



Occupational therapy assessment

Name	Address	DOB
The next Scottish Government	St. Andrews House, Edinburgh	May 2026

Initial interview

Relevant medical history

- Lowest life expectancy in UK and Western Europe
- People, on average, spend more years in poor health
- Ageing population - 65 years + increased by 42% since 2000
- 38% of adults report to be living with a limiting long-term health condition
- Increase rates in delayed discharge
- 7.7% of NHS Occupational Therapy workforce are 55 or over

Recommended intervention

- 1. Refocus resources to strengthen community-based teams**
Fully resource community occupational therapy teams delivering prevention and early intervention.
- 2. Expand entry routes to build a sustainable workforce**
Grow the workforce from the ground up through apprenticeships and equitable learner support.
- 3. Improve workforce planning and data for better decisions**
Develop national planning tools based on population needs, backed by targeted investment in recruitment, retention and training.
- 4. Invest in tools and technology to deliver better outcomes**
Provide the data systems and technology our workforce needs to deliver great care.
- 5. Support research and innovation to advance practice**
Enable occupational therapists to build evidence, generate new ideas and improve outcomes.
- 6. Equip the profession to meet sustainability challenges**
Help the workforce adapt to climate and sustainability demands so they remain resilient and future ready.

Date	Signature
January 2026	Royal College of Occupational Therapists
Place	<i>Royal College of Occupational Therapists</i>
Scotland	

Follow-up required ☒

Let's work together to deliver these priorities for Scotland
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