The big picture

At the end of September 2018 there were 693,618 nurses and midwives registered to work in the UK – 3,880 more than at the end of September 2017.

Between September 2017 and September 2018:

- The number of nurses and midwives from the UK increased by 3,457
- The number of nurses and midwives from outside the EU* increased by 2,808
- The number of nurses and midwives from the EU* decreased by 2,385
- 5,577 fewer people left our register this year compared to the year before. This includes 4,650 fewer people from the UK leaving the register.
- The number of people from outside the EU* joining our register for the first time increased by 1,721 (69.5 percent).
- The number of people from the EU* joining our register for the first time dropped by 219 this year. This follows a drop of 9,071 the year before.
- The number of midwives on our register continues to increase year on year. The number of midwives (including dual registrants) increased by 504 this year.
- The number of people registered in the field of mental health nursing increased by 324 this year. This follows four years of a gradual decrease in size.
- The proportion of people on our register who are aged 21–30 is slightly increasing year on year. The 56 and over group is increasing too, so the age profile of the register is becoming more polarised.

* Where we refer to the EU, this includes the European Economic Area.