



Social workers on the Register - 1 April 2022



What are the key points?

- Social workers have had to register with us since 2005
- 6,565 social workers are registered, an increase from 6,470 in 2021
- The majority of social workers in Wales are employed by local authority social services.



How many joined and left the Register?

- In the last 12 months 572 social workers joined the Register and 477 left
- 55% of those leaving did not maintain their registration
- 17% of those leaving had retired
- 20% were no longer working in social care in Wales
- 2 social workers were removed following a fitness to practise hearing and 5 were currently suspended.



Where are social workers employed?

- 73% work in local authority social services
- 8% work in the private sector
- 3% work in the third sector
- 3.5% are self-employed
- 36% of social workers have been in their current role for three years or less
- 12.5% have been in their current role for 10 years.



What are the five year trends?

- The ratio of female to male social workers remains 4:1
- The number of social workers on the Register has increased by 10% since 2017
- The percentage employed in the private sector increased from 4.5% in 2017 to 8%
- The percentage who hold a Master's or Bachelor's degree in Social Work increased from 40% in 2017 to 55% this year.



What qualifications do social workers hold?

- All social workers on the Register are qualified
- 55% hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work
- 34% hold a Diploma in Social Work
- 8% hold an older accepted social work qualification
- 3% qualified outside the UK.



What is the profile of social workers?

- There are 5,425 women and 1,139 men. One social worker described themselves as gender fluid
- The average age of social workers is 46
- 88% of social workers are white, white British, white Welsh or white Irish
- 40% of social workers speak some Welsh or are fluent
- 3% of social workers have a disability.