



Resolution

2nd Floor
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ
Telephone: 020 7811 2700

March 2019
FOI_3630

The following information was requested on 15 February 2019:

I am interested to understand the financial implications to the NHS of patients developing pressure ulcers in the UK. I have seen other FOI requests on the subject of pressure ulcers but they do not seem to ask exactly the same information as I am requesting.

Please could you tell me for the following periods:

Jan 1 – 31 December 2018

Jan 1 – 31 December 2017

Jan 1 – 31 December 2016

Jan 1 – 31 December 2015

If NHS Resolution only reports by financial year, please supply this instead.

The number of claims received for pressure ulcers: damages paid, defence costs paid; claimant costs paid and total paid

The split of these figures by individual Trusts.

The split for these figures by different settings:

Stroke

Maternity

Orthopaedic

Elderly Care

Intensive Care

Surgical wards

Medical wards

Our Response

Please find attached the requested information.

We have suppressed low figures and provided an approximate total figure as we believe that disclosure of information with this level of granularity is exempt under Section 40(2) by virtue of section 40(3)(a)(i) of the 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.

If you would like to know how data is categorised in our Claims database please see the following link: [Glossary](#)

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 [Tinku Mitra](#), Head of Corporate and Information Governance 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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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 Claims received for pressure sores/ulcers against Trusts. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

[Table 2: Number and Cost of Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

[Table 3: Number of Claims Closed without damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

[Table 4: Analysis of Specialties for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

[Table 5: Analysis of Primary Injuries for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

[Table 6: Analysis of Hospital Trusts for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.](#)

Table 1: Number of Claims received for pressure sores/ulcers against Trusts. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Notifications	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical

Notification Year	No_of_Claims
2000/01	14
2001/02	48
2002/03	58
2003/04	53
2004/05	66
2005/06	66
2006/07	57
2007/08	72
2008/09	88
2009/10	117
2010/11	181
2011/12	202
2012/13	203
2013/14	274
2014/15	279
2015/16	321
2016/17	421
2017/18	399
Grand Total	2,919

Table 2: Number and Cost of Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No_of_Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
2014/15	167	7,111,989	881,345	5,625,335	13,618,669
2015/16	200	7,916,250	1,244,974	7,131,173	16,292,397
2016/17	265	9,937,633	1,847,032	9,880,174	21,664,839
2017/18	279	10,337,794	1,791,083	8,699,792	20,828,669
Grand Total	911	35,303,666	5,764,433	31,336,474	72,404,574

Table 3: Number of Claims Closed without damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	(All)
Claim_Outcome_FOI	NIL Damages

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No_of_Claims	Sum of Defence Costs
2014/15	31	56,089
2015/16	43	141,764
2016/17	75	133,899
2017/18	87	150,050
Grand Total	236	481,802

Table 4: Analysis of Specialties for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) -- Specialties	No_of_Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
2014/15	167	7,111,989	881,345	5,625,335	13,618,669
Cardiology	#	#	#	#	#
Casualty / A & E	#	#	#	#	#
Community Medicine/ Public Health	#	#	#	#	#
Dermatology	#	#	#	#	#
District Nursing	14	481,747	76,431	275,051	833,229
Gastroenterology	#	#	#	#	#
General Medicine	45	2,797,986	250,267	1,592,971	4,641,223
General Surgery	9	270,635	29,590	248,114	548,339
Genito-Urinary Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Geriatric Medicine	15	602,089	71,707	425,123	1,098,919
Infectious Diseases	#	#	#	#	#
Intensive Care Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Neurosurgery	#	#	#	#	#
Non-Clinical Staff	#	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#	#
Obstetrics	9	166,972	29,229	310,800	507,001
Orthopaedic Surgery	33	1,629,180	262,423	1,594,913	3,486,516
Other	#	#	#	#	#
Paediatric Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Physiotherapy	#	#	#	#	#
Plastic Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Radiology	#	#	#	#	#
Rehabilitation	#	#	#	#	#
Renal Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#	#	#	#	#
Surgical Speciality - Other	#	#	#	#	#
Urology	#	#	#	#	#
Vascular Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
2015/16	200	7,916,250	1,244,974	7,131,173	16,292,397
Cardio Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Cardiology	#	#	#	#	#
Casualty / A & E	#	#	#	#	#
Community Medicine/ Public Health	#	#	#	#	#
Dermatology	#	#	#	#	#
District Nursing	15	466,106	30,415	367,593	864,114
Gastroenterology	#	#	#	#	#
General Medicine	36	1,665,538	330,806	1,673,364	3,669,707
General Practice	#	#	#	#	#
General Surgery	25	1,172,253	141,694	856,401	2,170,348
Geriatric Medicine	27	459,300	106,932	695,016	1,261,248
Intensive Care Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Neurology	#	#	#	#	#
Neurosurgery	#	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#	#
Obstetrics	9	95,750	32,298	256,774	384,822
Orthopaedic Surgery	38	881,925	143,592	1,009,223	2,034,740
Other	#	#	#	#	#
Paediatrics	#	#	#	#	#
Palliative Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Podiatry	#	#	#	#	#
Rehabilitation	#	#	#	#	#
Renal Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#	#	#	#	#
Surgical Speciality - Other	#	#	#	#	#
Urology	#	#	#	#	#
Vascular Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
2016/17	265	9,937,633	1,847,032	9,880,174	21,664,839
Anaesthesia	#	#	#	#	#
Cardio Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Cardiology	#	#	#	#	#
Casualty / A & E	#	#	#	#	#
Community Medicine/ Public Health	#	#	#	#	#
Dermatology	#	#	#	#	#
District Nursing	30	1,577,430	373,031	2,097,472	4,047,933

Table 4: Analysis of Specialties for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) -- Specialties	No_of_Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
Gastroenterology	#	#	#	#	#
General Medicine	59	1,077,400	259,775	1,362,092	2,699,266
General Practice	#	#	#	#	#
General Surgery	19	546,100	138,562	819,846	1,504,508
Geriatric Medicine	40	635,200	123,873	748,433	1,507,505
Haematology	#	#	#	#	#
Intensive Care Medicine	5	126,000	68,308	366,477	560,785
Miscellaneous	#	#	#	#	#
Neurology	#	#	#	#	#
Neurosurgery	#	#	#	#	#
Non-Clinical Staff	#	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#	#
Obstetrics	13	120,500	28,968	208,315	357,783
Oncology	#	#	#	#	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	43	2,497,683	346,476	1,624,046	4,468,205
Other	#	#	#	#	#
Paediatrics	#	#	#	#	#
Palliative Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Plastic Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Podiatry	#	#	#	#	#
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	#	#	#	#	#
Rehabilitation	8	289,000	85,647	426,603	801,249
Renal Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#	#	#	#	#
Surgical Speciality - Other	#	#	#	#	#
Urology	#	#	#	#	#
Vascular Surgery	5	96,000	21,183	127,300	244,483
Histopathology	#	#	#	#	#
2017/18	279	10,337,794	1,791,083	8,699,792	20,828,669
Cardio Surgery	#	#	#	#	#
Cardiology	#	#	#	#	#
Casualty / A & E	6	939,969	95,254	251,950	1,287,173
Community Medicine/ Public Health	#	#	#	#	#
Dermatology	#	#	#	#	#
District Nursing	32	1,136,928	284,437	1,477,034	2,898,400
Endocrinology	#	#	#	#	#
Gastroenterology	7	105,750	24,370	189,478	319,598
General Medicine	54	2,440,934	282,892	1,571,614	4,295,440
General Surgery	17	814,422	134,022	574,137	1,522,581
Geriatric Medicine	34	608,473	73,671	521,384	1,203,528
Gynaecology	#	#	#	#	#
Infectious Diseases	#	#	#	#	#
Intensive Care Medicine	11	412,477	120,091	471,559	1,004,127
Neurology	#	#	#	#	#
Neurosurgery	#	#	#	#	#
Non-Clinical Staff	#	#	#	#	#
Not Specified	#	#	#	#	#
Obstetrics	14	191,185	23,679	173,534	388,398
Oncology	#	#	#	#	#
Orthopaedic Surgery	49	2,038,914	415,868	2,076,221	4,531,003
Other	6	57,130	14,559	58,610	130,299
Paediatrics	#	#	#	#	#
Podiatry	#	#	#	#	#
Psychiatry/ Mental Health	#	#	#	#	#
Rehabilitation	5	155,918	13,929	64,723	234,570
Renal Medicine	#	#	#	#	#
Respiratory Medicine/ Thoracic Medic	#	#	#	#	#
Surgical Speciality - Other	#	#	#	#	#
Urology	#	#	#	#	#
Vascular Surgery	5	174,230	20,838	106,242	301,309
Genetics	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	911	35,303,666	5,764,433	31,336,474	72,404,574

Table 5: Analysis of Primary Injuries for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs) ----- Primary Injury Types	No_of_Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
2014/15	167	7,111,989	881,345	5,625,335	13,618,669
Fatality	#	#	#	#	#
Unnecessary Pain	#	#	#	#	#
Pressure Sores	146	4,707,275	660,394	4,547,045	9,914,714
Fracture	#	#	#	#	#
Amputation - Lower	#	#	#	#	#
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Cancer	#	#	#	#	#
Other Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Hospital Acquired Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Tissue Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Burn(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Reduced Life Expectancy	#	#	#	#	#
2015/16	200	7,916,250	1,244,974	7,131,173	16,292,397
Fatality	8	212,500	32,909	266,700	512,109
Unnecessary Pain	#	#	#	#	#
Pressure Sores	179	7,159,128	1,078,423	6,427,273	14,664,823
Fracture	5	130,000	13,978	97,600	241,578
Amputation - Lower	#	#	#	#	#
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Other Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Malnutrition	#	#	#	#	#
Brain Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Dislocation	#	#	#	#	#
2016/17	265	9,937,633	1,847,032	9,880,174	21,664,839
Bruising/ Extravasation	#	#	#	#	#
Fatality	9	171,890	33,756	213,467	419,113
Poor Outcome - Fractures Etc.	#	#	#	#	#
Unnecessary Pain	8	53,000	32,385	187,384	272,768
Pressure Sores	228	8,198,088	1,473,501	8,142,708	17,814,297
Fracture	5	182,000	15,144	119,340	316,484
Amputation - Lower	#	#	#	#	#
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Cancer	#	#	#	#	#
Other Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Hospital Acquired Infection	#	#	#	#	#
Foot Drop	#	#	#	#	#
Burn(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Malnutrition	#	#	#	#	#
Brain Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Bowel Damage/ Dysfunction	#	#	#	#	#
Partial Paralysis	#	#	#	#	#
2017/18	279	10,337,794	1,791,083	8,699,792	20,828,669
Fatality	#	#	#	#	#
Psychiatric/Psychological Dmge	#	#	#	#	#
Unnecessary Pain	#	#	#	#	#
Pressure Sores	254	6,876,706	1,241,355	6,397,635	14,515,697
Fracture	8	279,500	28,918	211,693	520,111
Amputation - Lower	5	492,962	117,301	360,963	971,227
Adtnl/unnecessary Operation(s)	#	#	#	#	#
Nerve Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Foot Drop	#	#	#	#	#
Stroke	#	#	#	#	#
Paraplegia	#	#	#	#	#
Bladder Damage	#	#	#	#	#
Grand Total	911	35,303,666	5,764,433	31,336,474	72,404,574

Table 6: Analysis of Hospital Trusts for Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2014/15 and 2017/18 for pressure sores/ulcers. Data filtered on an injury code including pressure sore/ulcer.

Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)					
----- Member Name	No_of_Claims	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Claimant Costs Paid	Total Paid
2014/15	167	£7,111,989	£881,345	£5,625,335	£13,618,669
Total other Trusts with less than 5 claims each	152	£6,723,816	£841,363	£5,211,915	£12,777,094
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	8	223,500	23,270	270,235	517,004
NHS Commissioning Board	7	164,673	16,713	143,185	324,571
2015/16	200	£7,916,250	£1,244,974	£7,131,173	£16,292,397
Total other Trusts with less than 5 claims each	189	£7,664,936	£1,209,578	£6,851,352	£15,725,866
Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	100,000	1,753	41,321	143,074
Royal Liverpool And Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust (The)	5	151,315	33,643	238,500	423,457
2016/17	265	£9,937,633	£1,847,032	£9,880,174	£21,664,839
Total other Trusts with less than 5 claims each	222	£8,754,250	£1,583,239	£8,467,396	£18,804,885
Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	9	119,050	13,508	110,231	242,789
NHS Commissioning Board	7	256,556	23,263	201,683	481,502
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	298,869	63,506	431,528	793,903
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	6	210,333	51,034	270,217	531,584
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (The)	5	137,000	63,324	220,200	420,524
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5	89,500	14,102	101,575	205,177
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	5	72,076	35,054	77,344	184,474
2017/18	279	£10,337,794	£1,791,083	£8,699,792	£20,828,669
Total other Trusts with less than 5 claims each	222	£8,180,223	£1,449,003	£7,125,290	£16,754,517
University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust	7	151,000	16,980	90,337	258,317
Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	6	467,500	112,343	564,669	1,144,512
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	146,422	37,840	204,750	389,012
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	6	92,840	12,080	77,640	182,560
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	47,250	7,355	70,244	124,849
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6	53,000	12,986	54,533	120,519
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5	927,054	99,385	261,125	1,287,564
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (The)	5	113,435	18,097	121,815	253,347
North Bristol NHS Trust	5	87,000	14,729	75,344	177,074
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	5	72,070	10,285	54,045	136,400
Grand Total	911	£35,303,666	£5,764,433	£31,336,474	£72,404,574