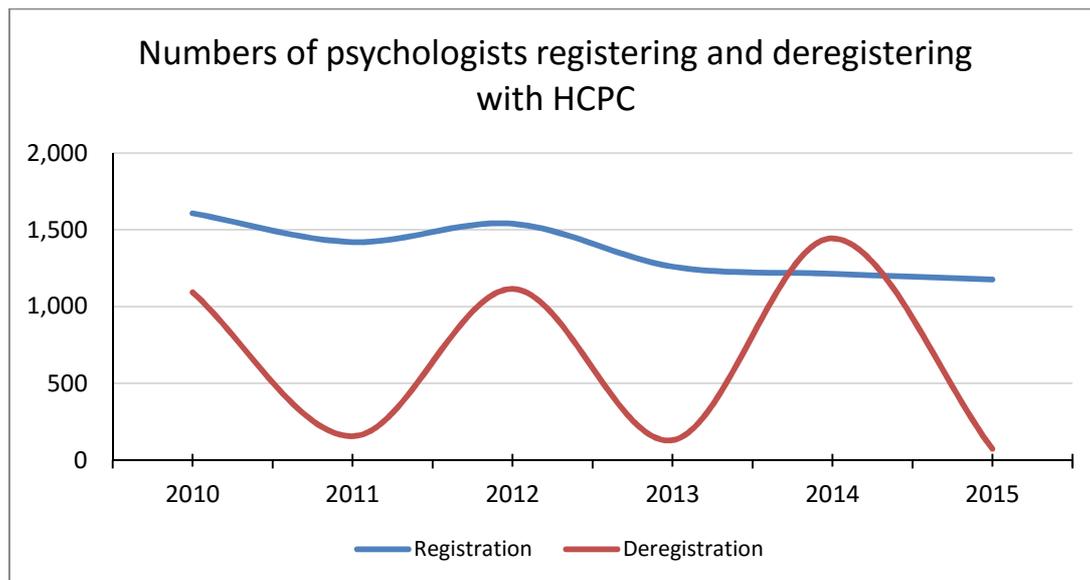
Registration with HCPC is broken into three types – UK, International and Grandparent.

Data is presented year-on-year, though because the HCPC began regulation of psychology in 2009 the data is skewed to reflect this and numbers of registrants in this year are vastly higher. Similarly, 2016 is not yet complete so figures are vastly lower, because of these reasons, comments will only be made on numbers in 2010 to 2015.

Grandparent registration was for psychologists accredited prior to HCPC regulation of psychologists. The right to apply under Grandparent rules ended in July 2012, which explains the fact that most protected titles saw a peak in registrations that year.

There are several deregistration codes used by HCPC. Most of these relate to non-payment of fees at various stages of the registration cycle. There is a code for Deceased, one for CPD rejection and one for “volunteered”. There is no specific code for retirement so it is likely that retirees would come under lapsed payment and some under volunteer.

The figures for deregistration peak every two years, this is because registration must be renewed every 2 years.



The chart above shows that the total number of psychologists registering each year is declining.

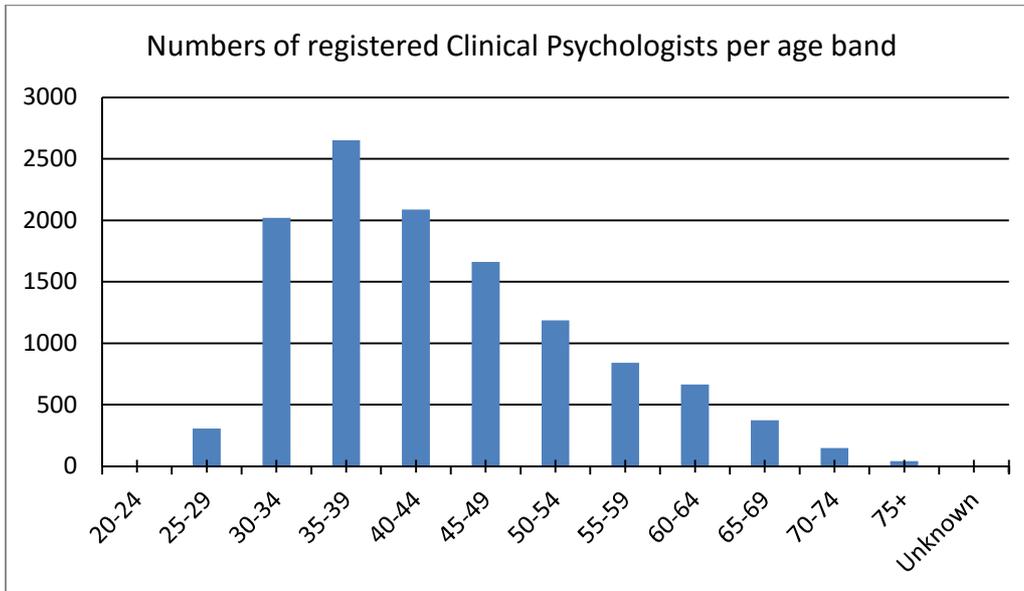
The total number of psychologists who have registered with HCPC since (but not including) 2009 is higher than the number of psychologists who have deregistered.

This means that the overall number of psychologists is increasing and not declining. This trend is mirrored by the majority of the protected titles with the exception of educational psychologists who have approximately the same number of registrants as de-registrants and health and occupational psychologists where the number of psychologists deregistering since 2009 is more than the number of those registering. This will be further commented on the individual protected title sections below.

## 7. Clinical Psychology

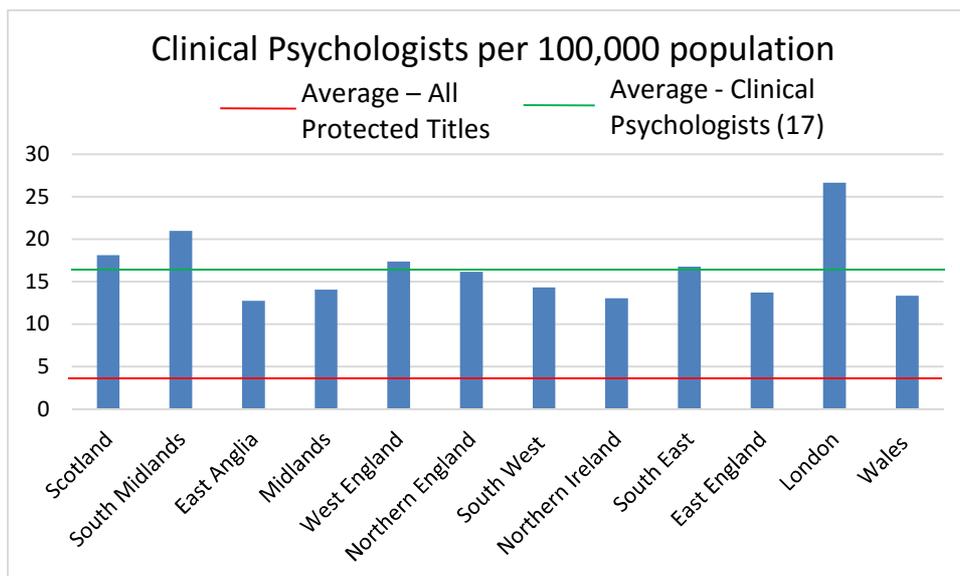
As stated earlier, clinical psychologists make up the majority of registered psychologists in the UK.

The numbers of clinical psychologists registering each year is decreasing year on year and has done since 2010, though this decrease is relatively small and is not statistically significant. Clinical psychology did not see the peak in registration in 2012 seen by other protected titles, the reason for this is not known. It should be noted that the number registering is higher than the number de-registering so overall there should be a yearly increase in the total number of registered clinical psychologists.



It can be seen that the proportions of registered clinical psychologists in the different age bands follow those for the total number of psychologists.

There are no current statistics for age at registration or de-registration however, as stated earlier the number of clinical psychologists is rising year on year so, with the current data, there does not appear to be an approaching overall decline.

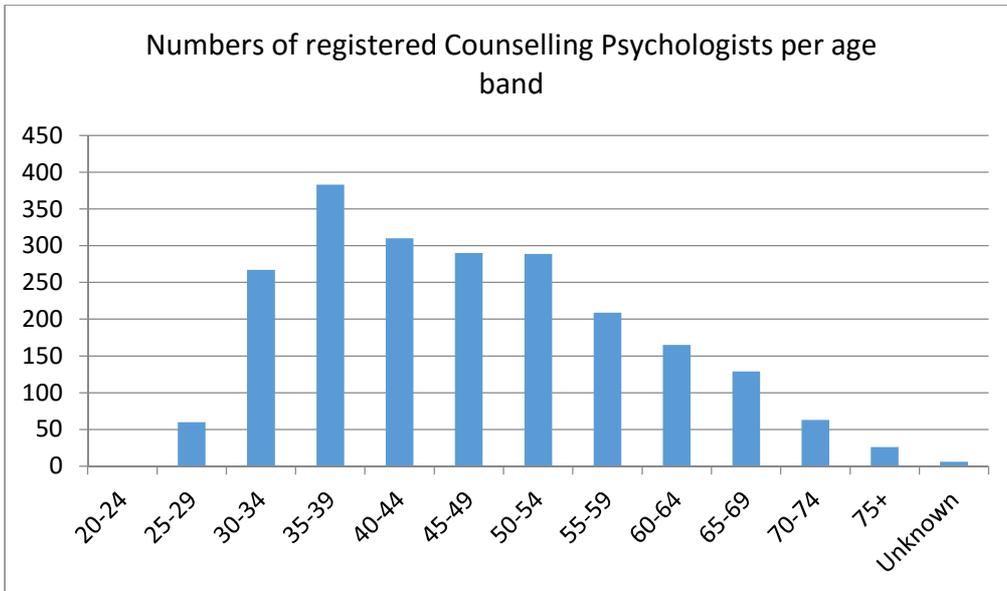


The above table shows the number of registered clinical psychologists per 100,000 people. It can be seen that overall, people in the UK are well covered by Clinical psychologists when compared to other applied psychologies. It can also be seen that people living in the Greater London and South Midlands areas have significantly higher access than other areas to registered clinical psychologists.

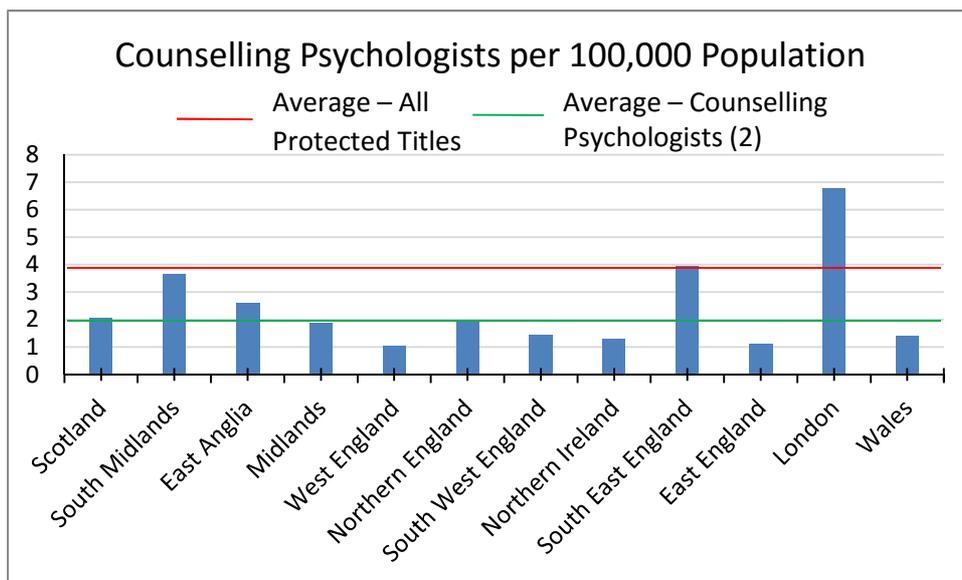
## 8. Counselling Psychology

Counselling psychologists make up 10% of UK registered psychologists.

The number of counselling psychologists registering year on year has remained fairly constant over the last 3 years and the number of counselling psychologists de-registering is less than half of that so there is an annual increase in the number of counselling psychologists registered with HCPC.



The above table shows the number of registered counselling psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that the numbers roughly follow the pattern of overall psychologists. Due to the annual increase in registered counselling psychologists, it does not appear that there will be an approaching overall decline.



The above table shows the number of registered counselling psychologists per 100,000 people. It can be seen that people living in the South East, South Midlands and Greater London area have significantly higher access to registered counselling psychologists than other regions. Similarly, people living in East England and West England have significantly lower access to registered counselling psychologists.

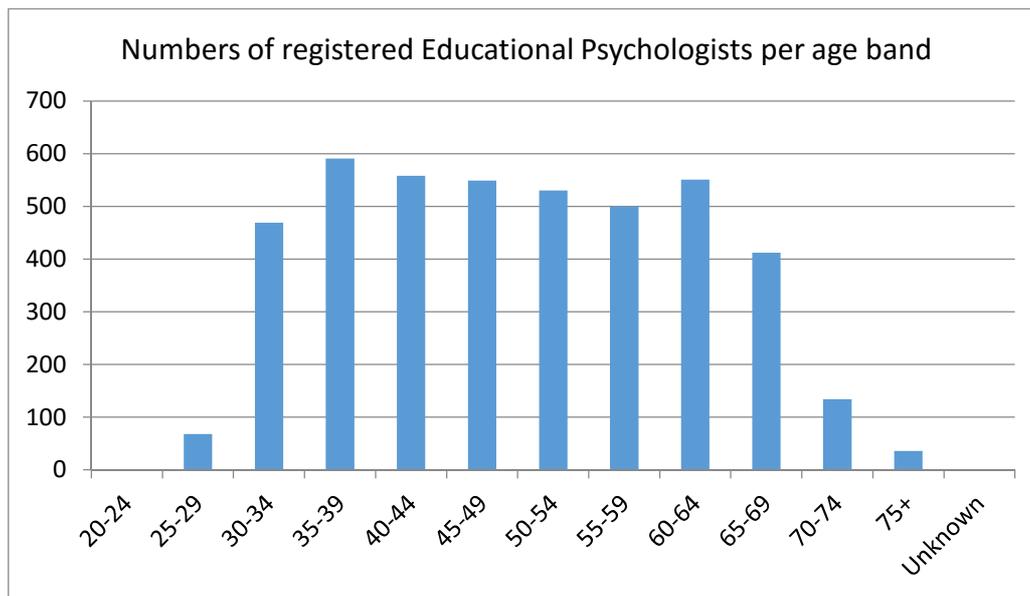
## 9. Educational Psychology

Educational psychologists make up 20% of UK registered psychologists.

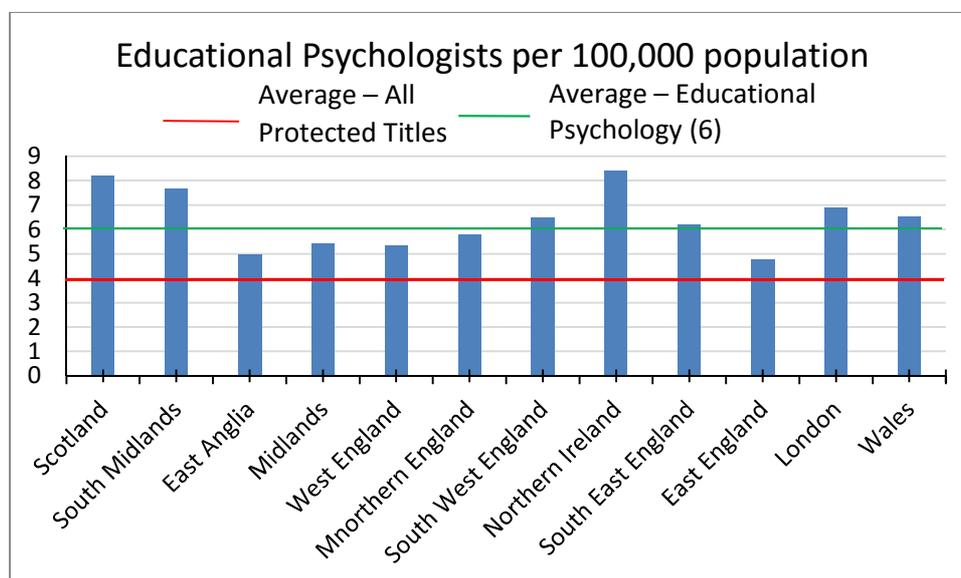
There has been a general decrease in the registration of educational psychologists year on year since 2012 with significantly fewer educational psychologists registered in 2015 than the preceding 4 years.

As stated earlier, the number of educational psychologists de-registering is around the same as those registering. This means that currently there is no annual overall change in the number of registrants, where other protected titles are seeing an overall increase, however, if the trend of decreasing year

on year registration continues, this could mean an overall decrease in numbers of registered educational psychologists.



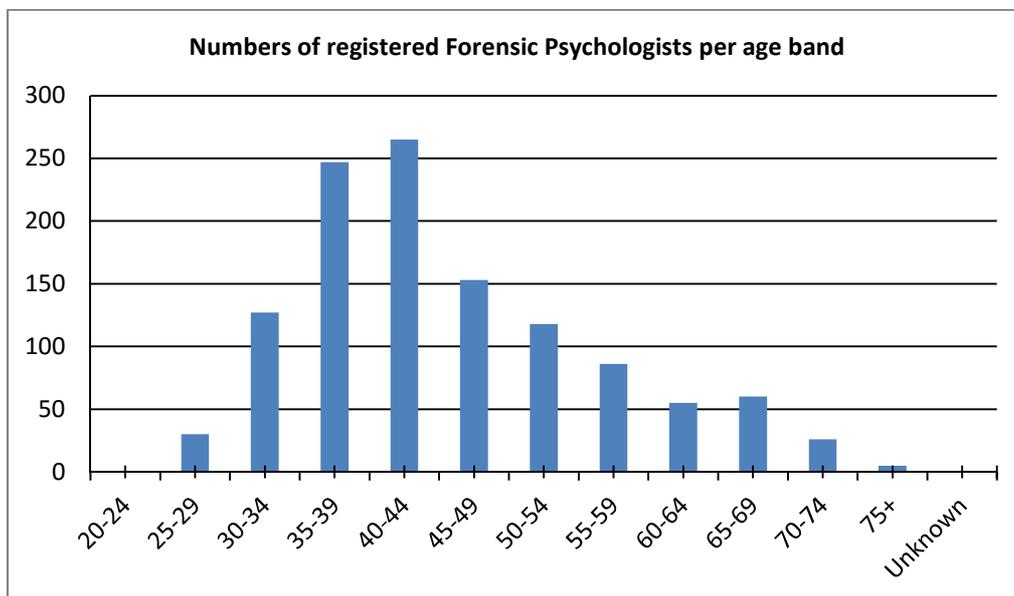
The above table shows the number of registered educational psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that there are a similar number in each age band which is quite different to the pattern of overall psychologists, where there is a larger number of psychologists aged 30 to 40. This could mean that the decrease in registered educational psychologists will be sudden as registrants aged 60 and over begin to retire. As previously stated, there is currently no data relating to age at registration and deregistration.



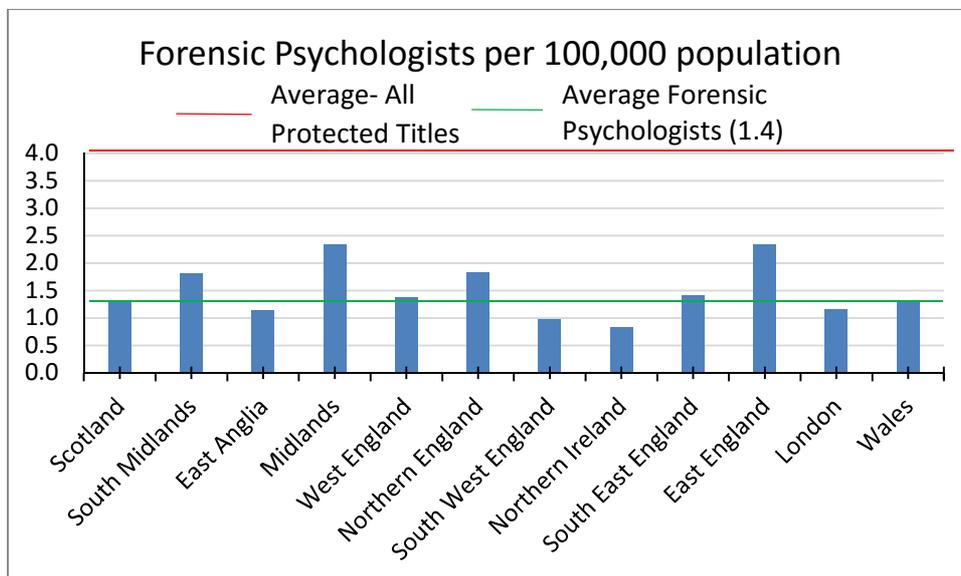
The above table shows the number of registered educational psychologists per 100,000 people for each region. It can be seen that overall, people in the UK are well covered by Educational psychologists when compared to other applied psychologies. It can also be seen that people living in Scotland and Northern Ireland have significantly higher access to registered educational psychologists than other regions. Similarly, people living in East England have significantly lower access to registered educational psychologists.

## 10. Forensic Psychology

Forensic psychologists make up 5% of UK registered psychologists. The number of forensic psychologists registering year on year has remained fairly constant over the last five years and the number of forensic psychologists who have de-registered is less that so there is an annual increase in the number of forensic psychologists registered with HCPC.



The above table shows the number of registered forensic psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that the numbers roughly follow the pattern of overall psychologists. Due to the previously mentioned annual increase in registered forensic psychologists, it does not appear that there will be an approaching overall decline.

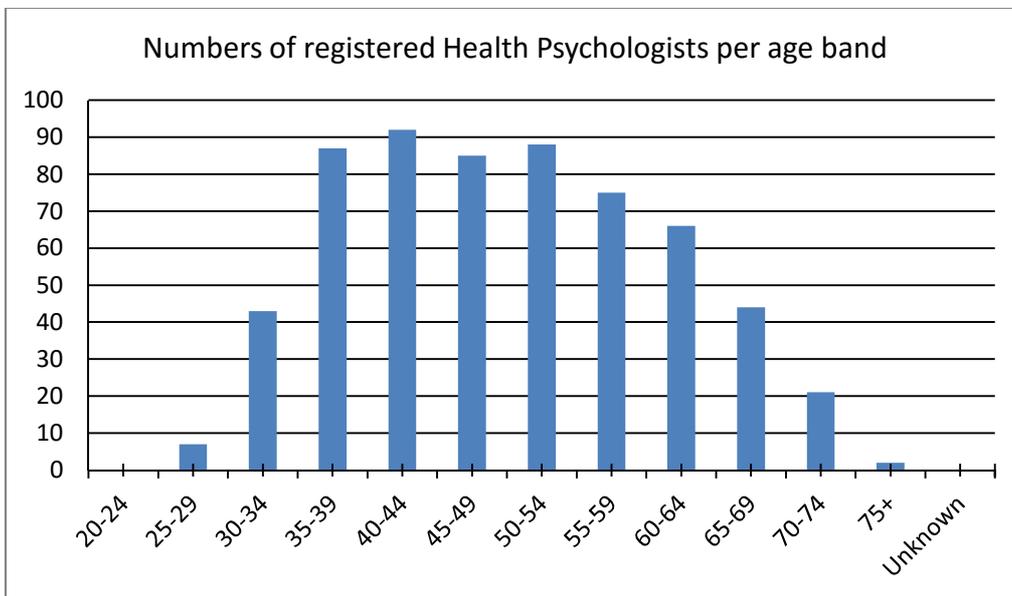


The above table shows the number registered forensic psychologist per 100,000 people in each region. It can be seen that overall, people have far lower access to Forensic psychologists than other applied psychologies. It can also be seen that people living in the Midlands and East England have significantly higher access to registered forensic psychologists. Similarly, people living in Northern Ireland have significantly lower access to registered Forensic psychologists.

## 11. Health Psychology

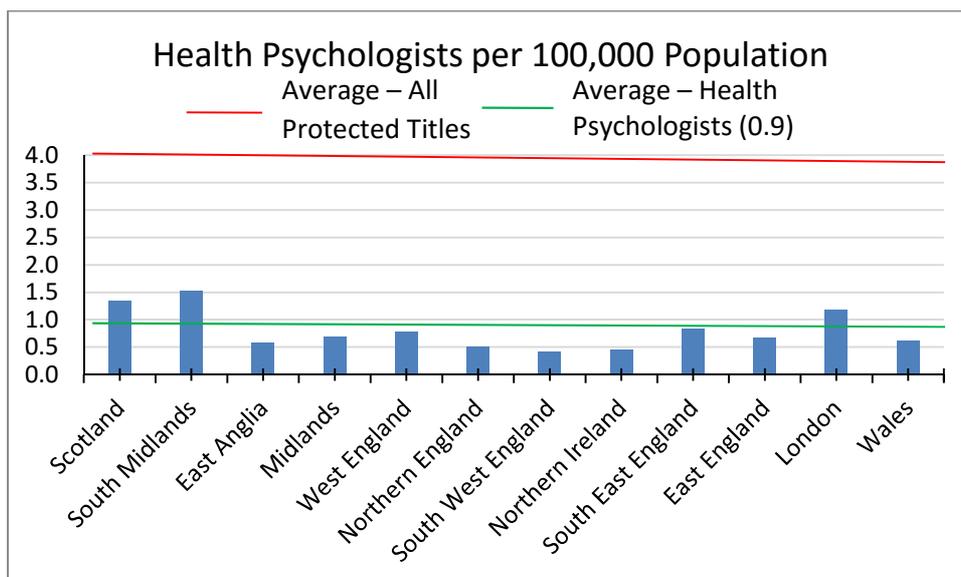
Health psychologists make up 3% of UK registered psychologists.

The number of health psychologists registering year on year has remained fairly constant over the last five years, however, the number of health psychologists who have de-registered is slightly more so there is an overall decrease in the number of health psychologists registered with HCPC. There is no known reason for this decrease.



The above table shows the number of registered health psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that there are a similar number in each age band between 35 and 64, which is quite different to the pattern of overall psychologists, where there is a larger number of psychologists aged 30 to 40. This could mean that a decrease in registered health psychologists could happen in the next 5 to 10 years, if this trend continues, as registrants currently aged 50 and over begin to retire.

As previously stated, there is currently no data relating to age at registration and deregistration.



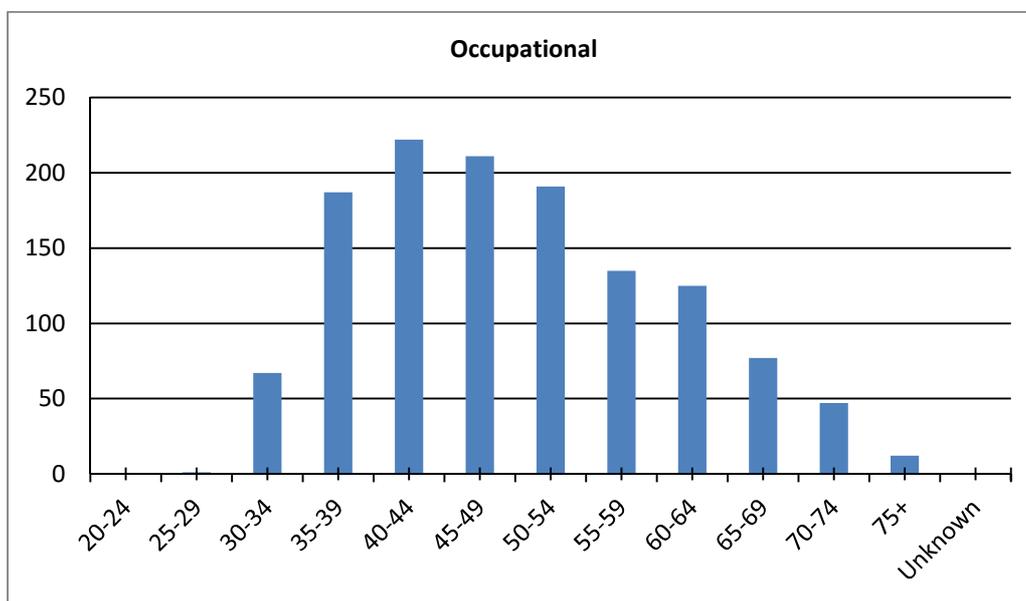
The above table shows the number of registered health psychologists per 100,000 people in each region. It can be seen that overall, people have far lower access to Health psychologists than other applied psychology fields. It can also be seen that people living in Scotland, the South Midlands and London

have significantly higher access to registered health psychologists. Similarly, people living in South West England and Northern Ireland have significantly lower access to registered health psychologists

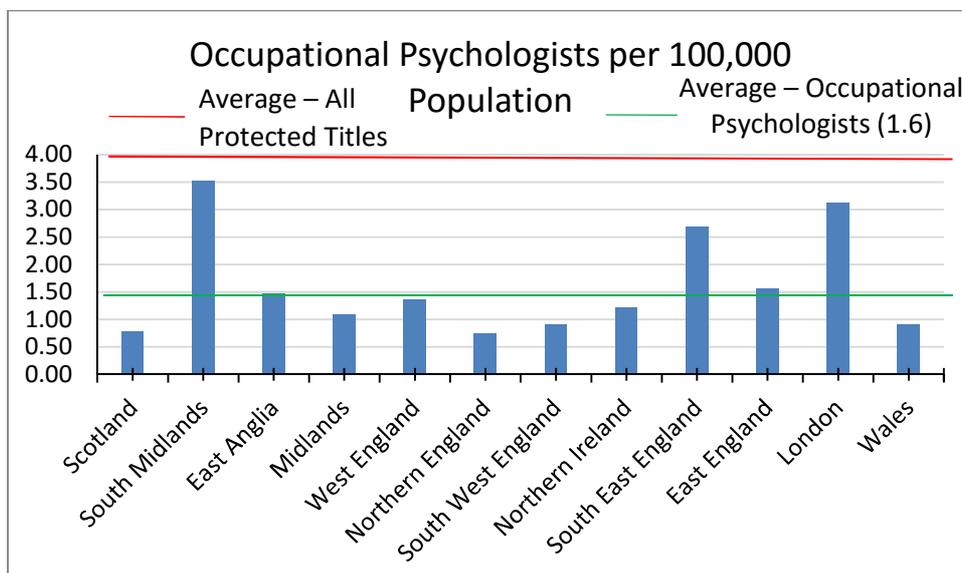
## 12. Occupational Psychology

Occupational psychologists make up 6% of UK registered psychologists.

The number of occupational psychologists registering with HCPC has been declining year on year since 2013. Also the number of occupational psychologists who have deregistered over the last 5 years is more than double the number who have registered. This means that there is a decline in the number of registered occupational psychologists. The reason for this is not known however, as mentioned earlier, the proportion of occupational psychologists registered with HCPC does not reflect the proportion of occupational psychologists in the Society's Division (15%). This may mean that occupational psychologists are working as academics and not offering services to the public or the occupational psychologists are choosing not to register with HCPC.



The above table shows the number of registered occupational psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that there are a similar number in each age band between 35 and 54, which is different to the pattern of overall psychologists, where there is a larger number of psychologists aged 30 to 40.

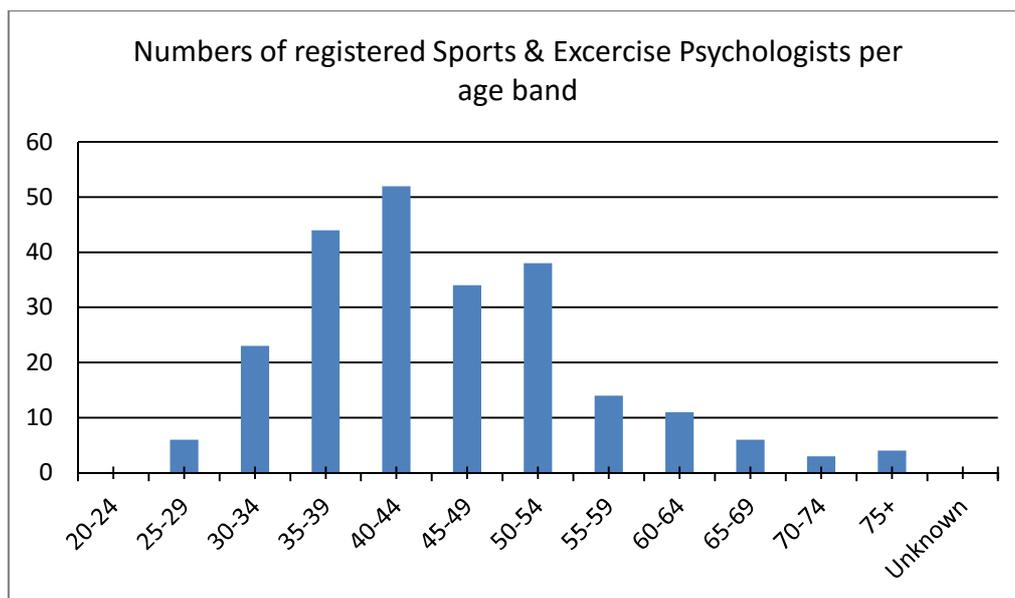


The above table shows the number of registered occupational psychologists per 100,000 people in each region. It can be seen that people living in the South Midlands, South East England and London have significantly higher access to registered occupational psychologists. Similarly, people living in Scotland and Northern England have significantly lower access to registered health psychologists

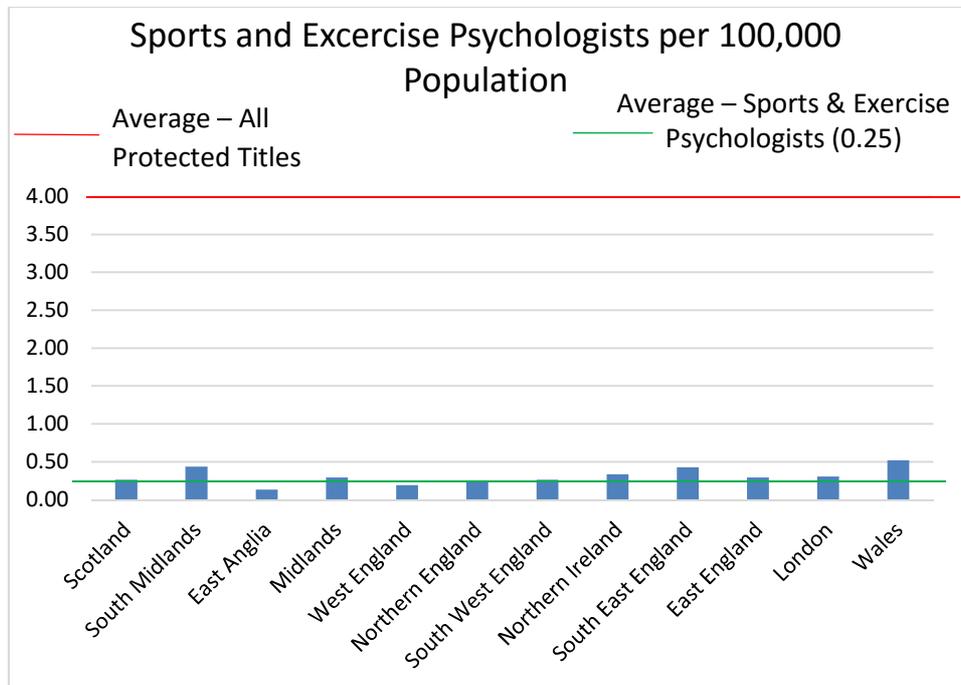
### 13.Sports & Exercise Psychology

Sports and Exercise psychologists make up 1% of UK registered psychologists.

The number of sports and exercise psychologists registering year on year has been fairly constant except for a large peak in 2012, as mentioned above. The numbers who have deregistered over the last 5 years have been lower than the numbers registering meaning there is an increase in registered sports and exercise psychologists.



The above table shows the number of registered sports and exercise psychologists in each age band. It can be seen that the numbers roughly follow the pattern of overall psychologists. Due to the previously mentioned annual increase in registered sports and exercise psychologists, it does not appear that there will be an approaching overall decline.



The above table shows the number of registered sports and exercise psychologists per 100,000 people in each region. It can be seen that overall, people have far lower access to Sports and Exercise Psychologists than other applied psychologies. It can also be seen that people living in Wales have significantly higher access to registered occupational psychologists. Similarly, people living in East Anglia have significantly lower access to registered health psychologists

### 14. Conclusion

This is the first report on HCPC registered psychologists and provides useful information now and as a baseline for further reports. Overall numbers of registered psychologists are increasing year on year and there do not appear to be significant declines indicated for the future, with the notable exceptions of Educational, Health and Occupational psychologists.

There are however significant difference in the provision of psychologists by region with some areas showing very low numbers of psychologists compared to the UK average, which means that there is very unequal access to psychologists across the UK.

## 15. Appendix

Region	HCPC area	UK County/ Country (if different)
Scotland	Argyll and Clyde	
	Ayrshire and Arran	
	Borders	
	Dumfries and Galloway	
	Fife	
	Forth Valley	
	Grampian	
	Greater Glasgow	
	Highland	
	Lanarkshire	
	Lothian	
	Orkney	
	Tayside	
	Western Isles	
South Midlands	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	
	Thames Valley	Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire & Berkshire
East Anglia	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	
	Essex	
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	
Midlands	Birmingham and the Black Country	West Midlands
	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	
	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	
	Shropshire and Staffordshire	
West England	Cheshire & Merseyside	
	Greater Manchester	
Northern England	County Durham and Tees Valley	
	Cumbria and Lancashire	
	Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	
South West	Dorset and Somerset	
	South West Peninsula	Devon & Cornwall
Northern Ireland	East Northern Ireland	
	North Northern Ireland	
	South Northern Ireland	
	West Northern Ireland	
South East	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	
	Kent and Medway	
	Surrey and Sussex	
East England	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	
	South Yorkshire	
	Trent	Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire
	West Yorkshire	
London	North Central London	City of London & Greater London

	North East London	
	North West London	
	South East London	
	South West London	
Wales	Wales	
Guernsey	Guernsey	
Isle of Man	Isle of Man	
Jersey	Jersey	