March 2019 data report
We are the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

We keep a register of all nurses and midwives who can work in the UK, and all nursing associates who can work in England.

Midwives are healthcare staff who help deliver babies.

Nursing associates are healthcare staff who work in the nursing team.
We publish data from our register every six months.

This year our data tells us:

- At the end of March 2019 there were 698,237 people on our register.

This is about 8,000 more people than last year.
One reason this number has gone up is because a lot of people from outside Europe joined our register.

During 2018/19 more than 6,000 people joined the register from outside Europe for the first time compared with nearly 3,000 the year before.

This is partly because we made our system simpler and gave people more support to join the register.
The number of people from the UK on our register grew by more than 5,000 between March 2018 and March 2019.

This year the number of people from Europe on our register decreased by around 2,000.

This number also dropped last year.

Our register opened to nursing associates in January 2019.
89 percent of the people on our register are female and 11 percent are male.

The number of nurses registered in learning disability nursing saw a tiny decrease (17,174 in 2018 to 17,125 in 2019).

This means there are 49 less nurses registered as learning disability nurses.
This data doesn’t tell us what role nurses are currently working in, just what field they are registered in.

We asked some nurses and midwives who left our register last year to tell us why they left.

3,504 people answered the survey.
The biggest reason for leaving the register was retirement.

We expected this as 75 percent of people answering were 51 years old or older.

The second most selected reason was ‘too much pressure’.

30 percent of everyone who answered gave this as one of their top three reasons for leaving the register.
Brexit was the second most often selected reason that people trained in the EU gave for leaving the register.

The most common reason for leaving the register given by people trained in the EU was ‘I am leaving or have left the UK’.