

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Birmingham Mail
Date of article	28 th May 2014
Reporter	Alison Stacey
Headline	Midland hospitals pay out more than £52m compensation in one year
First paragraph/s of article	<p>Midland hospitals spent more than £52 million on compensation payouts in just one year, the Mail can reveal.</p> <p>The statistics, released by the NHS Litigation Authority, showed they paid out a total of £52,660,585 to claimants from 2012 to 2013.</p>
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	<p>Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said: “We take all claims received against the Trust very seriously.</p> <p>“We thoroughly investigate these in conjunction with the NHS Litigation Authority Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts, which covers all of our claims, to ensure lessons are learned.</p> <p>“The amount of compensation paid out on behalf of the Trust included settlement of some claims raised in previous years as far back as 1996.</p> <p>“To minimise the number of claims made against the Trust, we carry out a review of clinical practices when a claim has been made.”</p>
Press enquiry	<p>Alison Stacey contacted the Trust regarding NHS Litigation Authority figures for 2013/14.</p> <p>The figures show £8,101,499 was paid out in 2012/13, making the Trust the second highest in the Birmingham area.</p> <p>Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the Trust able to offer an explanation as to why The Dudley Group had one of the highest payouts in

the area?

2. Should patients be concerned by these figures? Are they an indicator of a high level of serious incidents at the Trust's hospitals?

Trust response

COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Dudley Group is committed to providing the very best possible care for all our patients. We take all claims received against the Trust very seriously and thoroughly investigate these in conjunction with the NHS Litigation Authority Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST), which covers all of our claims, to ensure lessons are learned.

The amount of compensation paid out on behalf of the Trust in 2013/14 included settlement of some claims raised in previous years as far back as 1996. The amount paid covers final settlements, staged payments to claimants and interim payments to claimants (where liability has been admitted).

The Dudley Group pays an annual premium to the NHS Litigation Authority and they deal with claims on our behalf.

To minimise the number of claims made against the Trust, we carry out a review of clinical practices when a claim has been made and implement changes, if necessary, to our practices.

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For further information, please contact Alice Ford, Communications Assistant for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 01384 456111 extension 1419.