

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Clinical / Social Care Negligence Cases

in Northern Ireland (2020/21)

Reader Information

Background	This statistical release summarises information collected from Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts, Agencies and Legacy Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards on clinical/social care negligence cases in Northern Ireland open during the year ending 31 st March 2020. Information includes all cases currently open and settled, including those withdrawn or closed with details of any monies paid.
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Key Points

Payments in 2020/21

- During 2020/21, £21.9 million was paid on clinical / social care negligence cases in Northern Ireland (Tables 1 & 2).
- Of the £21.9 million paid on clinical / social care negligence cases in 2020/21, over two thirds (69.7%, £15.2m) was paid in damages, £4.2 million (19.0%) in plaintiff costs and £2.5 million (11.3%) in defence costs (Figure 2, Table 2).
- During the last five years, the amount paid on clinical / social care negligence cases decreased by £6.7 million (23.4%), from £28.5 million in 2016/17 to £21.9 million in 2020/21 (Table 1).

Payments to date

483

New cases opened during 2020/21

£152.4m

Paid to date on the 3,534 cases open at any stage during 2020/21

434

Cases closed during 2020/21

- During 2020/21, 3,872 clinical / social care negligence cases were open at any stage, 225 (6.2%) more than in 2016/17 (3,647) (Table 3).

- In 2020/21, 483 new cases were opened, 434 cases were closed, whilst 3,187 cases remained open and 251 cases had been settled at 31st March 2021 (Figure 5, Tables 4 - 8).
- Clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage in 2020/21, had been open on average for 2.9 years, slightly longer than 2019/20 (2.6 years) (Figure 11).
- Almost half (48.2%, 1,866) of all cases open in 2020/21, related to four specialties; Obstetrics (628), Accident & Emergency (577), Neurology (333) and General Surgery (328) (Table 14).
- A total of £152.4 million has been paid to date on the 3,872 clinical / social care negligence cases which were open at any stage during 2020/21. Over three quarters (78.2%, £119.3m) had been paid in damages and £33.2 million (21.8%) paid out in legal costs (defence and plaintiff) (Table 15).
- Over three fifths (62.9%, £95.9m) of the amount paid out on clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage during 2020/21 related to the Obstetrics speciality, of which, four fifths (80.6%, £77.3m) had been paid in damages (Table 16).

INTRODUCTION

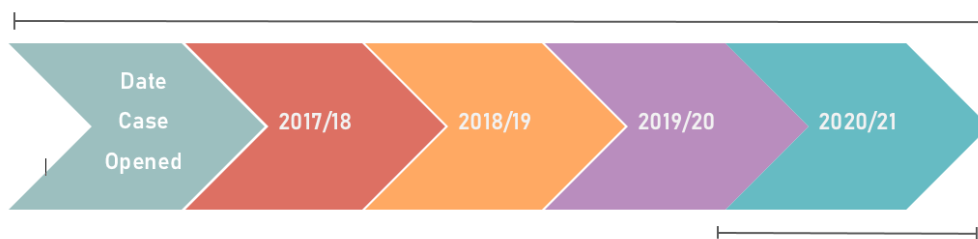
The information presented in this publication is sourced from two Departmental statistical returns:

- (i) **CN1a** - aggregate return that collects information on clinical/social care negligence cases including the **amount paid out each quarter**.
- (ii) **CN1** – annual patient level return on clinical/social care negligence cases open at any stage during the year, including the **amount paid (damages or legal costs) on each case since the case opened**.

Financial Payments Included in the CN1 and CN1a Information Returns

CN1

Refers to amount paid in total every year since a case opened until it closed



CN1a

Refers only to amount paid during a financial year (1st April – 31st March)

What is Clinical/Social Care Negligence?

In this statistical report, clinical/social care negligence is defined as:

“A breach of duty of care by members of the health and social care professions employed by HSC organisations or by others consequent on decisions or judgments made by members of those professions acting in the course of their employment, and which are admitted as negligent by the employer or determined as such through the legal process”.

SECTION 1

PAYMENTS MADE IN 2020/21

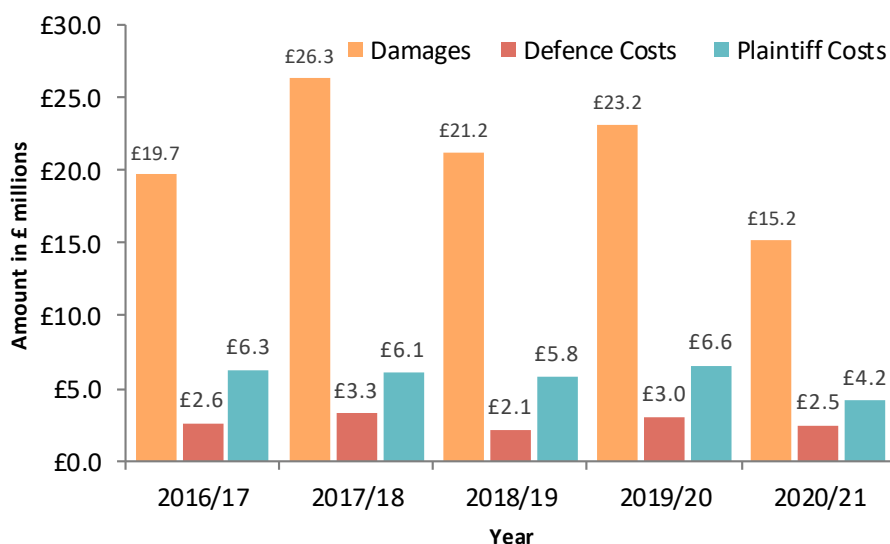
This section details the amount of money paid out during each year, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Boards and payment type.

During 2020/21, £21.9 million was paid on clinical / social care negligence cases in Northern Ireland, with over two thirds (69.7%, £15.2m) paid in damages, £4.2 million (19.0%) in plaintiff costs and £2.5 million (11.3%) in defence costs (Table 2).

During the last five years, the amount paid on clinical / social care negligence cases decreased by £6.7 million (23.4%), from £28.5 million in 2016/17 to £21.9 million in 2020/21 (Table 1).

The amount paid in damages in 2020/21 was £4.5 million (22.6%) less than in 2016/17, defence costs decreased by £0.1 million (5.3%) and plaintiff costs decreased by £2.1 million (33.5%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Amount paid out during last five years, by type of payment



Source: CN1a

£21.9m
Paid on cases in
2020/21

£6.7 m
Decrease in the
amount paid
compared with
2016/17

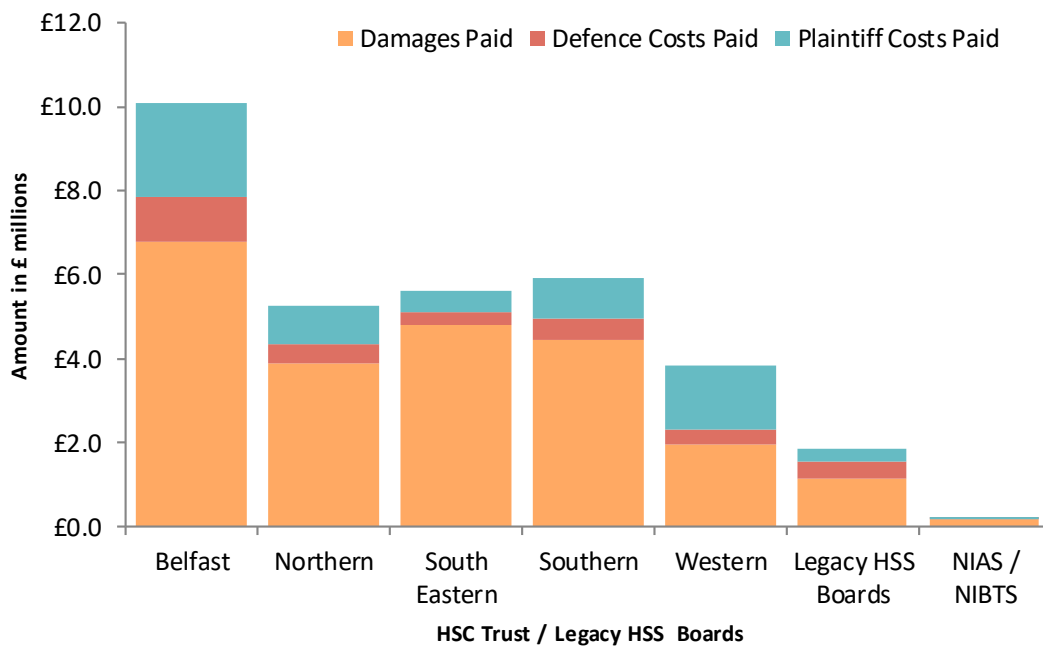
Almost a third (32.3%, £7.1m) of all monies paid in 2020/21 were paid by the Belfast HSC Trust, whilst the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) paid the lowest amount (0.1%, £22k) (Figure 2, Table 2).

During 2020/21, the percentage of all monies paid out in legal costs¹ ranged from 7.6% (£71k) of cases in the Legacy HSS Boards to 54.6% (£1.5m) of cases in the Southern HSC Trust (Figure 2, Table 2).

£7.1 m

Almost a third of all monies paid in 2020/21 was by the Belfast HSC Trust

Figure 2: Amount paid out during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board² and type of payment



Source: CN1a

¹ Legal Costs = Defence Costs + Plaintiff Costs

² Legacy HSS Boards are responsible for alleged incidents that occurred prior to 1993, regardless of the date the claim is made.

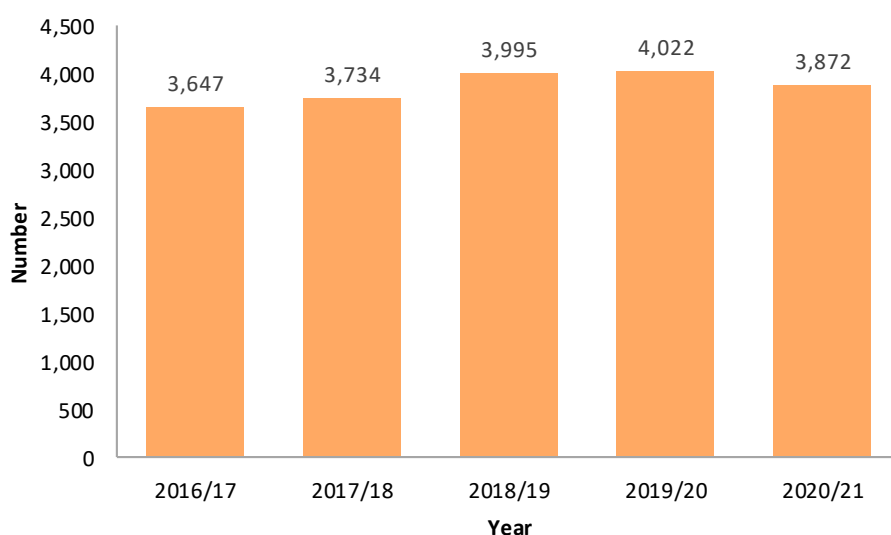
SECTION 2

CASES OPEN AT ANY STAGE DURING THE YEAR

This section details the number of clinical/social care negligence cases open at any stage during each of the last five years. Readers should note that once a case is opened it will be included for each year that it remains open or settled. The year in which a case is closed is the last year it will be included.

During 2020/21, 3,872 clinical / social care negligence cases were open at any stage, an increase of 225 (6.2%) from 3,647 in 2016/17 (Figure 3, Table 3).

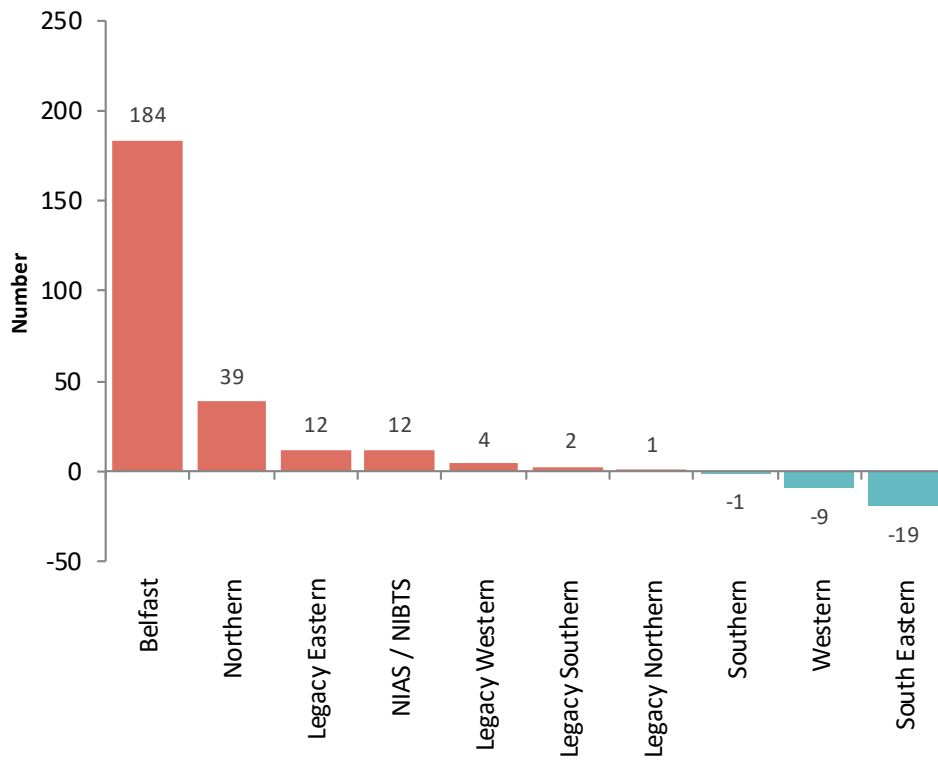
Figure 3: Cases open at any stage, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Boards (2016/17 – 2020/21)



225

More cases open in 2020/21 than five years ago

Figure 4: Change in the number of cases open during the year, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board (2016/17 - 2020/21)



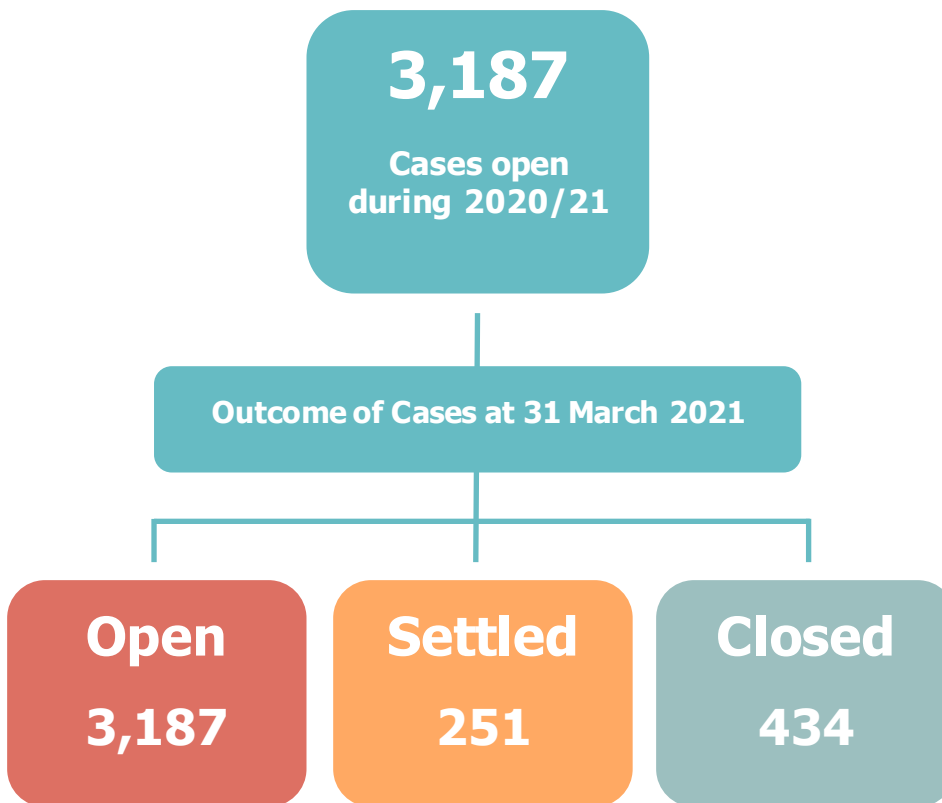
Since 2016/17, the Belfast HSC Trust reported the largest increase in the number of cases open (184, 12.9%), from 1,431 to 1,615 in 2020/21 (Figure 4, Table 3).

Between 2016/17 and 2020/21, the number of cases which were the responsibility of the South Eastern, Southern and Western HSC Trusts decreased (Figure 4, Table 3).

Outcome of cases at 31st March 2021^{3,4}

Over four fifths (82.3%, 3,187) of the 3,872 cases open at any stage in 2020/21 remained open at 31st March 2021, 251 (6.5%) has been settled and 434 (11.2%) had been closed (Figure 5, Table 4).

Figure 5: Outcome of cases (open / settled / closed) at 31st March 2021



Over two fifths (41.7%, 1,615) of all cases open at any stage during 2020/21 were in the Belfast HSC Trust, 559 (14.4%) in the Southern Eastern HSC Trust, 520 (13.4%) in the Western HSC Trust, 518 (13.4%) in the Southern HSC Trust, 516 (13.3%) in the Northern HSC Trust, 115 (3.0%) in the Legacy HSS Boards and 29 (0.7%) in the NIAS/ NIBTS (Table 4).

³ 'Cases Open During' refers to the number of cases that were open at any stage during 2020/21. The number of open, settled and closed cases refers to the position at 31st March 2021, the sum of which equals the total number of cases open during the year.

⁴ Refer to Definitions, Notes 2, 3 & 4.

Open cases

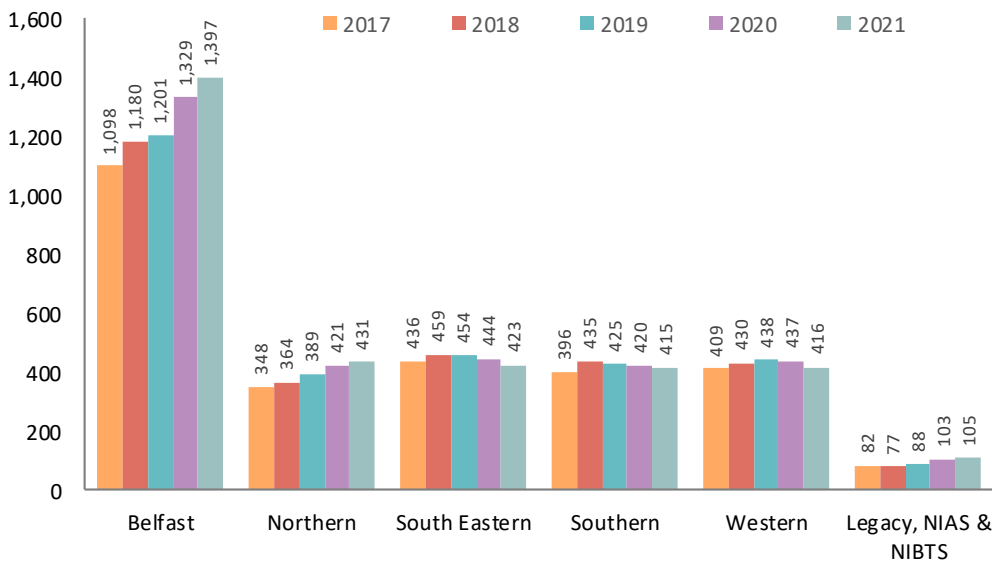
An open case refers to any case for which an official letter of notification of the intention to proceed with a case has been received, and which had not been settled or closed by the last day of the year (31st March).

At 31st March 2021, 3,187 cases remained open in Northern Ireland. Across HSC Trusts, the number of cases open ranged from 105 in the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS to 1,397 in the Belfast HSC Trust (Figure 6, Table 5).

Since 2017, the Belfast HSC Trust reported the largest increase in the number of cases open at 31st March (299, 27.2%), from 1,098 to 1,397 in 2021 (Figure 6, Table 5).

3,187
Cases remained
open at 31st
March 2021

Figure 6: Cases open at 31st March (2017 – 2021)



Settled cases⁵

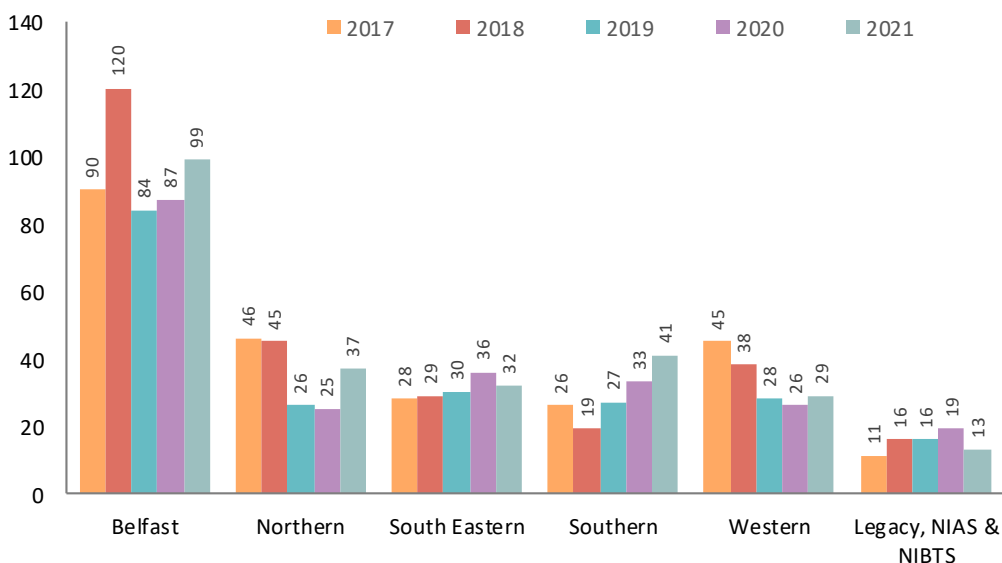
A settled case refers to any settled case that was not subsequently closed by the end of 2020/21. If a case was settled and then closed within the same financial year it is recorded as closed as at 31st March.

At 31st March 2021, 251 cases were settled in Northern Ireland. Of these, 99 (39.4%) were settled in the Belfast HSC Trust, 41 (16.3%) in the Southern HSC Trust, 37 (14.7%) in the Northern HSC Trust, 32 (12.7%) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 29 (11.6%) in the Western HSC Trust and 13 (5.2%) in the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS (Figure 7, Table 6).

The number of cases settled increased in each HSC Trust with the exception of the Western and Northern HSC Trusts since 2017. The Southern HSC Trust reported the largest increase (58.0%, 15) in cases settled during this period, from 26 to 41 at 31st March 2021 (Figure 7, Table 6).

251
Cases were
settled at 31st
March 2021

Figure 7: Cases settled at 31st March (2017 – 2021)



⁵ Cases settled at 31st March 2021 include 'Periodic Payment Order' cases which may have been settled before 1st April 2020. For more information see p.27.

Closed cases

A closed case refers to:

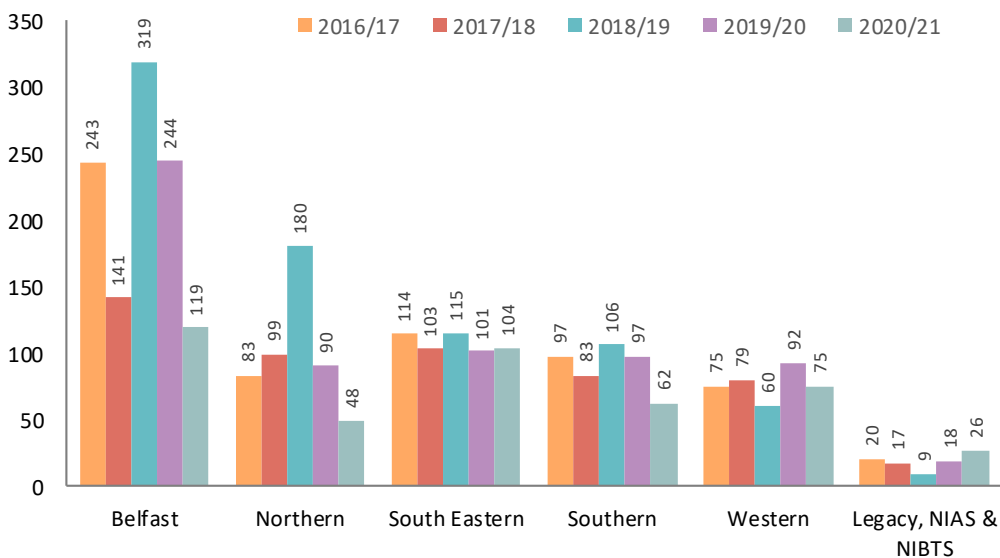
- (i) a case where the decision has been made to withdraw or not proceed with no money being awarded; or
- (ii) a case where all monies awarded have been paid, and there is no longer any activity.

A case is officially closed when the Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) issue a letter stating that the case has been closed.

During 2020/21, 434 cases were closed in Northern Ireland. Of these, 119 cases (27.4%) were closed in the Belfast HSC Trust, 104 (24.0%) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 75 (17.3%) in the Western HSC Trust, 62 (14.3%) in the Southern HSC Trust, 48 (11.1%) in the Northern HSC Trust and 26 (6.0%) in the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS (Figure 8, Table 7).

434
Cases were closed
during 2020/21

Figure 8: Cases closed during the year (2016/17 - 2020/21)



New cases

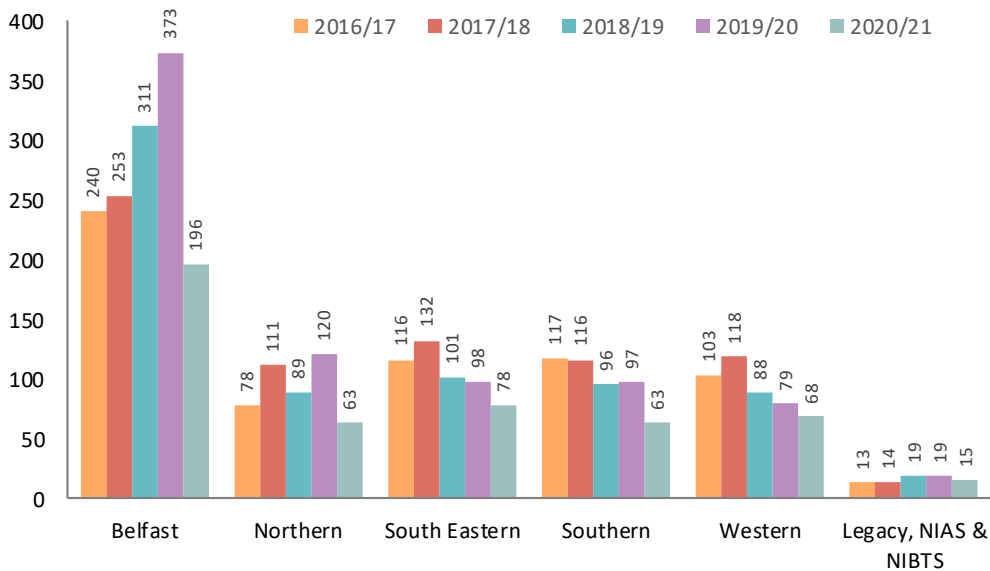
A new case refers to any case opened during the financial year i.e. 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

During 2020/21, 483 new cases were opened in Northern Ireland. The number of new cases opened ranged from 15 in the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS to 196 in the Belfast HSC Trust (Figure 9, Table 8).

Since 2016/17, the number of new cases opened decreased in all Trusts with the exception of the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBT which increased by 2 (15.4%) (Figure 9, Table 8).

483
New cases were
opened in 2020/21

Figure 9: New cases opened during the year (2016/17 - 2020/21)



Year of incident

The information below presents the number of clinical / social care negligence cases that were open at any stage during 2020/21, by the year in which the alleged incident occurred.

Information on the date of the alleged incident was recorded for 98.1% (3,799) of all cases open in 2020/21⁶ (Table 9).

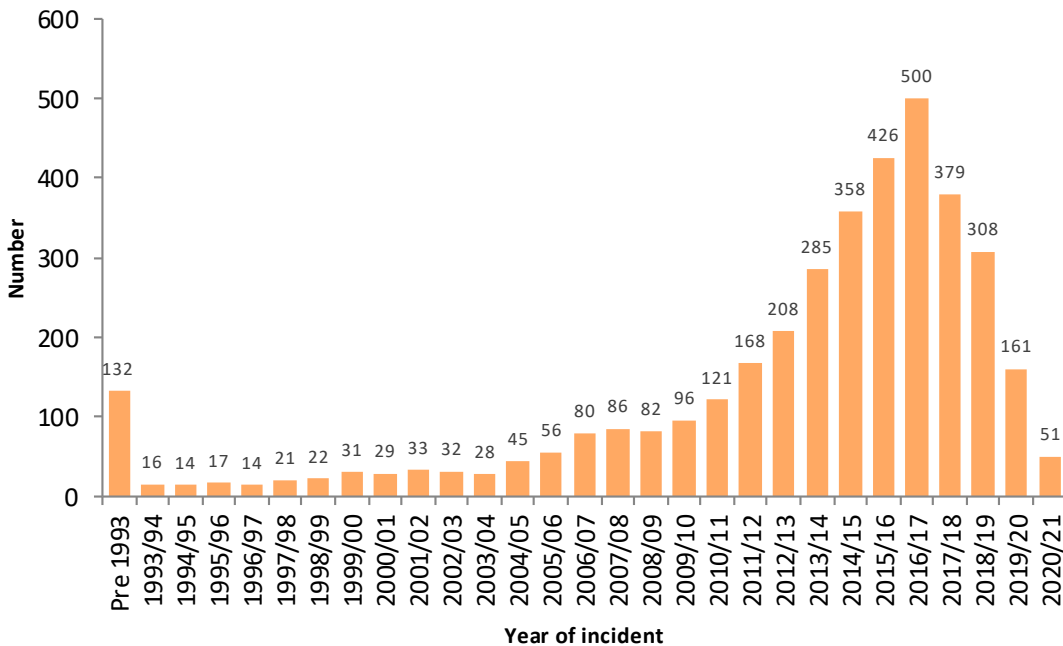
It should also be noted that cases may not be lodged until several years after the date of the alleged incident. This would be expected in cases such as those relating to pregnancy and childbirth, where there may be a delay in the outcome of the disease or disorder.

Over one third (36.8%, 1,399)⁷ of cases related to incidents within the last five years, whilst 132 (3.5%) related to incidents prior to 1993 (Figure 10, Table 9).

37%

Of cases open related to incidents that occurred in the last five years

Figure 10: Cases open by year of incident



⁶ Where the date of the alleged incident was not recorded, the year of incident has been recorded as unknown.

⁷ Refers to cases with a known incident date.

Age of case

The age of a case is based on the difference between the date the case was opened and 31st March 2021 or the date the case was settled or closed.

Over half (55.7%, 1,772) of the 3,180 cases that remained open at 31st March 2021, had been open for less than 3 years, whilst 98 (3.1%) had been open for 10 years or more (Table 10).

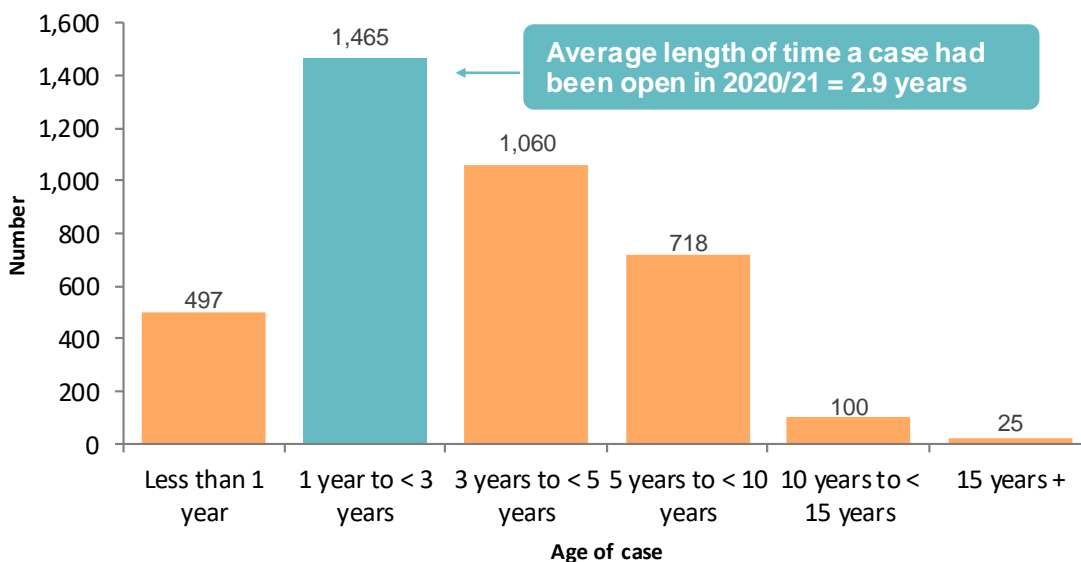
Almost two thirds (64.9%, 163) of cases settled had been open for 3 - 10 years at 31st March 2021, whilst 73 (29.1%) had been open for less than three years (Table 10).

Over two thirds (68.0%, 3,022) of cases closed during 2020/21 had been open for less than 5 years (Table 10).

Cases open at any stage in 2020/21, had been open on average for 2.9 years, slightly longer than in 2019/20 (2.6 years) (Figure 11).

2.9 Years
Average time a case had been open in 2020/21

Figure 11: Cases open at any stage during the year, by age of case (2020/21)⁸



⁸ The age of two cases is unknown

Age at date of alleged incident⁹

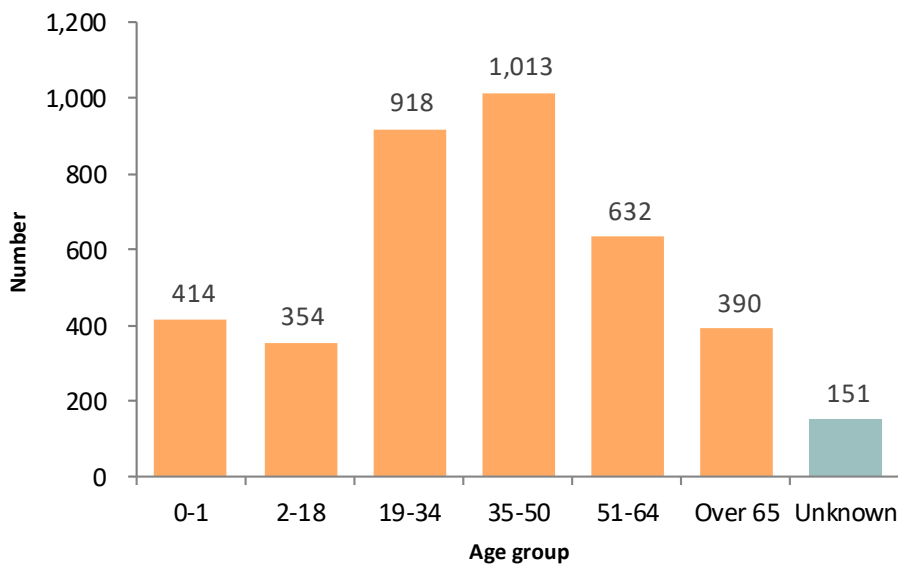
Age, at the time of the alleged incident, was available for 3,721 (96.1%) clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage during 2020/21. On a few occasions the relevant HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board may not initially have been informed of the date of the alleged incident or the date of birth of the patient, in these instances, age at the date of the alleged incident is unknown (Figure 12).

Since 2016/17, the number of cases open increased in each age group with the exception of the 2-18 and 19-34 year old age groups, with the highest number recorded in the 35-50 (1,013) age group (Table 11).

Over the last five years, the number of cases involving persons over 65 years of age increased by 30 (8.3%), from 360 in 2016/17 to 390 in 2020/21 (Table 11).

26%
A quarter of cases open involved persons aged 35 - 50

Figure 12: Cases open at any stage, by age group (2020/21)



⁹ Age at date of alleged incident was calculated as the difference between the date of birth of the patient and the date of the alleged incident.

Nature of alleged incident

The nature of the alleged incident was recorded for 3,599 (92.9%) of all cases open at any stage during 2020/21¹⁰ (Table 12).

Almost a third (29.2%, 1,130)¹¹ of cases open at any stage during 2020/21 related to Treatment, 884 (22.8%) to Diagnosis & Tests, 366 (9.5%) to Pregnancy & Childbirth and 251 (6.5%) to Operation. These four categories accounted for over two thirds (67.9%, 2,631) of all cases open (Figure 13, Table 12).

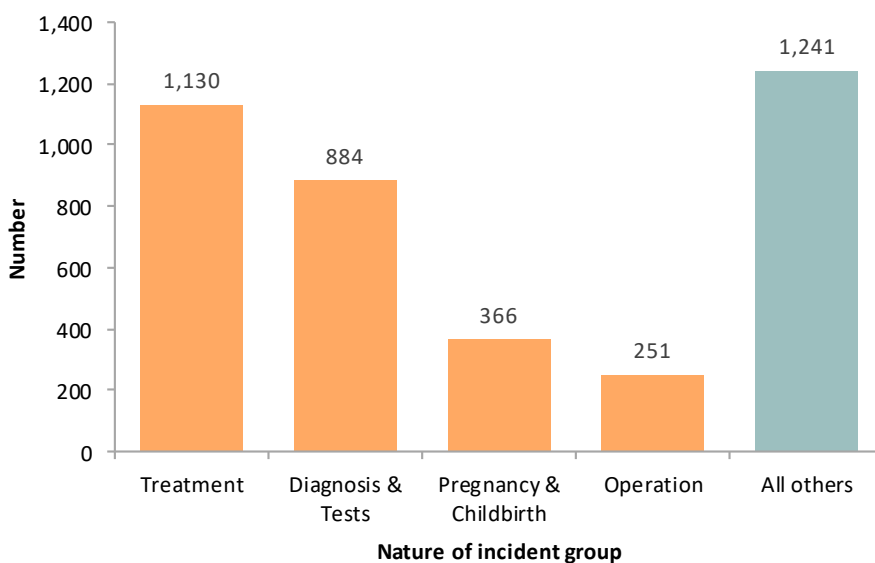
29%

Almost a third of cases open during 2020/21 related to Treatment

In 2020/21, the highest number of cases in four of the HSC Trusts (Belfast, Northern, South Eastern & Western) related to Treatment (Table 23).

Within the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS group the largest percentage of cases open in 2020/21 related to the Pregnancy & Childbirth incident group (21, 14.6%) (Table 23).

Figure 13: Four largest nature of alleged incident groups (2020/21)



¹⁰ A list of nature of incidents can be found in Appendix 3 with nature of incident group detailed in Appendix 4.

¹¹ Refers to the number of cases with a known nature of incident.

Of the 1,130 cases related to the Treatment incident group, 74.8% (845) were associated with 'Fail to / Delay Treatment' (Figure 14, Table 13).

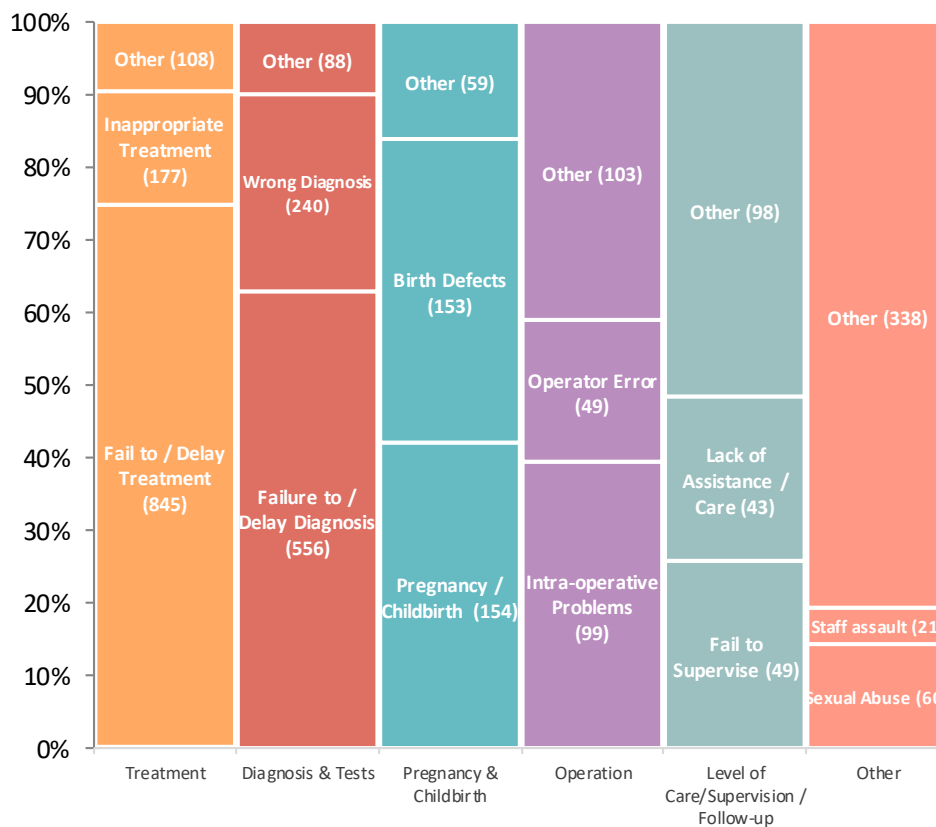
Over three fifths (62.9%, 556) of cases open in 2020/21 which were reported as Diagnosis & Tests related to 'Failure to / Delay diagnosis' (Figure 14, Table 13).

Of the 366 cases related to Pregnancy & Childbirth, over two fifths (42.1%, 154) related to 'Pregnancy / Childbirth' and 153 (41.8%) related to 'Birth Defects' (Figure 14, Table 13).

Almost two fifths (39.4%, 99) of incidents reported as Operation (251) related to 'Intra-Operative Problems' (Figure 14, Table 13).

Over a quarter (25.8%, 49) of Level of Care/Supervision/Follow-up (190) incidents related to 'Fail to supervise' (Figure 14, Table 13).

Figure 14: Cases open at any stage, grouped by the nature of alleged incident (2020/21)



Specialty ¹²

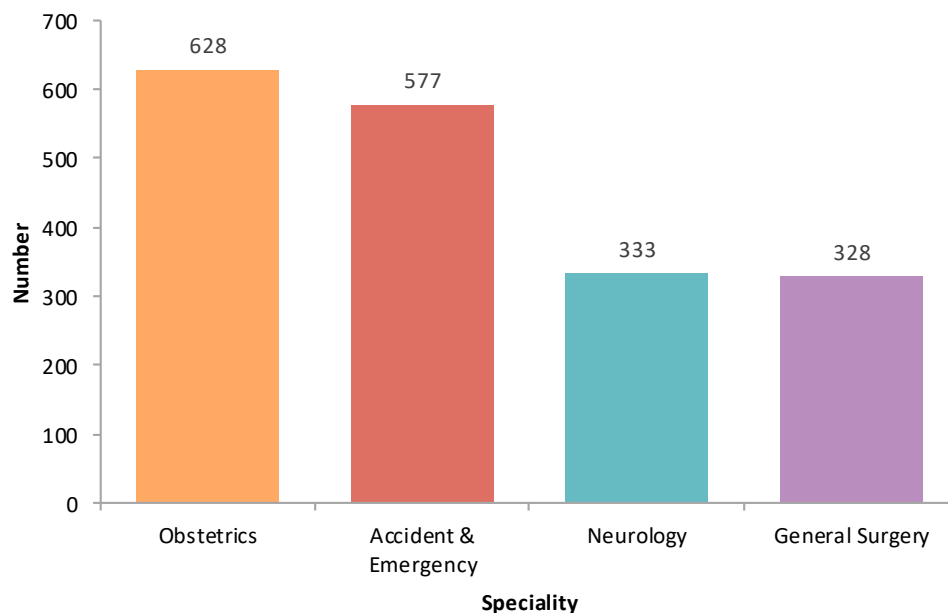
Specialty was recorded for 3,732 (96.4%) of all clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage during 2020/21 (Table 14).

Since 2016/17, the number of cases relating to the 'Neurology' specialty increased ten-fold (304), from 29 to 333 in 2020/21 (Table 14).

Over half (50.0%, 1,866)¹³ of all cases open in 2020/21, related to four specialties; Obstetrics (628), Accident & Emergency (577), Neurology (333) and General Surgery (328) (Figure 15, Table 14).

16%
A sixth of cases related to the 'Obstetrics' specialty

Figure 15: Four largest specialties (2020/21)



¹² A list of case specialties can be found in Appendix 5. This list consists of Korner specialties plus additional categories to cover community related incidents.

¹³ Refers to the number of cases with a **known** specialty.

SECTION 3

PAYMENTS UP TO 31st MARCH 2021

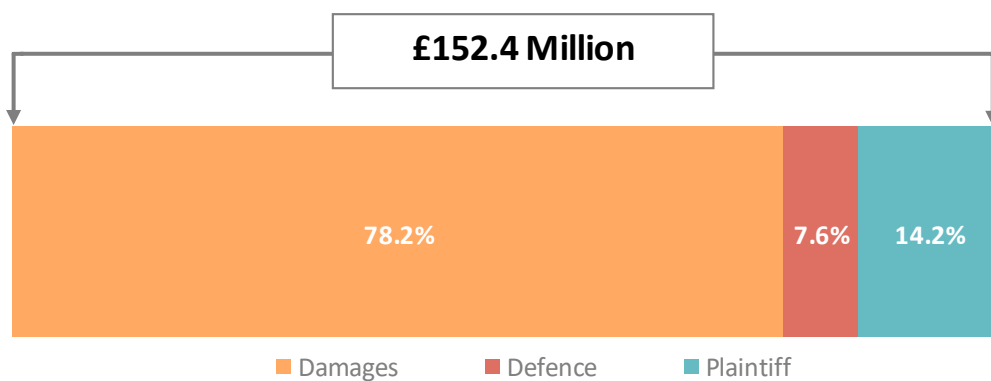
Readers should note that information presented in this section **refers to the total cumulative payments up to 31st March 2021** and **not** the amount paid out in 2020/21, which is presented separately in section 1. For example, if a case was opened in 2015 and had not been closed by 1st April 2020, payments will be included on this case from the date it opened until 31st March 2021 or closed date.

43 cases
Accounted for
over three quarters
of damages paid

At 31st March 2021, £152.4 million had been paid on the 3,872 clinical / social care negligence cases that were open at any stage in 2020/21. Of this, £119.3 million (78.2%) had been awarded in damages, £21.6 million (14.2%) in plaintiff costs and £11.6 million (7.6%) in defence costs (Figure 16, Table 15).

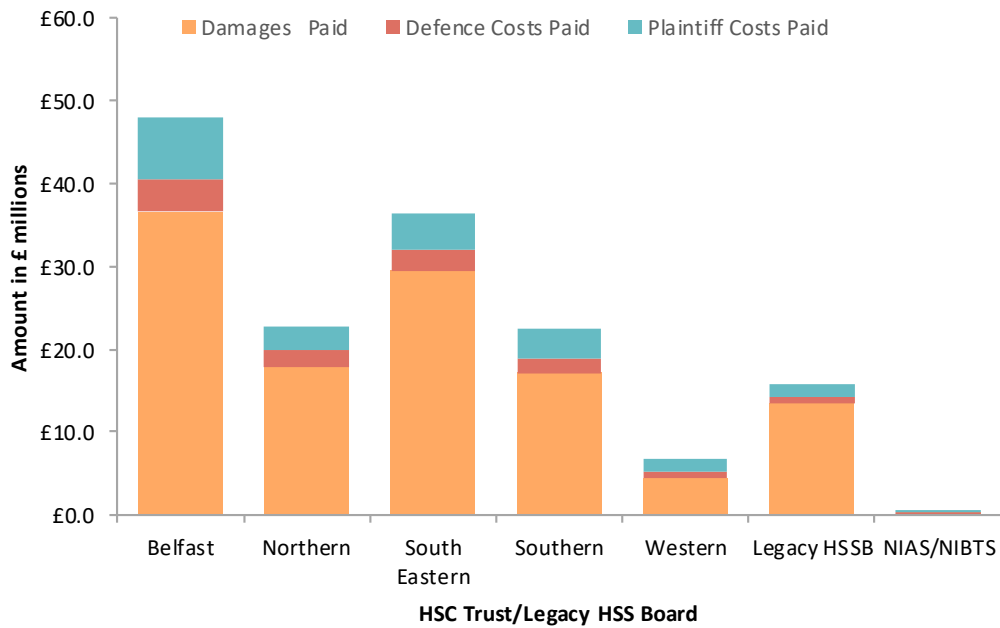
Over four fifths (80.7%, £96.2m) of the total amount paid in damages¹⁴ related to just 43 (1.1%) of the 3,872 cases open during 2020/21.

Figure 16: Amount paid on cases open at any stage during 2020/21



¹⁴ Refer to Definitions, Note 8.

Figure 17: Amount paid on cases open at any stage during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board



The Belfast HSC Trust paid the largest amount in damages and legal costs (£48.0m) on cases which were open in 2020/21, accounting for almost a third (31.5%) of all monies paid (Figure 17, Table 15).

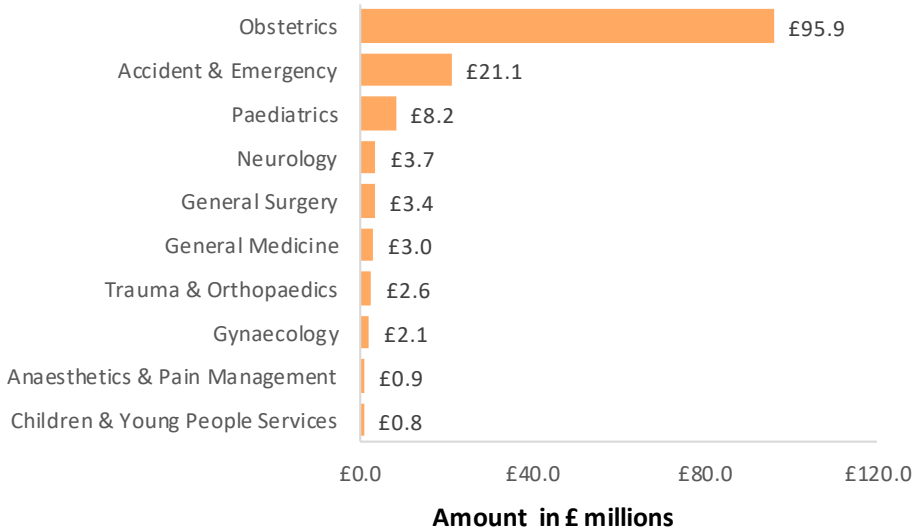
Over a third (£11.5m, 34.5%) of the total amount paid in legal costs¹⁵ was paid by the Belfast HSC Trust, £6.9 million (20.8%) by the South Eastern HSC Trust, £5.3 million (16.0%) by the Southern HSC Trust, £4.9 million (14.8%) by the Northern HSC Trust, £2.3 million (6.9%) by the Legacy HSS Boards, £2.2 million (6.8%) by the Western HSC Trust and £72k (0.2%) by the NIAS/NIBTS (Table 15).

¹⁵ Refer to Definitions, Notes 9 and 10.

Payments by specialty

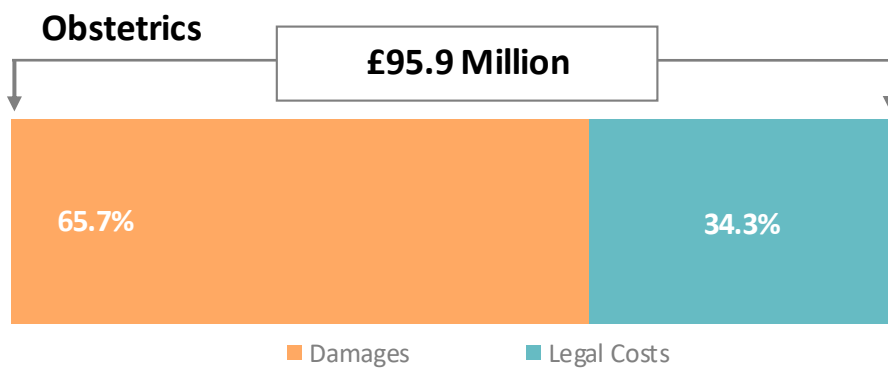
Of the £152.4m paid on clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage during 2020/21, £141.7m (93.0%), related to 10 specialties (Table 16, Figure 18).

Figure 18: Amount paid on the 10 largest specialties (2020/21)



Over three fifths (62.9%, £95.9m) of the amount paid out on cases open at any stage in 2020/21 related to the Obstetrics specialty, of which, four fifths (80.6%, £77.3m) had been paid on damages (Figure 19, Table 16).

Figure 19: Amount paid on the obstetrics specialty (2020/21)



63%

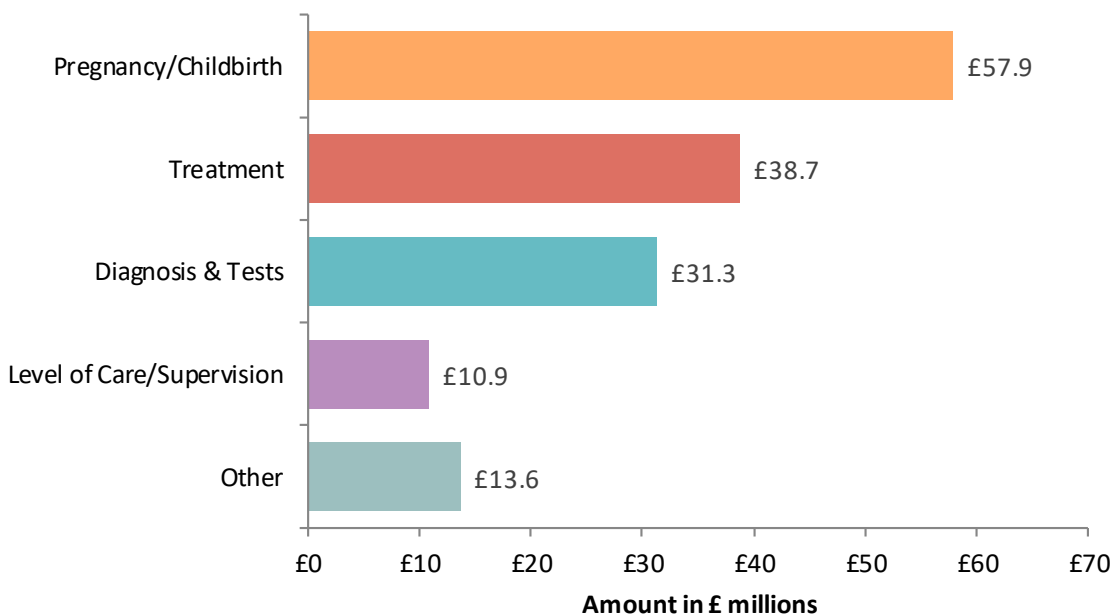
Three fifths of the amount paid out related to the 'Obstetrics' specialty

Payments by nature of alleged incident¹⁶

Almost two fifths (38.0%, £57.9m) of the total amount paid to date on clinical / social care negligence cases open at any stage during 2020/21, related to the Pregnancy & Childbirth nature of incident group. Of this, four fifths (80.1%, £46.3m) had been paid in damages (Figure 20, Table 17).

Four categories accounted for 91.0% (£138.8m) of all monies paid on cases open at any stage during 2020/21. Of this, £109.6 million (79.0%) had been paid in damages and £29.2 million (21.0%) paid in legal costs (Table 17).

Figure 20: Total amount paid by the largest nature of alleged incident categories (2020/21)



¹⁶ The nature of the alleged incident was determined by data providers using the list provided in Appendix 3.

Periodical payment orders

A periodical payment order (PPO), also referred to as a ‘structured settlement’, is an arrangement whereby the claimant receives a lump sum for their immediate needs upfront, followed by periodical payments on an agreed schedule, that is, it provides a stream of future payments (tax-free) guaranteed for life. The decision on whether to proceed with receiving the settlement as a lump sum or through periodical payments is voluntary, and to date a relatively small number of plaintiffs have opted for PPOs in Northern Ireland.

Almost half (48.8%, £74.4m) of the £152.4 million paid on cases open at any stage during 2020/21, had been paid on 30 PPO cases (Figure 20, Table 18).

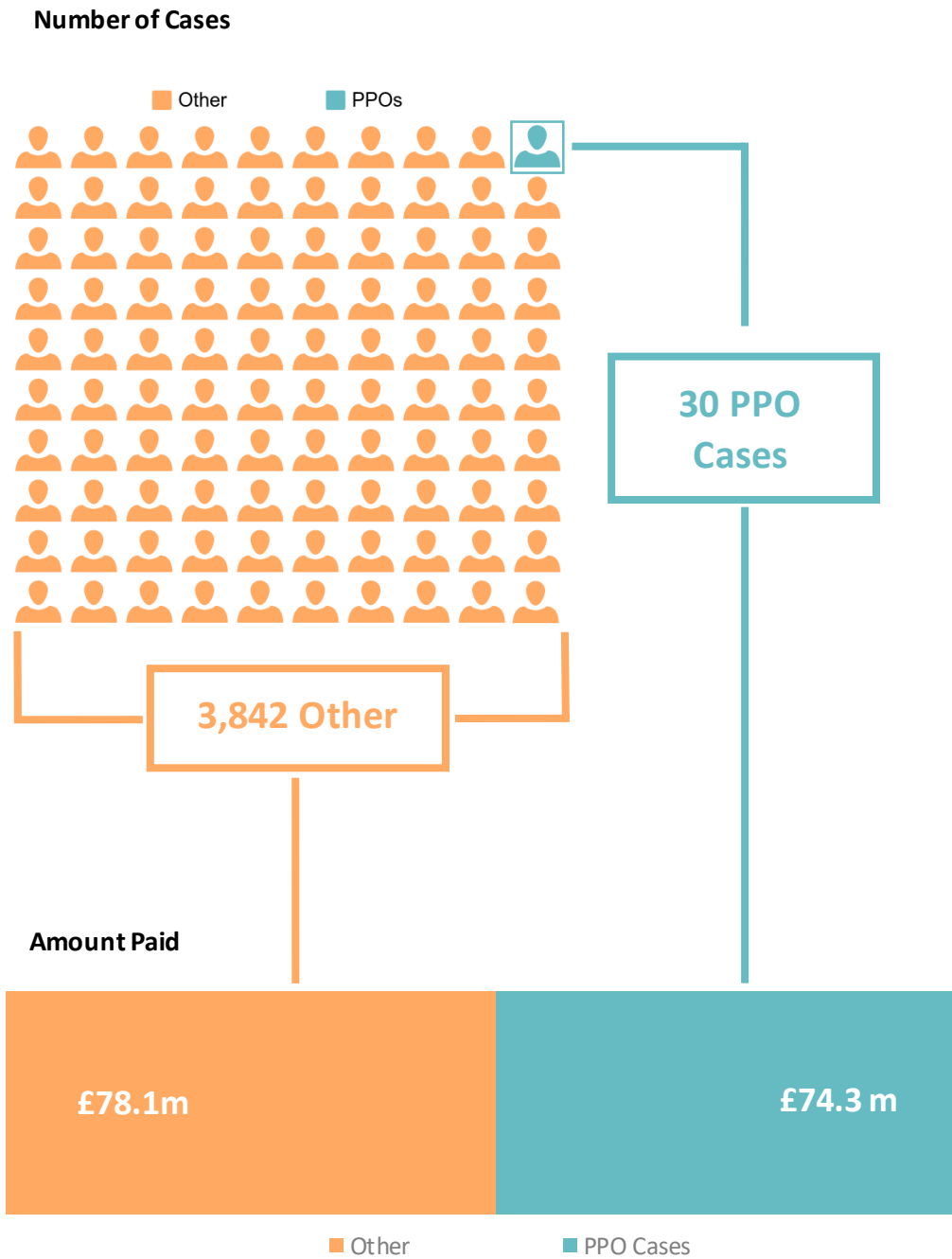
Of the £74.3 million paid by PPOs, £60.1 million (80.9%) had been paid in damages, £10.3 million (13.8%) in plaintiff costs and £3.9 million (5.3%) in defence costs (Table 18).

Two fifths (40.2%, £29.9m) of the amount paid by PPOs had been paid by the Belfast HSC Trust, £27.7 million (37.3%) by the South Eastern HSC Trust, £16.5 million (22.2%) by the Southern HSC Trust and £0.2m (0.3%) by the Legacy HSS Boards, NIAS & NIBTS, whilst the Northern and Western HSC Trusts had no PPOs in 2020/21 (Table 18).

£29.9m

Over two fifths of the amount paid by PPOs had been paid by the Belfast HSC Trust

Figure 20: Amount paid on periodic payment order cases (2020/21)



Payments on closed cases¹⁷

During 2020/21, 434 (11.2%) cases were closed, with over three quarters (75.8%, 329) closed without any payment awarded (Table 19).

The South Eastern HSC Trust closed 104 cases in 2020/2021, with over four fifths (81.7%, 85) of these closed without any payments awarded, whilst the Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS group made payments on almost two fifths (38.5%, 10) of the cases they closed in 2020/21 (Figure 21, Table 19).

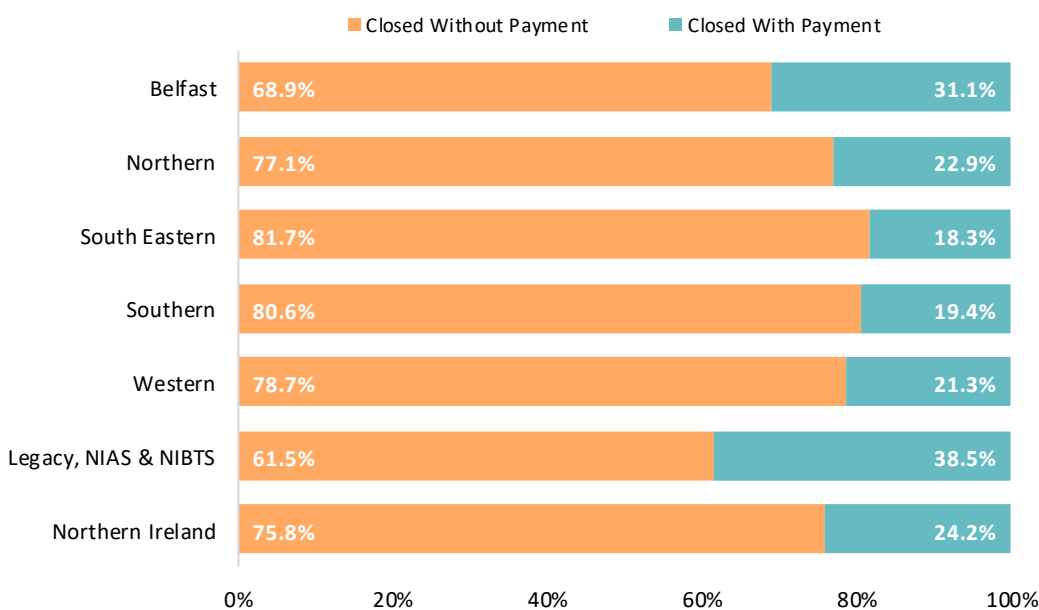
Almost a quarter (24.2%, 105) of cases closed in 2020/21 had payments, totalling £9.7 million. This accounted for 6.3% of all monies paid out on cases open at any stage during the year (Table 20).

Over a fifth (21.1%, £2.0m) of the amount paid on cases closed in 2020/21 was paid by the Belfast HSC Trust (Table 20).

329

Over three quarters of cases were closed in 2020/21 without payment

Figure 21: Cases closed with & without payments (2020/21)



¹⁷ A payment may include damages awarded, defence costs and plaintiff costs or a combination of any of these three costs.

Closed cases with legal costs exceeding damages

Over one in 10 (11.8%, 51) cases closed in 2020/21 had legal costs (£1.1m) exceeding the amount awarded in damages (£0.6m). This equates to £0.5 million more paid in legal costs than damages, with the Belfast Trust recording the largest difference (£0.2m) (Table 21).

Payments on cases closed with no damages

Over one in twenty (5.3%, 23) cases closed in 2020/21 had no damages awarded but had legal fees, amounting to £150k. This accounted for 1.5% of all monies paid out on cases closed during 2020/21 (Table 22).

ADDITIONAL TABLES

Table 1: Amount paid on clinical / social care negligence cases, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board (2016/17 - 2020/21)

HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Change from 2016/17	% Change from 2016/17
Belfast	£10,153,969	£10,843,553	£15,230,342	£10,103,777	£7,057,538	-£3,096,431	-30.5%
Northern	£7,942,506	£8,201,203	£2,157,461	£5,271,022	£4,737,589	-£3,204,917	-40.4%
South Eastern	£2,488,374	£6,776,587	£1,147,087	£5,612,118	£4,580,300	£2,091,926	84.1%
Southern	£2,078,193	£5,154,844	£2,912,103	£5,918,173	£2,739,764	£661,571	31.8%
Western	£1,739,806	£3,228,221	£3,766,075	£3,847,470	£1,779,476	£39,670	2.3%
Legacy HSS Boards	£4,119,597	£1,421,614	£3,989,029	£1,851,585	£934,659	-£3,184,939	-77.3%
NIAS / NIBTS	£18,617	£25,818	£7,437	£223,832	£22,448	£3,831	20.6%
Northern Ireland	£28,541,062	£35,651,840	£29,209,533	£32,827,978	£21,851,773	-£6,689,289	-23.4%

Table 2: Amount paid on clinical / social care negligence cases during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board and type of payment

HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid
Belfast	£5,401,915	£728,799	£926,824	£7,057,538
Northern	£3,291,886	£757,610	£688,093	£4,737,589
South Eastern	£3,067,604	£388,743	£1,123,953	£4,580,300
Southern	£1,243,870	£309,978	£1,185,915	£2,739,764
Western	£1,344,085	£258,591	£176,801	£1,779,476
Legacy HSS Boards	£863,826	£15,463	£55,371	£934,659
NIAS / NIBTS	£14,912	£5,048	£2,487	£22,448
Northern Ireland	£15,228,098	£2,464,231	£4,159,444	£21,851,773

**Table 3: Cases open during the year, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board¹⁸
(2016/17 - 2020/21)**

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Belfast	1,431	1,441	1,604	1,660	1,615
Northern	477	508	595	536	516
South Eastern	578	591	599	581	559
Southern	519	537	558	550	518
Western	529	547	526	556	520
Legacy Eastern	54	51	48	67	66
Legacy Northern	10	9	13	12	11
Legacy Southern	10	9	10	11	12
Legacy Western	22	23	21	24	26
NIAS/NIBTS	17	18	21	25	29
Northern Ireland	3,647	3,734	3,995	4,022	3,872

Table 4: Outcome of cases during the year, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board (2020/21)¹⁹

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	Outcome at 31 st March 2021			All Cases Open During 2020/21
	Open	Settled	Closed	
Belfast	1,397	99	119	1,615
Northern	431	37	48	516
South Eastern	423	32	104	559
Southern	415	41	62	518
Western	416	29	75	520
Legacy HSS Boards	83	*	*	115
NIAS/NIBTS	22	*	*	29
Northern Ireland	3,187	251	434	3,872

¹⁸ Legacy HSS Boards are responsible for alleged incidents that occurred prior to 1993, regardless of the date the claim is made.

¹⁹ In order to avoid personal disclosure an '*' represents a cell count of less than 4. When the anonymised figure can be deduced from the totals, the next smallest figure was also anonymised.

**Table 5: Open cases at 31st March, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board
(2017 - 2021)**

HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board	Open at 31 st March				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Belfast	1,098	1,180	1,201	1,329	1,397
Northern	348	364	389	421	431
South Eastern	436	459	454	444	423
Southern	396	435	425	420	415
Western	409	430	438	437	416
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	82	77	88	103	105
Northern Ireland Total	2,769	2,945	2,995	3,154	3,187

**Table 6: Settled cases at 31st March, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Boards
(2017 - 2021)**

HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board	Settled at 31 st March				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Belfast	90	120	84	87	99
Northern	46	45	26	25	37
South Eastern	28	29	30	36	32
Southern	26	19	27	33	41
Western	45	38	28	26	29
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	11	16	16	19	13
Northern Ireland Total	246	267	211	226	251

Table 7: Cases closed by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board (2016/17 - 2020/21)

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	Closed During				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Belfast	243	141	319	244	119
Northern	83	99	180	90	48
South Eastern	114	103	115	101	104
Southern	97	83	106	97	62
Western	75	79	60	92	75
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	20	17	9	18	26
Northern Ireland Total	632	522	789	642	434

Table 8: New cases opened each year, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board (2016/17 - 2020/21)

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	New Cases				
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Belfast	240	253	311	373	196
Northern	78	111	89	120	63
South Eastern	116	132	101	98	78
Southern	117	116	96	97	63
Western	103	118	88	79	68
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	13	14	19	19	15
Northern Ireland Total	667	744	704	786	483

Table 9: Cases by year of incident

Year of Incident	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Pre 1993	106	103	110	136	132
1993/94	17	19	20	18	16
1994/95	28	22	16	16	14
1995/96	18	16	17	18	17
1996/97	18	17	14	14	14
1997/98	22	20	22	23	21
1998/99	26	27	27	25	22
1999/00	31	31	34	30	31
2000/01	29	26	28	32	29
2001/02	36	32	29	35	33
2002/03	31	31	33	34	32
2003/04	42	40	36	27	28
2004/05	54	41	41	41	45
2005/06	75	68	61	51	56
2006/07	120	103	94	88	80
2007/08	146	108	107	96	86
2008/09	146	122	116	89	82
2009/10	218	176	163	117	96
2010/11	257	184	155	136	121
2011/12	374	292	253	202	168
2012/13	508	406	343	250	208
2013/14	508	546	502	388	285
2014/15	381	451	494	443	358
2015/16	285	382	453	485	426
2016/17	116	316	426	498	500
2017/18	116	108	235	326	379
2018/19	116	108	95	254	308
2019/20	116	108	95	79	161
2020/21	116	108	95	79	51
Unknown	55	47	71	71	73
Total	3,647	3,734	3,995	4,022	3,872

**Table 10: Cases open at any stage during the year, by age of case
(2020/21)²⁰**

Length of Time Open	Outcome at Year End			No. Open During Year
	Open	Settled	Closed	
Less than 1 year	476	8	13	497
1 year to < 3 years	1,296	65	104	1,465
3 years to < 5 years	804	78	178	1,060
5 years to < 10 years	506	85	127	718
10 years to < 15 years	81	8	11	100
15 years +	17	7	1	25
Total	3,180	251	434	3,865

Table 11: Cases open at any stage, by age group (2016/17 – 2020/21)

Age Group (Years)	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Change since 2016/17
0-1	392	422	428	414	414	↑
2-18	354	336	360	375	354	→
19-34	954	979	1,028	1,003	918	↓
35-50	878	877	941	1,024	1,013	↑
51-64	591	630	680	634	632	↑
Over 65	360	375	418	427	390	↑
Unknown	118	115	140	145	151	↑
Total	3,613	3,647	3,995	4,022	3,872	↑

²⁰ The age of the case was unknown in four instances.

**Table 12: Cases open at any stage, by nature of alleged incident group
(2016/17 – 2020/21)**

Nature of Incident Group	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Change since 2016/17
Admissions/Referral	19	20	25	25	21	↑
Assault (to or by patient)	7	6	10	12	11	↑
Consent/Failure to warn	25	43	58	51	50	↑
Diagnosis & Tests	690	702	791	886	884	↑
Discharge	18	17	16	18	17	→
Facilities & Equipment	52	59	63	67	64	↑
Infections	72	78	79	72	63	↓
Level of Care/Supervision/Follow-up	231	219	237	222	190	↓
Medication/Bloods/Fluids	106	113	118	111	112	↑
Operation	288	289	286	265	251	↓
Pregnancy & Childbirth	324	359	399	383	366	↑
Treatment	1158	1,136	1,233	1,203	1,130	↑
Unexpected death	16	17	21	18	21	↑
Other	425	509	510	407	419	↑
Unknown	216	167	149	282	273	↑
Total	3,647	3,734	3,995	4,022	3,872	↑

Table 13: Cases open at any stage, grouped by the nature of the alleged incident (2020/21)²¹

Nature of Incident	No. of Cases	% of Nature of Incident Group
Treatment		
Fail to / Delay treatment	845	74.8%
Inappropriate treatment	177	15.7%
Others under Treatment	108	9.6%
Total	1,130	100.0%
Diagnosis & Tests		
Failure to / Delay diagnosis	556	62.9%
Wrong diagnosis made	240	27.1%
Others under diagnosis & tests	88	10.0%
Total	884	100.0%
Pregnancy & Childbirth		
Pregnancy/Childbirth	154	42.1%
Birth Defects	153	41.8%
Others under Pregnancy & Childbirth	59	16.1%
Total	366	100.0%
Operation		
Intra-operative problems	99	39.4%
Operator error	49	19.5%
Others under Operation	103	41.0%
Total	251	100.0%
Level of Care/Supervision / Follow-up		
Fail to supervise	49	25.8%
Lack of assistance/care	43	22.6%
Others under Level of Care/Supervision/Follow - Up	98	51.6%
Total	190	100.0%
Other		
Sexual Abuse	60	14.3%
Assault, etc by hospital staff	21	80.7%
Others under Other	338	5.0%
Total	419	100.0%

²¹This table details the largest nature of incident groups and the largest categories within those groups, therefore data will not sum to overall total.

Table 14: Cases open at any stage, by specialty (2016/17 – 2020/21)

Specialty	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Change since 2016/17
Accident & Emergency	626	629	670	645	577	↓
Anaesthetics & Pain Mgt.	52	56	50	47	41	↓
Burns, Plastic & Max. Surgery	29	30	28	25	23	↓
Cardiac Surgery	28	28	23	17	15	↓
Cardiology	42	45	47	49	49	↑
Children & Young People	106	105	114	122	130	↑
Dentistry	25	19	21	16	15	↓
Ear, Nose & Throat	39	38	43	47	42	↑
General Medicine	211	204	209	187	163	↓
General Surgery	379	397	413	368	328	↓
Gynaecology	194	236	259	275	284	↑
Mental Health Acute	58	64	71	71	65	↑
Neurology	29	23	107	261	333	↑
Neurosurgery	28	28	27	24	22	↓
Obstetrics	636	674	712	671	628	↓
Oncology	26	33	43	52	52	↑
Ophthalmology	37	43	51	54	49	↑
Paediatrics	95	90	91	92	88	↓
Radiology	56	55	60	61	62	↑
Trauma & Orthopaedics	374	366	369	328	284	↓
Urology	59	62	66	63	62	↑
Other	441	440	459	445	420	↓
Unknown	77	69	62	102	140	↑
Total	3,647	3,734	3,995	4,022	3,872	↑

**Table 15: Amount paid to date on cases open at any stage during
2020/21**

HSC Trust/ Legacy HSS Board	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid	No. of Cases Open
Belfast	£36,536,444	£3,966,394	£7,494,923	£47,997,761	1,615
Northern	£17,846,379	£1,953,915	£2,961,039	£22,761,333	516
South Eastern	£29,538,318	£2,446,084	£4,438,638	£36,423,041	559
Southern	£17,196,181	£1,634,840	£3,689,305	£22,520,326	518
Western	£4,423,222	£844,827	£1,401,845	£6,669,894	520
Legacy HSSB	£13,522,675	£694,624	£1,579,480	£15,796,780	115
NIAS/NIBTS	£200,177	£32,184	£39,605	£271,966	29
Northern Ireland	£119,263,396	£11,572,868	£21,604,836	£152,441,100	3,872

**Table 16: Amount paid to date on cases open at any stage during
2020/21, by speciality**

Speciality	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid
Accident & Emergency	£16,494,080	£1,608,558	£3,041,231	£21,143,869
Anaesthetics & Pain Management	£629,500	£56,959	£209,435	£895,893
Children & Young People Services	£464,307	£114,584	£194,610	£773,501
General Medicine	£1,741,926	£729,623	£551,639	£3,023,188
General Surgery	£2,356,750	£400,105	£657,255	£3,414,110
Gynaecology	£1,384,947	£248,538	£474,763	£2,108,248
Neurology	£2,988,849	£362,037	£310,621	£3,661,507
Obstetrics	£77,345,367	£5,947,905	£12,635,982	£95,929,254
Paediatrics	£6,161,727	£532,493	£1,483,584	£8,177,805
Trauma & Orthopaedics	£1,831,332	£433,730	£356,024	£2,621,086
Other	£7,864,611	£1,138,337	£1,689,690	£10,692,637
Total	£119,263,396	£11,572,868	£21,604,836	£152,441,100

Table 17: Amount paid to date on cases open at any stage during 2020/21, by nature of alleged incident

Nature of Incident Group	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid
Admissions/Referral	£2,742,734	£160,878	£276,891	£3,180,503
Assault (to patient & by patient)	£1,530	£0	£1,762	£3,291
Consent/Failure to warn	£95,000	£42,200	£75,104	£212,304
Diagnosis & Tests	£23,497,172	£2,620,140	£5,203,240	£31,320,552
Discharge	£0	£30	£0	£30
Facilities & Equipment	£32,500	£14,864	£6,339	£53,703
Infections	£275,302	£38,603	£78,847	£392,752
Level of Care/Supervision	£9,119,255	£636,864	£1,097,472	£10,853,592
Medication/Bloods/Fluids	£387,686	£191,305	£272,229	£851,220
Operation	£3,686,319	£440,911	£751,387	£4,878,618
Pregnancy/Childbirth	£46,338,688	£3,970,856	£7,572,927	£57,882,471
Treatment	£30,627,176	£2,910,577	£5,201,060	£38,738,813
Unexpected death	£285,000	£23,160	£29,629	£337,789
Other	£2,140,035	£450,287	£997,724	£3,588,046
Unknown	£35,000	£72,193	£40,225	£147,418
Total	£119,263,396	£11,572,868	£21,604,836	£152,441,100

Table 18: Amount paid to date by periodical payment orders on cases open at any stage during 2020/21

HSC Trust/ Legacy HSS Board	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid	No. of PPOs
Belfast	£23,459,190	£1,532,604	£4,868,986	£29,860,780	11
South Eastern	£22,969,341	£1,580,269	£3,178,991	£27,728,601	11
Southern	£13,527,579	£778,263	£2,215,745	£16,521,588	7
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	£181,177	£23,715	£28,155	£233,047	1
Northern Ireland	£60,137,287	£3,914,851	£10,291,878	£74,344,016	30

Table 19: Cases closed by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board, by payments awarded (2020/21)

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	Closed Without Payment		Closed With Payment		Total Cases Closed
	No.	%	No.	%	
Belfast	82	68.9%	37	31.1%	119
Northern	37	77.1%	11	22.9%	48
South Eastern	85	81.7%	19	18.3%	104
Southern	50	80.6%	12	19.4%	62
Western	59	78.7%	16	21.3%	75
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	16	61.5%	10	38.5%	26
Northern Ireland Total	329	75.8%	105	24.2%	434

Table 20: Amount paid on cases closed during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board and type of payment

HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board	No. of Cases Closed	Damages Paid	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid
Belfast	37	£1,121,108	£364,561	£556,145	£2,041,814
Northern	11	£1,083,500	£192,416	£322,542	£1,598,458
South Eastern	19	£945,390	£177,825	£496,560	£1,619,775
Southern	12	£1,171,852	£216,748	£519,969	£1,908,569
Western	16	£637,500	£112,727	£337,402	£1,087,629
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	10	£1,151,000	£66,603	£204,407	£1,422,010
Northern Ireland	105	£6,110,350	£1,130,880	£2,437,024	£9,678,254

Table 21: Cases with legal costs exceeding damages awarded closed during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board²²

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	No. Of Cases Closed	Damages	Legal Costs	Cost Difference
Belfast	20	£261,214	£456,529	-£195,315
Northern	4	£35,000	£44,763	-£9,763
South Eastern	9	£94,390	£198,623	-£104,233
Southern	5	£103,000	£163,038	-£60,038
Western	*	£120,000	£204,500	-£84,500
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	*	£2,500	£7,514	-£5,014
Northern Ireland	51	£616,104	£1,074,967	-£458,864

Table 22: Amount paid on cases closed with no damages awarded during 2020/21, by HSC Trust / Legacy HSS Board and type of payment

HSC Trust/Legacy HSS Board	No. of Cases Closed	Defence Costs Paid	Plaintiff Costs Paid	Total Amount Paid
Belfast	13	£83,727	£101	£83,829
Northern	2	£4,744	£0	£4,744
South Eastern	2	£1,200	£0	£1,200
Southern	2	£40,957	£0	£40,957
Western	*	*	*	£13,794
Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	*	*	*	£2,125
Northern Ireland	23	£146,547	£101	£146,649

²² In order to avoid personal disclosure an '*' represents a cell count of less than 4. When the anonymised figure can be deduced from the totals, the next smallest figure was also anonymised.

Table 23: Cases open at any stage during the year by nature of incident group (2020/21)²³

Nature of Incident Group	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Legacy, NIAS & NIBTS	Total
Consent/Failure to warn	19	*	*	22	*	*	50
Diagnosis & Tests	431	109	101	135	94	14	884
Infections	36	*	5	11	8	*	63
Level of Care/Supervision/Follow-up	85	*	42	30	19	*	190
Medication/Bloods/Fluids	52	17	26	11	*	*	112
Operation	109	17	*	39	41	*	251
Pregnancy/Childbirth	77	70	41	78	79	21	366
Treatment	527	110	238	92	154	9	1130
Other	195	88	57	52	90	71	553
Unknown	84	87	*	48	24	*	273
Total	1,615	516	559	518	520	144	3,872

²³ In order to avoid personal disclosure an '*' represents a cell count of less than 4. When the anonymised figure can be deduced from the totals, the next smallest figure was also anonymised.

APPENDIX 1: TECHNICAL NOTES

This statistical release presents information on clinical/social care negligence cases open in Northern Ireland during the year ending 31st March 2021. Information was provided by all Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts including the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS), Legacy HSS Boards and Agencies.

Data Collection

The information presented within this release is based on the quarterly CN1a and annual CN1 statistical returns. The CN1 statistical return was the first of two statistical returns introduced in June 2010 to monitor clinical/social care negligence cases in Northern Ireland. The CN1 return collects information on each case of clinical/social care negligence open during the year (1st April – 31st March). It details information on: the type of case, gender of patient, patient postcode, date of incident, date of case, date settled, date closed, specialty to which case is associated, nature of the incident, legal stage, outcome of the case, amount paid in damages, defence and plaintiff costs, date of birth and date of death if appropriate.

If no clinical/social care negligence cases were open at any time during the year, including those which were subsequently withdrawn or closed without payment of compensation against the HSC Trust, Legacy HSS Board or Agency, a nil return was submitted. For the 2019/20 CN1 return, a nil return was submitted by the Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency (NIGALA).

The second of these statistical returns on clinical/social care negligence (CN1a) is collected on a quarterly basis and presents a summary of activity during each quarter. It details the number of cases open on the last day of the quarter, new cases opened, cases closed and financial payments made during the quarter.

Data providers are supplied with technical guidance documents outlining the methodologies that should be used in the collection, reporting and validation of each of these data returns. These documents can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/clinical-negligence-statistics>

Rounding

Percentages and financial information have been rounded to one decimal place and as a consequence these may not sum to the totals.

Data Quality

The data featured in this release have been provided by HSC Trusts, Legacy HSS Boards and Agency information staff and have been validated by Hospital Information Branch (HIB) prior to release. HIB carried out a detailed series of validations to verify that information was consistent both within and across returns. Queries arising from validation checks were returned for clarification and if required returns were amended and/or re-submitted.

It is important to note that some cases will have been settled and/or closed since 31st March 2021 and these will be accounted for in the next publication, for 2021/22.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor and report the details of alleged clinical/social care negligence cases open at any stage during the year, for corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to assembly questions and ad-hoc queries from the public.

Contextual Information

Readers should be aware that contextual information about Northern Ireland and the health services provided is available to read while using statistics from this publication.

This includes information on the current and future population, structures within the Health and Social Care system, the vision for future health services as well as targets and indicators. This information is available under the 'Guidance' tab at the following link:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/clinical-negligence-statistics>

APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS

1. Clinical/social care negligence:

For the purposes of this information collection, Clinical/Social Care Negligence is defined as:

“A breach of duty of care by members of the health care and social professions employed by HSC organisations or by others consequent on decisions or judgments made by members of those professions acting in the course of their employment, and which are admitted as negligent by the employer or determined as such through the legal process”.

2. Cases open

This refers to the total number of cases open on the last day of the financial year. An open case refers to all cases to which an official letter of notification of the intention to proceed with a case has been received and which had not been settled or closed by the last day of the year.

3. Cases settled

A settled case refers to any case settled that was not subsequently closed by the end of 2020/21. These cases may not be closed until the following year.

4. Cases closed during year

Cases closed during the year refers to the number of cases where the decision has been made to withdraw or not proceed with no money being awarded. It should also include cases where all monies awarded have been paid, and there is no longer any activity. A case is officially closed when DLS (Directorate of Legal Services) issue a letter that the case file has been closed.

5. New cases opened

This refers to any cases that were opened between 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021.

6. Outcome unknown

Outcome unknown refers to cases where the outcome of the case was not recorded or there was no settled or closed date recorded.

7. Financial payments

Details the total amount paid during the quarter on: damages, plaintiff and defence costs.

8. Damages

Damages will include only costs associated with the case for damages and will exclude all costs associated with the Plaintiff and/or the Defence.

9. Defence costs

Defence costs should include the total of any Expert Reports, Costs of Junior Counsel, Senior Counsel, Loss Adjusters, Case Investigators, and any other defence costs.

10. Plaintiff costs

Plaintiff costs should include the Costs of Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU), Receipts, and any Third Party costs.

APPENDIX 3: NATURE OF INCIDENT

1. Application of excess force
2. Assault, Etc by Hospital staff
3. Bacterial Infection
4. Birth Defects
5. Clinical Trial
6. Cross Infection
7. Delay in Performing Operation
8. Diathermy Burns/reaction to prep agent
9. ECT Treatment
10. Equipment malfunction
11. Error with agent/dose/route/selection
12. Fail/delay treatment
13. Fail antenatal screening to detect congenital
14. Fail monitor dose/rate of syntocinon
15. Fail to act on abnormal blood test results
16. Fail to carry out Post Operative Observations
17. Fail to correctly apply forceps
18. Fail to diagnose pre-eclampsia
19. Fail to follow-up arrangements
20. Fail to inform test results
21. Fail to correctly interpret USS
22. Fail to make timely response to abnormal FHR
23. Fail to monitor 1st Stage labour
24. Fail to monitor 2nd Stage labour
25. Fail to recognise complication of treatment
26. Fail to supervise
27. Fail to warn (informed consent)
28. Fail/Delay admitting to hospital
29. Fail/Delay availability of SCBU beds
30. Fail/Delay availability of operating theatres
31. Fail/Delay obtain cord PH
32. Fail/Delay of availability of emergency anaesthetic
33. Fail/Delay referring to hospital
34. Fail/Delay resuscitation by paediatricians
35. Failed infection control policy/hospital hygiene
36. Failed sterilisation
37. Failure to interpret x-ray correctly
38. Failure to perform operation
39. Failure to perform tests
40. Failure to x-ray
41. Failure/Delay diagnosis
42. Forceps delivery
43. Foreign body left in situ
44. Hospital acquired infection
45. MRSA

46. Improper Delegation to unsupervised junior
47. Inadequate monitoring intra-operatively
48. Inadequate nursing care
49. Inadequate monitor in recovery room
50. Inappropriate use of forceps/ventouse
51. Inappropriate case selection
52. Inappropriate discharge
53. Inappropriate treatment
54. Incidents in community by absconded/discharge patient
55. Incorrect injection site
56. Infusion problems
57. Injured by another patient
58. Injury/harm to others by patient
59. Intra-operative problems
60. Intubation problems
61. Labial Tear
62. Lack of assistance/care
63. Lack of adequate Facilities/Equipment
64. Lack of pre-operative evaluation
65. Medication errors
66. Mendelsohn's syndrome
67. Not specified
68. Operate on wrong patient/body part
69. Operator error
70. Other
71. Performance Of operation that is not indicated
72. Perineal Tear-1st, 2nd, 3rd Deg
73. Poor application of plaster cast
74. Premature ceasure of treatment
75. Problem Blood/fluids
76. Problems with medical records
77. Re-canalisation
78. Removal & retention of organs
79. Repeated attempt forceps delivery and or ventouse
80. Self harm
81. Sexual Abuse
82. Surgical Foreign body left in situ
83. Tooth Injury cases & patient positioning problem
84. Unexpected death
85. Unknown
86. Unlawful detention – mental health
87. Wrong application of electrode
88. Wrong diagnosis made
89. Pregnancy & childbirth

APPENDIX 4: GENERAL GROUP BY NATURE OF INCIDENT

Diagnosis & Tests

- 37. Failure to interpret x-ray correctly
- 39. Failure to perform tests
- 40. Failure to x-ray
- 41. Failure/Delay diagnosis
- 64. Lack of pre-operative evaluation
- 88. Wrong diagnosis made

Treatment

- 9. ECT Treatment
- 12. Fail/delay treatment
- 25. Fail to recognise complication of treatment
- 32. Fail/Delay of availability of emergency anaes
- 34. Fail/Delay resuscitation by paediatricians
- 53. Inappropriate treatment
- 55. Incorrect injection site
- 56. Infusion problems
- 73. Poor application of plaster cast
- 74. Premature ceasure of treatment
- 87. Wrong application of electrode

Operation

- 7. Delay in Performing Operation
- 8. Diathermy Burns/reaction to prep agent
- 36. Failed sterilisation
- 38. Failure to perform operation
- 43. Foreign body left in situ
- 59. Intra-operative problems
- 68. Operate on wrong patient/body part
- 69. Operator error
- 71. Performance Of operation that is not indicated
- 77. Re-canalisation
- 82. Surgical Foreign body left in situ

Pregnancy & Childbirth

- 4. Birth Defects
- 13. Fail antenatal screening to detect congenital
- 14. Fail monitor dose/rate of syntocinon
- 17. Fail to correctly apply forceps
- 18. Fail to diagnose pre-eclampsia
- 21. Fail to correctly interpret USS
- 22. Fail to make timely response to abnormal FHR
- 23. Fail to monitor 1st Stage labour

- 24. Fail to monitor 2nd Stage labour
- 31. Fail/Delay obtain cord PH
- 42. Forceps delivery
- 50. Inappropriate use of forceps/ventouse
- 61. Labial Tear
- 72. Perineal Tear-1st, 2nd, 3rd Deg
- 79. Repeated attempt forceps delivery and or ventouse
- 89. Pregnancy & childbirth

Level of Care/Supervision/Follow-up

- 15. Fail to act on abnormal blood test results
- 16. Fail to carry out Post Operative Observations
- 19. Fail to follow-up arrangements
- 20. Fail to inform test results
- 26. Fail to supervise
- 46. Improper Delegation to unsupervised junior
- 47. Inadequate monitoring intra-operatively
- 48. Inadequate nursing care
- 49. Inadequate monitor in recovery room
- 62. Lack of assistance/care

Medication/Bloods/Fluids

- 11. Error with agent/dose/route/selection
- 65. Medication errors
- 75. Problem Blood/fluids

Infections

- 3. Bacterial Infection
- 6. Cross Infection
- 35. Failed infection control policy/hospital hygiene
- 44. Hospital acquired infection
- 45. MRSA

Consent/Failure to warn

- 27. Fail to warn (informed consent)

Facilities & Equipment

- 10. Equipment malfunction
- 63. Lack of adequate Facilities/Equipment

Assault (to patient & by patient)

- 57. Injured by another patient
- 58. Injury/harm to others by patient

Discharge

- 52. Inappropriate discharge

Admissions/Referral

- 28. Fail/Delay admitting to hospital
- 29. Fail/Delay availability of SCBU beds
- 30. Fail/Delay availability of operating theatres
- 33. Fail/Delay referring to hospital

Unexpected death

- 84. Unexpected death

Other

- 1. Application of excess force
- 2. Assault, etc by Hospital staff
- 5. Clinical Trial
- 51. Inappropriate case selection
- 54. Incidents in community by absconded/discharge patient
- 60. Intubation problems
- 66. Mendelsohn's syndrome
- 67. Not specified
- 70. Other
- 76. Problems with medical records
- 78. Removal & retention of organs
- 80. Self harm
- 81. Sexual Abuse
- 83. Tooth Injury cases & patient positioning problem
- 86. Unlawful detention – mental health

Unknown

- 85. Unknown

APPENDIX 5: CASE SPECIALTY

1. Accident & Emergency
2. Allied Health Professions
3. Anaesthetics & Pain Management
4. Blood Transfusion
5. Burns, Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery
6. Cardiac Surgery
7. Cardiology
8. Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
9. Children and Young People Services
10. Clinical Genetics
11. Community Nursing/Midwives
12. Community Paediatrics
13. Day Care Services
14. Dentistry
15. Dermatology
16. Domiciliary Services
17. ENT
18. General Medicine
19. General Surgery
20. Genito-Urinary Medicine
21. Geriatric Medicine
22. Gynaecology
23. Haematology (Clinical)
24. Infectious Diseases
25. Joint Consultant Clinics
26. Learning Disability
27. Mental Health Acute
28. Mental Health Community
29. Neonatology
30. Nephrology
31. Neurology
32. Neurosurgery
33. Nuclear Medicine
34. Obstetrics
35. Occupational Health Medicine
36. Old Age Psychiatry
37. Oncology
38. Ophthalmology
39. Other
40. Paediatric Neurology
41. Paediatric Surgery
42. Paediatrics
43. Palliative Care
44. Pathology (Laboratory Services)
45. Pharmacology

46. Physical Disability/Sensory Support
47. Radiology
48. Rehabilitation
49. Residential Care
50. Supported Living
51. Thoracic Surgery
52. Trauma & Orthopaedics
53. Urology
54. Vascular
55. Unknown

APPENDIX 6: HOSPITAL INFORMATION BRANCH (HIB)

Hospital Information Branch is responsible for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and publication of timely and accurate information derived from a wide range of statistical information returns supplied by the Health & Social Care (HSC) Trusts and the HSC Board. Statistical information is collected routinely from a variety of electronic patient level administrative systems and pre-defined EXCEL survey return templates.

The Branch aims to present information in a meaningful way and provide advice on its uses to customers in the HSC Committee, Professional Advisory Groups, policy branches within the DoH, other Health organisations, academia, private sector organisations, charity/voluntary organisations as well as the general public. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on the performance of the HSC system, other comparative performance exercises, target setting and monitoring, development of service frameworks as well as policy formulation and evaluation. In addition, the information is used in response to a significantly high volume of Parliamentary / Assembly questions and ad-hoc queries each year.

Information is disseminated through a number of key statistical publications, including: Inpatient Activity, Outpatient Activity, Emergency Care, Mental Health & Learning Disability and Waiting Time Statistics (Inpatient, Outpatient, Diagnostics and Cancer). A detailed list of these publications is available from:

Website: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>

Further information on Clinical / Social Care Negligence Cases in Northern Ireland, is available from:

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This Statistical bulletin and others published by Hospital Information Branch are available to download from the DoH Internet site at:

Internet address: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>