



Resolution

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March 2026
FOI_7719

The following information was requested on 10 February 2026:

This is a follow up to [FOI 7652](#)

[On 07 January 2026 you requested]

Thanks very much for your help.

Would it be possible to also obtain statistics for both dermatology and plastic surgery for the following:

Total cost of damages paid out each year from 2015/2016 - 2024/2025

Total NHS legal costs paid out each year from 2015/2016 - 2024/2025

Total claimants costs paid out each year from 2015/2016 - 2024/2025

Many Thanks for your help

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 [Understanding NHS Resolution data - NHS Resolution](#).

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.

The data shows 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, these fluctuations cannot be interpreted as trends.

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

Table 1 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Dermatology'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by **Year**.

Table 2 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Plastic Surgery'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by **Year**.

Table 3 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is 'Dermatology'. Broken down by **Year**.

Table 4 shows: - Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is 'Plastic Surgery'. Broken down by **Year**.

Low figures

We have not provided the information for low figures involved (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 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.

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 several [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 between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Dermatology'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by Year.

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Plastic Surgery'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by Year.

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Table 1: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Dermatology'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by Year.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical
Specialty1L1ARA	Dermatology
ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
2015/16	34	1,412,906	216,992	1,152,031	2,781,929
2016/17	43	1,984,236	251,315	1,770,297	4,005,848
2017/18	48	1,577,112	352,322	1,649,583	3,579,017
2018/19	35	1,204,349	218,394	1,297,653	2,720,397
2019/20	54	2,226,358	359,115	1,584,859	4,170,331
2020/21	41	1,464,640	408,313	1,499,969	3,372,922
2021/22	41	2,589,517	354,207	1,532,122	4,475,846
2022/23	38	1,700,835	268,880	1,551,736	3,521,451
2023/24	45	1,659,481	404,870	1,679,200	3,743,551
2024/25	38	4,554,865	352,985	1,771,263	6,679,113
Grand Total	417	20,374,298	3,187,394	15,488,713	39,050,405

Table 2: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Plastic Surgery'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the end of each relevant financial year of closure. Broken down by Year.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical
Specialty1L1ARA	Plastic Surgery
ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
2015/16	56	2,609,953	535,728	2,763,775	5,909,457
2016/17	57	3,180,537	508,039	2,920,279	6,608,855
2017/18	57	1,911,066	385,303	2,416,661	4,713,030
2018/19	64	2,866,165	423,299	2,663,865	5,953,329
2019/20	66	2,838,898	677,008	2,700,354	6,216,260
2020/21	54	2,494,602	502,313	1,993,868	4,990,783
2021/22	65	4,554,574	722,793	2,691,546	7,968,913
2022/23	47	2,526,249	414,763	1,706,242	4,647,253
2023/24	43	1,465,956	317,154	1,821,359	3,604,469
2024/25	46	4,222,264	717,038	2,717,456	7,656,759
Grand Total	555	28,670,264	5,203,438	24,395,405	58,269,107

Table 3: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Dermatology'. Broken down by Year.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical
Specialty1L1ARA	Dermatology
ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	31	97,436	0
2016/17	29	43,396	0
2017/18	36	105,698	0
2018/19	32	125,562	0
2019/20	24	102,978	0
2020/21	21	51,609	0
2021/22	26	58,648	0
2022/23	31	248,616	0
2023/24	41	102,572	0
2024/25	29	73,815	0
Grand Total	300	1,010,328	0

Table 4: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Plastic Surgery'. Broken down by Year.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClinicalNonClinical	Clinical
Specialty1L1ARA	Plastic Surgery
ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	47	100,310	0
2016/17	43	64,201	18,000
2017/18	54	125,262	#
2018/19	34	115,225	0
2019/20	33	84,862	0
2020/21	37	154,107	0
2021/22	37	230,016	13,675
2022/23	28	149,470	0
2023/24	33	98,530	0
2024/25	24	63,834	0