

Letters

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DENTAL NURSES ARE PAID NO MORE THAN SHOP ASSISTANTS

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to a recent dental survey which I came across (Fig. 1). As a dental nurse in the North West I was disheartened to see the average wage of a registered dental nurse's salary is £15,000 per year.

Since registration began in 2009 it still seems that the dental nurse has not got the 'professional' recognition they deserve. With increasing workload and the prospect of getting sued it makes the dental nurse role seem undesirable. Why would someone want to work for this amount when they have less stress and no professional outings as someone who works in retail on the same pay?

I know that a few people will see this letter as negative but at the end of the day the professional status affects the way we behave

24 hours a day and let's face it we all have bills to pay. Don't get me wrong I love my job and in

qualification to be on nearly the same wage as someone who possesses no qualifications.

With a lot of dental nurses who are low paid it must be a real financial struggle, with the extra bills like CPD, indemnity and

'IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT THE DENTAL NURSE PASSES A RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION TO BE ON NEARLY THE SAME WAGE AS SOMEONE WHO POSSESSES NO QUALIFICATIONS.'

the role that I am in I now feel very, very lucky that I am paid a decent hourly rate, I just feel really disheartened for the dental nurses that are paid near the national minimum wage. It seems unfair that the dental nurse passes a recognised

registration - it all seems unfair. I would like to see a wage pay scale that reflects a dental nurse's skills and knowledge.

Claire Strirrup RDN



		Dental Nurse	Dental Receptionist	Treatment Co-ordinator	Practice Manager	Hygienist & Therapist	Associate Dentist
East Midlands	Quartile Range	£14k-£29k	£15k-£27k	£22k-£29k	£19k-£28k	£30k-£49k	£30k-£74k
	Average	£18.7k	£18k	£24k	£24.5k	£40k	£54k
East of England	Quartile Range	£15k-£29k	£14k-£25k	£19k-£28k	£25k-£26k	£30k-£49k	£50k-£80k
	Average	£19k	£17k	£23.5k	£25.5k	£39k	£60k
London	Quartile Range	£16k-£31k	£18k-£29k	£25k-£31k	£22k-£40k	£53k-£60k	£50k-£90k
	Average	£21k	£20k	£28k	£30k	£51.5k	£80k
North East	Quartile Range	£13k-£24k	£13k-£23k	£16k-£25k	£21k-£26k	£29k-£50k	£30k - £72k
	Average	£15k	£15k	£22k	£21.5k	£42k	£43k
N. Ireland	Quartile Range	£14k-£22k	£14k-£24k	£17k-£26k	£18k-£29k	£35k-£53k	£34k-£76k
	Average	£14.5k	£19k	£23k	£24k	£45k	£45k
North West	Quartile Range	£14k-£22k	£13k-£23k	£16k-£24k	£15k-£25k	£30k-£42k	£30k - £72k
	Average	£15k	£17k	£18.5k	£24k	£40k	£42k
Scotland	Quartile Range	£13-£23k	£13-£24k	£15k-£26k	£23k-£30k	£23k-£46k	£32k - £75k
	Average	£18k	£19.5k	£25k	£25k	£35k	£43k
South East	Quartile Range	£13k-£27k	£13k-£28k	£19k-£28k	£23k-£31k	£32k-£55k	£34k-£72k
	Average	£18k	£18k	£24k	£28k	£42k	£45k
South West	Quartile Range	£13k-£23k	£13k-£26k	£18k-£28k	£17k-£30k	£35k-£50k	£34k-£80k
	Average	£18k	£17.5k	£24k	£26k	£40k	£45k
Wales	Quartile Range	£12k-£20k	£13k-£24k	£15k-£24k	£17k-£30k	£30k-£42k	£30k - £69k
	Average	£16k	£17.5k	£20k	£22k	£39k	£44k
West Midlands	Quartile Range	£13k-£24k	£13k-£26k	£16.5k-£27k	£18k-£28k	£28k-£51k	£35k-£80k
	Average	£16.5k	£17k	£23k	£24.5k	£38k	£45k
Yorkshire and the Humber	Quartile Range	£15k-£23k	£13k-£25.5k	£14k-£28k	£19k-£32k	£25k - £40k	£32k-£78k
	Average	£17k	£18.2k	£21k	£24.5k	£35k	£45k

Fig. 1 DRN Salary Survey 2016. From the Dental Recruit Network: <http://www.dentalrecruitnetwork.co.uk/blog/12042016112316-uk-dental-salary-survey-2016>