

## DATA CHART



### TOP 10 HIGHEST EARNING OCCUPATIONS (2017)

- 1 Chief executives and senior officials **£89 825**
- 2 Air traffic controllers **£87 889**
- 3 Aircraft pilots and flight engineers **£84 761**
- 4 Transport associate professionals—eg, engineers **£77 401**
- 5 Marketing and sales directors **£76 876**
- 6 Doctors **£75 577**
- 7 Lawyers not classified as judges, barristers, or solicitors **£73 864**
- 8 Information technology and telecommunications directors **£69 577**
- 9 Financial managers and directors **£66 039**
- 10 Senior police officers **£61 699**

Source: Office for National Statistics Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

# How do doctors' earnings compare with those of other occupations?

In 2017, the median income across all doctors working full time in the UK was £75 577.

This makes doctors one of the highest earning groups across the 493 occupations categorised by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The highest earning group is chief executives and senior officials, whose median pay is £89 825, and the second highest earning is air traffic controllers, whose median pay is £87 889.

The median income of doctors in 2017 was higher than the median income across all professional groups taken as a whole, which was £38 053. It is also higher than the median income for other health professions, which was £48 302 when nurses and midwives are not included in the calculations, and £34 734 when they are included.

To compare earnings across different occupations, the ONS data categorises roles into nine high level descriptions, 115 mid-level descriptions, and 369 specific occupation descriptions. The occupations

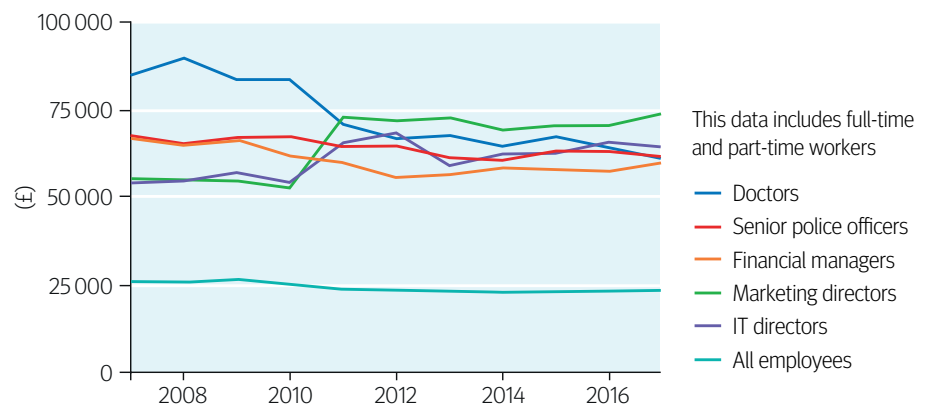
with median incomes higher than doctors' fall under both specific occupation descriptions and mid-level descriptions. They include chief executives and senior officials, air traffic controllers, aircraft pilots, flight engineers, and marketing and sales directors.

When looking solely at specific occupation descriptions, doctors are ranked

fifth of the 369 descriptions at this level. The four occupations in which people earn a median wage higher than that of doctors are: chief executives and senior officials; air traffic controllers; aircraft pilots and flight engineers; and marketing and sales directors.

Tom Moberly, UK editor, *The BMJ*  
tmoberly@bmj.com

### Changes in median inflation adjusted pay 2007-17





Simon Gilbody, 50, is professor of psychological medicine at the University of York and the Hull York Medical School, where his research focuses on improving care for people with mental ill health. A particular interest is smoking cessation in people with schizophrenia, driven by the observation that mental health services frequently admit non-smokers but discharge smokers. He led a trial that showed smoking cessation therapy to be effective, providing evidence to challenge a long established culture of smoking in NHS mental health services.

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# Simon Gilbody Activity activist

### What was your earliest ambition?

To play centre forward for Manchester City or guitar for The Damned.

### What was your best career move?

Doing an intercalated degree sparked my interest in scientific inquiry and the psychological dimension of medicine. It taught me how to use a library and to read around a subject (I also met my wife in the library).

### How is your work-life balance?

I have quirky interests outside research and have the support of a fantastic family.

### How do you keep fit and healthy?

I'm deeply bothered by the tyranny of the motor vehicle and declining levels of physical activity. Like the great Margaret McCartney, I'm a parkrunner. I don't drive to work, so this forces me to run, walk, and cycle daily.

### What do you usually wear to work?

... I also apologise to anyone who has seen me in Lycra.

### What single change would you like to see made to the NHS?

Influential people now speak of "parity of esteem" between psychological and physical health: I'd like to see this move from rhetoric to reality.

### What do you wish that you had known when you were younger?

I was the first Gilbody to go to university. I now recognise that I was afflicted by "impostor syndrome" when I was younger and that it gets better with time.

### Which living doctor do you most admire, and why?

From the medical profession, it's probably Muir Gray. I've read and been influenced by everything he's written, and he's left a substantial legacy. From psychiatry, it would be Linda Gask: a great clinical researcher who recognises the importance of primary care in improving population mental health.

### What is the worst job you have done?

Even the bad ones have been good, in hindsight. I've been a dishwasher and a labourer—all good. Some doctors will remember 1:2 and 1:3 rotas—all bad.

### What unheralded change has made the most difference in your field?

Open access publishing and the National Institute for Health Research.

### What new technology or development are you most looking forward to?

Decent cycling infrastructure and children being able to walk or cycle to school.

### Where are or when were you happiest?

With my family, eating Italian food (preferably in Italy).

### What television programmes do you like?

*Operation Ouch!* Genius. A big hit in the Gilbody household. Maybe the brothers van Tulleken could cover psychological illness.

### What personal ambition do you still have?

I think that I still have a sub-three hour marathon in me.

### What is your pet hate?

Entitlement.

### What poem, song, or passage of prose would you like at your funeral?

"Ode to Joy" (EU anthem) or "White Man in Hammersmith Palais" (The Clash).

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