



Resolution

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April 2026
FOI_7787

The following information was requested and clarified on 17 March 2026:

[On the 17 March, you requested]

Please provide the number of claims and total value for the most recent ten-year period available or if a full ten years is not available for the longest most recent period available for planned Caesarean Section; emergency Caesarean section; vaginal birth; or, by the following categories:

Accident; Anaesthetic; Antenatal care; antenatal investigations; bladder; caesarean section; cerebral palsy; CTG interpretation; drug error; management of labour; maternal death; nursing care; operative vaginal delivery; other; perineal trauma; postpartum haemorrhage; psychological; retained swabs; shoulder dystocia; stillbirth; uterine rupture.

[We replied 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).

We do not have some of the categories that you have listed. Please, could you refer to the guidance and codes above and confirm which ones you re interested in. Perhaps breakdown by injuries and codes would be sufficient?

[You replied with]

Thank you for your helpful reply.

I confirm that I am seeking information relating to obstetric claims only.

Having reviewed the guidance note and CNST coding framework, I would be grateful if you could provide the following for the most recent ten-year period available (or the longest available recent period if ten years is not possible):

For all claims within the obstetric specialty:

- *Number of claims and total value of claims*
- *Broken down by:*
 - *Injury code*
 - *Cause code*
 - *Year*

If available within your data structure, I would also be interested in any additional fields indicating:

- Timing of the incident (e.g. antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal)*
- Any recorded procedure or context fields associated with the claim*

I understand that the specific clinical categories listed in my original request (e.g. postpartum haemorrhage, CTG interpretation, mode of delivery) may not be held as discrete coded fields, and I am content to work with the injury and cause code breakdown as provided. I am especially interested as to whether information can be extracted from your database as to whether claims are associated with planned caesarean birth and whether if that was the case it would be expected to be recorded as such.

Our Response

Please find attached the information we are able to provide. 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](#)

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.

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 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 Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Year of Notification**.

Table 2 shows: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Primary Cause**.

Table 3 shows: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Primary Injury**.

Table 4 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by **Year of Closure** (Settlement Year for PPOs).

Table 5 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by **Primary Cause**.

Table 6 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by **Primary Injury**.

Table 7 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Year of Closure**.

Table 8 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Primary Cause**.

Table 9 shows: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by **Primary Injury**.

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 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. 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.

Please note that, we are unable to provide a breakdown of information on claims by *timing of the incident (i.e. antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal), procedure, and context fields*. The information requested is not recorded in the way it has been requested.

Although NHS Resolution may hold some information relating to claims such as what you have requested (England only claims), due to the way claims are recorded on our claims database, we will not be able to identify such specific cases. It might be helpful to explain that when claims are notified to NHS Resolution they are categorised against pre-defined cause, injury and speciality [codes](#). Unfortunately, we do not have a code for *timing of the incident (i.e. antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal), procedure, and context fields*. Therefore, while there may be information held in our records, we are not readily able to identify the relevant files by searching the database. To do so would involve a manual review of all cases to identify which ones relate to claims as you have further requested. This exercise would be very time consuming.

Therefore, we estimate that the cost of complying with this request in its entirety would exceed the 'appropriate limit'. Section 12(1) of the FOIA is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit (known as the 'appropriate limit'). The 'appropriate limit' for NHS Resolution is £450. This equates to 18 hours of work at the rate of £25 per hour set out in the 'Fees Regulations'.

We estimate that it would take on average 20 minutes to locate, retrieve and extract the requested information from an individual file. It may therefore be the case that we would be able to examine only 54 files within 18 hours.

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 received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Year of Notification.](#)

[Table 2: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Cause.](#)

[Table 3: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.](#)

[Table 4: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed \(or settled with a periodical payment order\) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Year of Closure \(Settlement Year for PPOs\).](#)

[Table 5: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed \(or settled with a periodical payment order\) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Primary Cause.](#)

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[Table 9: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.](#)

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Year of Notification.

Notified	Y
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Year of Notification	No. of Claims
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	11,881

Table 2: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Cause.

Notified	Y
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Primary Cause	No. of Claims
Fail / Delay Treatment	2,572
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	1,013
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	738
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	602
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	575
Fail Antenatal Screening	534
Inappropriate Treatment	472
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	461
Fail To Monitor 1st Stg Labour	415
Not Specified	306
Inadequate Nursing Care	286
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	264
Delay In Performing Operation	230
Perineal Tear-1st,2nd,3rd Deg	221
Intra-Op Problems	221
Failure To Perform Tests	215
Operator Error	204
Foreign Body Left In Situ	192
Birth Defects	181
Forceps Delivery	179
Application Of Excess Force	123
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	122
Medication Errors	104
Other	101
Fail To Diag Pre-Eclampsia	98
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	97
Inapp Use Of Forceps/Ventouse	94
Lack Of Assistance/Care	92
Failure To Perform Operation	82
Fail To Correctly Apply Forcep	81
Inappropriate Discharge	79
Fail To Interpret USS	78
Unexpected Death	61
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	59
Infusion Problems	52
Fail To Supervise	51
Wrong Diagnosis	49
Bacterial Infection	40
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	40
Fail Mon Dose/rate Syntocinon	39
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	39
Labial Tear	39
Equipment Malfunction	30
Retained Instrument Post-Operation	26
Inadequate Monitoring Intra-Op	25
Fail To Infrm Test Rslts	24
Diathermy Burns/react. To Prep	22
Fail/Delay Resus By Paediatric	22
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	18
Failed Sterilisation	15

Table 2: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Cause.

Notified	Y
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Primary Cause	No. of Claims
Repeat Attempt Forcep/Ventouse	14
Removal & Retention Of Organs	13
Improp. Delegation To Junior	12
Cross Infection	12
Inapprop. Case Selection	11
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	11
Failure To X-Ray	11
Incorrect Injection Site	11
Fail/Delay Avail Op Thtre	9
Lack Of Facilities/Equipment	8
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	8
Assault, Etc By Hospital Staff	7
Unknown	7
InhospMaternalDeathPostPartumHaemorrCS	7
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	7
Fail/Delay Of Avail Emgy Anaes	6
Intubation Problems	6
(blank)	5
Inadqte Monitor In Recov Room	5
Probs With Medical Records	#
Premature Ceasure Of Treatment	#
Re-Canalisation	#
Wrong Site Surgery	#
Fail/Delay Obtain Cord PH	#
Wrong Application Of Electrode	#
Problem Blood Fluids	#
Self Harm	#
MisplacedNaso/OrogastricTubeNotDet	#
Grand Total	11,881

Table 3: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.

Notified	Y
Primary Injury	No. of Claims
Stillborn	1,267
Unnecessary Pain	1,243
Brain Damage	1,219
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	909
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	907
Fatality	879
Cerebral Palsy	717
Loss Of Baby	421
Not Specified	326
Bladder Damage	274
Erb's Palsy	268
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	252
Hypoxia	219
Scarring	206
Incontinence	183
Other	166
Pressure Sores	140
Other Infection	128
Fracture	128
Infection (bacterial)	115
Wrongful Birth	113
Nerve Damage	107
Tissue Damage	97
Sepsis	96
Bruising/ Extravasation	94
Rupture	94
Thrombosis/Embolism	89
Infertility	78
Developmental Delay	76
Removal Of Fallopian Tube	72
Fistula	65
Cardiac Arrest	62
Burn(s)	58
Multiple Injuries	51
Renal Damage/ Failure	51
Perforation	39
Cosmetic Disfigurement	38
Respiratory Disorder/ Failure	35
Foetal Abnormality	32
Stroke	27
Scalp Damage	26
Unwanted Pregnancy	25
Downs Syndrome	24
Cardiovascular Condition	23
Hypoglycaemia	23
Poor Outcome - Fractures Etc.	23
Hospital Acquired Infection	21
Anaphylact Shock/Allergic Shock/allergy	19
Spinal Damage	18
Infectious Diseases	16

Table 3: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.

Notified	Y
Primary Injury	No. of Claims
Hernia	15
Unknown	15
Multiple Disabilities	15
Limb Deformity	14
Epilepsy	14
Joint Damage	13
Labial Fusion	13
Meningitis	12
Cancer	12
Other Visual Problems	11
Deafness	11
Anal Fissure	11
Dislocation	10
Infection (group B strep)	10
Chromosomal Abnormality	10
Learning Difficulties	9
Advanced Stage Cancer	9
Oedema	8
Loss Of Sexual Function	8
Blindness	8
Lung Disease	7
Removal Of Cervix	7
Anaesthetic	6
Jaundice	5
Spinabifida	5
Failed Sterilization	5
Partial Paralysis	5
Cystic Growth	#
Amputation - Upper	#
Peritonitis	#
Amputation - Lower	#
Foot Drop	#
Liver Damage	#
Hemiparesis	#
Dental Damage	#
Liver Transplant	#
Aneurysm	#
Compartment Syndrome	#
Arterial Damage	#
Benign Tumour	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#
Malnutrition	#
Partial Hearing Loss	#
Loss Of Kidney	#
(blank)	#
H.I.V.	#
Viral Infection	#
Thyroid Condition	#
Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndr.	#
Paraplegia	#

Table 3: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.

Notified	Y
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Primary Injury	No. of Claims
Premature Onset Of Menopause	#
Grand Total	11,881

Table 4: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs).

ClaimOutcome		Damages Paid			
ClosedSettled		Y			
Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
2015/16	608	247,977,909	17,060,743	56,051,794	321,090,447
2016/17	727	285,864,749	19,817,399	65,766,819	371,448,967
2017/18	744	452,588,754	21,952,896	73,500,989	548,042,639
2018/19	721	605,688,009	25,560,735	78,394,471	709,643,216
2019/20	770	495,458,879	22,536,708	72,295,468	590,291,055
2020/21	673	501,965,729	22,080,962	68,796,850	592,843,541
2021/22	763	503,741,949	21,897,291	78,114,994	603,754,235
2022/23	687	596,598,917	25,039,074	84,939,593	706,577,584
2023/24	708	654,888,855	27,457,407	88,497,171	770,843,433
2024/25	815	625,786,619	29,828,668	104,044,364	759,659,651
Grand Total	7,216	4,970,560,369	233,231,885	770,402,514	5,974,194,768

Table 5: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Primary Cause.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled	Damages Paid Y				
Primary Cause	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Fail / Delay Treatment	1,336	585,223,171	30,267,758	109,985,201	725,476,129
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	619	161,767,079	12,033,574	49,427,225	223,227,878
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	491	357,878,832	16,719,099	56,972,786	431,570,718
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	477	792,701,352	32,410,165	89,294,242	914,405,759
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	418	936,192,034	36,290,879	96,863,687	1,069,346,600
Fail Antenatal Screening	325	314,309,468	11,038,352	43,420,653	368,768,473
Inappropriate Treatment	301	66,287,381	5,506,160	21,376,831	93,170,372
Fail To Monitor 1st Stg Labour	269	365,451,480	16,016,279	45,597,694	427,065,453
Inadequate Nursing Care	203	36,297,165	2,415,390	9,496,394	48,208,949
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	197	128,028,279	5,320,476	19,650,137	152,998,892
Intra-Op Problems	182	34,218,978	2,819,561	12,807,148	49,845,686
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	176	115,678,853	4,768,781	16,171,982	136,619,616
Operator Error	171	24,036,090	1,915,480	8,965,611	34,917,180
Perineal Tear-1st,2nd,3rd Deg	168	35,451,256	3,843,866	17,139,953	56,435,076
Foreign Body Left In Situ	166	2,738,337	521,232	2,939,996	6,199,565
Delay In Performing Operation	141	116,264,044	4,822,724	15,508,473	136,595,240
Application Of Excess Force	106	58,936,143	4,810,710	14,509,157	78,256,010
Failure To Perform Tests	99	72,851,511	2,672,566	9,917,283	85,441,360
Forceps Delivery	97	49,728,018	3,238,573	12,415,853	65,382,444
Birth Defects	74	182,671,332	6,159,015	16,478,476	205,308,822
Inapp Use Of Forceps/Ventouse	73	33,188,026	2,533,677	7,425,250	43,146,954
Medication Errors	67	8,524,035	656,215	3,343,430	12,523,680
Fail To Diag Pre-Eclampsia	63	35,355,937	1,717,107	6,233,670	43,306,715
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	63	45,263,370	1,755,512	5,181,082	52,199,964
Lack Of Assistance/Care	57	18,577,520	1,315,895	3,907,261	23,800,676
Fail To Interpret USS	57	46,425,791	2,298,733	7,746,357	56,470,881
Failure To Perform Operation	50	12,086,878	1,234,463	5,005,673	18,327,014
Fail To Correctly Apply Forcep	50	24,999,240	1,334,668	5,016,430	31,350,338
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	45	15,403,184	1,058,213	2,721,960	19,183,356
Inappropriate Discharge	43	9,627,581	761,096	2,700,283	13,088,959
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	39	20,117,139	1,089,947	3,595,682	24,802,768
Other	37	10,370,943	790,223	2,391,968	13,553,134
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	34	18,465,537	960,857	3,598,797	23,025,192
Fail Mon Dose/rate Syntocinon	33	70,368,799	2,655,035	7,446,855	80,470,689
Wrong Diagnosis	33	9,827,200	299,152	1,357,335	11,483,687
Unexpected Death	32	4,221,617	429,446	2,668,625	7,319,688
Fail To Supervise	31	7,127,058	413,006	1,592,424	9,132,487
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	30	18,835,528	685,717	3,603,064	23,124,309
Infusion Problems	30	5,384,231	281,741	1,278,675	6,944,647
Not Specified	29	1,124,028	260,568	906,383	2,290,979
Diathermy Burns/react. To Prep	29	347,735	76,237	522,363	946,336
Labial Tear	29	1,825,500	301,391	1,855,348	3,982,238
Retained Instrument Post-Operation	25	1,043,600	107,559	781,496	1,932,655
Bacterial Infection	24	22,246,333	1,094,859	2,790,187	26,131,379
Failed Sterilisation	20	1,382,076	183,825	466,269	2,032,170
Inadequate Monitoring Intra-Op	20	898,674	313,524	875,306	2,087,504
Equipment Malfunction	19	4,511,207	415,054	1,626,639	6,552,900
Repeat Attempt Forcep/Ventouse	13	4,310,825	386,592	1,575,359	6,272,776
Fail/Delay Resus By Paediatric	12	23,905,923	1,246,671	3,076,822	28,229,416
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	10	4,040,370	216,769	754,021	5,011,160
Fail To Infrm Test Rslts	10	17,405,700	287,953	1,035,719	18,729,372
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	9	119,000	92,768	235,653	447,420
Cross Infection	8	5,137,095	207,298	638,650	5,983,043
Improp. Delegation To Junior	8	398,500	76,711	471,000	946,211
Inapprop. Case Selection	7	4,396,666	205,346	784,064	5,386,076

Table 5: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Primary Cause.

ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Cause	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Failure To X-Ray	6	7,682,246	434,678	1,251,250	9,368,174
Inadqte Monitor In Recov Room	6	1,802,117	149,028	746,235	2,697,380
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	6	5,163,195	370,126	1,023,000	6,556,321
Fail/Delay Avail Op Thtre	5	5,010,855	284,538	792,360	6,087,753
Lack Of Facilities/Equipment	5	163,137	61,284	253,600	478,021
InhospMaternalDeathPostPartumHaemorrCS	#	#	#	#	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#	#	#	#	#
Incorrect Injection Site	#	#	#	#	#
Re-Canalisation	#	#	#	#	#
Wrong Site Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Premature Ceasure Of Treatment	#	#	#	#	#
Intubation Problems	#	#	#	#	#
Problem Blood Fluids	#	#	#	#	#
Removal & Retention Of Organs	#	#	#	#	#
Assault, Etc By Hospital Staff	#	#	#	#	#
(blank)	#	#	#	#	#
Fail/Delay Obtain Cord PH	#	#	#	#	#
Fail/Delay Of Avail Emgy Anaes	#	#	#	#	#
Burns/Scalds	#	#	#	#	#
Unknown	#	#	#	#	#
Probs With Medical Records	#	#	#	#	#
Wrong Application Of Electrode	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	7,216	4,970,560,369	233,231,885	770,402,514	5,974,194,768

Table 6: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled	Damages Paid Y				
Primary Injury	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Stillborn	874	45,170,666	6,666,124	41,470,515	93,307,306
Unnecessary Pain	784	41,078,833	6,464,785	30,963,346	78,506,964
Cerebral Palsy	685	2,523,713,464	93,351,559	241,038,577	2,858,103,600
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	618	27,190,643	5,118,846	27,512,839	59,822,329
Fatality	605	71,102,933	9,044,986	41,352,175	121,500,094
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	545	26,463,624	4,462,779	23,071,846	53,998,249
Brain Damage	441	1,337,659,703	48,696,693	132,032,893	1,518,389,290
Loss Of Baby	273	13,794,685	2,358,825	12,294,175	28,447,684
Erb's Palsy	221	125,386,765	10,606,466	34,148,547	170,141,779
Bladder Damage	191	17,171,160	2,099,570	10,756,550	30,027,279
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	185	54,004,473	4,933,142	22,212,557	81,150,171
Incontinence	142	38,932,885	3,904,450	16,163,382	59,000,717
Scarring	126	3,387,658	1,071,707	5,944,878	10,404,242
Pressure Sores	125	1,684,610	319,232	2,366,383	4,370,225
Other Infection	95	4,478,622	1,064,441	4,354,719	9,897,782
Rupture	74	15,018,162	949,325	4,838,946	20,806,434
Fistula	69	14,801,480	1,561,773	7,505,696	23,868,950
Other	69	5,822,190	597,368	2,800,040	9,219,599
Wrongful Birth	69	217,005,955	6,359,218	22,163,566	245,528,739
Infertility	62	4,533,007	1,073,980	5,072,958	10,679,945
Thrombosis/Embolism	59	4,706,476	490,338	2,327,592	7,524,407
Tissue Damage	57	7,641,134	971,770	4,581,532	13,194,436
Burn(s)	56	646,738	90,631	1,034,291	1,771,661
Bruising/ Extravasation	55	1,007,165	182,712	1,436,625	2,626,502
Removal Of Fallopian Tube	50	945,447	274,554	1,698,546	2,918,547
Fracture	48	7,073,330	680,892	3,051,214	10,805,436
Nerve Damage	40	13,244,265	1,641,068	4,962,754	19,848,088
Infection (bacterial)	34	519,760	148,132	885,781	1,553,674
Cardiac Arrest	33	6,049,605	617,118	2,386,500	9,053,224
Renal Damage/ Failure	31	4,131,657	627,371	2,847,268	7,606,295
Perforation	27	1,640,646	254,262	1,501,757	3,396,664
Sepsis	26	575,061	197,942	757,630	1,530,633
Cosmetic Disfigurement	26	558,652	183,377	1,175,542	1,917,571
Developmental Delay	26	73,834,237	2,575,819	6,835,159	83,245,214
Unwanted Pregnancy	22	9,962,441	224,521	1,104,416	11,291,378
Multiple Injuries	22	4,966,629	418,712	1,697,699	7,083,040
Foetal Abnormality	21	14,216,756	556,755	2,041,697	16,815,208
Anaphylact Shock/Allergic Shock/allergy	15	164,577	100,116	601,356	866,050
Hospital Acquired Infection	15	205,500	51,568	291,064	548,132
Respiratory Disorder/ Failure	14	1,169,306	127,289	691,998	1,988,593
Hypoxia	13	668,931	175,763	574,150	1,418,843
Scalp Damage	12	190,639	38,842	346,218	575,698
Poor Outcome - Fractures Etc.	12	1,684,272	160,814	772,500	2,617,586
Hernia	11	158,896	73,850	290,789	523,534
Labial Fusion	11	136,885	126,516	898,091	1,161,492
Not Specified	11	209,250	67,289	377,204	653,743
Cardiovascular Condition	10	2,720,498	383,478	1,270,500	4,374,475
Anal Fissure	10	4,249,889	298,275	1,385,750	5,933,914
Infectious Diseases	10	1,272,344	242,674	785,665	2,300,683
Cancer	9	3,333,000	534,271	1,951,533	5,818,804
Downs Syndrome	9	50,337,680	1,024,343	4,780,500	56,142,523
Advanced Stage Cancer	8	1,065,440	214,008	559,000	1,838,447
Oedema	8	54,000	25,273	207,900	287,173
Limb Deformity	8	3,960,157	499,932	1,728,690	6,188,779
Epilepsy	8	7,499,884	752,988	2,670,453	10,923,325

Table 6: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with a damages payment, where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. 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. Broken down by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled		Damages Paid Y			
Primary Injury	No. of Claims	Damages Paid	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid	Total Paid
Multiple Disabilities	7	30,110,540	1,008,214	2,787,000	33,905,754
Spinal Damage	7	5,322,592	351,339	851,370	6,525,301
Arterial Damage	6	953,793	106,614	743,000	1,803,407
Amputation - Lower	5	19,871,654	466,741	1,489,000	21,827,395
Stroke	5	10,044,917	395,443	702,351	11,142,712
Loss Of Kidney	5	1,715,001	108,017	351,806	2,174,824
Learning Difficulties	5	10,961,847	605,125	1,211,000	12,777,972
Deafness	5	9,751,382	739,805	1,075,154	11,566,341
Joint Damage	5	871,558	73,052	282,978	1,227,587
Blindness	5	3,499,085	171,152	801,750	4,471,987
Meningitis	5	10,075,234	396,648	878,646	11,350,527
Spinabifida	5	3,768,549	459,933	1,547,653	5,776,135
Peritonitis	#	#	#	#	#
H.I.V.	#	#	#	#	#
Removal Of Cervix	#	#	#	#	#
Loss Of Sexual Function	#	#	#	#	#
Foot Drop	#	#	#	#	#
Anaesthetic	#	#	#	#	#
Liver Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Liver Transplant	#	#	#	#	#
Cystic Growth	#	#	#	#	#
Partial Paralysis	#	#	#	#	#
Other Visual Problems	#	#	#	#	#
Hypoglycaemia	#	#	#	#	#
Amputation - Upper	#	#	#	#	#
Tetraplegia/ Quadriplegia	#	#	#	#	#
Partial Hearing Loss	#	#	#	#	#
Paraplegia	#	#	#	#	#
Dental Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Hemiparesis	#	#	#	#	#
Chromosomal Abnormality	#	#	#	#	#
Swine Flu	#	#	#	#	#
Lung Disease	#	#	#	#	#
Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndr.	#	#	#	#	#
Dislocation	#	#	#	#	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#	#	#	#	#
Removal Of Testicle	#	#	#	#	#
Thyroid Condition	#	#	#	#	#
Benign Tumour	#	#	#	#	#
Premature Onset Of Menopause	#	#	#	#	#
Failed Sterilization	#	#	#	#	#
Malignant Tumour	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	7,216	4,970,560,369	233,231,885	770,402,514	5,974,194,768

Table 7: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Year of Closure.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages		
ClosedSettled	Y		

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	547	2,977,867	21,802
2016/17	583	4,766,590	55,462
2017/18	494	3,679,139	98,627
2018/19	493	3,535,745	44,471
2019/20	435	3,829,274	60,243
2020/21	358	3,159,148	#
2021/22	452	4,370,945	45,050
2022/23	575	5,590,726	50,006
2023/24	496	4,045,448	28,700
2024/25	511	4,711,461	16,840

Table 8: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Cause.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled	Nil Damages Y		
Primary Cause	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs
Fail / Delay Treatment	1,072	7,892,917	72,205
Failure/Delay Diagnosis	378	1,915,792	51,284
Fail To Recog. Complication Of	324	2,868,808	13,207
Fail To Make Resp To Abnrm FHR	293	5,593,553	#
Fail To Monitor 2nd Stg Labour	293	3,602,384	60,739
Inappropriate Treatment	222	1,215,078	43,426
Fail Antenatal Screening	173	1,635,255	#
Not Specified	172	1,057,946	9,000
Fail To Monitor 1st Stg Labour	169	2,667,800	0
Fail To Warn-Informed Consent	148	1,256,836	6,166
Intra-Op Problems	113	496,951	0
Forceps Delivery	97	374,259	38,945
Birth Defects	96	1,158,171	10,160
Fail To Act On Abnorm Test Res	90	607,550	20,000
Inadequate Nursing Care	88	318,253	#
Perineal Tear-1st,2nd,3rd Deg	87	371,087	0
Delay In Performing Operation	82	944,368	30,000
Failure To Perform Tests	76	658,782	0
Operator Error	75	118,859	16,840
Application Of Excess Force	73	637,764	0
Other	56	364,899	0
Foreign Body Left In Situ	51	83,632	0
Fail/Delay Admitting To Hosp.	49	388,474	#
Inapp Use Of Forceps/Ventouse	47	331,534	#
Fail To Correctly Apply Forcep	43	222,462	0
Medication Errors	36	351,913	15,436
Lack Of Assistance/Care	34	214,842	0
Fail/Delay Referring To Hosp.	32	168,323	#
Fail To Interpret USS	32	222,418	0
Fail To Follow-Up Arrangements	31	134,803	0
Unexpected Death	31	169,212	0
Fail To Diag Pre-Eclampsia	30	290,802	0
Failure To Perform Operation	29	187,291	0
Inappropriate Discharge	29	174,266	0
Bacterial Infection	25	300,797	5,400
Fail To Supervise	20	178,311	5,000
Labial Tear	19	40,447	0
Fail To Carry Out PO Observs.	18	179,601	0
Fail Mon Dose/rate Syntocinon	18	211,145	0
Infusion Problems	17	45,792	0
Inadequate Monitoring Intra-Op	14	37,646	0
Err With Agnt/Dose/Route/Selec	13	161,255	0
Fail/Delay Resus By Paediatric	12	102,251	0
Equipment Malfunction	12	27,812	0
Fail To Infrm Test Rslts	11	28,551	0
Perform. Of Op. Not Indicated	10	74,875	0
Wrong Diagnosis	10	36,537	0
Incorrect Injection Site	9	12,108	0
Repeat Attempt Forcep/Ventouse	8	88,803	0
Removal & Retention Of Organs	8	13,122	0
Improp. Delegation To Junior	8	15,424	0
Fail/Delay Avail Op Thtre	6	39,903	0

Table 8: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Cause.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Cause	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs
Retained Instrument Post-Operation	6	7,574	0
Cross Infection	5	10,790	0
Lack Of Facilities/Equipment	#	#	#
Inapprop. Case Selection	#	#	#
Fail/Delay Of Avail Emgy Anaes	#	#	#
Wrong Application Of Electrode	#	#	#
Diathermy Burns/react. To Prep	#	#	#
Failure To X-Ray	#	#	#
Failure To Interpret X-Ray	#	#	#
Inadqte Monitor In Recov Room	#	#	#
Re-Canalisation	#	#	#
Problem Blood Fluids	#	#	#
Failed Infection Control Policy/Hospital Hygiene	#	#	#
InhospMaternalDeathPostPartumHaemorrCS	#	#	#
Wrong Site Surgery	#	#	#
Lack Of Pre-Op Evaluation	#	#	#
Self Harm	#	#	#
MisplacedNaso/OrogastricTubeNotDet	#	#	#
Unknown	#	#	#
Failed Sterilisation	#	#	#

Table 9: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome ClosedSettled	Nil Damages Y		
Primary Injury	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs
Unnecessary Pain	552	1,366,998	110,840
Brain Damage	528	9,131,288	#
Cerebral Palsy	448	11,693,720	15,436
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	367	894,993	27,356
Stillborn	362	1,244,753	19,090
Fatality	326	1,749,118	12,668
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	306	1,183,778	#
Not Specified	226	1,737,031	0
Hypoxia	169	2,264,195	9,000
Erb's Palsy	158	1,656,978	#
Loss Of Baby	141	621,839	15,507
Scarring	139	284,308	20,000
Bladder Damage	98	471,713	8,096
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	82	515,667	18,945
Nerve Damage	67	611,639	15,271
Other Infection	66	134,657	#
Fracture	56	223,069	41,000
Incontinence	55	338,310	32,941
Other	53	153,266	0
Tissue Damage	46	132,027	0
Infection (bacterial)	42	129,159	0
Wrongful Birth	37	447,019	0
Developmental Delay	34	354,860	26,700
Sepsis	32	119,399	0
Bruising/ Extravasation	30	57,345	0
Infertility	30	211,562	0
Pressure Sores	26	42,507	0
Respiratory Disorder/ Failure	24	269,796	5,400
Thrombosis/Embolism	23	106,369	0
Rupture	22	53,936	#
Cardiac Arrest	20	218,762	0
Cosmetic Disfigurement	20	30,074	0
Stroke	17	130,721	0
Scalp Damage	16	26,053	16,840
Renal Damage/ Failure	15	67,074	0
Removal Of Fallopian Tube	14	25,405	0
Foetal Abnormality	14	77,448	0
Multiple Injuries	13	62,023	0
Perforation	12	19,050	0
Dislocation	12	135,403	0
Spinal Damage	11	145,834	0
Infectious Diseases	11	23,486	20,000
Fistula	11	34,961	0
Burn(s)	11	13,220	0
Cardiovascular Condition	10	31,228	0
Labial Fusion	9	11,157	0
Hospital Acquired Infection	9	12,968	0
Downs Syndrome	9	56,032	0
Blindness	9	47,195	0
Cancer	8	17,101	0
Unwanted Pregnancy	8	162,334	0
Deafness	8	136,951	#

Table 9: Number and Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Specialty is 'Obstetrics'. Broken down by Primary Injury.

ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages
ClosedSettled	Y

Primary Injury	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid	Claimant Legal Costs
Joint Damage	7	37,634	0
Hypoglycaemia	7	70,897	0
Multiple Disabilities	7	98,805	0
Limb Deformity	6	119,518	0
Infection (group B strep)	6	24,413	0
Chromosomal Abnormality	6	82,521	0
Hernia	6	#	0
Poor Outcome - Fractures Etc.	6	97,288	0
Learning Difficulties	5	59,575	0
Epilepsy	5	31,084	0
Meningitis	5	50,596	0
Lung Disease	5	27,022	0
Loss Of Sexual Function	5	33,902	0
Removal Of Cervix	#	#	#
Anaphylact Shock/Allergic Shock/allergy	#	#	#
Anal Fissure	#	#	#
Foot Drop	#	#	#
Other Visual Problems	#	#	#
Advanced Stage Cancer	#	#	#
Arterial Damage	#	#	#
Malnutrition	#	#	#
Unknown	#	#	#
Partial Hearing Loss	#	#	#
Compartment Syndrome	#	#	#
Cystic Growth	#	#	#
Oedema	#	#	#
Partial Paralysis	#	#	#
Loss Of Kidney	#	#	#
Liver Transplant	#	#	#
Paraplegia	#	#	#
Aneurysm	#	#	#
Dental Damage	#	#	#
Hemiparesis	#	#	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#	#	#
Liver Damage	#	#	#
Anaesthetic	#	#	#
Spinabifida	#	#	#
Viral Infection	#	#	#
Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndr.	#	#	#
Failed Sterilization	#	#	#