**Letters**

We welcome all readers’ letters, but reserve the right to edit them or withhold names and addresses. Please email: letters@rcnpublishing.co.uk

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Please keep letters to a maximum of 150 words, and include your full name, address and a daytime telephone number.

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**Cutbacks and increased pressures have drained the fun from nursing**

I am surprised by the survey of 1,600 nurses revealing that only one in seven were happy with their jobs, and more than half said they had considered leaving the UK to work abroad (News February 12).

I would have thought that fewer than one in seven were happy with their jobs. What is there to be joyful about? All the fun of nursing seems to have evaporated.

Our pay and conditions have taken knock after knock and the good name of nursing has been tarnished with scandals such as Mid Staffs and Winterbourne.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council’s plan to raise the annual registration fee to £120 has been the final straw, especially given that the increase is said to be necessary to cover the rising cost of fitness to practise referrals.

The NHS is being starved of cash, more cuts are in the pipeline and the pressures on health service staff – and frontline nurses in particular – are relentless. Working in today’s NHS is like being in a pressure cooker.

Waiting lists are lengthening due to our ageing population and the growing number of people with long-term conditions. The lists are also growing because of NHS rationing of common procedures such as cataract removal and hip and knee replacements.

Something has to give and it’s my patience that is exhausted. It’s about time I looked at the options of nursing abroad. Australia, anyone?

Jayne Thomas, by email

**SCRAMBLE FOR FOUNDATION TRUST STATUS HITS PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE**

In its fourth attempt to gain foundation trust status, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust plans to downgrade its psychology service and community mental health teams.

The new model involves a system of integrated units where nurses, doctors, psychologists and support staff work together to provide an agreed care plan.

This is a positive model but in practice it means that experienced nursing and psychology staff will be replaced by practitioners with fewer skills and less experience.

The equivalent of 468 full-time jobs in the trust could go by May. The number of band six nurses in health teams will fall from 108 to 61, with the number of band five staff rising from 24 to 61.

In the psychology team, band six and seven staff with basic training will rise to almost 30, with more senior staff, including consultants, reduced from 25 to nine.

The trust has failed to consult the public on these frontline staff changes. Given the de-skilling and downgrading, and reduction in the range and quality of treatments offered, these proposals should have been put out to consultation.

A recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission highlighted the trust’s committed workforce as one of its strengths. It identified areas of good practice, notably the number of dedicated and competent staff.

Why is the trust squandering its key assets for the sake of foundation trust status?

Name and address supplied

**WE TRUST OUR GPs AND THE NHS MORE THAN PRIVATE COMPANIES**

Most of us would prefer that the details of our past and present mental and physical health are held securely by our GP surgeries (Letters January 22, February 5 and 12) and not available or for sale to private health providers, insurance companies and potential employers.

If private health and life insurance companies gain access to this information, won’t they start charging higher premiums if they know what once took us to see the doctor?