



Resolution

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February 2026
FOI_7707

The following information was requested on 04 February 2026 and clarified on 05 February 2026:

[On 4 February 2026, you requested the following:]

I am just looking at emergency medicine-related claims.

From your most recent report [https://resolution.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/NHS-Resolution-ARA-24-25_ACCESSIBLE.pdf] it looks like they have been increasing in recent years and now represent the biggest single area of claims.

A total of 1,598 claims last year - up from 1,151 in 2020-21. This represented 13.9% of all claims.

I can also see the value of those claims represent 7.1%.

I presume I have got that right?

And could you also provide answers to the following:

? Firstly, do you have any figures going back earlier into the 2010s? I presume we can say this is a record high for emergency medicine?

? Also could I get a statement about what is behind this rise? Is it related to the pressures on emergency medicine?

? Is there any further breakdown about what the claims relate to? Sepsis? Missed strokes / heart attacks for example?

? And these all look to be claims that are in the system - are there figures for claims settled?

[On 4 February 2026, we sought for clarification as noted below:]

Thanks for your email.

The stats you mention below are correct – as per p40 and p60 of our Annual Report and Accounts here: [NHS Resolution Annual report and accounts 2024/25](#)

You may be interested in some of the FOIs on our [FOI disclosure log](#) on emergency medicine. However, I have cc'd in our FOI team in case you would like to request updated stats going back further and a breakdown across that of causes. The team would also be able to provide figures on claims settled (with and without damages).

I can look to come back to you with a statement. What is your deadline for this, please?

[On 4 February 2026, you replied as follows:]

Thanks. A statement by the end of the week would be great.

I cant see anything recently on FOI log about claims paid out relating to emergency medicine.

I presume you compile it and make it available - surely that's not an FOI matter?

[On 4 February 2026, we provided the following response:]

Thanks for letting me know your deadline. We will get back to you by the end of the week.

We have annual statistics available here: [Annual statistics - NHS Resolution](#) However, it does not break down the claims by injury/cause. If you do not find what you're looking for the FOI team may be able to provide further detail.

[On 5 February 2026, we wrote to seek further clarification:]

Thank you for your request. We are happy to assist you in finding the information you are after.

You can find our previous responses related to A&E on disclosure log: [Fol Requests Archive - Emergency](#).

If these responses do not provide what you are looking for, please, can you let us know what sort of information you would like to receive?

Please refer to our publication: [Guidance-note-Understanding-NHS-Resolution-data-updated](#) and a set of codes against which claims are logged: [CNST-Codes.xlsx](#) (see the three tabs in the spreadsheet).

We could provide you with the number of claims received and also the number closed with nil damages paid, number closed with damages payment and associated costs, breakdown by primary cause, breakdown by primary injury. I note you are interested in data from 2010/11?

Please, let us know what your deadline is and we will do our best to accommodate.

[On 5 February 2026, you provided the following response:]

Thanks for the information you have sent across.

I just wanted to get the data for claims made by category as set out on page 40 (fig 9) of the 2024-25 annual report. This is where number of claims made for the year are broken down by emergency medicine, obstetrics and orthopaedics.

Could I get that exact same data going back 10 years so to 2014-15 year please.

Thanks very much.

Our Response

Please find attached the requested information. Please note we only hold information for England and not for 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.

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.

Please note, not all incidents and claims will result in a compensation payment being made.

The data provided covers our Clinical schemes. For information about our Clinical Negligence Scheme, please visit our website here: [Clinical schemes - NHS Resolution](#)

Please find attached the following tables:

Table 1 shows: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents (excluding GPI) received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Emergency Medicine', 'Obstetrics', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'.

Please refer to [Understanding NHS Resolution data guidance](#) for further details on how our Claims database is categorised.

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.

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: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents (excluding GPI) received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Emergency Medicine', 'Obstetrics', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'.

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Notified	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical
Scheme	(Multiple Items)

Specialty	No. of Claims
--Year of Notification	
Emergency Medicine	14,985
2014/15	1,428
2015/16	1,330
2016/17	1,307
2017/18	1,395
2018/19	1,409
2019/20	1,400
2020/21	1,151
2021/22	1,229
2022/23	1,292
2023/24	1,446
2024/25	1,598
Orthopaedic Surgery	14,498
2014/15	1,627
2015/16	1,505
2016/17	1,379
2017/18	1,281
2018/19	1,262
2019/20	1,361
2020/21	1,248
2021/22	1,203
2022/23	1,127
2023/24	1,181
2024/25	1,324
Obstetrics	13,074
2014/15	1,193
2015/16	1,114
2016/17	1,116
2017/18	1,091
2018/19	1,076
2019/20	1,013
2020/21	1,157
2021/22	1,243
2022/23	1,392
2023/24	1,393
2024/25	1,286
Grand Total	42,557