



LETTERS

PAY IN THE NHS

Charts on NHS pay did not provide a fair comparison

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Appleby's article on NHS pay was interesting but I have serious doubts about the charts.¹

One extraordinary chart broke down NHS jobs and compared them with other professions. But it seems odd that the chart compares the average earnings for large heterogeneous groups of professionals with those of subgroups of seniority within the NHS. It's like comparing apples and oranges—how can you compare consultant doctors' salaries (the most senior grade in one profession) with the average salary for a whole profession?

In addition, the selection from the original Office for National Statistics data of the professions to be included for comparison

was interesting. Various highly paid groups, such as brokers, marketing and sales directors, information technology and telecommunications directors, were selected. I'm not sure that this dramatic looking chart provides a valid comparison.

Competing interests: None declared.

1 Appleby J. Pay in the NHS: who earns what? *BMJ* 2015;351:h6250. (26 November.)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2016;352:i1115

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