



Resolution

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FOI_7937

The following information was requested on 11 June 2026 and clarified on 19 June 2026:

[On the 11 June, you requested]

I am requesting the number and average cost of claims for each year for the past 10 years for each of the specialities listed below.

- Radiology
- Anaesthetists
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedic inclusive and exclusive of spine injury claims
- Neurointerventional radiologists

Please can this be provided in an electronic format.

[On the 11 June, we responded 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 record specialty: Neurointerventional radiologists. We have neurosurgery, neurology or radiology.

Regarding spinal injury claims, we don't have a code for the specialty, but have injury code: spinal damage.

You can also review what we provided previously re

- spinal damage: [Fol Requests Archive - spinal damage](#)
- radiology [Fol Requests Archive - radiology](#)
- anaesthetics [Fol Requests Archive - anaesthesia](#)
- neurosurgery [Fol Requests Archive - neurosurgery](#)
- orthopaedic surgery [Fol Requests Archive - orthopaedic](#)

Please, could you review the codes linked above and confirm which specialties you are interested in?

[On the 19 June, you replied with]

Thank you for your email.

Please could we have the number and average cost of claims for each year for the past 10 years for each of the specialities listed below.

- *Radiology*
- *Anaesthetists*
- *Neurosurgery*
- *Orthopaedic*
- *Spinal damage (as a replacement for Spinal injury claims)*

Our Response

Please find attached the requested information. This information only covers England and not the rest of the UK. The dataset presented in the response below cover:

- In respect of tables 1 and 2, 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', 'Orthopaedic Surgery' or 'Spinal Damage' claims notified to NHS Resolution between 2015/16 - 2024/25
- In respect of tables 3 - 6 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', 'Orthopaedic Surgery' or 'Spinal Damage' the average cost of claims closed (or settled as a PPO) between 2015/16 - 2024/25

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.

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](#)

For this request we have used our Supplementary Annual Statistics (SAS) dataset to ensure the data represents the most up to date information as at the end of the most recent financial year (31 March 2025). For further information about our SAS dataset please see: [Annual statistics \(including Factsheet 5\) - NHS Resolution](#). Therefore, our response to this request may not align with other publications on our website.

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](#). Specifically, 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.

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 Speciality is '**Anaesthesia**', '**Radiology**', '**Neurosurgery**', or '**Orthopaedic Surgery**'. Broken down by **Year of Notification** and **Specialty**.

Table 2 shows: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Primary Injury is '**Spinal Damage**'. Broken down by **Year of Notification**.

Table 3 shows: Number and Average 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 Speciality is '**Anaesthesia**', '**Radiology**', '**Neurosurgery**', or '**Orthopaedic Surgery**'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by **Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)** and **Specialty**.

Table 4 shows: Number and Average 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 Primary Injury is '**Spinal Damage**'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by **Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)**.

Table 5 shows: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with **NIL** damages paid where the Speciality is

'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. Broken down by **Year of Closure** and **Specialty**.

Table 6 shows: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years **'2015/16'** and **'2024/25'** with **NIL** damages paid where the Primary Injury is **'Spinal Damage'**. Broken down by **Year of Closure**.

PPOs -

The attached data includes PPOs. 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 the costs paid up until the end of the financial year 2024/25.

Low figures

We have not provided the information for low figures involved, 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 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 of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. Broken down by Year of Notification and Speciality.

Table 2: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. Broken down by Year of Notification.

Table 3: Number and Average 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 Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) and Speciality.

Table 4: Number and Average 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 Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs).

Table 5: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. Broken down by Year of Closure and Specialty.

Table 6: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. Broken down by Year of Closure.

Table 1: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. Broken down by Year of Notification and Specialty.

Notified	Y
Specialty_Flag	Y

Year of Notification -- Specialty	No. of Claims
2015/16	2,189
Anaesthesia	136
Neurosurgery	166
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,506
Radiology	381
2016/17	2,026
Anaesthesia	123
Neurosurgery	167
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,380
Radiology	356
2017/18	1,974
Anaesthesia	147
Neurosurgery	151
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,285
Radiology	391
2018/19	1,979
Anaesthesia	128
Neurosurgery	191
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,265
Radiology	395
2019/20	2,124
Anaesthesia	126
Neurosurgery	183
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,368
Radiology	447
2020/21	1,996
Anaesthesia	99
Neurosurgery	211
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,255
Radiology	431
2021/22	1,846
Anaesthesia	71
Neurosurgery	154
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,204
Radiology	417
2022/23	1,857
Anaesthesia	81
Neurosurgery	173
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,133
Radiology	470
2023/24	1,928
Anaesthesia	87
Neurosurgery	155
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,181
Radiology	505
2024/25	2,120
Anaesthesia	93
Neurosurgery	178
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,326
Radiology	523
Grand Total	20,039

Table 2: Number of Clinical Claims and Incidents received between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' where the Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. Broken down by Year of Notification.

Spinal_Damage_Flag	Y
Notified	Y

Year of Notification	No. of Claims
2015/16	101
2016/17	113
2017/18	95
2018/19	124
2019/20	152
2020/21	167
2021/22	233
2022/23	205
2023/24	199
2024/25	196
Grand Total	1,585

Table 3: Number and Average 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 Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) and Speciality.

ClosedSettled	Y
ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid
Specialty_Flag	Y

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) -- Specialty	No. of Claims	Average Damages Paid	Average NHS Legal Costs Paid	Average Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	1,207	126,688	12,989	62,169
Anaesthesia	91	198,828	16,444	81,370
Neurosurgery	68	588,445	34,926	142,446
Orthopaedic Surgery	885	94,297	11,903	57,375
Radiology	163	69,647	7,804	43,992
2016/17	1,420	106,328	13,339	60,708
Anaesthesia	84	164,674	10,817	45,544
Neurosurgery	76	356,793	29,067	134,021
Orthopaedic Surgery	1,039	89,002	13,172	59,174
Radiology	221	79,476	9,671	48,472
2017/18	1,384	143,906	15,302	67,012
Anaesthesia	93	282,610	18,366	107,472
Neurosurgery	107	535,666	38,283	150,961
Orthopaedic Surgery	960	91,219	13,706	58,757
Radiology	224	124,983	9,897	45,489
2018/19	1,320	126,722	14,669	59,889
Anaesthesia	107	59,614	12,029	44,051
Neurosurgery	94	460,706	37,070	141,110
Orthopaedic Surgery	884	93,241	12,995	54,233
Radiology	235	149,631	13,206	55,890
2019/20	1,427	138,971	15,161	56,439
Anaesthesia	99	161,319	12,893	44,721
Neurosurgery	93	506,090	37,936	135,520
Orthopaedic Surgery	957	98,616	14,227	52,234
Radiology	278	147,118	11,566	48,631
2020/21	1,220	134,259	15,972	58,764
Anaesthesia	74	120,915	12,138	51,177
Neurosurgery	97	275,119	31,044	96,710
Orthopaedic Surgery	812	127,695	15,406	57,863
Radiology	237	103,263	12,939	48,686
2021/22	1,378	181,684	17,601	67,789
Anaesthesia	67	142,163	16,671	62,687
Neurosurgery	105	590,204	43,605	152,722
Orthopaedic Surgery	917	136,356	16,314	61,940
Radiology	289	186,251	12,453	56,673
2022/23	1,311	156,932	15,778	62,894
Anaesthesia	71	138,301	16,259	56,066
Neurosurgery	90	667,343	43,819	165,871
Orthopaedic Surgery	826	94,974	13,359	52,344
Radiology	324	177,188	14,051	62,680
2023/24	1,241	132,372	15,363	63,379
Anaesthesia	61	172,813	13,356	56,139
Neurosurgery	86	360,100	33,717	107,379
Orthopaedic Surgery	791	117,136	14,174	59,913
Radiology	303	99,368	13,661	61,397
2024/25	1,304	176,378	18,192	72,620
Anaesthesia	63	162,403	12,938	49,894
Neurosurgery	104	417,779	38,220	134,400
Orthopaedic Surgery	815	149,016	17,551	69,524
Radiology	322	170,398	14,374	64,947

Table 4: Number and Average 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 Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. The data includes the damages and legal costs paid up until the 31st March 2025. Broken down by Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs).

Spinal_Damage_Flag	Y
ClosedSettled	Y
ClaimOutcome	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No. of Claims	Average Damages Paid	Average NHS Legal Costs Paid	Average Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	34	340,708	32,577	136,012
2016/17	62	443,033	35,215	163,697
2017/18	41	433,710	43,940	177,254
2018/19	62	498,596	32,699	134,897
2019/20	52	444,778	46,392	141,009
2020/21	39	467,468	53,699	172,148
2021/22	81	695,368	52,146	168,538
2022/23	72	533,686	43,820	152,108
2023/24	102	574,303	42,051	163,752
2024/25	113	637,970	53,622	165,368

Table 5: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Speciality is 'Anaesthesia', 'Radiology', 'Neurosurgery', or 'Orthopaedic Surgery'. Broken down by Year of Closure and Speciality.

Specialty_Flag	Y
ClosedSettled	Y
ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages

Year of Closure -- Speciality	No. of Claims	Average NHS Legal Costs Paid	Average Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	778	#	#
Anaesthesia	58	#	0
Neurosurgery	57	#	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	564	#	#
Radiology	99	#	0
2016/17	774	#	#
Anaesthesia	42	#	0
Neurosurgery	80	8,117	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	537	#	#
Radiology	115	#	#
2017/18	683	#	#
Anaesthesia	40	#	0
Neurosurgery	67	6,418	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	480	#	#
Radiology	96	#	0
2018/19	700	#	#
Anaesthesia	46	#	#
Neurosurgery	63	9,031	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	491	#	#
Radiology	100	#	0
2019/20	613	#	#
Anaesthesia	43	#	0
Neurosurgery	57	5,395	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	407	#	#
Radiology	106	#	#
2020/21	581	5,135	#
Anaesthesia	36	#	0
Neurosurgery	58	9,827	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	376	#	#
Radiology	111	6,009	#
2021/22	601	7,405	#
Anaesthesia	29	12,271	0
Neurosurgery	77	15,219	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	391	6,439	#
Radiology	104	#	#
2022/23	568	6,816	#
Anaesthesia	29	#	0
Neurosurgery	84	9,325	0
Orthopaedic Surgery	352	6,689	#
Radiology	103	6,056	#
2023/24	578	7,084	#
Anaesthesia	29	9,730	0
Neurosurgery	61	15,809	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	356	6,277	#
Radiology	132	#	#
2024/25	702	5,614	#
Anaesthesia	40	#	0
Neurosurgery	79	12,544	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	423	#	#
Radiology	160	#	#

Table 6: Number and Average Cost of Clinical Claims Closed between financial years '2015/16' and '2024/25' with NIL damages paid where the Primary Injury is 'Spinal Damage'. Broken down by Year of Closure.

Spinal_Damage_Flag	Y
ClosedSettled	Y
ClaimOutcome	Nil Damages

Year of Closure	No. of Claims	Average NHS Legal Costs Paid	Average Claimant Legal Costs Paid
2015/16	30	9,477	0
2016/17	43	7,021	0
2017/18	31	6,839	#
2018/19	47	9,002	0
2019/20	37	6,469	0
2020/21	38	11,790	0
2021/22	84	14,100	#
2022/23	103	7,910	0
2023/24	100	8,009	5,531
2024/25	99	7,668	0