

House of Commons

Written Answers

11 June 2016

NHS: Negligence

Chris Ruane:

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of deaths attributed to medical negligence in each year for which data is available.

150587

Stephen Barclay:

Open and honest reporting of patient safety incidents is a fundamental pillar of a good patient safety culture. Information on patient safety incidents, including serious incidents which result in severe harm or death, is recorded on the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS). The primary purpose of the NRLS is to enable learning to continuously improve the safety of patient care.

Data is not collected at a national level on whether reported deaths are due to medical negligence, but NHS Resolution, the body which manages claims against National Health Service organisations and independent sector providers of NHS care in England, has provided the following information:

The number of clinical fatality claims received between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2017 (by Incident Year) and the number of those which has been successful as at 31 May 2018. The values below five are represented by a ‘*’ symbol:

Incident Year	Number of Claims Registered	Number of Successful Claims
1955/56	*	*
1973/74	*	0
1975/76	*	0
1976/77	*	0
1977/78	*	*
1978/79	*	*

1979/80	*	0
1981/82	*	0
1982/83	*	0
1984/85	*	*
1985/86	*	*
1986/87	5	*
1987/88	*	*
1988/89	9	*
1989/90	10	6
1990/91	14	8
1991/92	25	11
1992/93	28	11
1993/94	27	17
1994/95	55	29
1995/96	65	45
1996/97	91	55
1997/98	186	116
1998/99	344	194
1999/00	470	277
2000/01	590	335
2001/02	677	384

2002/03	679	414
2003/04	707	451
2004/05	750	502
2005/06	824	541
2006/07	872	604
2007/08	942	683
2008/09	1,074	740
2009/10	1,069	696
2010/11	1,216	745
2011/12	1,123	561
2012/13	1,278	384
2013/14	1,157	239
2014/15	909	101
2015/16	614	25
2016/17	149	*
Total	15,986	8,190

Notes:

These numbers only represent claims reported to NHS Resolution; they do not represent an estimate of the total number of deaths attributable to clinical negligence.

This data is for England only and does not include claims made against primary care providers.