

Agency nurses paid more than £1500 a shift

23 Jan 2017



Hospitals across Scotland are coughing up more than £1500 per shift for agency nurses to cover staffing rotas.

Three health boards have confirmed they paid more than that amount as managers struggle to find nurses to fill gaps across the country.

NHS Lanarkshire confirmed the highest amount it paid was £1565 for a single shift in 2015/16, closely followed by NHS Lothian, which paid £1528 to an agency the previous year.

In NHS Ayrshire and Arran, bosses estimated the highest single payment for a shift – defined as more than eight hours but less than 14 – was between £1300 and £1600.

And in NHS Tayside, an agency was paid £1251 for a single shift last year.

Most health boards refused to release the data, which had been requested through Freedom of Information by the Scottish Conservatives.

The Scottish Government has been repeatedly criticised for its increasing use of bank and agency nurses, as well as high levels of vacancies, with hundreds of roles lying empty for months at a time.

Last year, NHS boards spent £158 million paying for bank and agency nurses to cover shifts.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Donald Cameron said:

“It is staggering that hard-pressed health boards could find themselves paying this much to an agency for a nursing shift.

“Not only is it an astonishing waste of taxpayers’ money, but it’s a slap in the face to staff nurses who can only dream of such remuneration.

“Bank and agency nurses play an important role when it comes to helping plug gaps in the NHS.

“But demands of more than £1500 for a single shift are an abuse, and one health boards should not bow to.

“The SNP’s woeful lack of workforce planning and failure to train enough nurses has created a situation where hospitals are too dependent on bank and agency staff.

"The result of that is health boards paying through the nose, when an adequately resourced rota could have done the job at a fraction of the price.

"Following these revelations, ministers should examine these instances of extremely high payments to agencies, and act to ensure they don't occur again."

Ends

Notes to editors:

Below is a summary of the health boards who responded to the following question by the Scottish Conservatives through Freedom of Information. For a copy of the responses, contact the Scottish Conservative press office.

Could the health board provide the largest amount paid for an agency nurse for one shift between 2013/14 and 2015/16:

NHS Ayrshire and Arran – £1300-1600 per shift

NHS Borders – £93.45 an hour

NHS Lanarkshire – £1565 per shift

NHS Lothian – £1528 per shift

NHS Tayside – £1251 per shift

The Scottish Conservatives have previously raised concern about the spend on bank and agency nurses:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2016/06/8689/>

Weekly Road Report – West End Ward



DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL – WEEKLY ROAD REPORT

REPORT FOR WEST END WARD WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2017

Blackness Road/Glamis Road – temporary traffic lights for 2 weeks for gas main renewal.

Nethergate (West Marketgait to South Tay Street) – closed on Sunday 29 January for water main installation works.

Forthcoming Roadworks

Greenmarket – prohibition of right turn into South Marketgait on Thursday 2 February from 9.00pm 6.00am for BT cabling works.

Nethergate (eastbound from South Tay Street to West Marketgait) – closed on Thursday 2 February from 9.00pm 6.00am for BT cabling works.

This belated attempt to develop a proper industrial strategy looks like too little too late – Clive Lewis

Clive

Lewis MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in

advance of the publication of the Government's industrial strategy, said:

"This belated attempt to develop a proper industrial strategy is a step in the right direction, but once again what the Tories are offering looks like too little too late.

"We await further detail, but what's been announced so far will fall far short of getting us back to where we were in 2010, let alone equip our economy for the challenges of the 21st Century. The £170m announced for vocational education, for example, will do little to plug the £1.15bn hole in the Adult Skills Budget created by Tory cuts since 2010.

"It will be a great shame if the Government wastes this opportunity to put our economy on a new path. But they have already watered down a series of flagship commitments, from putting workers on boards to tackling executive pay, and there are too many people on the Tory benches who think that the only role of Government is to deregulate markets. The reality is that a Prime Minister who wants to turn us into a tax haven cannot be trusted to deliver an industrial strategy."

Recording of the week: Exotic food? Exotic through whose perspective?

This week's selection comes from Niamh Dillon, National Life Stories Project Interviewer.

Rosamund Grant was born in Guyana and moved to London as a young woman in the 1960s. Here she discusses challenging European stereotypes of Caribbean food and how she defines herself through her cooking.

[Rosamund Grant_Not just Caribbean Stew](#)



The recording is part of the [Food: from Source to Salespoint](#) collection which documents changes in the production, manufacture, retail and consumption of food in Britain in the twentieth and twenty first century.

Follow [@BL_OralHistory](#) and [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.

China's 2nd most wanted economic fugitive gets life sentence

One of China's most wanted economic fugitives has been sentenced to life imprisonment for corruption.



Chinese police escorting Li Huabo (C), second of the list of China's "100 most wanted economic fugitives" after he arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport. May 9, 2015. [Photo / Xinhua]

Shangrao Intermediate People's Court on Monday awarded life imprisonment to Li Huabo, 55, the second on the list of China's '100 most wanted' economic fugitives who had fled overseas.

The former local government official from Poyang County, east China's Jiangxi Province, was accused of embezzling 94 million yuan (about USD 14 million).

Li escaped to Singapore in 2011, where he funneled 29 million yuan (about USD 5.2 million) through Singaporean banks before fleeing the country.

He was sentenced to 15 months in jail by a Singaporean court for "dishonestly accepting stolen property" in July, 2014.

In May 2015, Li was repatriated to Beijing after serving 10 months of his sentence.

Li was the first of China's "100 most-wanted economic criminals" to be returned from overseas.

He was repatriated as part of the "Sky Net" campaign, which aims to return corrupt officials and economic fugitives who have fled the country.