

UK Queen honours health service for its courage

7th July, 2021

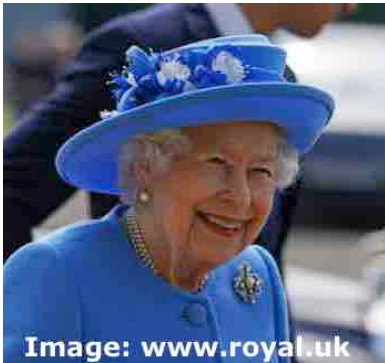


Image: www.royal.uk

The Queen in the United Kingdom has given the country's highest possible award for civilians to its National Health Service (NHS). The Queen gave the NHS a George Cross. This is a special medal for heroism and bravery.

The award was given because of the heroic efforts doctors, nurses and care staff made during the coronavirus pandemic. The Queen hand wrote a personal message to the NHS. She said she gave the award "with great pleasure, on behalf of a grateful nation". She added: "This award recognises all NHS staff....Over more than seven decades, and especially in recent times, you have supported the people of our country with courage, compassion and dedication."

Many workers in the NHS are happy that they have been recognised by the Queen for their services. However, many others said they would prefer a pay rise. The NHS has been on the front line in the fight against COVID-19 in the UK. There has been great public support for a pay rise for nurses, but the government only gave them a 1% increase. There were over 60 protests in the UK over the weekend for better pay and conditions. A doctor said: "We demand funding for a safe NHS, fair pay and respect for staff." A workers' union leader said: "The best way to show appreciation for health workers who have gone 'above and beyond' is to give them a decent pay rise, urgently."

Sources: theguardian.com / yahoo.com / morningstaronline.co.uk

Writing

Nurses should be paid more than politicians. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Queen / United Kingdom / award / health / heroism / bravery / pandemic / courage / happy / pay rise / front line / public support / weekend / pay / conditions / urgently

True / False

- 1) Health workers in the UK got the highest possible civilian award. T / F
- 2) The medal the health workers got was for bravery and heroism. T / F
- 3) The British Queen typed a message for the health workers. T / F
- 4) The Queen recognised health workers for over 70 years service. T / F
- 5) Many UK health workers would like a pay rise instead of a medal. T / F
- 6) Health workers have been on the front line fighting COVID-19. T / F
- 7) The British public thinks a 1% pay rise is enough for nurses. T / F
- 8) A union leader said the medal was the best way to thank nurses. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. award | a. like better |
| 2. civilians | b. happiness |
| 3. heroic | c. acknowledged |
| 4. pleasure | d. private citizens |
| 5. compassion | e. proper |
| 6. recognised | f. prize |
| 7. prefer | g. kindness |
| 8. funding | h. thanks |
| 9. appreciation | i. brave |
| 10. decent | j. money |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you prefer a medal or a pay rise?
- c) How much of a pay rise should nurses get?
- d) Should nurses or politicians be paid more?
- e) Would you be a good nurse?
- f) What three adjectives would you use to describe nurses?
- g) When was the last time you went 'above and beyond'?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Britain's Queen?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. the country's highest possible | a. and dedication |
| 2. This is a special medal for | b. efforts |
| 3. The award was given because of the heroic | c. a 1% increase |
| 4. The Queen hand wrote | d. line |
| 5. courage, compassion | e. a personal message |
| 6. happy that they have been recognised | f. award |
| 7. The NHS has been on the front | g. rise |
| 8. the government only gave them | h. for health workers |
| 9. The best way to show appreciation | i. heroism and bravery |
| 10. give them a decent pay | j. by the Queen |

Discussion – Student B

- What is the national health service like in your country?
- What do you think of giving a medal to a health service?
- How heroic and brave have nurses and doctors been in the pandemic?
- Who is braver, a nurse or a politician?
- Have you ever received an award or a medal?
- Have you ever been brave or courageous?
- What do you know about the British Queen?
- What advice do you have for nurses and doctors?

Spelling

- award for ianlvsci
- a special medal for heroism and yarervb
- with great pueaslr
- on behalf of a frgtuae nation
- especially in ctern times
- courage, compassion and andditicoe
- they would rerpef a pay rise
- There has been great public stupp
- There were over 60 pesrttos
- fair pay and reecspt
- show aoerpicipitan for health workers
- give them a decent pay rise, egnyrltu

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. c	7. a	8. j	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Nurses

You think nurses deserve the highest award. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their workers do not need an award. Also, tell the others who is the least deserving of an award of these (and why): bakers, English teachers or taxi drivers.

Role B – Bakers

You think bakers deserve the highest award. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their workers do not need an award. Also, tell the others who is the least deserving of an award of these (and why): nurses, English teachers or taxi drivers.

Role C – English Teachers

You think English teachers deserve the highest award. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their workers do not need an award. Also, tell the others who is the least deserving of an award of these (and why): bakers, nurses or taxi drivers.

Role D – Taxi Drivers

You think taxi drivers deserve the highest award. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their workers do not need an award. Also, tell the others who is the least deserving of an award of these (and why): bakers, English teachers or nurses.

Speaking – Highest Award

Rank these with your partner. Put the workers who deserve the highest award at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| • Nurses | • Postal workers |
| • Taxi drivers | • Store shelf fillers |
| • Bakers | • Car mechanics |
| • Politicians | • English teachers |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.