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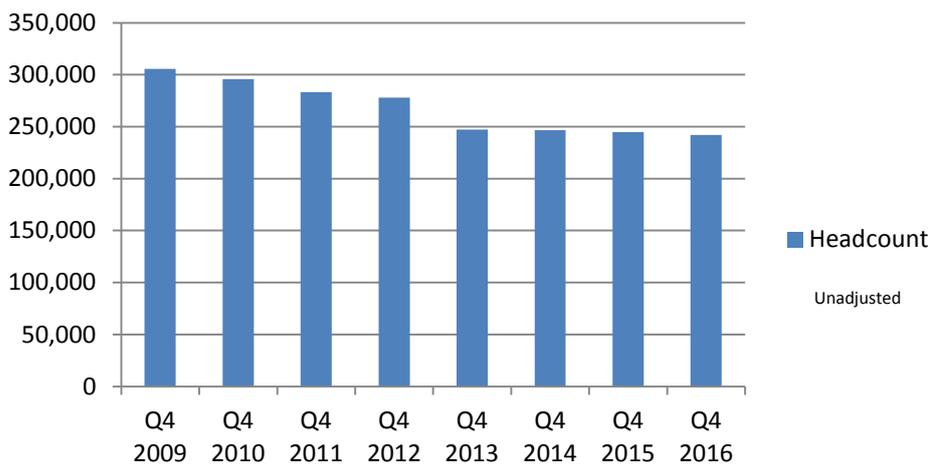
## Scottish Workforce Statistics 2016

This briefing is our annual review of Scottish public sector workforce statistics for the last year.

There was a further fall in public sector jobs (headcount) in 2016. Allowing for statistical reclassifications, 529,300 people work in the public sector (down 1990 last year) or 20.4% of the total Scottish workforce. Full time equivalent job losses are down 1,680 in the devolved public sector, 2,370 in total.

Yet again, local government has taken the biggest hit by far, with a further 2,880 jobs lost last year, a fall of 1.2%. The next biggest cut was in police and fire with a further 260 jobs lost (-0.9%). Staff in NDPBs are down 180 and FE colleges have lost another 30 jobs. Staffing levels in the NHS have increased by 890 or 0.5%.

### Local government staff 2009-2016



2009 was the first full year after the crash when staffing numbers fell in line with budgets cuts. Devolved public sector jobs have fallen by around 33,000 since then end of 2009 (allowing for transfers out).

Over this period, (with same transfers) local government has lost around 30,000 jobs – **91% of the total**. This statistic demonstrates very clearly that austerity in Scotland has largely been dumped on councils.

The NHS workforce has slightly increased since the crash and FE colleges have lost just under 2000 jobs. 1400 police and fire jobs have been lost since the creation of Police Scotland and the Fire and Rescue Service, although the overall equivalent numbers are higher than this because job cuts began before that date. Public sector employment as a percentage of the total workforce has reduced to 20.9% and that is a fall of over 4% since the financial crash.

We are often asked why our figures for job losses are lower than other claims or the headline data. They do slightly understate job losses because for consistency we use the end of year numbers and the base line highpoint for public sector job losses was in the first quarter. However, the biggest difference is because we make an estimate of transfers between and out of direct public sector employment. We believe this is a more accurate methodology that gives a fairer picture - the numbers are bad enough without needing to be enhanced!

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