



Resolution

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April 2023
FOI_5906

The following information request was submitted on 29 March 2023:

I would like to request the information below – please do let me know if you require me to provide any clarification to enable you to find the information.

A list of the claims paid out, relating to the administration of vaccines, for the last 5 years. This list should include at least the amount paid out and the reason/claim it was paid out for. By "administration", I mean situations where the claim arose as a result of a vaccine not being administered/injected into one's body properly.

The list should cover claims settled prior to court, settled when the court case had started and where a court awarded the compensation.

I tried this link but it was not working so i could not check if this had the information I needed: <https://resolution.nhs.uk/resources/annual-report-statistics/>

Our Response

We only hold claims data for England (our schemes only cover England), not the UK.

Although NHS Resolution may hold some information relating to claims such as what you have requested (England only claims), 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 specialty [codes](#). Unfortunately, we do not have a code for the *administration of vaccines*. 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 manual review of all cases to identify which ones relate to claims involving the *administration of vaccines*. 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, 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. We would not be able to provide the information in the way you have set out your request.

However, colleagues in our [Safety and Learning Team](#) have reviewed the vaccine related CNST claims within the medicine error data, which is from 1 April 2010-31 March 2020. This is part of a separate piece of work looking at [medication error](#). Further to this review, we are able to provide the following information, which may be of interest to you:

- There were 21 vaccination claims of which 7 settled with damages paid, 9 with nil damages and 5 remain open claims.
- The most common vaccine involved in a successful claim was BCG followed by flu.
- Flu vaccine was linked to claims resulting in joint pain, nerve damage or reduced mobility
- BCG vaccine was linked to claims for scarring and skin damage.
- Wrong site (arm or part of arm) and wrong dose were the most recurrent causes followed by wrong vaccine
- The total cost of all closed claims is £75953.65
- The majority of settled claims took place in secondary care.

We also wish to draw your attention to [CNSGP Report \(resolution.nhs.uk\)](#) which includes a section on Vaccine/Immunisation errors, on page 49.

Colleagues from our [Safety and Learning team](#) will be happy to discuss this research with you if you require further information. Contact details for our Safety and Learning team is available here: [Safety and Learning - NHS Resolution](#)

For details of the claims data that we publish, please refer to our [Annual Report Statistics](#).

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](#), Deputy Director of Corporate and Information Governance, 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/>