



Resolution

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March 2026
FOI_7700

The following information was requested on 03 February 2026 and clarified on 05 February 2026:

[On the 03 February 2026, you requested]

I am applying under the Freedom of Information Act for the following information in relation to Yeovil district hospital.

For 2015 to 2025 please provide the total amount, broken down by year, paid out by the trust in any litigation costs and/or damages and/or compensation claims paid out in relation to pregnancy, delivery and childbirth involving the hospital and any and all of its maternity services.

We appreciate that in April 2023 the trusts in Yeovil and Taunton merged.

For those two years we hope it is still possible to find the figure relating just to the Yeovil service.

[On the 05 February 2026, we sought for clarification with]

Thank you for your request to NHS Resolution. Before we can respond, I would like to clarify what information we hold and are able to provide.

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).

As 'Yeovil District Hospital' and 'Taunton and Somerset' have merged with Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, we are only able to provide data for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust.

We could provide you with the number of claims received for the specialty obstetrics and also the number closed with nil damages paid, number closed with damages payment and associated costs, breakdown by primary cause, by primary injury and by financial years for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust between the financial years 2014/15 to 2024/25. We hold data in financial years.

You can also review our previous responses related to obstetrics [Fol Requests Archive - NHS Resolution](#) as some of this are broken down by trust.

Please, could you confirm if you will like the data as outlined above. Your request will be put on hold until we receive the clarification requested above.

[On the 05 February 2026, you replied with]

Many thanks for this.

If you could provide me with the information you suggest, that would be very kind: ... the number of claims received for the specialty obstetrics and also the number closed with nil damages paid, number closed with damages payment and associated costs, breakdown by primary cause, by primary injury and by financial years for Somerset NHS Foundation Trust between the financial years 2014/15 to 2024/25. We hold data in financial years.

Many thanks

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. Not all claims received will result in an award of compensation.

The data shows variation in numbers of claims received, closed per year and costs attributed to those claims. This is a reflection of the nature of individual claims received and resolved by NHS Resolution, which can vary significantly. As such, these fluctuations cannot be interpreted as trends.

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 CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by Year.

Table 2 shows: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Injury**.

Table 3 shows: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Cause**.

Table 4 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by Year. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 5 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Injury**. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 6 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Cause**. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 7 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**'.

Table 8 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Injury**.

Table 9 shows: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is '**Obstetrics**' and the Trust is '**Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**', broken down by **Primary Cause**.

PPOs

The information disclosed includes damages paid up to the end of the settlement year (in Periodical payment order (PPO) cases) and up to the end of the closure year in non-PPO cases.

PPOs are an agreement between the parties, to pay an initial lump sum and regular future payments (PPO damages) related to the injured party's ongoing needs, usually care for life i.e., a percentage of the full value of the claim is paid at the point of settlement (lump sum damages) with the balance paid at regular intervals over subsequent years. The information disclosed includes lump sum damages and any PPO damages paid up to the end of the year of settlement. It does not include PPO damages, which have been committed to but due to be paid after the settlement year.

Low Numbers

Please note we have suppressed low figures (and high figures that would make it possible to work out low numbers) 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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.

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 CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year.](#)

[Table 2: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury.](#)

[Table 3: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause.](#)

[Table 4: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed \(or settled with a periodical payment order\) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.](#)

[Table 5: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed \(or settled with a periodical payment order\) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.](#)

[Table 6: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed \(or settled with a periodical payment order\) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.](#)

[Table 7: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year.](#)

[Table 8: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury.](#)

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Table 9: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause.

Table 1: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year.

Notified	Y
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Year of Notification	No. of Claims
2014/15	5
2015/16	8
2016/17	10
2017/18	7
2018/19	9
2019/20	10
2020/21	8
2021/22	10
2022/23	13
2023/24	13
2024/25	12
Grand Total	105

Table 2: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury.

Notified	Y
Primary Injury	No. of Claims
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	15
Brain Damage	13
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	12
Unnecessary Pain	11
Stillborn	11
Cerebral Palsy	6
Fatality	5
Loss Of Baby	#
Not Specified	#
Fracture	#
Hypoxia	#
Tissue Damage	#
Erb's Palsy	#
Infertility	#
Labial Fusion	#
Infection (group B strep)	#
Foetal Abnormality	#
Thrombosis/Embolism	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#
Cardiovascular Condition	#
Removal Of Fallopian Tube	#
Other Infection	#
Scarring	#
Fistula	#
Rupture	#
Bruising/ Extravasation	#
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	#
Other Visual Problems	#
Grand Total	105

Table 3: Number of CNST Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause.

Notified	Y
Primary Cause	No. of Claims
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	13
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	9
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	9
Fail / Delay Treatment	8
Fail Antenatal Screening	5
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	5
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#
Not Specified	#
Delay In Performing Operation	#
Inappropriate Treatment	#
Forceps Delivery	#
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	#
Intra-Op Problems	#
Labial Tear	#
Fail To Interpret USS	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#
Application Of Excess Force	#
Fail To Monitor 1st Stg Labour	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#
Probs With Medical Records	#
Failure To X-Ray	#
Lack Of Assistance/Care	#
Diathermy Burns/react. To Prep	#
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	#
Foreign Body Left In Situ	#
Bacterial Infection	#
Inadequate Monitoring Intra-Op	#
Medication Errors	#
Inapp Use Of Forceps/Ventouse	#
Operator Error	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#
Perineal Tear-1st,2nd,3rd Deg	#
Infusion Problems	#
(blank)	#
Fail To Diag Pre-Eclampsia	#
Fail Mon Dose/rate Syntocinon	#
Grand Total	105

Table 4: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

ClaimOutcome		Damages Paid				
Closed	Settled	Y				
Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)		No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
2014/15		#	#	#	#	#
2015/16		#	#	#	#	#
2016/17		6	252,305	110,983	456,442	819,731
2017/18		6	5,961,438	188,893	600,843	6,751,174
2018/19		5	12,135,600	293,558	850,597	13,279,755
2019/20		10	2,060,748	139,420	1,041,169	3,241,336
2020/21		#	#	#	#	#
2021/22		9	242,285	26,015	298,800	567,101
2022/23		7	6,506,900	384,091	1,040,354	7,931,345
2023/24		7	16,210,500	500,831	1,521,560	18,232,891
2024/25		6	656,369	56,750	398,472	1,111,590
Grand Total		65	55,879,708	2,160,891	7,066,786	65,107,384

Table 5: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Injury	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	12	1,184,000	82,369	522,034	1,788,403
Stillborn	10	598,035	52,694	628,050	1,278,780
Unnecessary Pain	7	492,041	68,923	374,370	935,334
Brain Damage	7	9,953,630	576,527	1,306,713	11,836,870
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	6	201,500	12,902	134,551	348,953
Cerebral Palsy	#	#	#	#	#
Loss Of Baby	#	#	#	#	#
Cardiovascular Condition	#	#	#	#	#
Fatality	#	#	#	#	#
Wrongful Birth	#	#	#	#	#
Tissue Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Erb's Palsy	#	#	#	#	#
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	#	#	#	#	#
Fistula	#	#	#	#	#
Scarring	#	#	#	#	#
Labial Fusion	#	#	#	#	#
Foetal Abnormality	#	#	#	#	#
Other Visual Problems	#	#	#	#	#
Thrombosis/Embolism	#	#	#	#	#
Rupture	#	#	#	#	#
Amputation - Lower	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	65	55,879,708	2,160,891	7,066,786	65,107,384

Table 6: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Cause	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Fail / Delay Treatment	8	4,837,280	210,145	913,970	5,961,396
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	6	735,927	89,126	427,176	1,252,230
Fail Antenatal Screening	6	15,365,500	442,407	1,300,707	17,108,614
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	#	#	#	#	#
Intra-Op Problems	#	#	#	#	#
Delay In Performing Operation	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Act On Abnrm Test Res	#	#	#	#	#
Failure To Perform Tests	#	#	#	#	#
Perineal Tear-1st,2nd,3rd Deg	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	#	#	#	#	#
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	#	#	#	#	#
Lack Of Facilities/Equipment	#	#	#	#	#
Diathermy Burns/react. To Prep	#	#	#	#	#
Application Of Excess Force	#	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#	#	#	#	#
Inapp Use Of Forceps/Ventouse	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Interpret USS	#	#	#	#	#
Labial Tear	#	#	#	#	#
Failure To X-Ray	#	#	#	#	#
Medication Errors	#	#	#	#	#
Birth Defects	#	#	#	#	#
Operator Error	#	#	#	#	#
Forceps Delivery	#	#	#	#	#
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#	#	#	#	#
Inadequate Monitoring Intra-Op	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	65	55,879,708	2,160,891	7,066,786	65,107,384

Table 7: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Year.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages
ClosedSettled	Y

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
2015/16	#	#	#	#
2016/17	#	#	#	#
2017/18	#	#	#	#
2018/19	5	63,955	0	63,955
2019/20	#	#	#	#
2020/21	#	#	#	#
2021/22	#	#	#	#
2022/23	8	154,269	0	154,269
2023/24	#	#	#	#
2024/25	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	40	709,407	15,436	724,843

Table 8: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages			
ClosedSettled	Y			

Primary Injury	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Brain Damage	9	160,654	0	160,654
Unnecessary Pain	7	69,776	0	69,776
Cerebral Palsy	5	348,643	15,436	364,079
Not Specified	#	#	#	#
Stillborn	#	#	#	#
Hypoxia	#	#	#	#
Fracture	#	#	#	#
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	#	#	#	#
Fatality	#	#	#	#
Other Infection	#	#	#	#
Foetal Abnormality	#	#	#	#
Loss Of Baby	#	#	#	#
Nerve Damage	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	40	709,407	15,436	724,843

Table 9: Number and Cost of CNST Claims Closed between financial years '2014/15' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics' and the Trust is 'Somerset NHS Foundation Trust', broken down by Primary Cause.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages			
ClosedSettled	Y			

Primary Cause	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	9	214,167	0	214,167
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	5	5,770	0	5,770
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	#	#	#	#
Fail / Delay Treatment	#	#	#	#
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	#	#	#	#
Medication Errors	#	#	#	#
Intra-Op Problems	#	#	#	#
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	#	#	#	#
Fail To Monitor 1st Stg Labour	#	#	#	#
Fail To Interpret USS	#	#	#	#
Inappropriate Treatment	#	#	#	#
Forceps Delivery	#	#	#	#
Fail Mon Dose/rate Syntocinon	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#
Failure To Perform Operation	#	#	#	#
Fail Antenatal Screening	#	#	#	#
Application Of Excess Force	#	#	#	#
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	40	709,407	15,436	724,843