



Findings from the UK Laser Workforce Survey - 2022

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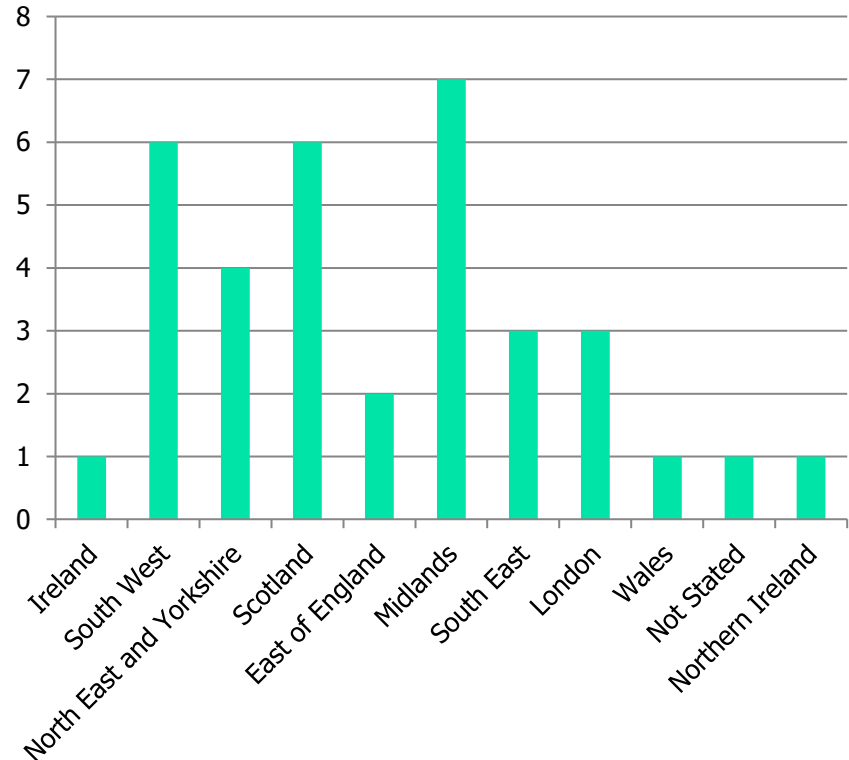
Background

- The laser workforce was put forward by the ultrasound technologist registration proposal and development group
 - Input from the UNIRSIG
- Establish the number of medical physics staff working in lasers across Great Britain and Ireland
- Provide further information on the number of people that may apply for Clinical Technologist registration
- Co-ordinated by IPEM's workforce intelligence unit
- Similar surveys already undertaken for Phototherapy and Ultrasound

Overview

- The survey was open from 26/08/2022 to 30/09/2022
- 9 questions in total were included covering a range of topics
- 35 valid responses received from different departments across Great Britain and Republic of Ireland
 - 2 respondents did not provide any staffing information
- 148 centres covered by all departments responding

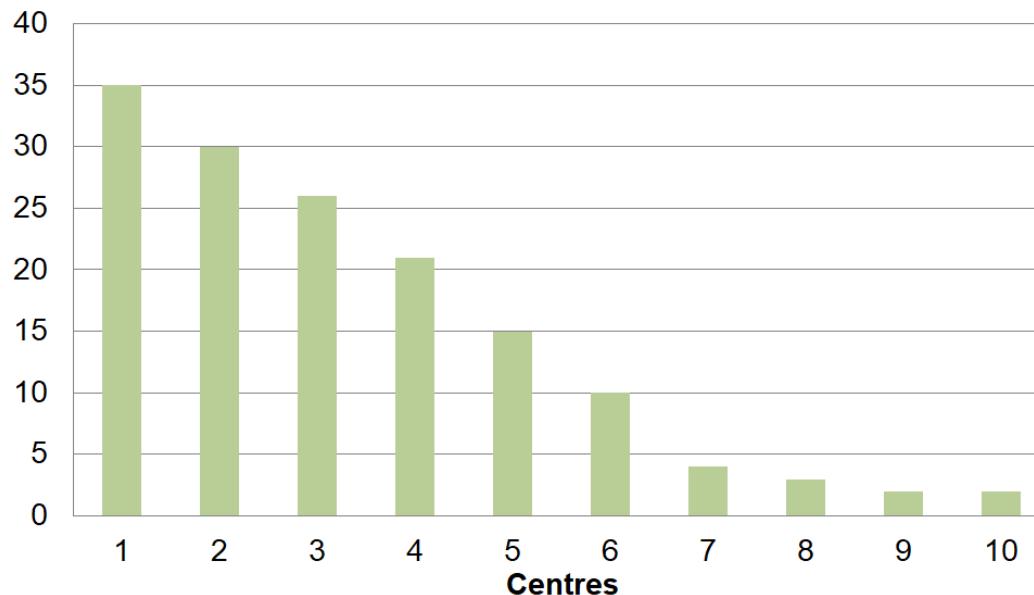
Responses by Region



Number of Centres supported

- Departments that provide services to more than one centre 30 replied 'yes' : 5 replied 'no'

Number of hospitals 'supported' by different departments/providers





Assessment of laser power or energy 'output'

- **27** out of **35** respondents indicated **no** laser output measurements were undertaken
- **22** were provided with clinical and technical support from external contractors for output measurements
- **9** indicated that no measurements were undertaken or were being supported by an external contractor
- **4** responded "yes" to both undertaking measurements and also receiving support from an external provider



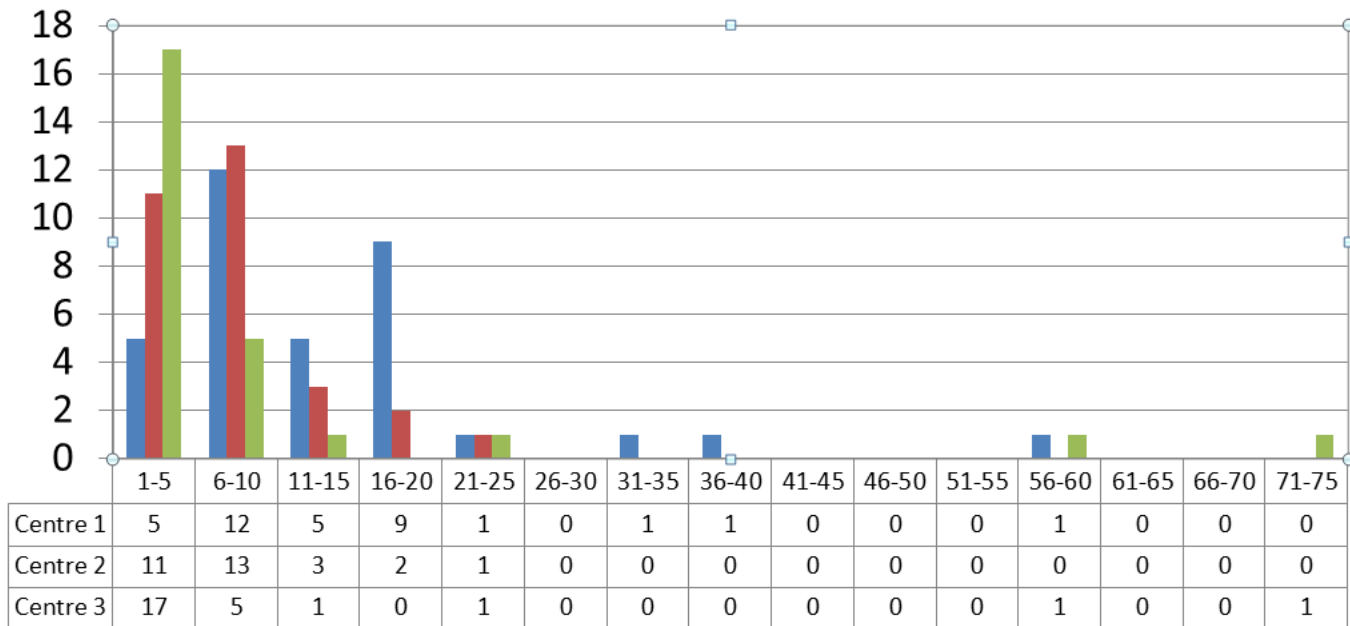
Frequency of testing

- 1 - weekly
- 1 - after the laser had been serviced
- 1 - when requested by the users
- 3 - annually
- 1 - Every 2 years
- 1 - After installation and every 12 months except Physiotherapy lasers (3 Years)

Lasers per centre

Centres with this number of lasers

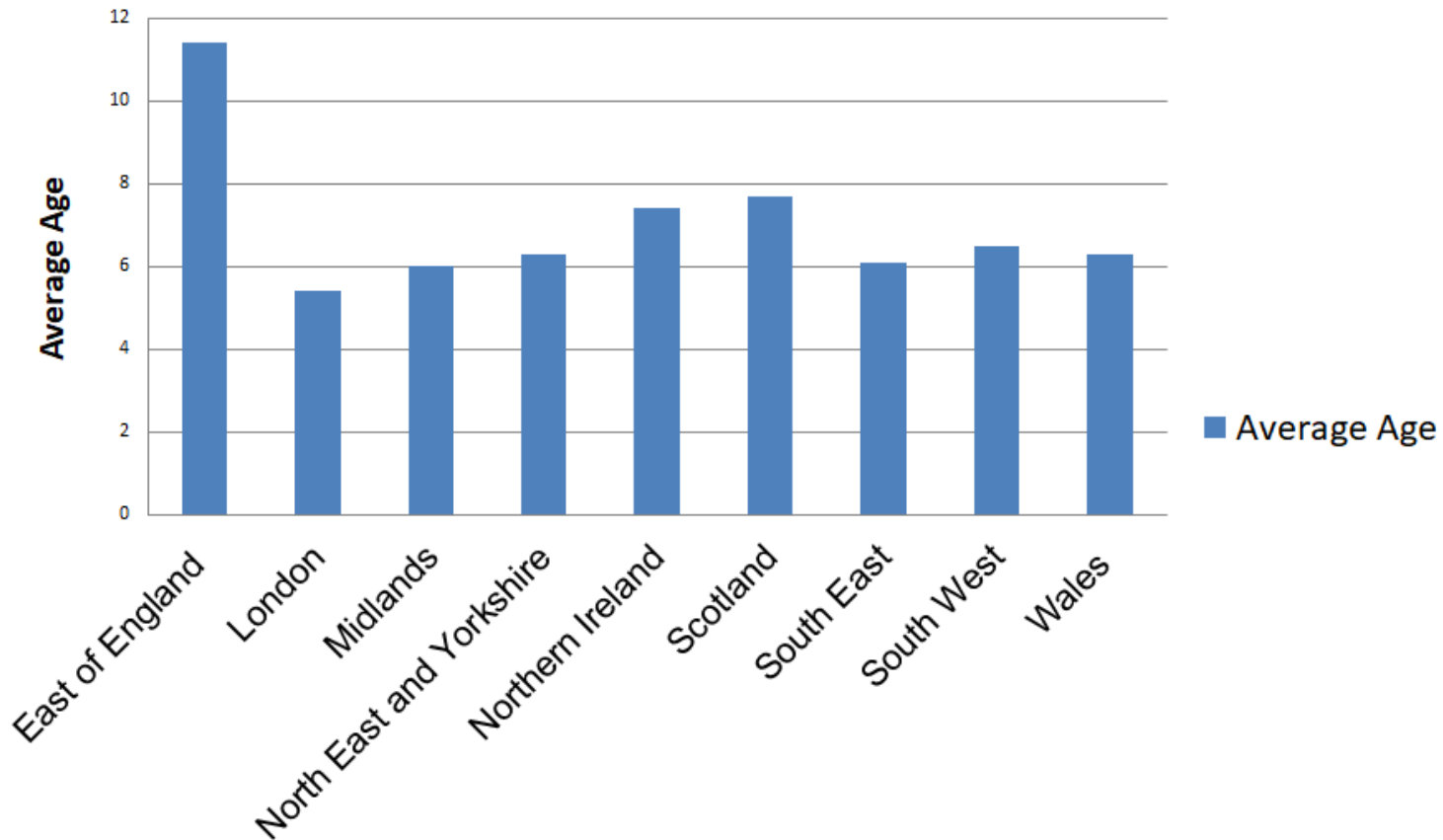
Number of lasers (Centres 1, 2 and 3)



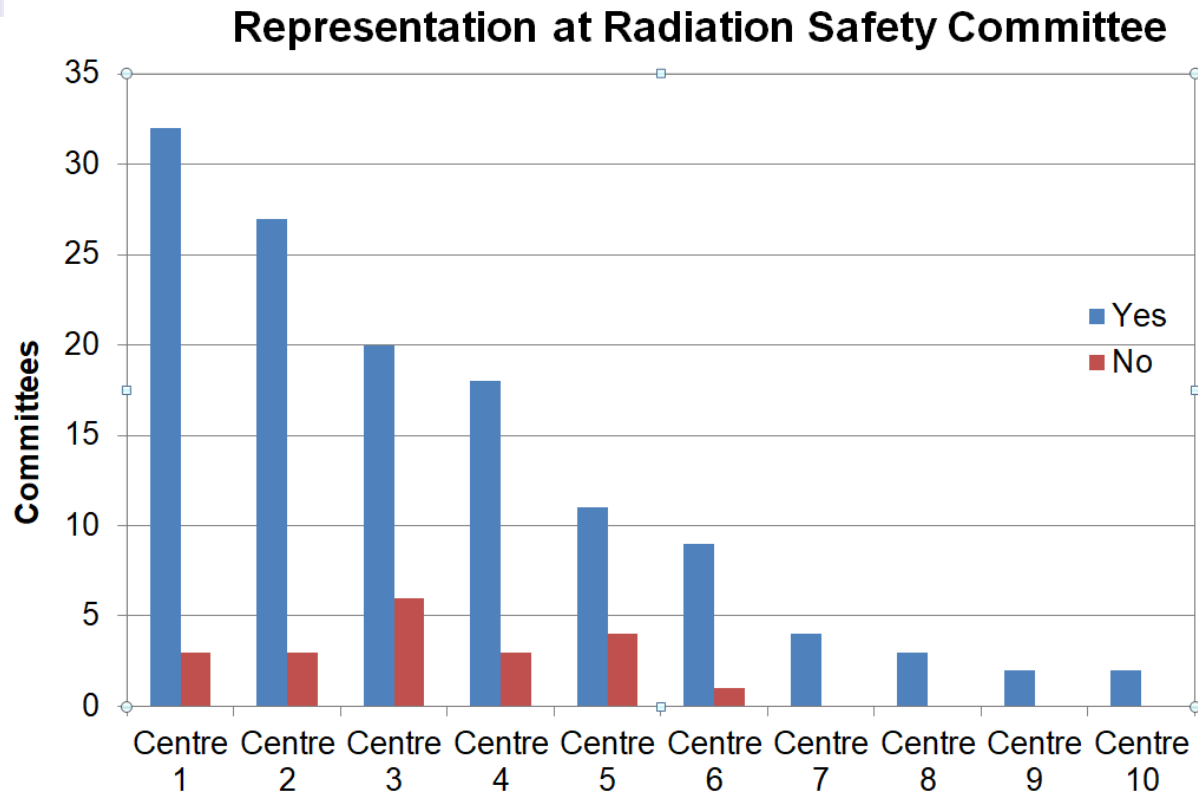
Number of lasers (Range)

Working Age of Lasers

Average Age of Laaers by Region



Representation at Radiation Safety Committee



■ Overall - 86% Yes : 14% No

Current Staffing and Vacancies

Key Statistics

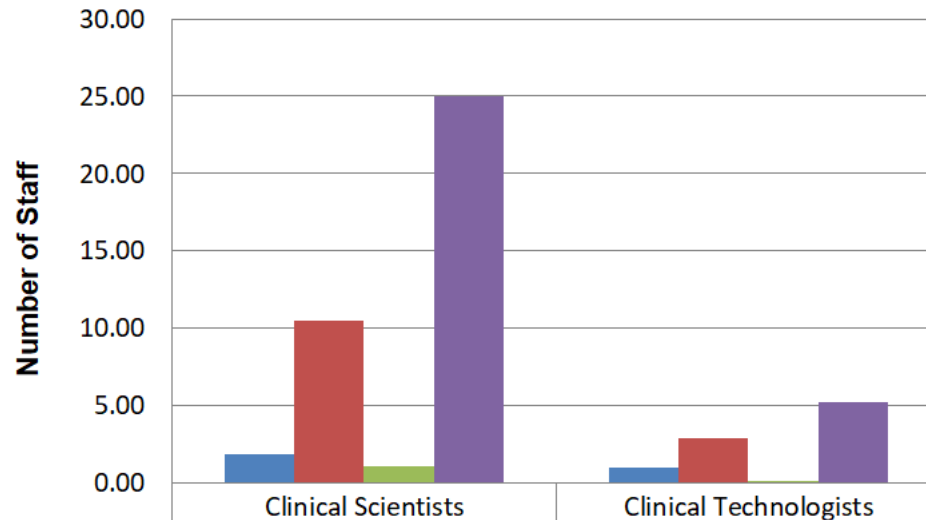
141 Centres

1370 lasers

17.24 WTE staff

0.01 WTE per laser providing Laser Safety Advice

Cumulative Staffing Levels from the Survey



■ QA measurements	1.84	0.95
■ Laser Safety Advice	10.45	2.9
■ Research and Development	1.05	0.05
■ Vacancies	25	5.25



Miscellaneous

- Only 3 departments provide clinical services directly to patients
- In all cases departments were providing advice and support to the drafting of risk assessments, local rules etc. to all centres represented in the survey



Summary

- **A 'big thank you' to all those that responded**
- Laser safety and protection services continue to be provided across Great Britain and Ireland
- Only 8 of 35 departments undertake any form of laser measurements
- Average age of lasers in the majority of regions is less than 10
- Good representation at Radiation Safety Committees
- Appears to be very little in terms of R&D or providing services to patients
- Staffing profile indicates a high cumulative number of vacancies and low established workforce base

Thank you for listening

