

Activate

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News, views and support for RCN activists

Stimulating debates, dancing and dogs were among the highlights at RCN Congress in Belfast this year

RCN President Cecilia Akrisie Anim kicked off the event in spectacular style with a rousing speech in which she declared “nursing is rocking all over the world”.

Janet announces
launch of safe
staffing campaign

There's only a few days left for members to have their say on whether to accept or reject the NHS pay deal for England

Voting closes on 1 June with the RCN Trade Union Committee set to deliberate results in the days following.

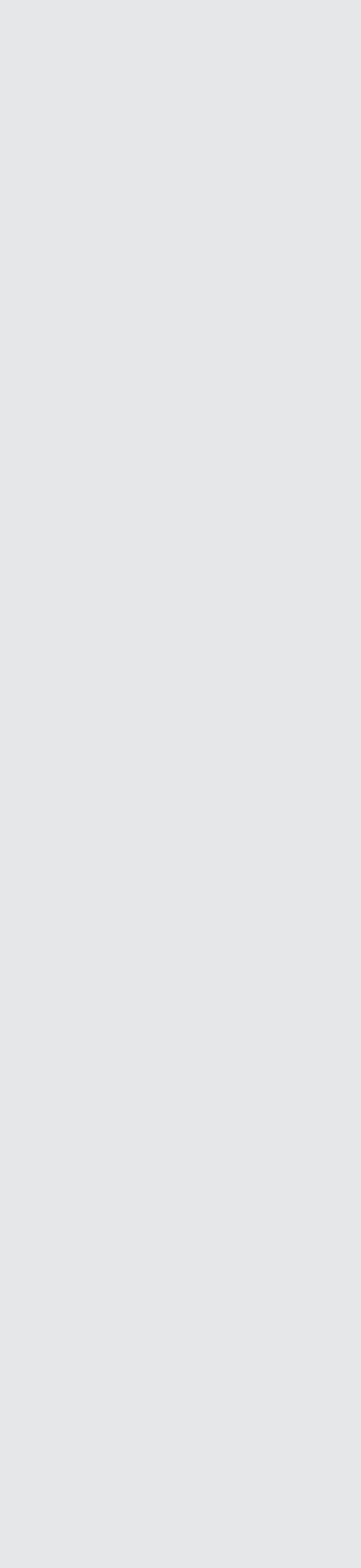
As was to be expected, nursing pay was a hot topic at Congress where the first emergency debate scrutinised the success of the RCN's summer of protest and the NHS pay deal for England which resulted from it. Impassioned members spoke both for and against the proposed offer.

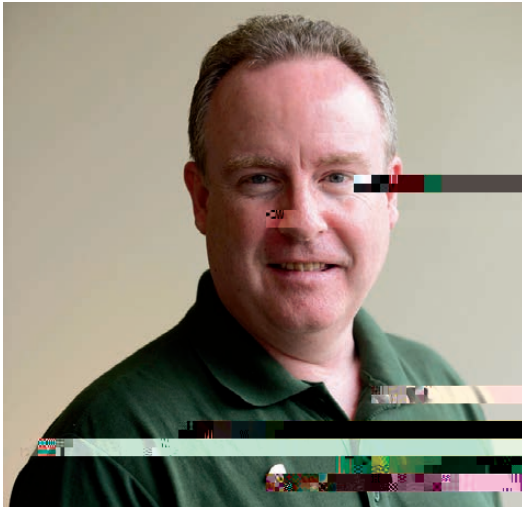
Sam Newman strongly felt that "while it isn't perfect, it is a significant step in the right direction that will help lift our lowest paid colleagues out of poverty."

Tackling the gender pay gap



VIEWS





Buzzing with joy

It was really special to me that RCN Congress took place in my home country of Northern Ireland for the first time this year. For me, the highlight was listening to Christie Watson. She articulated so many things that I myself had been thinking about during Congress.

As nursing staff, we're not good at selling ourselves but we save lives every single day. I agree with Christie that we need to shout loudly about excellent nursing care. I hope everyone who attended Congress will feel more empowered to do that.

There were some great fringe events too. The "Tea dance", hosted by the Older People's Nursing Network, had a real feel-good factor, as did the "Reps making a difference" event.

Of course, you don't have to become a rep to be an activist. Congress is a great place to start thinking about how you want to get involved. It's a golden opportunity to meet like-minded people and, importantly, it's a chance for every single member to have a say.

I was heartened that the emergency resolution to demand parity of pay for nurses in Northern Ireland was passed. It was wonderful to have support from RCN members from across the UK. I have so much to reflect on but right now, I'm absolutely buzzing with joy that the first Congress in Belfast was a success.

Francis Lavery, RCN UK Learning Reps
Committee Member for Northern Ireland

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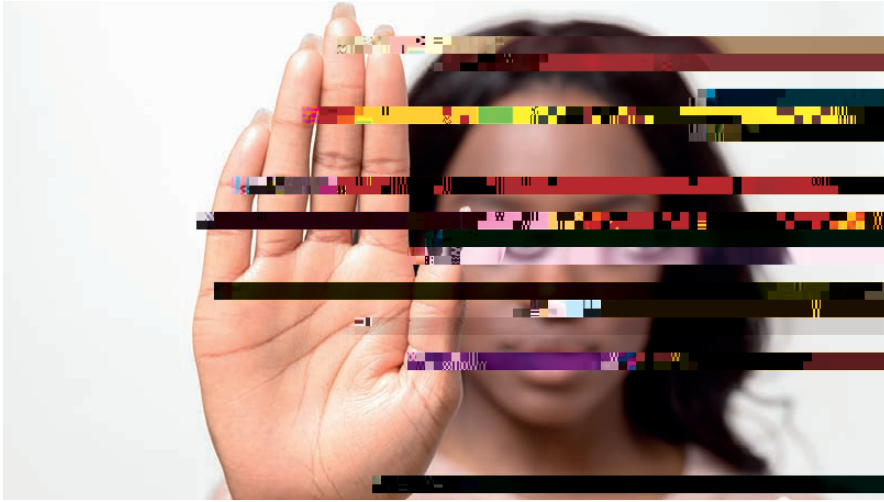
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FEATURE

Zero tolerance – where we stand on sexual harassment



The principles in our Respect Charter still stand but since we launched it at Congress 12 months ago, something has shifted within the public conversation about behaviour in the workplace

Since October last year, the debate on what's acceptable behaviour has taken centre-stage.

There has been unprecedented media coverage

Spice threatens safety

The unprecedented use of the drug spice in UK prisons is a huge health and safety risk for nursing staff

The CIPD has published a report on its first comprehensive survey of the UK workforce under its new Job Quality Index. Find the report and video highlights at <https://tinyurl.com/ukworkinglives>

When there's a problem at work, it should be tackled quickly but what's best - an informal approach or going through a formal channel for grievances? Acas explains the options available at <https://tinyurl.com/acasgrievancesatwork>

Public Health England has released a report on the planned phased return of Hepatitis B vaccine following manufacturing problems last year. Visit