

**“Value me the same way you value people in Scotland, England and Wales doing the same job”.**

**Caoimhin  
Cleaning Domestic**



I'm a Band 1 Cleaning Domestic in Theatres, however, I also have a second role in kitchens which is overtime that I am forced to do because I can't survive on my 20 hour contract.

A 20 hour contract is not really a liveable wage when I have rent to pay and a daughter to look after so I'm forced to work overtime on top of my own contract continually. On a regular week I work 50 hours, that's not healthy for me and it also takes the time away that I should be spending with my daughter. I have to put the extra hours in because 20 hours a week just doesn't cut it, I still have bills, I need to pay my car to get to work and I have a family to feed.

Honestly, I don't want to be working 50 hours a week for the rest of my life. I'm 32 and there's days I think is life this bad, do I need to work this hard just to get by? Is it even working to live? It's not, it's working to get by because there is no living in it. There's days I work 12 hour long shifts I start work at 8am and I don't leave until 8pm. There's not much time left in the day for anything else by the time I get home. When I get home, I get half an hour to spend with my child. That's not sustainable; I'm missing out on important things in her life.

Knowing that my colleagues in Scotland, England and Wales get paid more than me for doing my job makes me feel nothing short of worthless. I constantly question my worth, how much does my workplace value me? I almost feel like a second class citizen. Why should I get paid less? We aren't asking to be worth more than anyone else, we just want to be on even terms and on the same par. Value me the same way you value people in Scotland, England and Wales doing the same job.

On a few occasions I have had to pick up a few extra odd jobs outside of the health service when times are tough and shifts are available but how much is it available when you are here 12 hours a day?

I'm voting yes for strike action because I just want to be treated equally, I'm fed up feeling like a second class citizen and that my workplace doesn't value me and the work I do. A change needs to happen, the workers need to fight back.