



UK Government misleading use of data

UK Pay data

We are concerned that the UK Government is using data in a misleading way to justify its continued policy of pay restraint. For example, the UK Government states that average earnings for registered nurses working in the NHS in England stands at around £32,200²⁵. However, we know that the majority of nurses do not earn anything like that.

The £32,200 figure cited by the UK government is an average figure for all nurses employed on Agenda for Change bands 5 to 9. This average includes the highest earners – for example a band 9 nurse earns up to £99,437. Yet the majority of nurses are employed in band 5, where average earnings are around £26,360 – which includes basic pay plus all other payments such as shift pay working unsocial hours, overtime and high cost area supplements²⁶.

In addition, the UK Government cite that nursing staff working in the NHS have better conditions than private

