



Resolution

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November 2024

FOI_6840

The following various information was requested on 1 November 2024:

I would like to know for each of the following years 2024 (year to date), 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019 how many claims relating to sexual abuse have been passed to NHS resolution.

I would then like to know how many complaints were upheld were granted damages compensation and the total payout for each year.

I would like this all broken down by specialty if possible.

Our Response

Thank you for your request for information. Please note we only hold the details of claims (and some incidents) notified to us.

We report in complete financial years. We are able to provide the requested information for the financial years 2019/20 – 2023/24. The data for the financial year 2024/25 is currently unavailable. It will be available on request from August 2025. Due to low volumes, we have aggregated the data for the years requested rather than broken down by year, in order to provide meaningful data.

Please note: We have recently changed the way we report on our FOIs to align better with our published documents. Streamlining our reporting on FOIs with our annual published reports may mean a variation in snapshot dates. This means this data may not align with previous similar requests and it may not be possible for you to compare this information with a previous request. For further information, please refer to <https://resolution.nhs.uk/resources/understanding-nhs-resolution-data>.

Claims notified/received in any given year will often relate to incidents that have occurred many years prior. Due to the nature of clinical negligence claims and the level of investigation needed to bring them to a resolution, claims received and notified in a specific year may take years to settle and close. They are not guaranteed to be settled and closed in the same year. As such, there will be a time gap between incident and claim closure.

Due to the way in which data is extracted, it is also possible that the same claim may appear more than once in a dataset, across different year groups e.g. where the case has been closed (as nil damages payment), challenged, reopened, and closed again at conclusion.

Table 1 shows: - Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 where any Cause is '**Sexual Abuse**' broken down by specialty.

Table 2 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 with a damages payment, where any cause is '**Sexual Abuse**' broken down by specialty. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure.

Low figures refusal

We have not provided the information for low figures involved, as we believe that disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3A) (a) of the FOI Act, where disclosure to a member of the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles. The data protection principles are set out in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulation. We take the view that it would not be fair or lawful (given the sensitive and confidential nature of the information held) to disclose such information and any disclosure would therefore contravene the first data protection principle.

In some instances, the low numbers of claims (fewer than 5) in each category, the likelihood exists that individuals who are the subject of this information may be identified either from this information alone, or in combination with other available information. In addition to this, as this information is considered to be sensitive personal data (the data subjects' medical condition); NHS Resolution believes it has a greater responsibility to protect those individuals' identities, as disclosure could potentially cause damage and/or distress to those involved.

Further to our obligations to provide advice and assistance, you may find it helpful to review the work of the [Getting It Right First Time team](#) with whom NHS Resolution has been working with to undertake in-depth analysis of our claims data. They have produced a number of [reports](#) from analysing our claims data, which has been shared following approval of the confidentiality advisory group to the use of confidential patient information for this purpose.

If you would like to know how data is categorised in our Claims database please see the following link: [Glossary](#)

This concludes our response to your request.

If you are not satisfied with the service that you have received in response to your information request, it is open to you to make a complaint and request a formal review of our decisions. If you choose to do this, you should write to [Tinku Mitra](#), Deputy Director of Corporate and Information Governance, Data Protection Officer for NHS Resolution, within 28 days of your receipt of this reply. Reviews of decisions made in relation to information requests are carried out by a person who was not involved in the original decision-making about the request.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a review of the decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the local complaints procedure. The address of the Information Commissioner's Office is:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/>

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NB: Number of claims fewer than 5 (and any associated values, within the same row) are masked with a "#" (in accordance with Data Protection guidelines). Accordingly, some total values may also be approximated to prevent masked values to be deduced through reverse calculation.

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 where any Cause is 'Sexual Abuse' broken down by specialty.

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 with a damages payment, where any cause is 'Sexual Abuse' broken down by specialty. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure.

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 where any Cause is 'Sexual Abuse' broken down by specialty.

Notified	Y
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Specialty	No. of Claims
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	26
Haematology	14
Paediatrics	11
General Practice	9
Emergency Medicine	5
Other	#
Comm Mental Servs	#
Ambulance	#
General Medicine	#
Cardiology	#
Dermatology	#
Genito-Urinary Medicine	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#
Gynaecology	#
Paediatric Surgery	#
(blank)	#
Plastic Surgery	#
Community Medicine/ Public Health	#
Radiology	#
Ophthalmology	#
General Surgery	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	#
Oncology	#
Grand Total	87

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24 with a damages payment, where any cause is 'Sexual Abuse' broken down by specialty. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure.

ClosedSettled	Y
Claim_Outcome	Damages Paid

Specialty	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	23	793,500	142,216	714,235	1,649,951
Haematology	15	624,000	47,709	238,500	910,209
Paediatrics	7	457,750	61,242	176,600	695,592
Cardiology	6	49,288	28,449	62,000	139,737
General Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Emergency Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
General Practice	#	#	#	#	#
Oncology	#	#	#	#	#
Urology	#	#	#	#	#
Genito-Urinary Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Ambulance	#	#	#	#	#
Non-Clinical Staff	#	#	#	#	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#	#	#	#	#
Gynaecology	#	#	#	#	#
Paediatric Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
HM Prison Medical/dental	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	69	2,828,338	401,688	1,744,760	4,974,786