NHS England has [published the results of the 2022 national workforce survey](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/community-pharmacy-workforce-survey) (on 3rd August 2023)

The key findings include:

* The reported numbers for the total workforce (Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)) have reduced 6% in total (from 2021).
* The overall number of pharmacists remains almost constant (compared to 2021 data), but FTE figures indicate a decline in employed pharmacists (15%) and an expansion in use of locum pharmacists (26%).
* The number of pharmacy technicians indicates a reduction (compared to 2021 data).
* For all roles, there is an increase in the vacancy rate; 20% for pharmacy technicians, 16% for pharmacists and 9% for dispensing assistants.
* There is a 37% increase in the reported number of Independent Prescribers, up by 422.

Read more, including CPE response at: <https://cpe.org.uk/our-news/2022-workforce-survey-results-published/>

*Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has one of the lowest vacancy rates for pharmacists of all 42 ICS areas at 11%.*

Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland’s response

*Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland (CPL&R)  is still reviewing the workforce data with its colleagues across the ICS. We certainly welcome the long overdue data, but we had hoped it would have been issued some time ago.  We are concerned that it is now out of date. We believe the landscape has since changed. A mechanism to capture real time data is needed urgently.*

*Although at surface it appears Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) is doing better than other ICS’, many contractors within the region have reported that they struggle with matters related to workforce. This includes poor locum availability, increased locum rates and growing staff costs. This at times can be unaffordable for a pharmacy business.*

*Since Jan 2023 we have seen over 40 requests to changes to supplementary hours. There are many factors for this but its important not to downplay the contributing factor that is workforce challenges.*

*CPL&R with LLR ICS have established Pharmacy Faculty Workforce group which brings together pharmacy leaders (including representation from employing organisations, universities, CPPE, Training Hub) across the system to specifically discuss pharmacy workforce pharmacy challenges across all sectors.*

*We have prioritised recruitment and retention and are keen to embed a ‘one workforce’ culture. To achieve this, community pharmacy must be placed on the same level playing field as other sectors. This means developing and promoting flexible career pathways with the right financial envelope.*