

Letters

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NHS litigation lawyers will ‘delay, deny and defend’

You write that the NHS has a “culture of covering up failures” – it cannot be trusted to investigate itself (“My 20-year old journey through the NHS” Life & Arts, February 18).

Litigation provides judicially regulated rigorous independent clinical scrutiny, according to accepted medical norms. Access to justice is free at the point of need and is available to all. Under the privatised no win, no fee system which now funds most claims there is no reward for failure. The same cannot be said for NHS lawyers who are paid irrespective of outcome thereby incentivising “delay, deny defend” behaviour – damages are paid in the majority of litigated claims.

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