



Funding and Performance of Healthcare Systems in the Four Countries of the UK Before and After Devolution

The Nuffield Trust would like to confirm that it has received official confirmation from the Office for National Statistics that an official figure obtained from the ONS using data provided by Scotland, which was used in the Nuffield Trust's latest report: *Funding and Performance of Healthcare Systems in the Four Countries of the UK Before and After Devolution* (published on 20 January 2010), was incorrect.

The figure refers to the number of Hospital Medical and Dental staff (whole time equivalents) per 1,000 population in Scotland and had been published as the official figure for Scotland in 2006. In the Nuffield Trust's report, the number of Hospital Medical and Dental staff in Scotland in 2006 was referenced as 12,880 (this was the official figure taken from data in ONS: United Kingdom Health Statistics 2008; Table 8.3).

However, the original data provided to the ONS for Scotland in 2006 included hospital doctors, general dental practitioners working in hospital settings and general dental practitioners working in the community when it should not have included the latter. The official statistic for Scotland for 2006 has therefore been changed to 10,161 Hospital Medical and Dental staff (whole time equivalents) per 1,000 population. This change has resulted in the following modifications to the data in the Nuffield Trust's report:

- Figure 4.5: The number of Hospital Medical and Dental staff per 1,000 population for Scotland in 2006 reduces from 2.5 to 2.0. Scotland therefore has more Hospital Medical and Dental staff per capita than England and Wales, but slightly less than Northern Ireland.
- Figure 4.13: Inpatient admissions per Hospital Medical and Dental staff member now increase to 67.5 (from 54). This is still significantly lower than England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Figure 4.12: Outpatient appointments per Hospital Medical and Dental staff member now increase to 446.5 (from 357). This figure is less than England and Wales, but more than Northern Ireland.
- Figure 4.14: Day cases per Hospital Medical and Dental staff member increase to 38 (from 30). This is higher than the figure for Wales but less than England and Northern Ireland.

The Nuffield Trust will revise these figures in the report. In the meantime, it has included the re-calculated graphs below. Further discussions are ongoing on the consistency of the officially published statistics that have been used in the report. The Nuffield Trust welcomes the scrutiny that the report is attracting and is committed to working further with NHS Scotland and the ONS to clarify the situation. The Trust believes this confirms the vital importance of accurate official statistics since they are used in a wide variety of ways for researching and planning health services.

Figure 4.5: Hospital medical and dental staff (whole time equivalents) per 1,000 population in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (1996, 2002 and 2006)

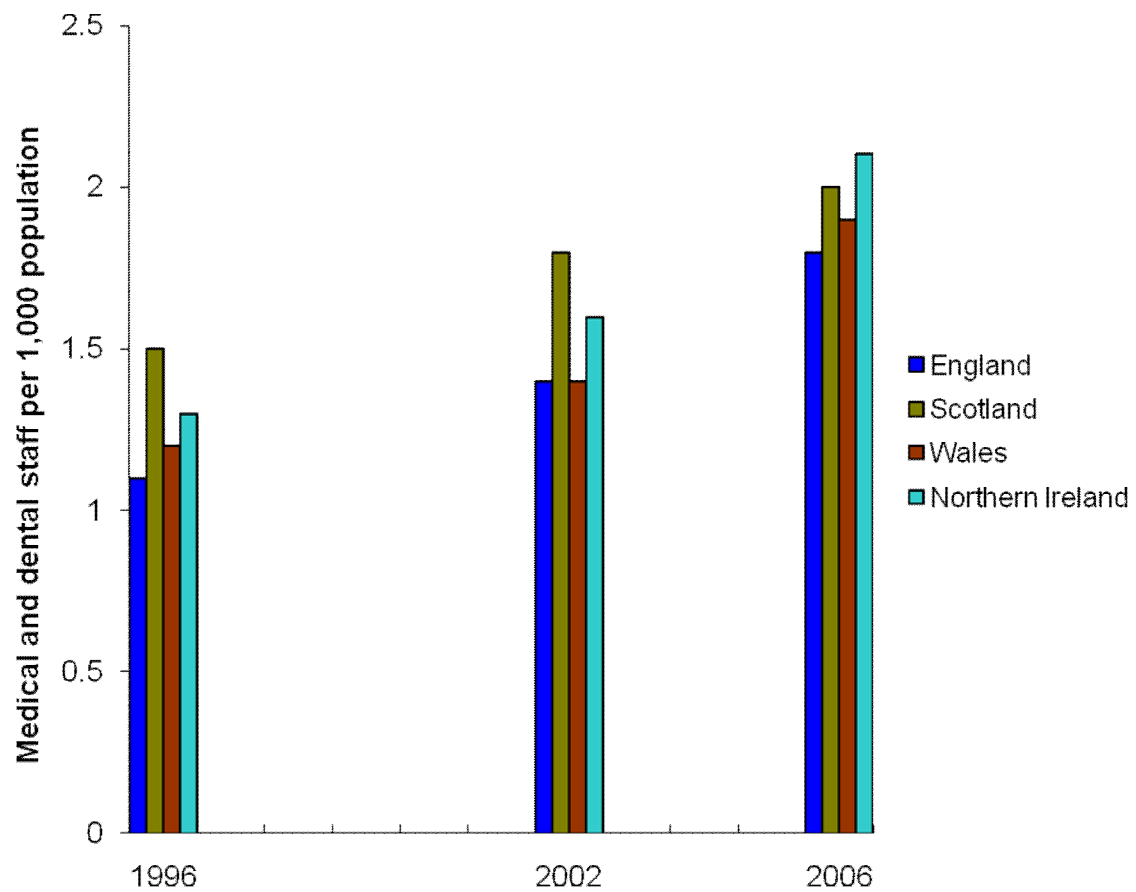


Figure 4.12: Outpatient appointments per hospital medical and dental staff member in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (1996, 2002 and 2006)

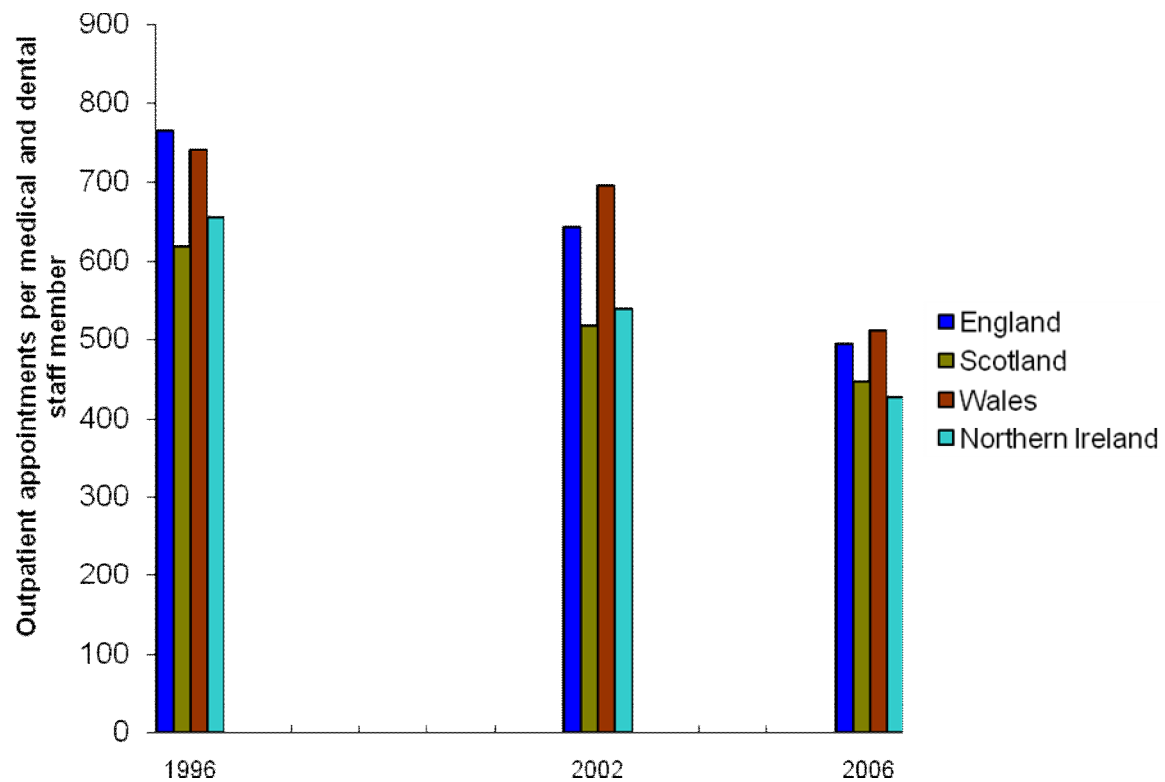


Figure 4.13: Inpatient admissions per hospital medical and dental staff member in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (1996, 2002 and 2006)

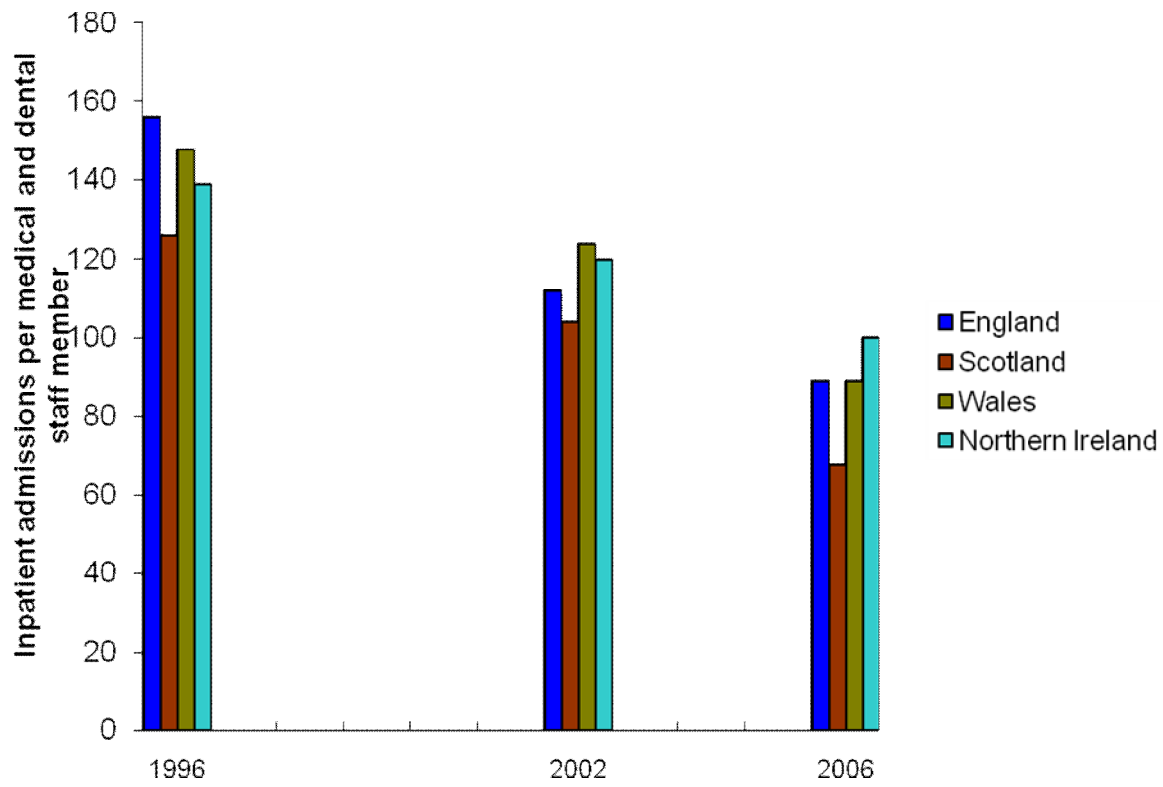


Figure 4.14: Day cases per hospital medical and dental staff member in England, Scotland, Wales* and Northern Ireland (1996, 2002 and 2006)

