

## Hospital Porter

Hospital porters carry out many important duties around a hospital, such as taking patients to different departments, or moving equipment around the hospital. They may belong to a particular department or they may be part of a 'pool' of porters for the whole hospital or nursing home.

### The Work

You could be:

- going to different departments in response to your pager
- helping nurses lift a patient on to a trolley or into a wheelchair
- sorting and delivering incoming mail
- taking meals to wards or taking samples to labs
- taking linen and equipment to wards
- moving furniture or removing refuse, including clinical waste
- wheeling patients or equipment around the various parts of the hospital by way of lifts and long corridors
- transporting patients who have died from the ward to the mortuary
- driving a buggy from building to building around the hospital grounds.

### Pay

As a porter with the NHS, you will be paid on the NHS Agenda for Change. The current pay scales are from April 2019. You would normally start on Band 2, £18,383 to £20,015 a year. You might earn more for working shifts or overtime.

If promoted to head porter or supervisor you would be on Band 3, £19,945 to £21,947 a year.

### Conditions

- The work is mostly indoors in a hospital or nursing home, but you may clean and tidy outside areas at times.
- You may work in a particular department such as operating theatres or the x-ray department.
- You would work shifts including nights, weekends and public holidays.
- You would have to wear a uniform and sometimes protective clothing.
- There would be a lot of heavy lifting of patients and equipment.
- You would have to deal with unpleasant sights and smells.

### Getting In

- You need a good general education.
- Voluntary experience in a hospital is helpful.
- You might get in through a Modern Apprenticeship in facilities management or health care support (non-clinical).
- For some posts you need a driving licence.

- You should have a good level of physical fitness.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- able to get on with a wide range of people of all ages
- polite, cheerful and friendly
- patient and tactful
- practical and responsible
- not squeamish
- able to remain calm in emergencies
- able to deal with suffering, distress and sometimes death.

You need to have:

- the ability to follow instructions
- the ability to keep accurate records
- teamworking skills.

## Training

- You usually have an induction course including health and safety and lifting techniques.
- If you do a Modern Apprenticeship, you would work with an employer and study for a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ).
- You could complete an SVQ in Healthcare Support (Non-clinical) or Facilities Management at SCQF Level 7.
- Further training is on the job by an experienced porter.

## Getting On

- With experience you may become supervisor of a team of porters, or head porter.
- You could work in a private hospital as well as the National Health Service (NHS).
- You could work for a private contractor providing services to hospitals.

## Contacts

### Disclosure Scotland

Tel: 03000 2000 40

Email: [info@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:info@disclosurescotland.gov.scot)

Website: [www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland](http://www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland)

Twitter: @DisclosureScot

### NHS Scotland Careers

Website: [www.careers.nhs.scot](http://www.careers.nhs.scot)

Website (2): [jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://jobs.scot.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NHSScotlandCareers](https://www.facebook.com/NHSScotlandCareers)

**Skills for Health**

Tel: 0207 388 8800

Email: [contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk](mailto:contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk)

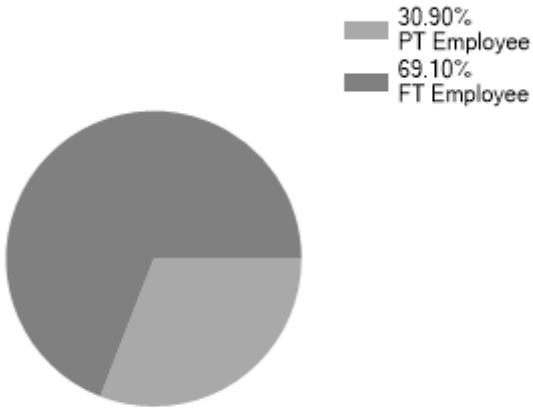
Website: [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk)

Twitter: @Skillsforhealth

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1](https://www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



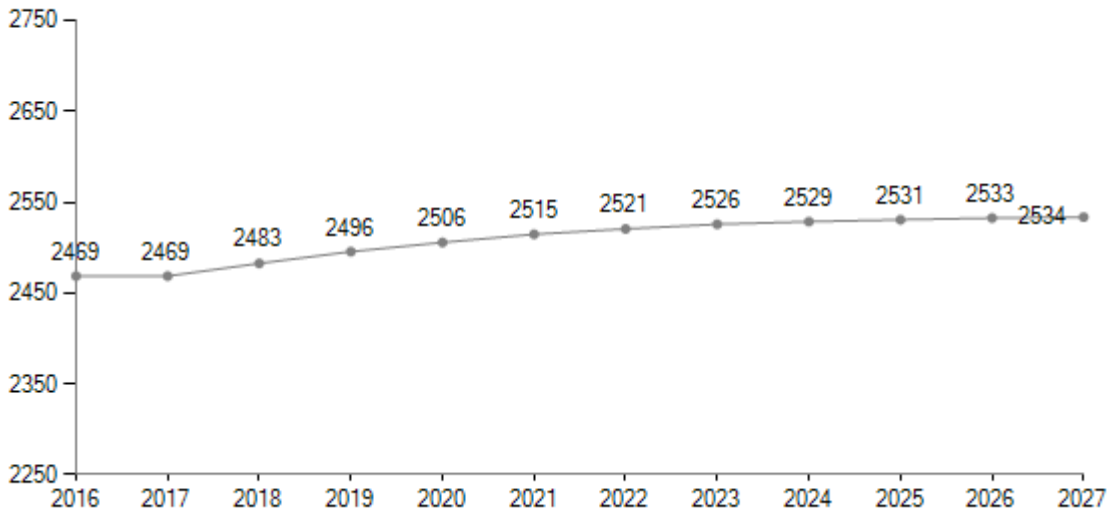
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2016	1.52%
Dec 2018	0.56%
Mar 2019	0.56%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)