



## Resolution

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**Telephone:** 020 7811 2700

August 2021

FOI\_5137

The following information was requested on 2 August 2021:

- A) *The number of obstetric legal cases there were involving ambulance services each year for the past ten calendar years (2010-20). Please also tell me what percentage of total ambulance service legal cases this equals.*
- B)
- B) The total cost of legal fees (both damages paid and no damages paid) pertaining to obstetric litigation in ambulance services in England each year for the past ten calendar years. Please also reveal what percentage of total ambulance service litigation costs this amounts to.*

### Our Response

Ambulance crews are called to a range of clinical emergencies but we do not record the type of emergency on our claims management system, rather claims relating to Ambulance Trusts would be categorised under the specialty 'Ambulance' claims. We cannot therefore provide data relating to callouts by Ambulance Trusts to attend an obstetric emergency. We can only provide general data on the primary injury recorded in any emergency callout. This is unlikely to account for all of the cases where an ambulance service attended.

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](#). Ambulance Trust claims will fall under the specialty Ambulance and not under the specialty Gynaecology or Obstetrics as NHS Hospital Trusts will fall under these specialties.

We could provide you with the number of claims received under the specialty Ambulance and break it down by which Ambulance Trust it relates to and what the primary injury was in those cases.

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.

The report could cover number of claims received for the above speciality in the relevant financial years; a breakdown by primary injury; a breakdown by primary cause; numbers settled with associated costs; numbers with no damages paid and numbers currently open.

Please let us know if you would be interested in this data.

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.

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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