Introduction
The RCPsych workforce census is a biennial survey of NHS organisations and private and independent providers who employ psychiatrists in the UK. The census focuses on psychiatrists in non-training grade posts, namely consultants and specialist and associate specialist (SAS) doctors. For the first time, we have included health boards in Scotland in the census. This year, 79% of NHS trusts responded, compared to an 89% return rate in 2015. This summary provides a brief overview of the responses; the full census report is available on the College website.

Total non-training workforce
The total reported number of filled consultant and specialty doctor grade psychiatrists in the UK is 7068, made up 5395 consultants and 1673 specialty doctors. If we exclude the figures for Scotland to compare to previous years, the total number is 6365; this is a slight decrease from the reported 2015 total of 6464.

76% of the total workforce (excluding trainees) are consultants, with 24% specialty doctors. A breakdown of the total psychiatric workforce is here:

43% of the consultant workforce are women, the same as the figure for 2015, and up from 40% in 2013. For the SAS doctor workforce, 52% are women, compared to 53% in 2015 and 50.5% in 2013

There is considerable variation in the gender balance amongst psychiatric specialties between men and women.
The level of reported consultant vacancies across the UK is 9%, up from a reported level of 7% in 2015 and 5% in 2013. The level of reported SAS doctor vacancies is currently 12%, up from 10% in 2015 and 11% in 2013.

There has been an overall 65% increase between 2013 and 2017 in the combined number of consultant (537) and SAS doctor (236) vacancies reported to us by trusts.*

There is considerable regional variation in the reported number of vacancies in the consultant and SAS doctor workforce.

There is also considerable variation between the psychiatric specialties in the number of filled posts at consultant and SAS grade, and vacancies at consultant and SAS grade, with continuing increases in the vacancy rate in four of the major specialties from 2013-2017 (inset).

*The figures for 2017 include Scotland