



Resolution

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March 2026

FOI_7714

The following information was requested on 9 February 2026:

In a previous Fol response [Ref: FoI_2999] you provided details on the number of claims and the payments made to people issuing claims under the category 'medication errors'. Could you please provide me with similar information, specifically:

1. I would like to know the number of successful claims paid out by NHS Resolution in the last financial year (2024/25) as well as the total amount of compensation paid to these claimants in each financial year?

2. Could you also supply me with tables showing the aggregate totals for medication error claims for the last five financial years which give (a) the number of successful claims, (b) damages paid, (c) defence costs paid, (d) claimants cost paid and (e) total paid broken down by the speciality.

3. Could you also supply me with tables showing the aggregate totals for medication error claims for the last five financial years which give (a) the number of successful claims, (b) damages paid, (c) defence costs paid, (d) claimants cost paid and (e) total paid broken down by the main type of harm. Please provide this in a similar format to a previous Fol response [Ref: FoI_3607].

Please note that for all these questions I require the data to be provided based on the year the claim was paid out rather than when the incident took place, the claim was lodged or liability was accepted.

Our Response

Please find attached the requested information. This information only covers England and not the rest of the UK. It is based along the same lines as our response to:

[FOI 7046 Medication-Error.pdf](#) which was your last similar request.

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](#)

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.

Many of the claims notified will have been repudiated and settled without damages paid.

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.

The data, when compared with other previous responses, may show a variation in numbers of cases 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, any fluctuations cannot be interpreted as trends.

Please find attached the following tables:

Table 1 shows: - Number and Damages Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) in financial year 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is '**Medication Errors**'. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 2 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is '**Medication Errors**'. 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. Breakdown by [Specialty](#).

Table 3 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/20 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is '**Medication Errors**'. 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. Breakdown by [Primary Injury](#).

The data show an increase in the volume of general practice claims compared with previous FOI responses. Please note that since April 2019 NHS Resolution has administered general practice indemnity under the following schemes:

- **Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP)**, which covers clinical negligence claims for incidents occurring in general practice on or after 1 April 2019.
- **Existing Liabilities Scheme for General Practice (ELSGP)** which covers historic NHS clinical negligence of staff of GP members of participating medical defence organisations occurring before 1 April 2019. This scheme currently covers historical liabilities for those who were members of the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland or the Medical Protection Society at the time of the, and general practice staff working for members at the time of that incident.

CNSGP is a maturing scheme and has seen an increase in reported claims since inception and consequently an increasing number of claims settled and closed. NHS Resolution expect numbers to stabilise over time as the scheme reaches maturity.

PPOs

The information disclosed includes damages and costs 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, costs 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

We have suppressed low figures 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 (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. Where we are in the territory of such small numbers in the attached, we have used a '#' symbol in the relevant field. You should still be able to see aggregate/total details for higher level fields containing this data.

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.

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

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 and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) in financial year 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. 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. Breakdown by Specialty.

Table 3: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. 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. Breakdown by Primary Injury.

Table 1: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) in financial year 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. The data includes the damages paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure, or for PPO matters, year of settlement.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical

Year of Closure/Settlement Year for PPOs	No. of Claims	Damages Paid
2024/25	303	26,167,559
Grand Total	303	26,167,559

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. 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. Breakdown by Specialty.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid			
	Closed	Settled	Y	

Specialty	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid
General Practice	377	11,262,511	1,918,868	9,247,962
General Medicine	107	8,334,891	976,105	3,794,460
Emergency Medicine	86	3,093,714	464,765	2,277,952
Anaesthesia	49	5,806,543	585,109	2,818,988
General Surgery	47	3,414,013	378,742	1,542,678
Orthopaedic Surgery	46	2,975,559	348,921	1,369,194
Cardiology	45	3,468,592	434,064	1,704,391
Obstetrics	38	8,060,683	563,964	2,613,049
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	32	5,962,994	333,196	1,444,235
Pharmacy	31	594,993	99,249	585,015
Geriatric Medicine	26	476,375	123,319	614,300
Oncology	22	967,391	105,706	730,250
HM Prison Medical/dental	20	101,728	40,083	145,946
Gastroenterology	17	1,162,002	165,141	777,555
Paediatrics	17	232,480	85,464	494,816
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	17	961,592	89,104	739,573
Urology	16	1,007,656	108,614	641,055
Renal Medicine	14	512,202	142,609	645,011
Neurology	14	8,998,820	481,174	1,519,750
Intensive Care Medicine	13	1,067,465	139,667	620,255
Gynaecology	13	272,200	77,083	365,750
Endocrinology	11	571,865	126,008	604,037
Haematology	11	937,199	94,146	447,400
Ophthalmology	10	3,143,696	248,619	757,500
Community Medicine/ Public Health	9	55,661	12,928	70,000
Neurosurgery	9	1,696,056	249,072	948,894
Cardio Surgery	7	782,725	103,700	461,474
Surgical Speciality - Other	6	802,500	152,255	450,370
Comm Mental Servs	6	234,852	47,405	187,976
Vascular Surgery	6	995,982	41,780	242,149
District Nursing	5	26,267	#	38,028
Other	#	#	#	#
Rheumatology	#	#	#	#
Rehabilitation	#	#	#	#
Otorhinolaryngology/ ENT	#	#	#	#
Plastic Surgery	#	#	#	#
Paediatric Surgery	#	#	#	#
Palliative Medicine	#	#	#	#
Dermatology	#	#	#	#
Radiology	#	#	#	#
Neonatology	#	#	#	#
Unknown	#	#	#	#
Microbiology/ Virology	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#
Ambulance	#	#	#	#
Nuclear Medicine	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	1,157	79,156,863	9,013,814	39,792,277

Table 3: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. 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. Breakdown by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid				
ClosedSettled	Y				
Primary Injury	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Unnecessary Pain	282	3,042,119	736,169	4,440,588	8,218,876
Fatality	124	7,068,139	1,133,122	4,680,969	12,882,230
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	112	2,043,192	430,378	2,563,247	5,036,817
Anaphylact Shock/Allergic Shock/allergy	58	2,861,969	247,887	1,331,578	4,441,433
Other	50	982,041	186,906	943,769	2,112,716
Stroke	49	12,998,775	1,082,564	3,766,782	17,848,121
Thrombosis/Embolism	48	1,116,658	224,156	1,347,986	2,688,800
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	40	1,402,869	169,499	1,258,090	2,830,458
Cardiac Arrest	32	1,434,582	222,277	1,089,957	2,746,816
Renal Damage/ Failure	32	1,132,410	223,473	1,103,438	2,459,321
Respiratory Disorder/ Failure	30	742,873	183,493	905,074	1,831,439
Other Visual Problems	23	3,183,741	329,441	1,114,743	4,627,926
Cardiovascular Condition	19	4,109,946	296,298	1,216,002	5,622,246
Bruising/ Extravasation	15	89,901	29,708	202,745	322,354
Tardive Dyskinesia	14	350,690	40,295	163,260	554,245
Tissue Damage	13	127,283	53,331	255,750	436,364
Addiction/Dependency	13	102,875	50,882	231,325	385,082
Not Specified	12	1,785,773	152,097	1,031,160	2,969,029
Nerve Damage	12	647,967	117,531	375,330	1,140,828
Multiple Injuries	12	428,061	93,924	410,250	932,235
Brain Damage	11	7,436,461	653,483	1,839,326	9,929,270
Liver Damage	10	254,820	40,426	200,970	496,216
Osteoporosis	9	481,790	99,626	395,556	976,972
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	9	476,818	85,215	432,500	994,533
Blindness	7	1,288,048	181,346	411,000	1,880,394
Fracture	7	493,660	47,952	381,250	922,862
Scarring	7	107,872	35,178	163,650	306,700
Amputation - Lower	6	8,328,772	332,450	1,340,729	10,001,951
Anaesthetic	6	234,188	25,855	177,302	437,345
Infection (bacterial)	5	75,394	23,758	128,775	227,928
Hypoglycaemia	5	40,650	12,550	108,000	161,200
Rupture	#	#	#	#	#
Lung Disease	#	#	#	#	#
Unknown	#	#	#	#	#
Paraplegia	#	#	#	#	#
Epilepsy	#	#	#	#	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#	#	#	#	#
Joint Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Infectious Diseases	#	#	#	#	#
Burn(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Sepsis	#	#	#	#	#
Cancer	#	#	#	#	#
Multiple Disabilities	#	#	#	#	#
Partial Hearing Loss	#	#	#	#	#
Cosmetic Disfigurement	#	#	#	#	#
Unwanted Pregnancy	#	#	#	#	#
Infertility	#	#	#	#	#
Deafness	#	#	#	#	#
Arterial Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Bladder Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Cerebral Palsy	#	#	#	#	#
Other Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Peritonitis	#	#	#	#	#
Partial Paralysis	#	#	#	#	#
Oedema	#	#	#	#	#
Loss Of Kidney	#	#	#	#	#
Foetal Abnormality	#	#	#	#	#
Hernia	#	#	#	#	#
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	#	#	#	#	#
Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndr.	#	#	#	#	#
Dislocation	#	#	#	#	#

Table 3: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2020/21 and 2024/25 with a damages payment, where the Primary Cause is 'Medication Errors'. 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. Breakdown by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Injury	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Dental Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Tendon Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Meningitis	#	#	#	#	#
Foot Drop	#	#	#	#	#
Liver Transplant	#	#	#	#	#
Spinal Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Incontinence	#	#	#	#	#
Amputation - Upper	#	#	#	#	#
Pressure Sores	#	#	#	#	#
Thyroid Condition	#	#	#	#	#
Aneurysm	#	#	#	#	#
Advanced Stage Cancer	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	1,157	79,156,863	9,013,814	39,792,277	127,962,954