



Resolution

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November 2025
FOI_7499

The following information was requested on 17 October 2025:

I am writing to request data regarding the gender breakdown of clinical negligence claims in England and Wales.

Specifically, I am interested in understanding:

- *The percentage of claims brought by women over the past 5 years.*
- *Any available breakdown by medical specialty (e.g., obstetrics, gynaecology, general surgery).*

This information will support ongoing work to better understand gendered experiences in healthcare and inform strategies for improving outcomes for women.

Our Response

We only hold claims data for England. Each jurisdiction has its own arrangements:

Wales

[Welsh Risk Pool Services](#)

Alder House
Alder Court
St Asaph
Denbighshire
LL17 0JL

Please find attached the requested information. This information only covers England and not the rest of the UK.

NB: 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 [Guidance-note-Understanding-NHS-Resolution-data-updated](#)

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.

We have provided data on clinical cases only, and for all clinical schemes.

Please find attached the following tables:

Table 1 shows: Percentage Distribution of Clinical Claims and Incidents Received Between Financial Years 2020/21 and 2024/25 by **Patient Sex**, Broken Down by **Specialty**.

Please note that the notification of an incident or claim does not mean that compensation will be paid.

Low figures

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 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 [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/>

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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: Percentage Distribution of Clinical Claims and Incidents Received Between Financial Years 2020/21 and 2024/25 by Patient Sex, Broken Down by Specialty.](#)

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Clinical Claims and Incidents Received Between Financial Years 2020/21 and 2024/25 by Patient Sex, Broken Down by Specialty.

Notified	Y	
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical	
Specialty	Patient Sex	
	Female	Male
General Practice	47%	53%
Emergency Medicine	46%	54%
Obstetrics	79%	21%
Orthopaedic Surgery	51%	49%
Gynaecology	100%	0%
General Surgery	55%	45%
General Medicine	49%	51%
Radiology	56%	44%
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	44%	56%
Gastroenterology	51%	49%
Urology	29%	71%
Ophthalmology	49%	51%
Cardiology	37%	63%
Oncology	61%	39%
Paediatrics	47%	53%
Ambulance	45%	55%
Neurosurgery	47%	53%
Geriatric Medicine	55%	45%
Neurology	49%	51%
Vascular Surgery	34%	66%
Surgical Speciality - Other	55%	45%
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	45%	55%
District Nursing	58%	42%
Otorhinolaryngology/ ENT	46%	54%
Anaesthesia	64%	36%
Oral & Maxillo Facial Surgery	50%	50%
Other	56%	44%
HM Prison Medical/dental	4%	96%
Intensive Care Medicine	40%	60%
Neonatology	43%	57%
(blank)	51%	49%
Renal Medicine	42%	58%
Cardio Surgery	38%	62%
Dermatology	51%	49%
Plastic Surgery	51%	49%
Haematology	51%	49%
Comm Mental Servs	38%	62%
Dentistry	53%	47%
Histopathology	80%	20%
Endocrinology	49%	51%
Podiatry	42%	58%
Community Medicine/ Public Health	53%	47%
Physiotherapy	56%	44%
Paediatric Surgery	40%	60%
Rheumatology	69%	31%
Rehabilitation	55%	45%
Unknown	58%	42%
Not Specified	50%	50%
Pharmacy	57%	43%
Genito-Urinary Medicine	69%	31%

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Clinical Claims and Incidents Received Between Financial Years 2020/21 and 2024/25 by Patient Sex, Broken Down by Specialty.

Notified	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical

Specialty	Patient Sex	
	Female	Male
Infectious Diseases	46%	54%
Non-Clinical Staff	48%	52%
Microbiology/ Virology	57%	43%
Chemical Pathology/ Biochemistry	78%	22%
Audiological Medicine	31%	69%
Radiotherapy	68%	32%
NHS Direct Services	44%	56%
Genetics	73%	27%
Palliative Medicine	57%	43%
Psychology	57%	43%
Blood Transfusion	58%	42%
Occupational Therapy	58%	42%
Miscellaneous	41%	59%
Forensic Pathology	#	#
Chiropody	#	#
Speech Therapy	#	#
Nuclear Medicine	#	#
Occupational Physician	#	#
Grand Total	54%	46%