Dentists still ‘poor relation’ to GPs

The average income for a dentist in England and Wales is just over £89,000, according to recent figures from the NHS Information Centre. This is still considerably below the £107,000 that the average GP earns. However, the figures revealed that for some dentists, earnings can be much higher with one in 20 dentists earning more than £200,000 between 2007 and 2008 and nearly 400 earning more than £700,000.

The NHS Information Centre statistics revealed that 592 dentists - nearly two per cent of the total - earned more than £300,000.

The richest dentist in Britain is thought to be James Hull, who opened his first surgery in 1987 in Newport, Wales and now has 48 dental practices in the UK, most of which specialise in cosmetic dentistry. The chain has become a leader in cosmetic dentistry, which includes teeth whitening, veneers and implants. It has also expanded into osteopathy, chiropody and Botox treatments.

Earlier this year, the dental chain was valued at £25mn, when it looked at selling a 50 per cent stake in the business to a private equity firm, in order to expand into continental Europe and the Middle East.

The Sunday Times Rich List claims Dr Hull is personally worth about £54m and said he has a 48mn collection of vintage Jaguars.