
Appendix 1 – Key statistics on education and training for HCPC professions

We have provided key statistics as a summary of the picture of education and training for the professions we regulate, and how that picture is changing.

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Number of approved pre-registration programmes

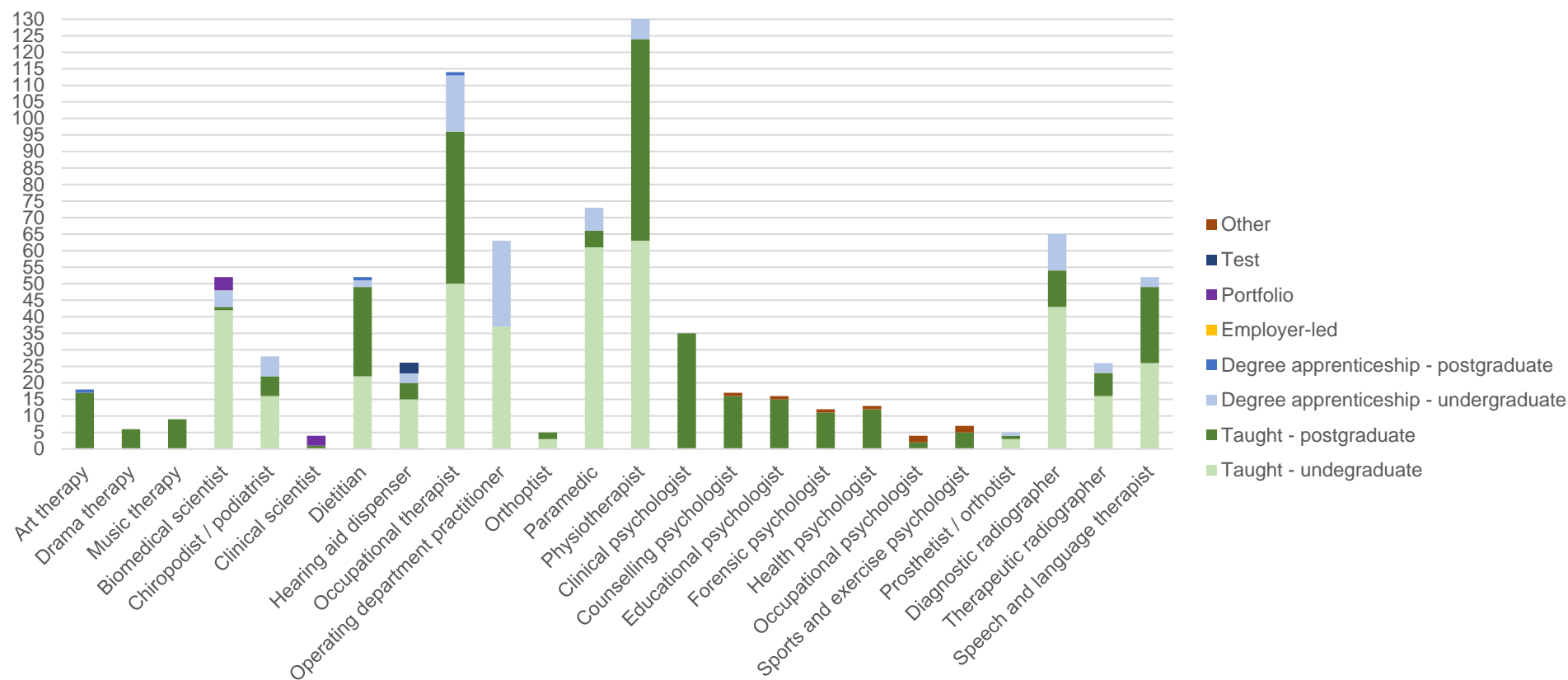


Figure 1 - Pre-registration approved programmes, by type of programme - 1 September 2024

We have seen growth in the overall number of programmes in the 2023-24 academic year by a total of 39 programmes (5% growth overall). Some professions have grown more significantly:

- Orthoptist – 20% growth (however due to small numbers this was only one additional programme)
- Therapeutic radiographer – 15% growth (4 additional programmes)
- Diagnostic radiographer – 12% growth (8 additional programmes)
- Biomedical scientist – 10% growth (5 additional programmes)
- Hearing aid dispenser – 8% growth (2 additional programmes)

- Paramedic – 7% growth (5 additional programmes)
- Art therapist – 6% growth (however due to small numbers this was only one additional programme)
- Speech and language therapist – 6% growth (3 additional programmes)

There were smaller percentage increases for chiropodist / podiatrist, dietitian, occupational therapist, and physiotherapist programmes. Programme numbers for the remaining professions / modalities did not grow.

Growth in programme numbers often did not translate to the percentage level of growth for the capacity of learner numbers. For all professions except art therapists, there was a lower level of growth for the overall capacity of programmes. This shows that newer programmes are developed at a smaller scale than existing programmes.

There is a shift in the profile of professional education, with a higher percentage of degree apprenticeship programmes being developed than baseline percentages for most professions. This is linked with the apprenticeship initiative in England, and we expect to see the shift to more apprenticeship provision continue to be developed as part of the sector's response to the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (in England). Other nations are also considering introducing apprenticeship or 'earn and learn' routes into the professions that we regulate, although the structures to support these routes have not yet been set up in these nations.

We have presented a comparison of numbers of programmes and learner capacity¹ for all professions / modalities in table below. This is to show how increases in the number of approved programmes links to increases in the overall learner capacity for each profession and modality. This can be used by stakeholders to understand how new provision being developed contributes to capacity.

¹ Learner number capacity is the maximum yearly capacity we have approved programmes to deliver. These figures were defined by education providers through our approval assessments, and we audit these numbers when education providers engage with us through performance review. They are not the number of learners that will admit to programmes each year, and this data should be read cautiously when understanding capacity.

Programme type	Approved programmes (1 September 2024)					Learner number capacity	New programmes (first intake in the 2023-24 academic year)						
	Taught	Apprenticeship	% apprenticeship	Other	Total		Taught	Apprenticeship	% apprenticeship	Other	Total	Growth in prog numbers %	Growth in learner number capacity
Arts therapist	32	1	3%	0	33	917	0	1	100%	0	1	3%	4%
<i>Art therapy</i>	17	1	6%	0	18	611	0	1	100%	0	1	6%	7%
<i>Drama therapy</i>	6	0	0%	0	6	134	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Music therapy</i>	9	0	0%	0	9	172	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
Biomedical scientist	43	5	10%	4	52	2837	5	0	0%	0	5	10%	2%
Chiropodist / podiatrist	22	6	21%	0	28	1131	0	1	100%	0	1	4%	1%
Clinical scientist	1	0	0%	3	4	970	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
Dietitian	49	3	6%	0	52	1764	1	0	0%	0	1	2%	1%
Hearing aid dispenser	20	3	12%	3	26	877	1	0	0%	1	2	8%	6%
Occupational therapist	96	18	16%	0	114	6031	1	0	0%	0	1	1%	0%
Operating department practitioner	37	26	41%	0	63	2455	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
Orthoptist	5	0	0%	0	5	276	1	0	0%	0	1	20%	7%
Paramedic	66	7	10%	0	73	6923	1	4	80%	0	5	7%	3%
Physiotherapist	124	13	9%	0	137	8303	4	3	43%	0	7	5%	2%
Practitioner psychologist	97	0	0%	8	105	3595	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Clinical psychologist</i>	35	0	0%	0	35	1410	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Counselling psychologist</i>	16	0	0%	1	17	611	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%

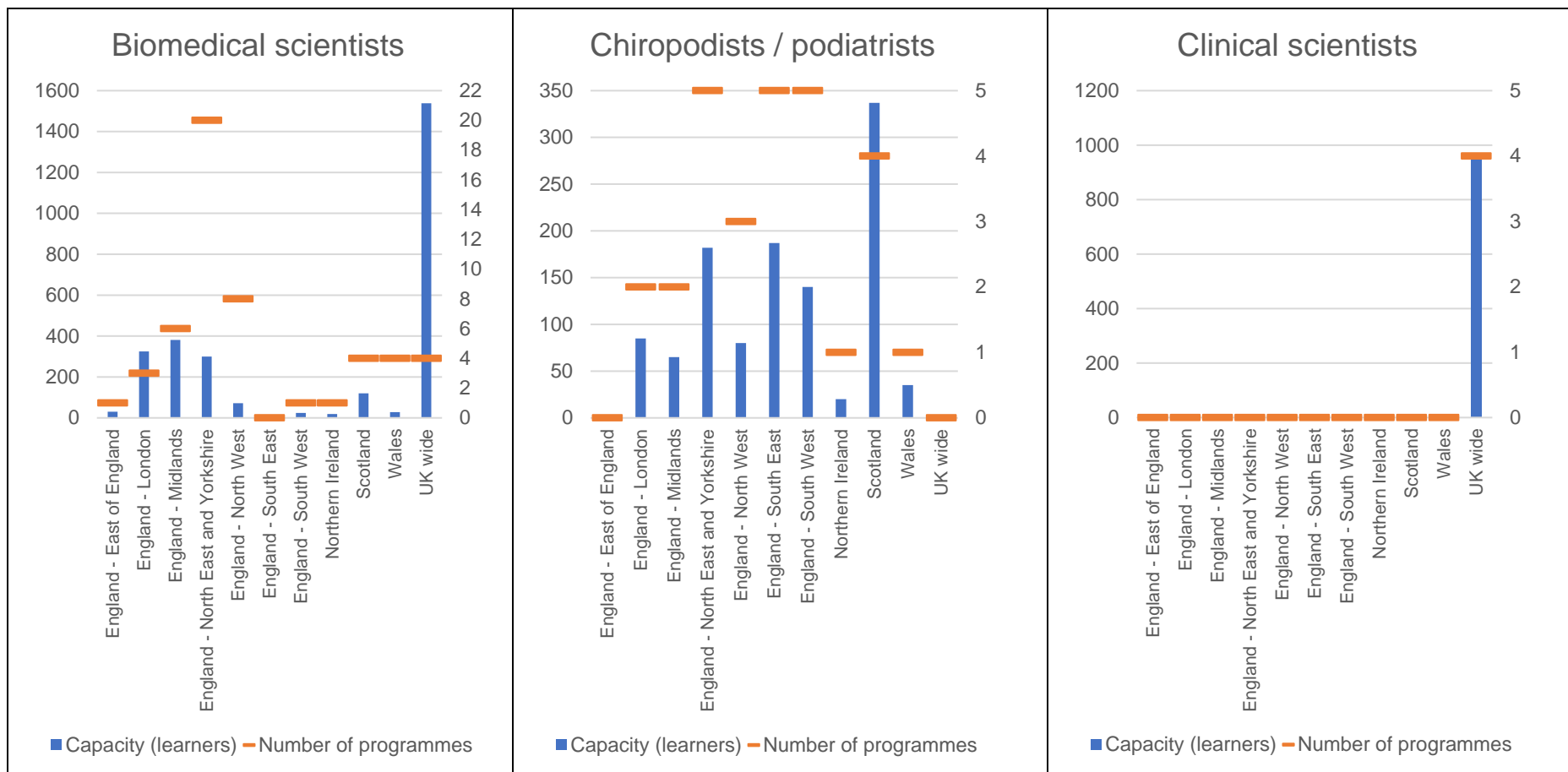
Programme type	Approved programmes (1 September 2024)					Learner number capacity	New programmes (first intake in the 2023-24 academic year)						
	Taught	Apprenticeship	% apprenticeship	Other	Total		Taught	Apprenticeship	% apprenticeship	Other	Total	Growth in prog numbers %	Growth in learner number capacity
<i>Educational psychologist</i>	15	0	0%	1	16	397	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Forensic psychologist</i>	11	0	0%	1	12	493	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Health psychologist</i>	12	0	0%	1	13	219	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Occupational psychologist</i>	2	0	0%	2	4	243	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
<i>Sports and exercise psychologist</i>	5	0	0%	2	7	204	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
Prosthetist / orthotist	4	1	20%	0	5	140	0	0	NA	0	0	0%	0%
Radiographer	77	14	15%	0	91	5538	11	1	8%	0	12	13%	7%
<i>Diagnostic radiographer</i>	54	11	17%	0	65	4511	7	1	13%	0	8	12%	5%
<i>Therapeutic radiographer</i>	23	3	12%	0	26	1027	4	0	0%	0	4	15%	13%
Speech and language therapist	49	3	6%	0	52	2580	2	1	33%	0	3	6%	3%
Total	722	100	12%	18	840	44337	27	11	28%	1	39	5%	2%

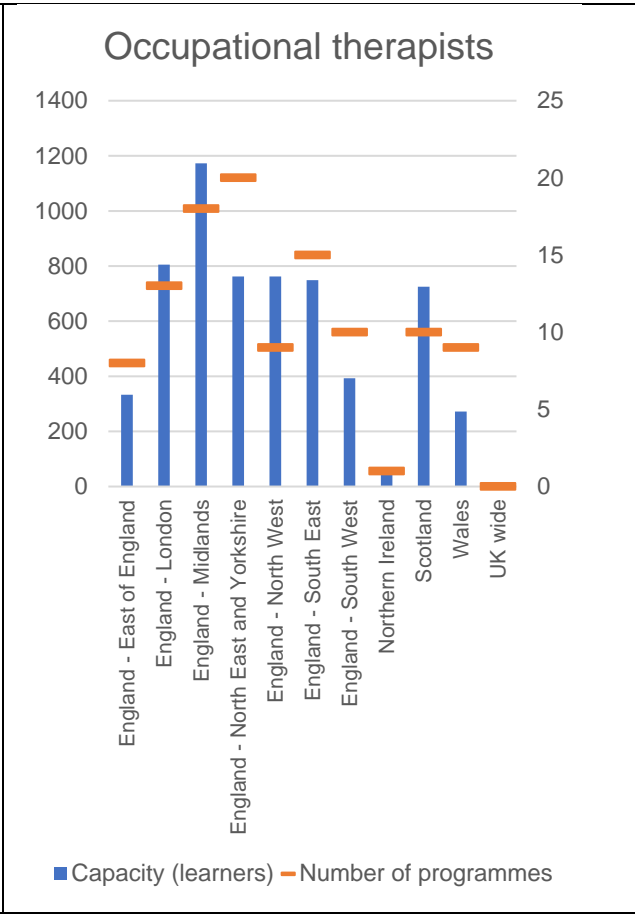
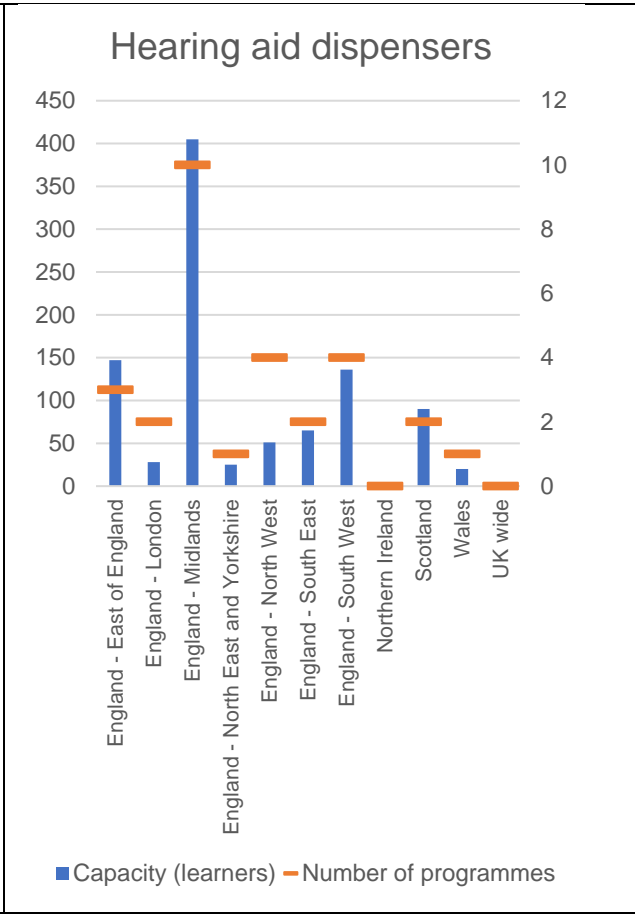
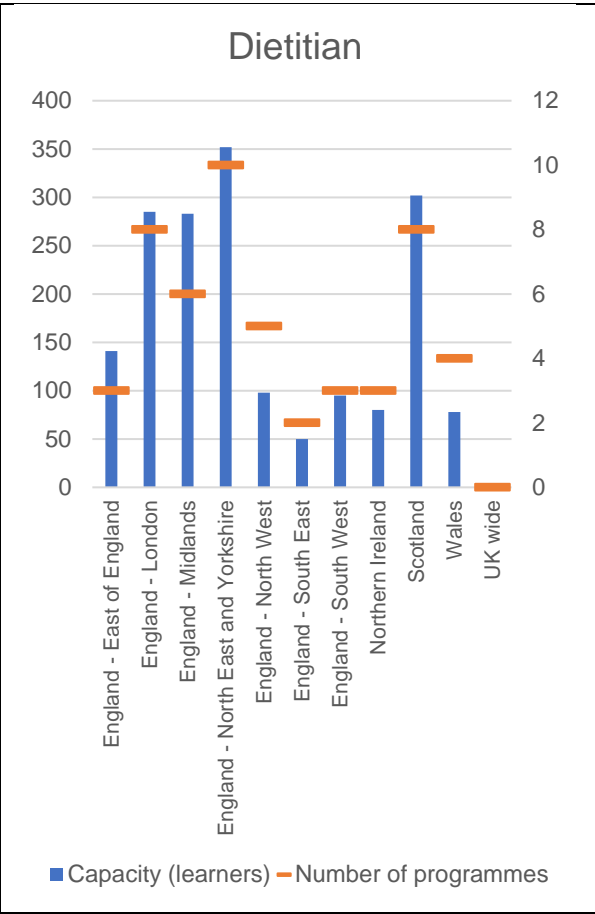
Nations and regions

We have produced the following charts, which show learner number capacity (blue bars) and the number of approved programmes (orange lines) in each nation and English region. These charts are provided to give insight into the current national and regional picture within professions.

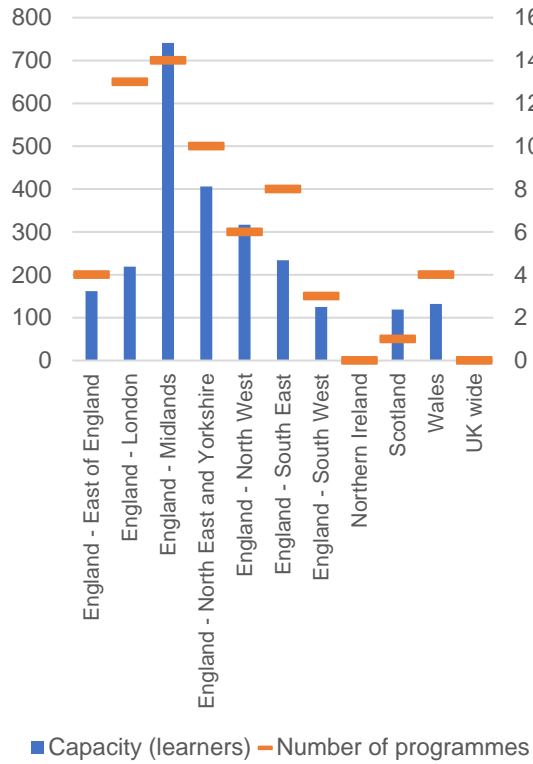
From the charts, the total capacity of programmes can be understood vs the number of programmes. There is variance in programme sizes – we can see similar programme numbers within nations / regions with a range of programme capacities. There will be a range of reasons for differences, but there may be opportunities to increase learner numbers for existing lower capacity programmes.

Professions without modalities

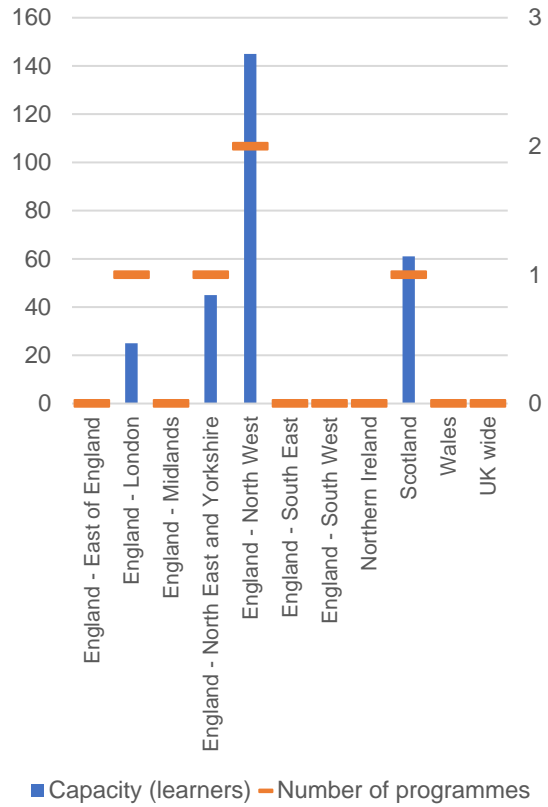




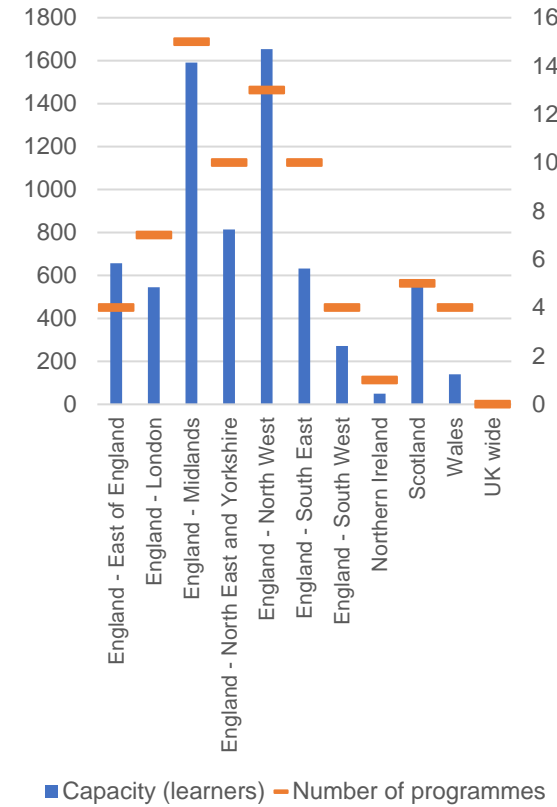
Operating department practitioners



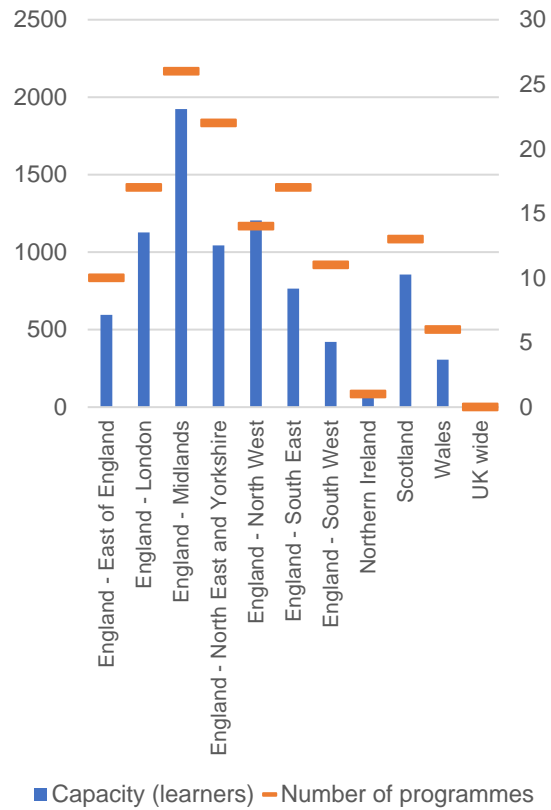
Orthoptists



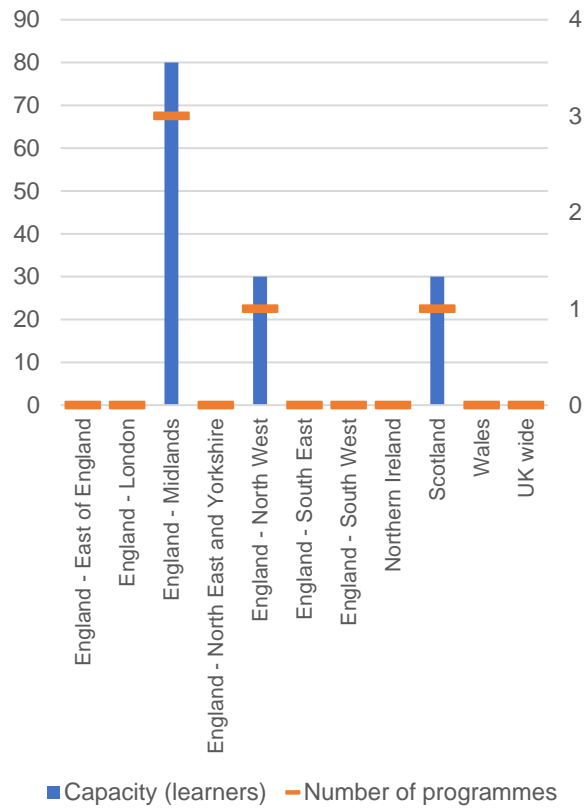
Paramedics



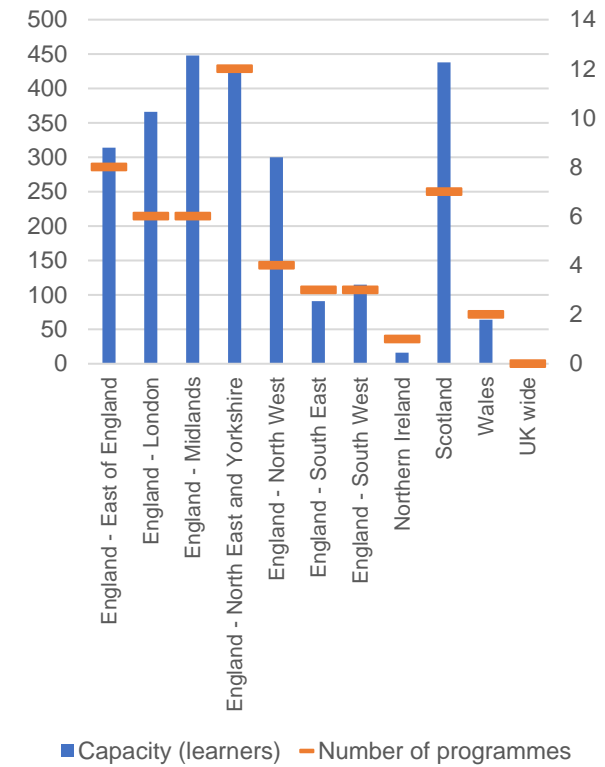
Physiotherapists



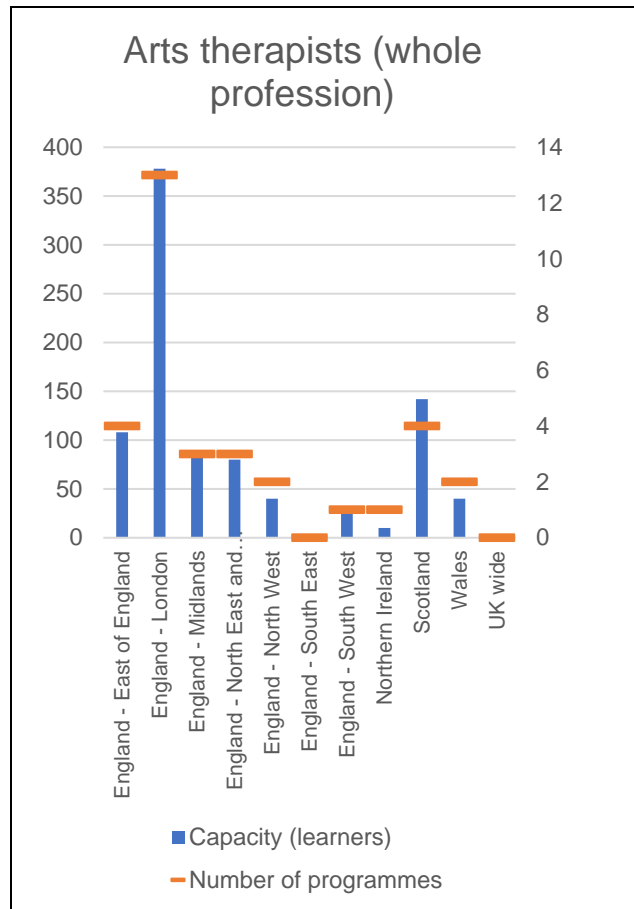
Prosthetists / orthotists



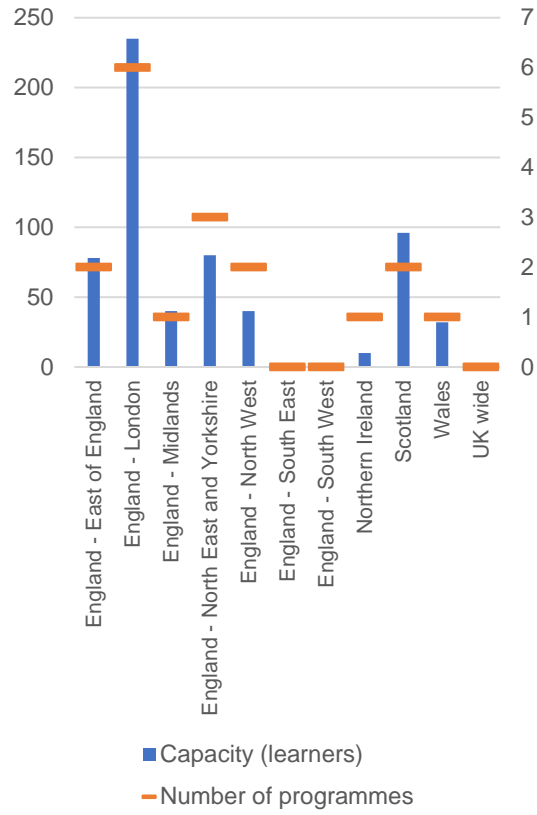
Speech and language therapists



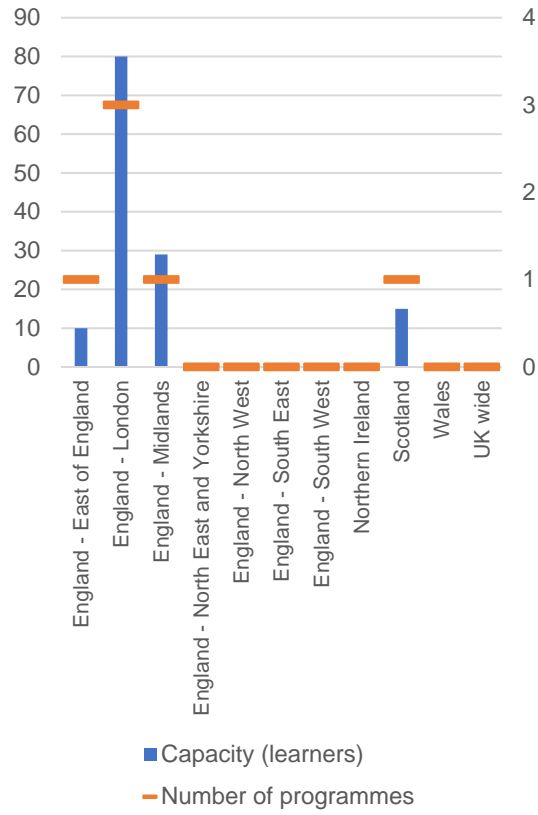
Professions with modalities



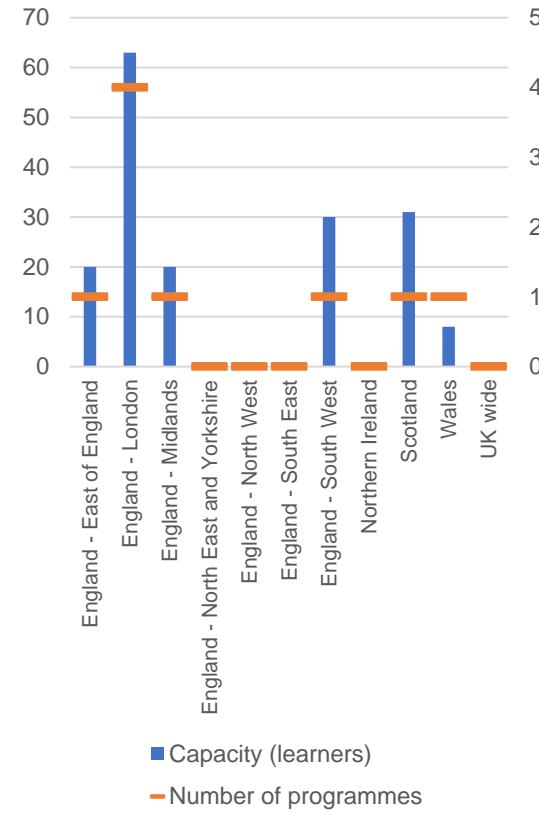
Art therapists



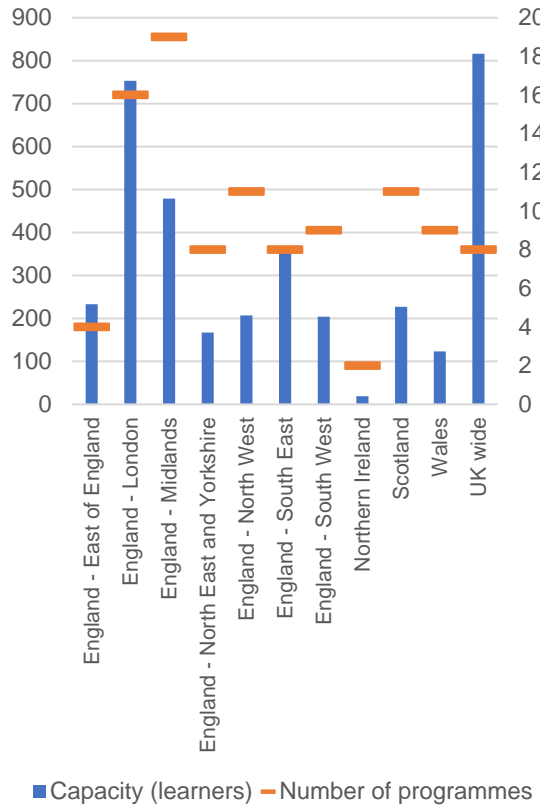
Dramatherapists



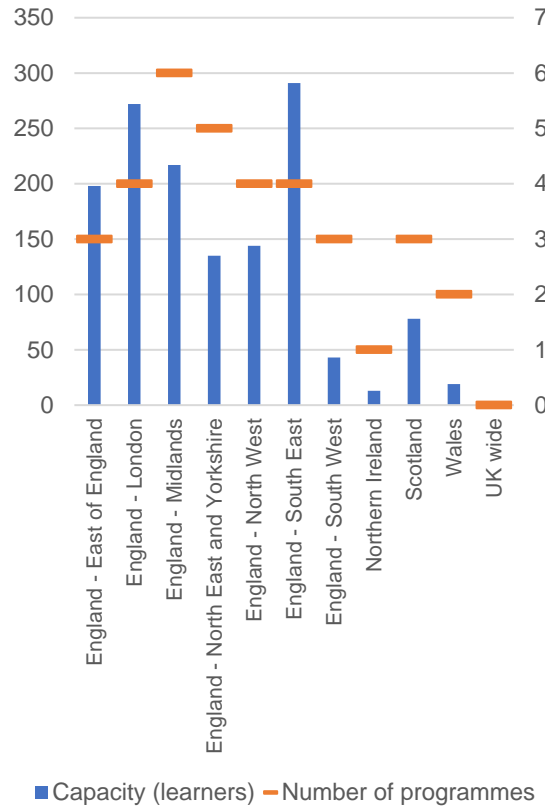
Music therapists



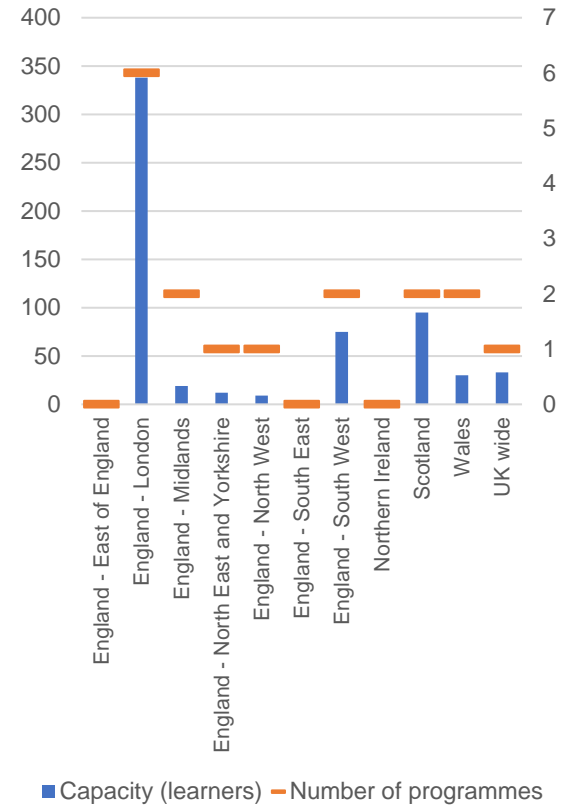
Practitioner psychologists



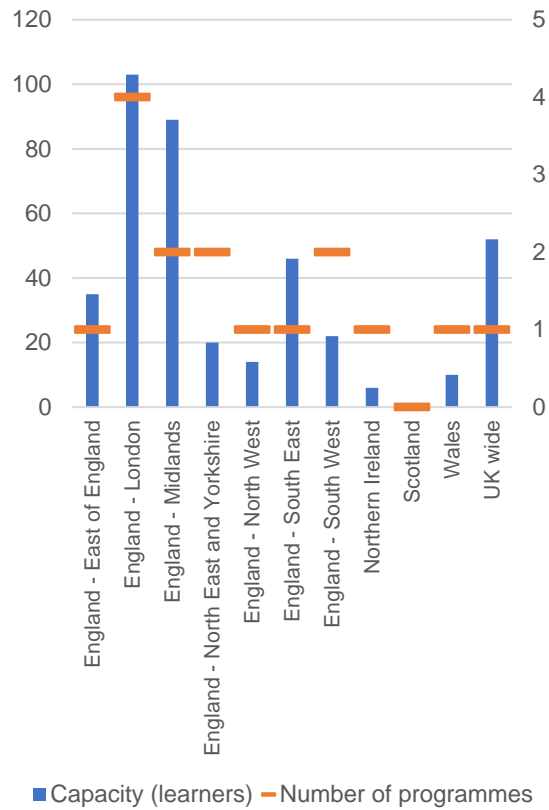
Clinical psychologists



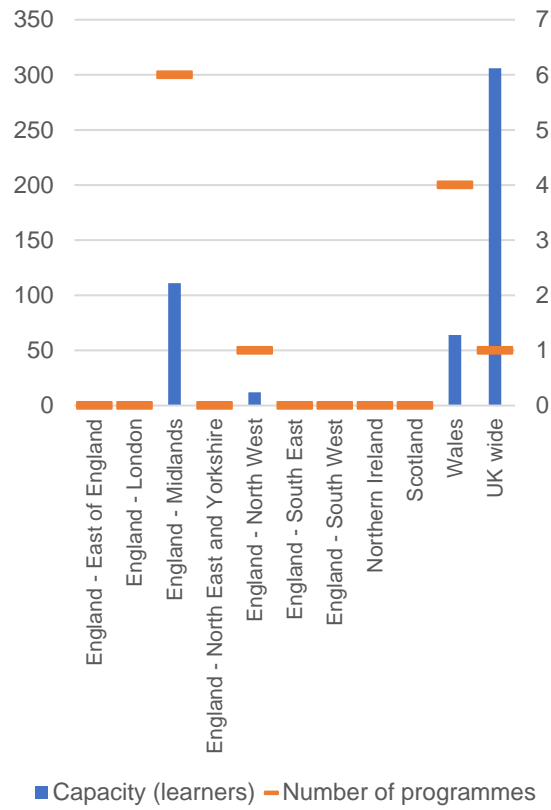
Counselling psychologists



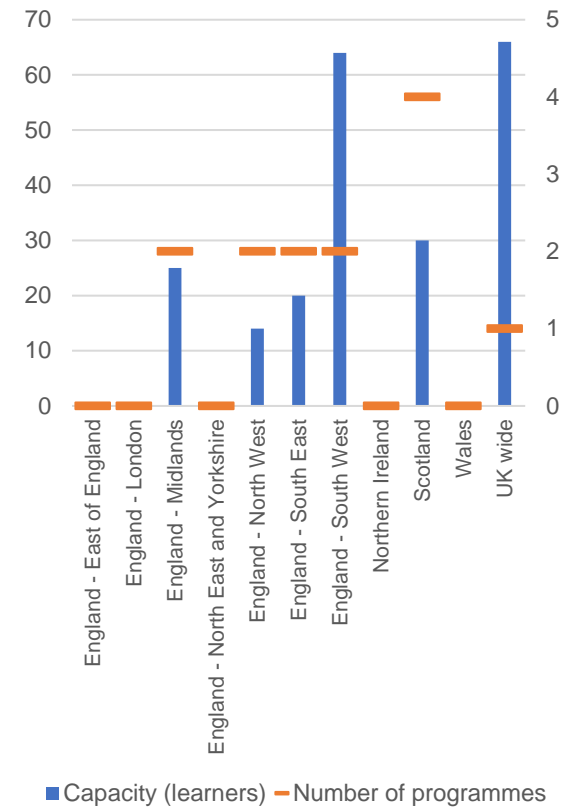
Educational psychologists



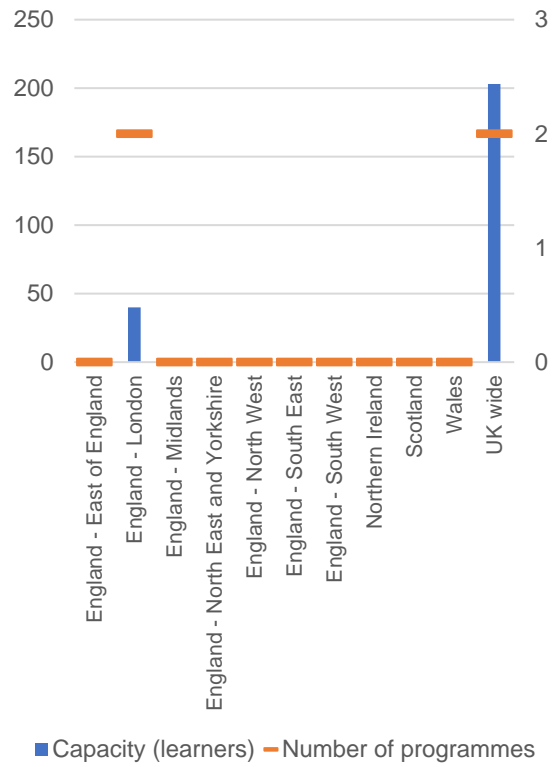
Forensic psychologists



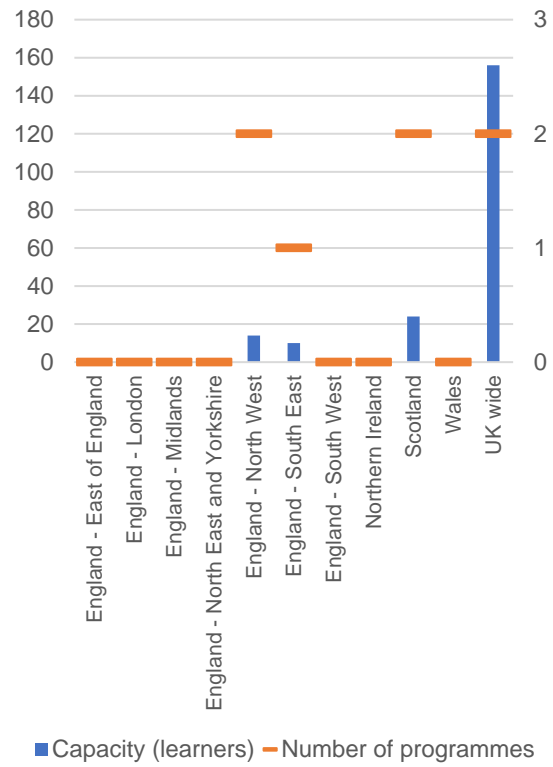
Health psychologists



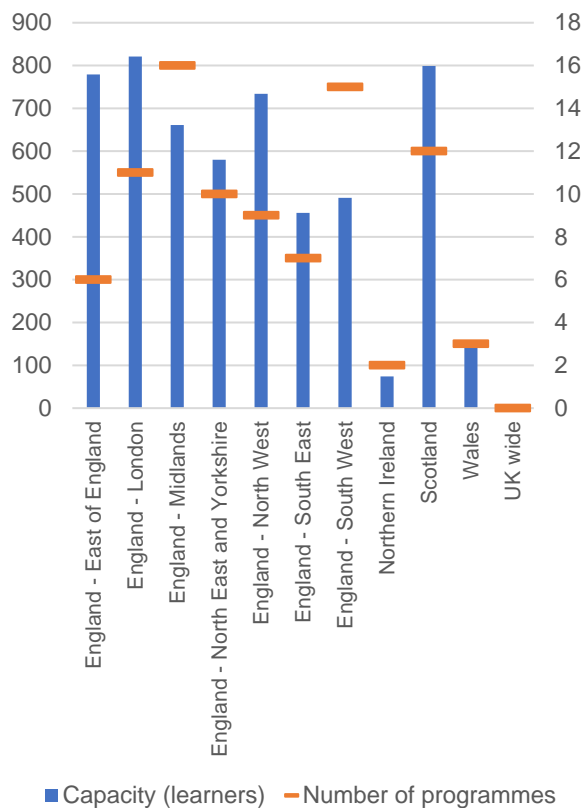
Occupational psychologists



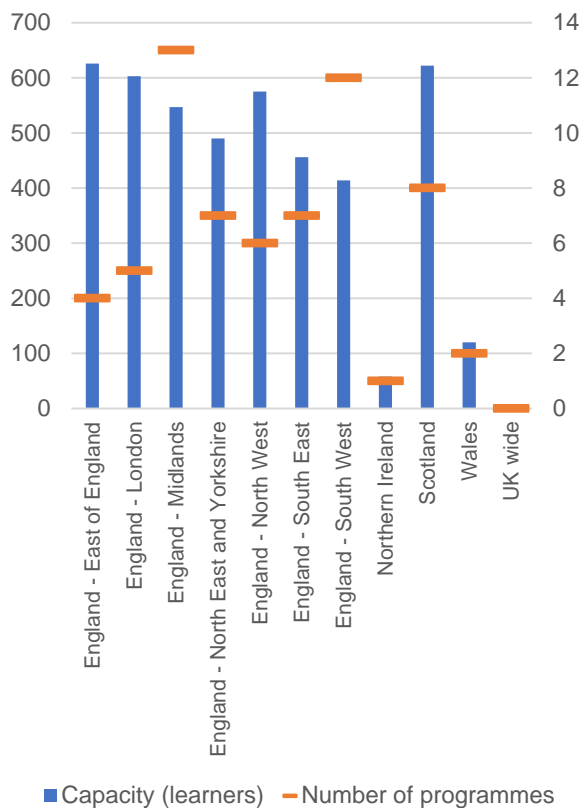
Sports and exercise psychologists



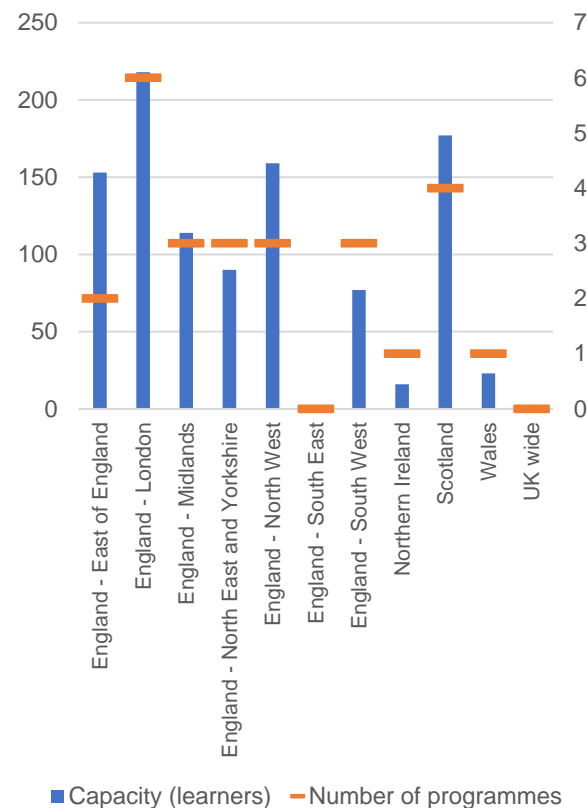
Radiographers



Diagnostic radiographers



Therapeutic radiographers



Number of approved post-registration programmes

We also approve post registration programmes, which lead to an 'annotation' on our Register. We are required to do this by legislation where a registrant has undertaken additional training around medicines and has obtained entitlements to sell, supply, administer or prescribe these medicines. We also annotate for podiatrists practising podiatric surgery, as this is a high level of specialism within the chiropodist / podiatrist profession, and we took the decision that annotating individuals who are able to practice in this specialist area was essential to protect the public².

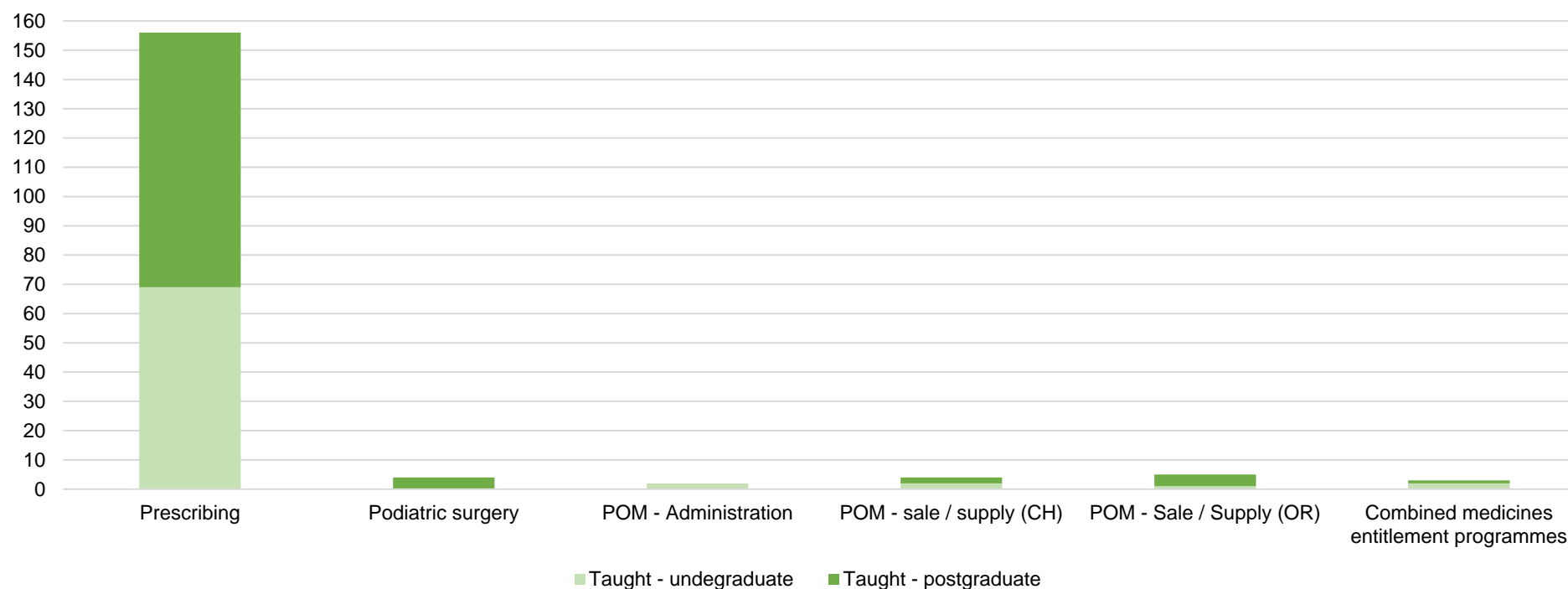


Figure 2 - Post-registration approved programmes, by type of programme - 1 September 2024

² Our Council made the [decision](#) to add the annotation for podiatrists practising podiatric surgery in May 2012