



Resolution

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October 2025
FOI_7399

The following information was requested on 28 July 2025:

- 4 Does NHS Resolution assess claims for potential racial bias as part of its standard protocol?*
- 5. Is the ethnic or racial identity of claimants recorded or considered during claim handling?*
- 6. Are there any mechanisms in place to identify institutional or systemic racism in referred claims?*

Precedent and Data

- 7. How many clinical negligence claims involving Black African patients has NHS Resolution handled in the last five years?*
- 8. Of those, how many resulted in compensation or findings of fault?*
- 9. Are your outcomes monitored and reported by race or ethnicity, in line with NHS England's equity and inclusion objectives?*

Our Response

In response to:

- 4 Does NHS Resolution assess claims for potential racial bias as part of its standard protocol?*
- 5. Is the ethnic or racial identity of claimants recorded or considered during claim handling?*
- 6. Are there any mechanisms in place to identify institutional or systemic racism in referred claims?*

As we do not routinely collect race or ethnicity data from Claimants, we do not hold this information on our case management system.

In response to:

- 7. How many clinical negligence claims involving Black African patients has NHS Resolution handled in the last five years?*
- 8. Of those, how many resulted in compensation or findings of fault?*
- 9. Are your outcomes monitored and reported by race or ethnicity, in line with NHS England's equity and inclusion objectives?*

The ethnicity breakdown of Claimants is not routinely collected; we do not hold this information on our case management system.

In order for us to extract any relevant information that may be held it would require a manual review of individual claims files to ascertain what if any information is held. Please refer to our section 12 refusal notice below in respect of any information that may be held.

However, you may wish to direct your request to NHS England who will hold the ethnicity information surrounding incidents. Contact details for NHS England are available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistics-contact-us/>

Section 12 Refusal Notice

Although NHS Resolution may hold some information relating to claims such as what you have requested (England only claims), due to the way claims are recorded on our claims database, we will not be able to identify such specific cases. It might be helpful to explain that when claims are notified to NHS Resolution they are categorised against pre-defined cause, injury and speciality [codes](#). We do not have codes for race or ethnicity. Therefore, while there may be information held in our records, we are not readily able to identify the relevant files by searching the database. To do so would involve a manual review of all cases to identify which ones relate to claims involving: Race or Ethnicity. NHS Resolution receives thousands of claims each year.

Therefore, we estimate that the cost of complying with the request in its entirety would exceed the 'appropriate limit.' Section 12(1) of the FOIA is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit (known as the 'appropriate limit'). The 'appropriate limit' for NHS Resolution is £450. This equates to 18 hours of work at the rate of £25 per hour set out in the 'Fees Regulations'.

We estimate that it would take on average 10 minutes to locate, retrieve and extract the requested information from an individual file. It may therefore be the case that we would be able to examine only 108 files within 18 hours.

In addition, given the complexity of clinical negligence claims and their litigation, it is possible for a single electronic or paper-based file to contain hundreds of documents in a variety of formats.

Please also note even if we were able to carry out a review of 108 random files, we may not be able to provide you with the level of detail you require owing to Data Protection grounds.

We would need to suppress low numbers or any information that could possibly lead to the identification of claimants, patients or individuals where disclosure would breach the General Data Protection Regulation.

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
SK9 5AF

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