

# Largest nursing strike in NHS history starts

**Nurses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have started a nationwide strike in the largest action of its kind in NHS history.**

Staff will continue to provide “life-preserving” and some urgent care but routine surgery and other planned treatment is likely to be disrupted.

The Royal College of Nursing said staff had been given no choice after ministers refused to reopen pay talks.

The UK government said the RCN’s 19% pay rise demand was unaffordable.

RCN general secretary Pat Cullen has called on the government to “do the decent thing” and resolve the dispute before the year ends.

Ms Cullen told BBC Breakfast the strike marked “a tragic day in nursing”.

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**Source:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-63946730>

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