Postcode lottery

Scotland has seen a rise in the number of NHS dental patients, but they are still very much at the mercy of a postcode lottery.

The percentage of patients registered with an NHS dentist ranges from 44.5 per cent in Grampian to 78 per cent in Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Throughout Scotland, the number of registrations has increased.

By the end of March more than 5.5m people in Scotland had an NHS dentist, up from 2.9m a year ago.

Health boards are also making improvements with the number of children on the books of NHS dentists.

However, six health boards have still to meet a national target to register 80 per cent of children aged five.

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Forced resignation

A dentist who had a nine-year affair with his dental nurse, forced her to resign from the practice when his wife found out, an employment tribunal was told.

Tariq Drabu, 44, was said to have lavished gifts, including a diamond ring, on Paula Jackson and rented a flat.

The 45-year-old was then forced to resign from the practice in Middleton, Manchester, when his wife Suraya found out.

She said Dr Drabu had offered her £100,000 if she left the practice and dumped her husband.

Mrs Jackson claimed that Dr Drabu had told her she could have anything she wanted and eventually he would leave his wife.

Mrs Jackson, who had started at the practice as a trainer dental nurse, had during the nine-year affair, become practice manager at Langley Dental Group.

She claimed she was ‘bullied’ into quitting her job and sued for constructive dismissal, which Mr Drabu admitted.

The amount of compensation will be fixed later.

Dr Drabu has been suspended by the General Dental Council from working for four months.

It found his conduct was unprofessional, inappropriate and not in the best interests of patients.