



Resolution

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June 2025

FOI_7206

The following information was requested on 7 May 2025:

Follow up to – [FOI 6522 Assault-claims.pdf](#)

I recently came across information about cases where NHS Trusts in London had paid compensation to members of staff following claims of assault.

(London's NHS Trusts paid more than £3million in compensation for staff claims of assault against them over the last five years, data revealed.

According to an investigation by [Legal Expert](#), NHS Trusts across London paid a total of £3,046,811 in damages after settling 159 NHS staff assault cases between 2013 and 2019.)

Similar information was contained in your response to FOI 4379.

I had been under the impression that NHS Trusts could only compensate patients - not members of staff - so I'd be grateful if you could tell me whether the payments were all made as a result of claims settled in court or whether the payments also included out-of-court settlements and other forms of internal payment.

Our Response

The request referred to in the news article you have quoted appears to stem from our response to [FOI 6522 Assault-claims.pdf](#).

NHS trusts do not solely compensate patients in respect of negligence claims.

Like all employers, NHS trusts have a duty to provide a safe workplace and safe systems of work for their staff. This is not just a common law duty but is also reinforced by statutory regulations.

Where an NHS trust fails in that duty and an employee suffers harm, the trust would have a legal liability to compensate that individual.

In terms of the data captured by [FOI 6522 Assault-claims.pdf](#) we can advise that of the claims that the payments relate to, some were heard at court, but the majority were settled out of court.

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 [Joanne Appleby](#), Deputy 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
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