

## House of Lords

### Written answers

16 December 2021

#### NHS: Negligence

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the costs of clinical negligence. [HL4809]

**Lord Kamall:** In 2017, the National Audit Office identified three areas of rising clinical negligence costs over the previous decade: claim volume, compensation awards and claimant legal costs. However, since then claim volume and claimant legal costs have levelled out, but overall costs have continued to increase due to payments for compensation. The Department is therefore working with the Ministry of Justice, other Government departments and NHS Resolution to address these issues. This is a complex area and the work is ongoing. In the 2020 Spending Review, the Government committed to publishing a consultation.

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the largest clinical negligence claim that has been paid in England. [HL4810]

**Lord Kamall:** NHS Resolution has advised that the largest clinical negligence claim that has been settled in England was for a capitalised sum of £37 million in November 2019. This was awarded to a young child left brain damaged at birth. It was settled on the basis of payment of a lump sum plus annual periodic payments for the rest of the claimant's life.