

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Birmingham Mail
Date of article	Tuesday 14 th April 2015
Reporter	Alison Stacey
Headline	Midlands hospitals pay out £45 million in just 12 months for clinical negligence
First paragraph/s of article	CASH-strapped hospitals in the West Midlands spent £45 million in just one year on clinical negligence claims.
Paragraphs related to The Dudley Group	<p>Elsewhere in the region the Dudley Group of Hospitals trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital had the second largest legal bill at £5.9 million.</p> <p>But the Trust insisted that the pay outs were from cases as far back as 1996.</p> <p>A spokeswoman said: “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).</p> <p>The Dudley Group pays an annual premium to the NHS Litigation Authority and they deal with claims on our behalf.</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 and implement changes, if necessary, to our practices.”</p>
Press enquiry	<p>The Trust received a press enquiry from the Birmingham Mail following the publication of the NHS Litigation Authority figures for 2013/14. The figures show that £5.9m was paid out on behalf of The Dudley Group, giving the Trust the second highest bill in the West Midlands after the Heart of England.</p> <p>They asked the following questions: 1) Why the Trust has the second highest bill in the</p>

	Midlands? 2) Should patients be concerned at all by the figures?
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Trust response

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

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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