



# Celebrating AHPs

## Helping people live their best lives

### Who we are:

The Royal College of Podiatry is the academic authority for podiatry in the UK and the professional body and trade union for the UK's registered podiatrists. We provide information to the public, media and health organisations; we also give professional and employment support to podiatrists in the UK.

### Further foot health information:

The Royal College of Podiatry website [www.rcpod.org.uk](http://www.rcpod.org.uk) provides a wealth of information on common foot conditions and general foot health advice.

**To discuss any of the issues covered, or to find out how the Royal College of Podiatry can help you and your constituents, please contact:**

Louise Slorance, Policy & Public Affairs Officer Scotland, Royal College of Podiatry  
Email: [Louise.Slorance@rcpod.org.uk](mailto:Louise.Slorance@rcpod.org.uk) Tel: 0203 597 6701

# Celebrating AHPs - Helping people live their best lives

Parliamentary Briefing: October 2022

## How Podiatry Can Help?

A podiatrist diagnoses and treats disorders and complications of the foot and lower limb. Podiatrists are unique in working across conditions rather than a disease specific area. A podiatrist's training and expertise extends across population groups to those who have multiple chronic long-term conditions, which place a high burden upon NHS resources (diabetes, arthritis, obesity and peripheral arterial disease).



Podiatrists deliver wider public health messages minimising isolation, promoting physical activity and supporting weight loss strategies and healthy lifestyle choices.



Podiatrists keep people mobile, in work and active throughout their life course.



Podiatrists are experts in all aspects of foot and lower limb function and health, they are highly skilled healthcare professionals trained to diagnose, treat, rehabilitate and prevent abnormalities of the foot and lower limb.

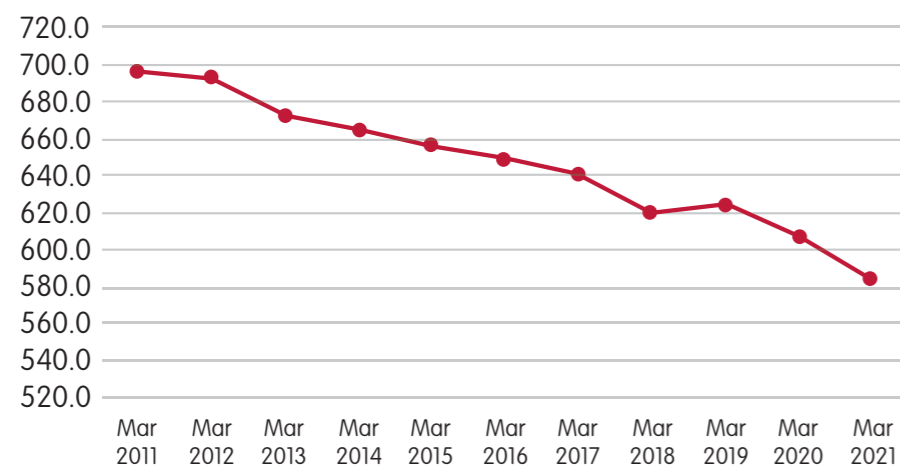
Despite this crucial role in keeping the population healthy, the number of NHS Scotland podiatrists continues to decline. March 2021 saw a record low in Scotland of 585.2 podiatrists - One podiatrist for every 9,230 members of the Scottish population.



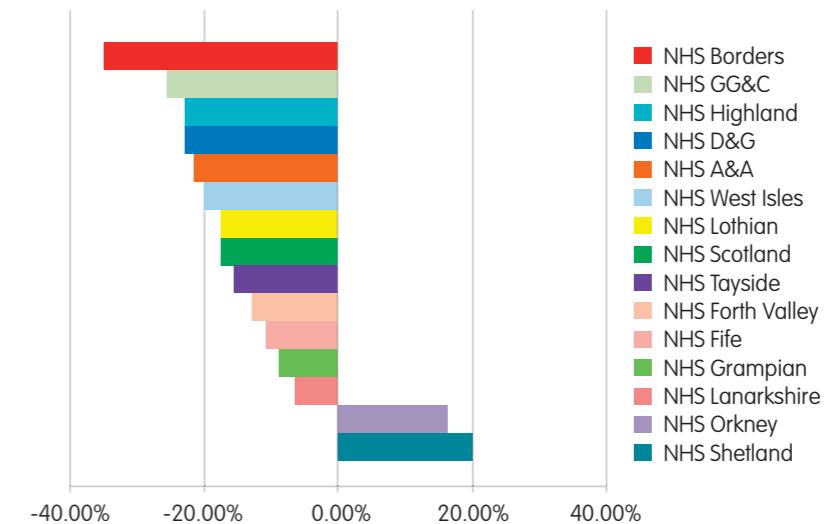
Podiatrists enable patients to manage foot and ankle pain, manage skin conditions of the legs and feet, treat foot and leg infections and assess and manage lower limb neurological and circulatory disorders.

**THIS DECLINE HAS AFFECTED PATIENT CARE WITHIN NEARLY EVERY HEALTH BOARD IN SCOTLAND**

Number of Podiatrists in NHS Scotland (WTE)



Podiatry WTE, March 2011-December 2020



The number of podiatrists (whole time equivalent) in every Health Board, except two, has decreased. This is at the time of increasing prevalence of diabetes, peripheral arterial disease and foot ulceration.

The need for preventative podiatric interventions has never been greater.

Our priorities:

- 1 Workforce: recruitment and retention**
- 2 Clinical and leadership development**
- 3 Digital transformation**

## How you can help

- 1. Meet with the Royal College of Podiatry** to discuss the issues outlined in this briefing further.
- 2. Submit a parliamentary question** on government support for podiatry and the podiatry workforce. (Royal College of Podiatry can provide proposed questions).
- 3. Raise awareness of podiatry** and its scope of care.

## Further information:

Royal College of Podiatry  
Quartz House  
207 Providence Square  
Mill Street  
London  
SE1 2EW  
Tel: 020 7234 8620  
Email: [contact@rcpod.org.uk](mailto:contact@rcpod.org.uk)  
Web: [www.rcpod.org.uk](http://www.rcpod.org.uk)

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