



Resolution

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FOI_4249

The following information was requested on 17 January 2020:

Can you please tell me the annual expenditure by the NHS, in the past five to ten years, on the conventional award sum given to claims of wrongful conception of healthy children?

Our Response

Although NHS Resolution may hold some information relating to claims such as these, 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 *wrongful conception of healthy children* is not one of these. 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 review of all cases to identify which ones relate to claims involving *wrongful conception of healthy children*. NHS Resolution receives thousands of claims each year.

Therefore, we estimate that the cost of complying with the 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 10 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 108 files within 18 hours.

In addition, given the complexity of clinical negligence claims and their litigation, it is possible for a single electronic or paper-based file to contain hundreds of documents in a variety of formats.

Please also note even if we were able to carry out a review of 108 random files we may not be able to provide you with the level of detail you require owing to Data Protection grounds.

We would need to suppress low numbers or any information that could possibly lead to the identification of claimants, patients or individuals where disclosure would breach the General Data Protection Regulation.

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

We do have the following codes: failed sterilisation and wrongful birth. However, please note our coding does not enable us to distinguish whether the claims related to birth of children who were healthy.

It should be noted that we define “wrongful birth” as a clinical negligence claim brought by the parents of a child born with birth defects, alleging that negligent treatment or advice deprived them of the opportunity to avoid conception or terminate the pregnancy.

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