Nursing & Midwifery Council

Revalidation data report

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026



Introduction

Revalidation is the process that all nurses and midwives in the UK, and nursing associates in England, undertake every three years to maintain their registration. The process includes declaring practice hours and ongoing learning, reflecting on feedback, and having a professional conversation with an appropriate professional colleague.

This supports nurses, midwives and nursing associates to maintain high standards of practice throughout their careers, benefiting the health and wellbeing of people in their care. It also encourages reflection on **the Code**.

Healthy revalidation rates mean more professionals remain eligible to practise. Having sufficient numbers of nurses, midwives and nursing associates with the right skills contributes to the safety and quality of care people receive, as well as their overall experience of care.

Most professionals revalidated again this year, with **94.5 per cent** of professionals who were due to revalidate (just over 250,000 people) completing their revalidation in 2025–2026. The remaining 5.5 per cent did not revalidate. This figure includes professionals who chose not to revalidate, for example because they were planning to leave the Register, and those who completed the process but did not meet our revalidation requirements.

Revalidation rates remain consistently high across the four UK nations, with relatively little variation between them.

As we might expect, revalidation rates for professionals at retirement age are lower compared to those who are younger.

Background

Our core role is to regulate nurses, midwives and nursing associates, helping to ensure they meet the standards of conduct and practice the public has a right to expect. Revalidation provides additional assurance that the professionals on our Register maintain safe and effective practice throughout their careers, with learning and reflection at its heart.

To revalidate and remain on our Register, professionals need to submit an online form confirming that they have:

- Practised for a minimum of 450 practice hours over the three years prior to renewing their registration, or 900 hours for professionals registered as both a nurse and a midwife
- Participated in at least 35 hours of continuing professional development (CPD), of which at least 20 hours must be participatory learning
- Collected five pieces of practice-related feedback over the three years prior to the renewal of their registration
- Completed five written reflective accounts on their CPD and/or practice-related feedback and/or an event or experience in their practice, and how this relates to the Code, over the three years prior to the renewal of their registration
- Had a reflective discussion with another nurse, midwife or nursing associate
- Received confirmation from an appropriate person that they have met all the requirements.

In addition, professionals must reaffirm a health and character declaration and declare that they have (or will have when they practise) an appropriate professional indemnity arrangement.

More information on the **revalidation requirements** and related guidance and support is available on our website.

How to interpret our data

Since 2022–2023 we have reported on the number and percentage of professionals that revalidated at any point during the financial year (including both those who revalidated by their due date[1] and after it). This means that professionals who have been granted an extension are also included in this data.

Revalidation figures for 2016–2017 to 2021–2022 report only on the number and percentage of professionals that revalidated by their due date[1]. This means that data from 2022–2023 onwards provides a fuller picture but is not directly comparable with previous years.

Following best practice guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), in 2024 we **updated our approach to diversity monitoring** to align it with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) wherever possible. This means that our questions (and associated response options) have gone through the ONS' robust and extensive user testing and validation, giving us assurance about the validity and appropriateness of these questions. These changes include:

- Asking people for their sex as well as gender and gender identity
- Changing how we classify disability
- Changing how we ask people about their caring responsibilities.

Changes to our disability data categories in 2024 mean that data for 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 are not directly comparable with earlier years. As the revised categories are still relatively new, we will continue to build the data over time to better understand emerging trends.

References to 'country' refer to the country of a nurse, midwife or nursing associate's current or most recent practice (for those for whom we have an employer address). Where professionals have not provided us with an address for their employer, we use their home address.

We continually review the quality and content of our data and information. When improved data or additional information becomes available, we retrospectively update our previously published information. This means that when comparing data in our latest reports against some of our previous publications, you may see small changes in some data.

Not all registrants who revalidate will currently be working as a nurse, midwife or nursing associate.

1 The 'due date' means the deadline for professionals to submit their revalidation application. This is the first day of the month in which their registration expires. For example, if a professional's revalidation date is 30 April, their due date will be 1 April. We notify professionals 60 days before their revalidation application is due.

Revalidation in 2025–2026

In 2025–2026:

269,629
nurses, midwives, and nursing associates were due to revalidate.

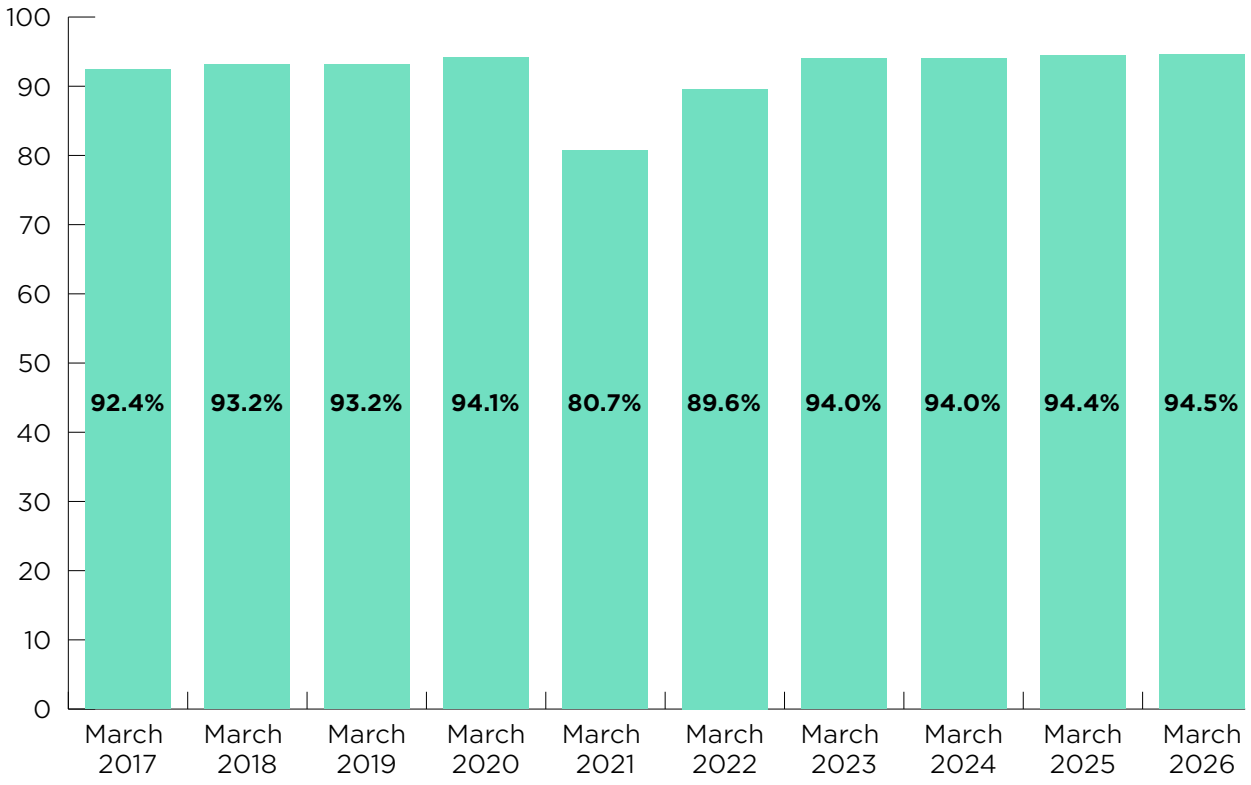
254,793
of those did revalidate.

94.5%
This is a revalidation rate of 94.5%.

This reflects the consistently high proportion of professionals who revalidate. With the exception of the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020–2021 and 2021–2022, revalidation rates have remained above 92 per cent since revalidation was introduced in 2016–2017. **At 94.5 per cent, the 2025–2026 revalidation rate is the highest recorded to date** since the introduction of revalidation in 2016–2017.

Figure 1

Overall revalidation rates



Revalidation by country

Revalidation rates remain consistently high across all four UK nations, while the revalidation rate for professionals practising outside the UK remains notably lower.

England recorded its highest revalidation rate since reporting began at 95.0 per cent, while Northern Ireland also reached its highest recorded rate at 94.4 per cent. The largest change in revalidation rate for any of the UK nations was 0.7 per cent, demonstrating consistency with previous years.

For professionals practising outside the UK, the revalidation rate increased from 71.2 per cent in 2024–2025 to 75.5 per cent this year, partially recovering from declines seen last year. However, this remains below the 83.9 per cent recorded in 2023–2024 and considerably lower than rates across all four UK nations. This may be due to some professionals choosing not to maintain their UK registration while practising abroad, or deciding to permanently relocate without revalidating.

Table 1

Revalidation rates by current/last known country of practice

	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
England	93.1%	93.8%	93.9%	94.6%	81%	90%	94.4%	94.4%	94.8%	95.0%
Northern Ireland	92.9%	93.9%	93.5%	94%	82%	88.6%	93.5%	93.3%	93.9%	94.4%
Scotland	93.4%	94.3%	93.6%	94.5%	79.2%	89.3%	94%	93.5%	94.1%	94.1%
Wales	94%	94.2%	94.6%	95.2%	84%	90.4%	94.5%	94.3%	94.8%	94.1%
Outside the UK	59%	61.5%	65.1%	74.7%	62.6%	73.3%	77%	83.9%	71.2%	75.5%

Revalidation by profession

Nurses, midwives and dual-qualified professionals have continued to revalidate in consistent proportions since 2016–2017.

In 2025–2026, revalidation rates remained broadly consistent across nurses and midwives, with 94.6 per cent of nurses (up 0.2 percentage points from 2024–2025) and 95.3 per cent of midwives (down 0.1 percentage points from 2024–2025). Dual-qualified professionals and nursing associates had slightly lower revalidation rates at 88.5 per cent and 88.3 per cent respectively. Revalidation rates for nursing associates may be lower because some go on to qualify as registered nurses and choose not to maintain their nursing associate registration.

The first nursing associates joined our Register in January 2019, with the first nursing associates becoming eligible to revalidate from 2021–2022. The number completing revalidation has continued to increase, with **just under 2,500 revalidating in 2025–2026**. As nursing associates only joined our Register from 2019, there are fewer years of comparable revalidation data for this profession than for nurses and midwives.

Revalidation rates among dual-qualified professionals have declined since reaching a peak in 2023–2024, with the latest rate returning closer to levels seen in 2022–2023. A factor in the lower revalidation rate among this group is that some professionals choose to retain only one of their registrations when they revalidate. For example, someone invited to revalidate as both a nurse and a midwife may choose to revalidate only as a nurse.

Table 2

Revalidation by profession

	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
Nurse (including SCPHNs[2])	92.4%	93.3%	93.2%	94.2%	80.8%	89.6%	94.1%	94.0%	94.4%	94.6%
Midwife (including SCPHNs)	91.2%	99.0%	97.5%	94.8%	80.6%	90.1%	94.6%	94.7%	95.4%	95.3%
Dual registrant (including SCPHNs)	65.2%	69.0%	74.6%	86.5%	75.6%	82.5%	86.1%	94.3%	89.1%	88.5%
Nursing associate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	87.1%	90.6%	94.3%	89.7%	88.3%

2 SCPHNs: Specialist Community Public Health Nurses

Revalidation by place of education

Professionals educated outside the UK and EU continue to revalidate at the highest rate in line with previous years.

Revalidation rates remained high across all countries of education, with those educated outside the UK and EU achieving a rate of 96.3 per cent, higher than last year and still the highest across regions. By comparison, 93.6 per cent of EU-educated professionals revalidated, the lowest proportion across the education groups, although this remains consistent with levels seen since 2023–2024.

Table 3

Revalidation by place of education

	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
UK	93.8%	93.7%	94.2%	94.0%
EU	91.5%	93.9%	93.4%	93.6%
Overseas (not including EU)	96.6%	95.8%	95.4%	96.3%

Revalidation by diversity characteristics

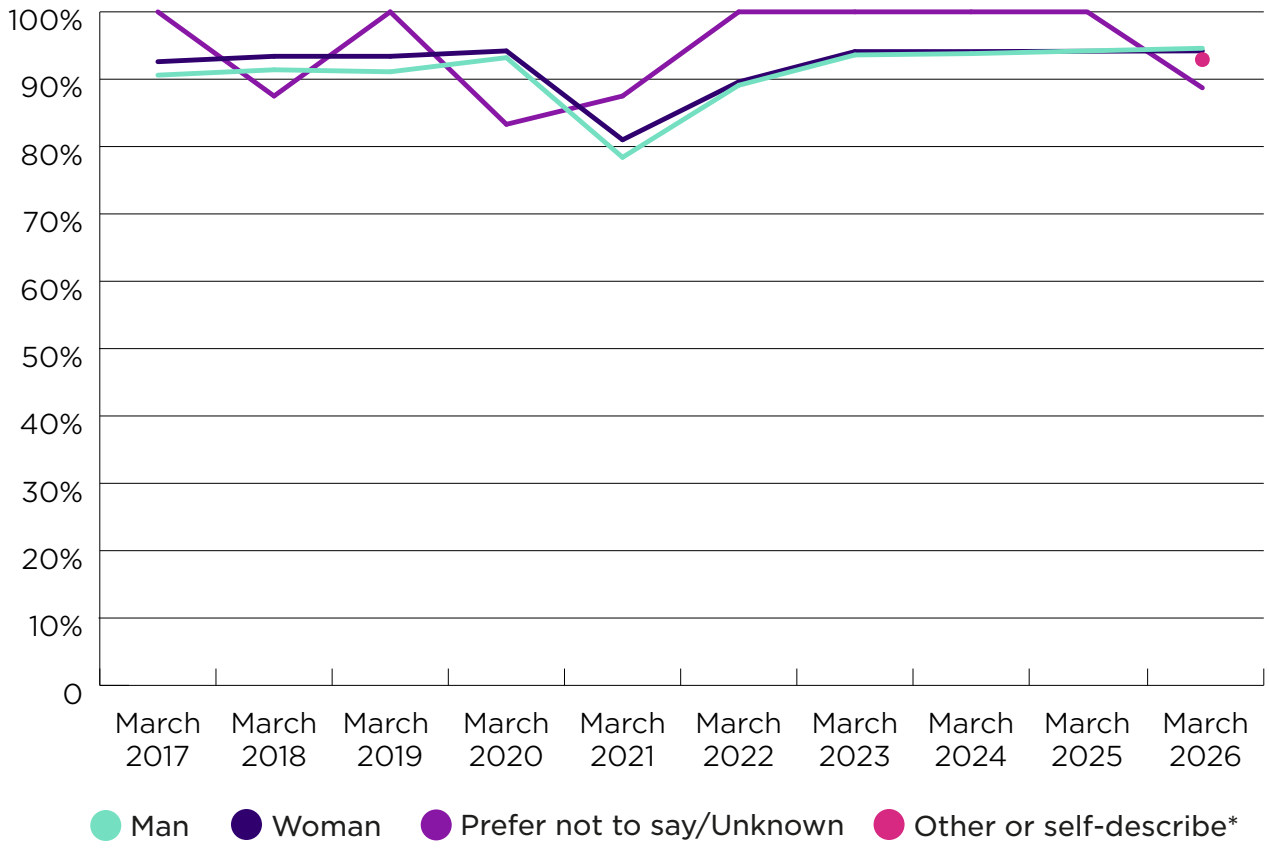
Gender

Revalidation rates for men and women remain very similar. In 2025–2026, the revalidation rate for men was marginally higher than for women, with a difference of 0.1 percentage points between the two groups.

The revalidation rate for professionals who preferred not to share their gender was lower than for men and women. Revalidation rates for professionals whose gender we do not know have fluctuated over time, but these figures should be treated with caution because the number of professionals in this group is very small. **This year, our data also include 'other or self-describe' as a gender category for the first time.** As this is a new category, we are not yet able to assess trends over time for this group.

Figure 2

Revalidation rates by gender



*2025/26 is the first year of other or self-describe.

Sex

This is the first year we have reported revalidation rates by sex, following changes to our approach to diversity monitoring.

Revalidation rates were very similar for professionals recorded as female and male, at 99 per cent and 98.9 per cent respectively. The rate was lower, at 92.7 per cent, among professionals who preferred not to tell us their sex.

We do not have information about the sex of 14,175 professionals who were due to revalidate in 2025–2026. Of this 'unknown' group, only 13.4 per cent revalidated. This much lower rate brings the overall revalidation rate down to 94.5 per cent, despite the higher rates among professionals whose sex is recorded as female or male.

The 'unknown' group includes professionals who began their revalidation before the new question was introduced, as well as those who have not subsequently engaged with us through revalidation or another process where they would have been asked to provide this information. As we continue to collect this information, we will be able to develop a fuller picture of revalidation rates by sex over time.

Table 4

Revalidation rates by sex

	March 2026
Female	99.0%
Male	98.9%
Prefer not to say	92.7%
Unknown	13.4%

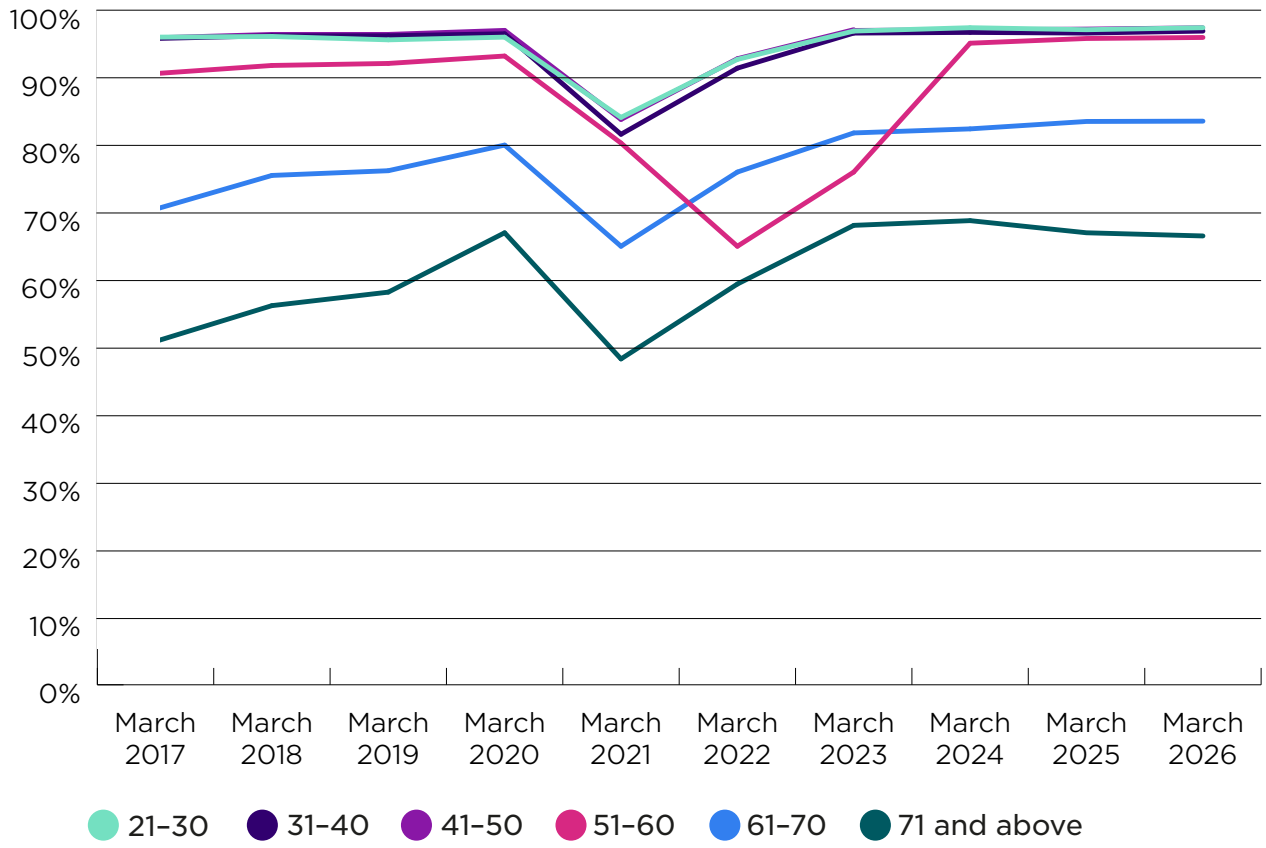
Age

Revalidation rates across age groups have remained broadly in line with last year's figures. Revalidation rates were above 95 per cent for all age groups under 61, with professionals aged 21–30 having the highest revalidation rate overall. The rate for professionals aged 51–60 was 95.9 per cent.

Revalidation rates continued to be lower among professionals aged 61 and over and decreased with age, reflecting the pattern seen in previous years. We know from our annual survey of professionals leaving the Register that retirement is a common reason for leaving among older professionals, which provides important context for the lower revalidation rates seen in these age groups.

Figure 3

Revalidation rates by age group



Disability

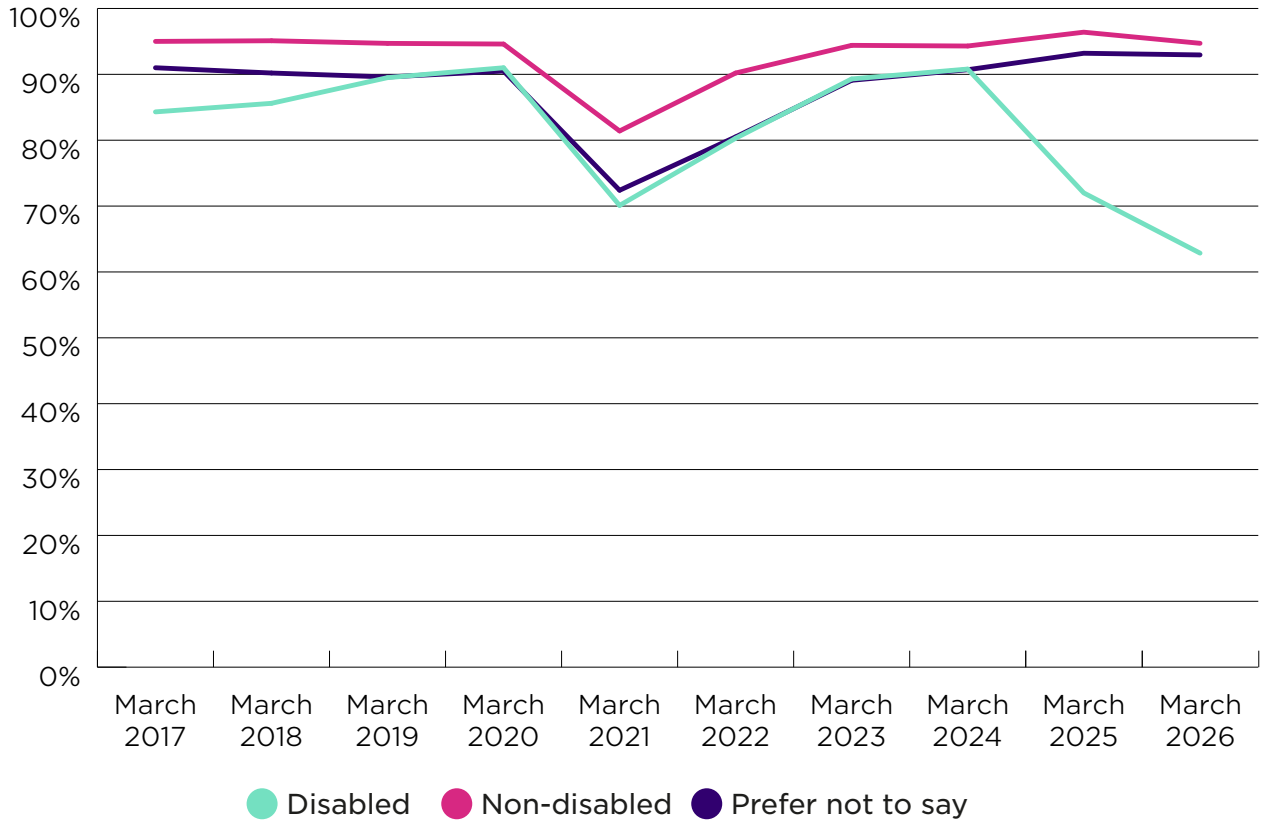
Revalidation rates for disabled professionals have declined for the second consecutive year and remain lower than those for non-disabled professionals. Changes to how we classify disability were introduced during 2024–2025 and have now been applied to all professionals who completed revalidation in 2025–2026. This means that longer-term comparisons with data from before these changes should be treated with caution, and figures on the proportion of disabled people who revalidated this year and last are not comparable with those before 2024.

It's likely that our previous figures on the proportion of disabled people that revalidated may have been inflated by classifying a wider range of professionals as being disabled. As such, our latest figures may be a more accurate representation of the revalidation rates of disabled professionals.

Our published research **on disabled professionals' experiences of revalidation** found that practice hours, CPD, reflective discussions and confirmation were the most challenging requirements. Research on registrants with disabilities is being fed into our review of revalidation.

Figure 4

Revalidation rates by disability



Ethnicity

Revalidation rates across ethnic groups remained broadly consistent with the previous year. Rates increased for Asian or Asian British professionals and those from Other ethnic groups, while rates for Black, African, Caribbean or Black British, Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, and White or White British professionals decreased marginally. Within our full revalidation data tables, figures for the following groups should be treated with caution due to the low numbers of professionals revalidating in these groups: White-Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Mixed-Other, Arab, and professionals whose ethnicity we don't know.

Table 5

Revalidation rates by ethnicity

	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
Asian or Asian British	96.2%	96.9%	95.4%	96.8%	85.0%	93.7%	96.8%	96.5%	95.8%	96.6%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	92.5%	93.4%	94.9%	95.8%	79.2%	89.6%	95.5%	95.7%	96.0%	95.9%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	95.6%	94.2%	87.1%	94.8%	72.6%	83.1%	89.5%	91.9%	94.8%	94.6%
White or White British	92.1%	90.8%	93.5%	93.8%	80.6%	89.2%	93.6%	93.5%	93.9%	93.8%
Other ethnic group	96.0%	94.6%	87.7%	94.8%	79.6%	89.6%	93.5%	93.9%	93.6%	94.5%
Prefer not to say/ Unknown	91.4%	91.0%	58.9%	86.7%	76.8%	83.6%	90.4%	91.1%	90.3%	90.5%

Sexual orientation

Revalidation rates remain broadly consistent across most sexual orientation groups, with relatively little variation over time. We have reported revalidation rates by sexual orientation since 2019–2020, with 'other' included as a response option from 2020–2021. Rates among bisexual, gay or lesbian, and heterosexual or straight professionals continue to be broadly similar, with the latest figures showing a slight increase for bisexual and gay or lesbian professionals.

Figures for professionals identifying as 'other' should be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers revalidating each year.

Table 6

Revalidation rates by sexual orientation

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
Bisexual	94.8%	79.8%	90.4%	95.7%	95.9%	94.8%	95.1%
Gay or Lesbian	94.9%	80.7%	90.3%	94.7%	94.8%	95.1%	96.1%
Heterosexual or Straight	94.4%	81.0%	89.8%	94.2%	94.1%	94.5%	94.6%
Other	not known	81.5%	91.8%	96.1%	91.8%	91.5%	90.9%
Prefer not to say	92.2%	77.8%	85.4%	91.3%	92%	93.1%	93.0%

Religion or belief

Revalidation rates by religion or belief remained broadly consistent with the previous year. Rates for Christian and Muslim professionals, and those reporting no religion or belief, showed little or no change, while rates increased among Hindu and Sikh professionals.

Some religion or belief groups represent a relatively small proportion of our Register, meaning their revalidation rates can be more affected by small changes in the number of professionals revalidating. Figures for these groups should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Table 7

Revalidation rates by religion or belief

	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
Buddhist	75.4%	84.4%	90.5%	92.4%	93.5%	93.2%
Christian (all denominations)	80.9%	89.4%	93.7%	93.5%	93.9%	94.1%
Hindu	81.7%	91.6%	95.4%	95.7%	94.4%	95.8%
Jewish	78.6%	88.8%	92.5%	88.6%	93.8%	92.3%
Muslim	78.3%	89.2%	95.3%	96.2%	95.7%	95.5%
Sikh	80.1%	91.1%	94.4%	94.6%	94.6%	95.4%
Other	79%	90.9%	95.5%	94.4%	91.3%	92.6%
None	81.9%	90.9%	95.5%	95.3%	95.5%	95.5%
Prefer not to say	75%	83.1%	89.3%	90.9%	92%	91.9%

Gender identity

Since 2019, as part of our diversity monitoring, we have asked professionals whether their gender identity matches their sex as registered at birth (or within six weeks).

We have reported revalidation rates by gender identity since 2019–2020.

Revalidation rates remain broadly similar for professionals whose gender identity matches their sex at birth and those whose gender identity does not. While the revalidation rate for professionals whose gender identity does not match their sex at birth remains high, it has declined slightly and is now at its lowest level since 2021–2022. The rate among those who prefer not to say remains lower and has also declined slightly over the past two years.

Table 8

Revalidation rates by gender identity

	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024	March 2025	March 2026
Gender identity matches sex at birth	94.3%	80.7%	89.8%	94.2%	94.1%	94.4%	94.6%
Gender identity does not match sex at birth	95.3%	84.4%	89.2%	95.3%	95.3%	94.5%	94.0%
Prefer not to say	91.8%	83.2%	79.3%	86.8%	90.7%	90%	89.7%

Verification

We verify the evidence provided for revalidation on a sample of applications based on the total number of people on our Register.

This verification is an important part of assessing the effectiveness of the revalidation process. It is not designed to catch professionals out. If someone is selected for verification this does not mean there are any concerns about their application, and they can continue to practise as normal while we review the information they provide.

Those selected have to provide further information about their practice hours and continuing professional development, and we routinely contact their confirmer and reflective discussion partner. We select two samples of applications, one of which is selected on a risk basis depending on whether they have regular appraisals and whether their line manager is on the NMC Register, and one of which is selected on a random basis.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, we selected 2,130 people for verification of their revalidation applications. Of these, 2,073 (97.3 per cent) went on to revalidate successfully. This remains a high proportion, although slightly lower than the 98.6 per cent who successfully revalidated following selection for verification in 2024–2025.

What we do

Our vision is for safe and effective nursing and midwifery practice across the four countries of the UK – regulated and supported by the NMC – a fit for the future organisation, with fairness and equity at the heart of everything we do.

Our role is to **protect the public and maintain confidence** in the nursing and midwifery professions. As the largest independent regulator in Europe of more than 867,000 nursing and midwifery professionals, we have a crucial role in making this a reality.

We do this by **setting and promoting high education and professional standards** for all future and registered nurses and midwives in the UK and nursing associates in England.

We also ensure every nurse, midwife and nursing associate on our Register meets **clear standards of conduct** and practice which protects the public and the reputation of our professions.

We have a duty to **investigate concerns** and to take steps to protect the public in the relatively rare instances where we need to limit or restrict a nurse, midwife or nursing associate's right to practise.

We are building a new NMC with integrity, fairness, respect, equity and effectiveness at its core.

We are determined to **improve and modernise our culture and ways of working**. This will ensure that the public and professionals feel confident in our work.

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Nursing & Midwifery Council

The nursing and midwifery regulator for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362).