

From: Nina Romain Nina.Romain@rcn.org.uk
Subject: NEWS FROM THE RCN - Nursing staff vote to strike in the majority of NHS employers across the UK
Date: 9 November 2022 at 3:39 pm
To: roylilley@roylilley.co.uk
Cc: Media Team HQ MediaTeamHQ@rcn.org.uk

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Dear Mr Lilley

Many thanks for your call and please find our press release distributed today, in response to your questions, below:

Nursing staff vote to strike in the majority of NHS employers across the UK

- **UK government must use next week's Autumn budget to 'signal a new direction'**
- **Union leader calls on public to demonstrate support for nursing staff**

Nursing staff at the majority of NHS employers across the UK have voted to take strike action over pay levels and patient safety concerns, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) can confirm.

Action will take place in the NHS trusts or health boards that have met the relevant legal requirements.

Many of the biggest hospitals in England will see strike action by RCN members but others narrowly missed the legal turnout thresholds to qualify for action.

All NHS employers in Northern Ireland and Scotland will be included and all but one in Wales met the relevant legal thresholds.

Guys and St Thomas in London, opposite the House of Commons, appears in the list as well as other leading hospitals in capital cities of the UK – the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, University Hospital Wales in Cardiff and Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

This is the first statutory ballot on industrial action across the UK in the 106-year history of the Royal College of Nursing.

The results for each NHS employer are analysed individually in what is known as a 'disaggregated' ballot.

Industrial action is expected to begin before the end of this year and the RCN's mandate to organise strikes runs until early May 2023, six months after members finished voting.

Nursing staff were balloted following NHS Agenda for Change pay announcements earlier this year, which left experienced nurses 20 per cent worse off in real-terms compared to ten years earlier.

In the last year, 25,000 nursing staff around the UK left the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register. Poor pay contributes to staff shortages across the UK, affecting patient safety. There are 47,000 unfilled registered nurse posts in England's NHS alone.

The Fair Pay for Nursing campaign is calling for a pay rise of 5% above inflation (measured by RPI).

RCN General Secretary and Chief Executive Pat Cullen said:

"Anger has become action – our members are saying enough is enough. The voice of nursing in the UK is strong and I will make sure it is heard. Our members will no longer tolerate a financial knife-edge at home and a raw deal at work.

"Ministers must look in the mirror and ask how long they will put nursing staff through this. While we plan our strike action, next week's Budget is the UK government's opportunity to signal a new direction with serious investment. Across the country, politicians have the power to stop this now and at any point.

"This action will be as much for patients as it is for nurses. Standards are falling too low and we have strong public backing for our campaign to raise them. This winter, we are asking the public to show nursing staff you are with us."

Ends

Notes to Editors

Royal College of Nursing members working on Agenda for Change contracts have, in accordance with thresholds, mandated strike action in the following employers.

England

Region

East Midlands

Employer Name

East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust

East Midlands	NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB (Joined Up Care Derbyshire)
East Midlands	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
East Midlands	Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands	Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
East Midlands	Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust
Eastern	Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust
Eastern	Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust
Eastern	West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Eastern	NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB
Eastern	NHS Mid and South Essex ICB
Eastern	NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB
Eastern	NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB
London	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
London	Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust
London	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust
London	Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust
London	St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
London	Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
London	Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
London	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust
London	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
London	NHS North Central London ICB
London	NHS South West London ICB
London	NHS Resolution
North West	Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Found Trust
North West	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
North West	The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Found Trust
North West	The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
North West	North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust
North West	Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Midlands and Lancashire CSU
North West	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Found Trust
North West	Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Central Cheshire Integrated Care Partnership
North West	St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
North West	Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
North West	The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust
North West	Health Education England
North West	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
North West	NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB
North West	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Northern	North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Northern	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Northern	North of England CSU (NECS)
South East	Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust
South East	East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
South East	University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust
South East	South East Coast Ambulance Service
South East	Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
South East	NHS Kent and Medway ICB
South East	NHS Surrey Heartlands ICB
South East	Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
South East	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust
South East	South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Solent NHS Trust
South East	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
South East	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Devon Partnership NHS Trust
South West	South Western Ambulance Service NHS Found Trust
South West	Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
South West	North Bristol NHS Trust
South West	Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust
South West	University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
South West	University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
South West	NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT)
South West	Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
South West	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
South West	University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
South West	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
South West	Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
South West	NHS Bath, North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB (BSW Together)
South West	NHS Devon ICB (One Devon)
South West	NHS Dorset ICB (Our Dorset)
South West	NHS Gloucestershire ICB (One Gloucestershire)
West Midlands	Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands	Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
West Midlands	The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
West Midlands	Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust
West Midlands	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands	Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
West Midlands	Dudley Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust

West Midlands
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West Midlands

Black Country Integrated Health and Care NHS Trust
NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB (BSol ICB)
NHS Black Country ICB

Yorkshire & The Humber
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Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
NHS England
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust
NHS West Yorkshire ICB

Wales

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Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
Powys Teaching Local Health Board
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust Headquarters
Hywel Dda University Health Board
Swansea Bay University Health Board
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board
Velindre NHS Trust
Public Health Wales
Health Education and Improvement Wales Health Authority
NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
Digital Health and Care Wales

Scotland

Scotland	NHS Borders
Scotland	NHS Education For Scotland
Scotland	NHS Fife
Scotland	NHS National Services Scotland
Scotland	NHS Shetland
Scotland	NHS Western Isles
Scotland	NHS Dumfries and Galloway
Scotland	NHS Orkney
Scotland	NHS Golden Jubilee
Scotland	NHS 24
Scotland	The State Hospitals Board for Scotland
Scotland	NHS Grampian
Scotland	NHS Tayside
Scotland	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Scotland	The Highland Council
Scotland	Healthcare Improvement Scotland
Scotland	Public Health Scotland
Scotland	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
Scotland	Scottish Ambulance Service
Scotland	NHS Lothian
Scotland	NHS Lanarkshire
Scotland	NHS Highland
Scotland	NHS Forth Valley

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council
Northern Ireland	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland	Western Health and Social Care Trust

Northern Ireland	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland	Business Services Organisation
Northern Ireland	Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service
Northern Ireland	Public Health Agency
Northern Ireland	Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

RCN members on Agenda for Change contracts, who are working in the NHS and HSC under NHS terms and conditions, were balloted from 6 October – 2 November.

Researchers at London Economics, commissioned by the RCN, looked at the pay awards that NHS Agenda for Change nursing staff have been given in the UK since 2010. They found that in real terms, based on a five-day week, the salary of an experienced nurse has fallen by 20% in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 16% in Scotland. The research from London Economics, commissioned by the RCN, is available [here](#).

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and is the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. The RCN promotes the interest of nurses and patients on a wide range of issues and helps shape health care policy by working closely with the UK government and other national and international institutions, trade unions, professional bodies, and voluntary organisations.

For more information, contact the RCN press office at 020 7647 3633 or email mediateamhq@rcn.org.uk

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