

GPs paid millions by drug firms

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Doctors received millions from the pharmaceutical industry last year, with the highest earner being given payments worth £129,000.

Knowing that earnings would be made public has not deterred doctors from working with drug companies, with some receiving the equivalent of a second salary outside of NHS work.

Last year 16,772 doctors and other health professionals were paid £116.5 million in consultancy fees, travel and other costs by drugs groups, a rise of 7 per cent on 2015 when the figures

were first published. Part of the rise came because more doctors declared the income, with 65 per cent of those getting payments allowing their names to be made public, up from 55 per cent.

Mike Thompson, chief executive of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, urged GPs to "do the right thing" and declare payments. They cannot be forced to publish their names, but NHS guidance says they should declare outside income.

Simon Travis, a gastroenterologist at Oxford University hospitals, was paid the most, receiving £128,756.14 in fees and expenses.

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