



## Resolution

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**Telephone:** 020 7811 2700

February 2019  
FOI\_4283

The following information was requested on 27 January 2020:

*1) What was the total sum spent by University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust on clinical or medical negligence disputes in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015?*

*2) Which of the solicitors' firms from the NHS's panel advised and represented the Trust in these disputes and what was the sum that was paid to each for these services in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015?*

### **Our Response**

Please find attached the requested information.

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(3)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information 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

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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 Claims closed/ settled between financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 for the University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust](#)

[Table 2: Number and Cost of Claims Closed/Settled with NHS Legal firm paid between financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 for the University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust](#)

**Table 1: Number and Cost of Claims Closed/Settled with damages paid between financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 for the University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust**

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Closed_Settled	Y
Clinical_NonClinical	Clinical
Claim_Outcome_FOI	Damages Paid

  

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No. of Claims	Total Paid
2015/16	#	#
2016/17	12	248,225
2017/18	27	1,473,906
2018/19	35	3,153,873

**Table 2: Number and Cost of Claims Closed/Settled with NHS  
 Legal firm paid between financial years 2015/16 to 2018/19 for  
 the University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust**

Year of Closure (Settlement Year for PPOs)	No. of Claims	NHS Legal Costs Paid
<b>2015/16</b>		
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Liverpool	#	#
DACB	#	#
<b>2016/17</b>		
Hempsons Solicitors - Manchester	#	#
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Liverpool	7	13,337
DACB	#	#
<b>2017/18</b>		
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Liverpool	17	80,581
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Manchester	6	37,794
DACB	#	#
<b>2018/19</b>		
Hempsons Solicitors - Harrogate	#	#
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Liverpool	22	177,987
Hill Dickinson Solicitors - Manchester	8	57,227
DACB	#	#