

22 May 2026

## Compensation Paid for Maternity Claims

Please include the following information for the years 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26

1. The total value of compensation claims paid in respect of maternity claims, please include a break down by:

- Claimant costs
- The Trust's legal costs

This question is taken to include all maternity claims irrespective of date opened. The table below provides expenditure on cases in year of settlement and in any year thereafter, up to 31 March 2026.

\*Note: Belfast Trust's legal costs section does not include cost of defence solicitors, as this is not recorded on a case-by-case basis.

	Date of Expenditure	Date of Expenditure	Date of Expenditure	Date of Expenditure
	01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025	01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026
DAMAGES	£1,614,873.00	£2,823,416.17	£4,626,315.08	£1,160,967.90
CLAIMANT'S COSTS	£71,280.80	£739,475.69	£833,178.20	£696,162.34
TRUST'S LEGAL COSTS*	£44,717.20	£306,063.97	£377,361.79	£160,199.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,730,871.00</b>	<b>£3,868,955.83</b>	<b>£5,836,855.07</b>	<b>£2,017,330.11</b>

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2. Total number of maternity compensation claims made, broken down by:

- Settled with admission of liability
- Settled without admission of liability
- Failed claims

		01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025	01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026
<b>Settled with admission of liability</b>	Total Number of New Cases Opened Per Year	19	18	12	28
<b>Settled without admission of liability</b>	BHSCT does not capture information in this manner, therefore has provided the number of settled cases only.	<5	<5	<5	<5
<b>Failed Claims</b>	BHSCT has taken 'Failed' to mean cases closed without payment of damages.	<5	5	<5	<5

**Use of <5 (less than five):** We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make individuals personally identifiable.

Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

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**3. Total number of maternity claims currently open or in progress**

If this question is taken to include only those cases opened between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2026, the numbers are as follows:

YEAR IN WHICH CLAIMS WERE OPENED:			
01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025	01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026
11	10	12	28

If this question is taken to include all maternity claims irrespective of date opened the total is:

Total number of cases open as at 18/05/2026: 139
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**4. A breakdown of the reasons for maternity compensation claims and the number of cases that fell into each category (for example Cerebral palsy and other brain injuries to the baby, stillbirth, neonatal death, other significant injury to the baby, maternal death, significant maternal injury, psychological injury etc.)**

This question is taken to include only those cases opened between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2026.

Where the tables below state fewer than 5: We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make individuals personally identifiable.

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01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023		01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	
Category	No. of claims	Category	No. of claims
Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - BABY	Fewer than 5	Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - BABY	5
Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - MOTHER	Fewer than 5	Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - MOTHER	Fewer than 5
Failure of communication/documentation to patients/clients	Fewer than 5	Failure of antenatal screening to detect congenital abnormalities	Fewer than 5
Failure to properly interpret/act on clinical diagnostic test/screening/xray	Fewer than 5	Failure/delay in treatment	Fewer than 5
Failure to recognise complication of treatment	Fewer than 5	Inappropriate treatment/procedure	Fewer than 5
Failure/delay in diagnosis	Fewer than 5	Lack of pre-operative evaluation	Fewer than 5
Failure/delay in treatment	Fewer than 5	Lack of/difficulties with follow-up arrangements	Fewer than 5
Foreign body left in situ	Fewer than 5	Not specified	Fewer than 5
Inadequate monitoring pre-, intra-, or post-operatively	Fewer than 5		
Inappropriate treatment/procedure	Fewer than 5		
Medication error	Fewer than 5		
Operator error	Fewer than 5		
Wrong diagnosis made	Fewer than 5		

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01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025		01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026	
Category	No. of claims	Category	No. of claims
Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - BABY	Fewer than 5	Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - BABY	6
Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - MOTHER	Fewer than 5	Birth defects/injury/unexpected outcome - MOTHER	5
Delay in transfer/admission to hospital/facility	Fewer than 5	Consent issues	Fewer than 5
Failure of communication/documentation to patients/clients	Fewer than 5	Failure to correctly apply forceps	Fewer than 5
Failure/delay in diagnosis	Fewer than 5	Failure to make timely response to abnormal fetal heart rate	Fewer than 5
Failure/delay in treatment	Fewer than 5	Failure to recognise complication of treatment	Fewer than 5
		Failure/delay in treatment	9
		Forceps delivery	Fewer than 5
		Foreign body left in situ	Fewer than 5
		Perineal Tear - 1st, 2nd, 3rd degree	Fewer than 5
		Not specified	Fewer than 5

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**5. For each year please provide the largest maternity compensation claim including information on:**

- **Total damages paid**
- **The category of the maternal injury**

This information cannot be disclosed.

Belfast Trust is aware of its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act and will always aim to respond in an open and transparent manner in line with the legislation. However, we are also mindful of not releasing into the public domain any information that could be linked to an identified or identifiable individual. It is the Trust's view that providing details regarding the largest maternity compensation claim, including information on total damages paid and the category of the maternal injury, could result in the information being linked to individuals, due to the low numbers involved. As such, this is exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party.

Adhering to ICO guidance, the Trust has concluded:

1. The information requested is personal information, which identifies or belongs to the claimant(s).
2. It would be unfair and incompatible with the purpose for which the information was obtained, to release the information into the public domain.
3. The release of information into the public domain would likely cause distress to the claimant(s).

For the reasons outlined above, Belfast Trust is of the view that the release of this information into the public domain would contravene the data protection rights of the claimant(s) and therefore the exemption under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act is applicable. As this is an absolute exemption, the Trust is not required to complete a public interest test.