General Dental Council: Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Date released: 12 August 2022

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am looking for information related to the following:

- The ten most common (mode) claims for dental negligence, 1 December 2020 - 31 December 2021
- The total amount of compensation, in GBP, paid to victims of dental negligence, 1 December 2020 - 21 December 2021
- The mean amount of compensation, in GBP, awarded to victims of dental negligence, 1 December 2020 - 21 December 2021
- The median amount of compensation, in GBP, awarded to victims of dental negligence, 1 December 2020 - 21 December 2021

Please return the information to me in a CSV spreadsheet by email (please don't send the information in a PDF).

Response:

I write further to my acknowledgement dated 9 August 2022 following your freedom of information request relating to various questions regarding dental negligence claims.

With regards to dental negligence claims and settlements, the GDC does not hold the information you have requested.

The role of the GDC is to regulate dentists and dental care professionals in the United Kingdom to protect dental patient safety and maintain public confidence in dental services. A way in which we do this is by investigating complaints that are reported to us which concern dental professionals' fitness to practise. It is important to make you are that this is not the same as negligence and the GDC does not have the power to award any compensation. Information on fitness to practise relating to registrants can be found here and further information on how we investigate concerns that are raised can be found here.

In respect of your request, the relevant body that may hold national information would be the Courts service; England and Wales – Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service (requests can be made by emailing data.access@justice.gov.uk) the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, requests can be made using this link and the Courts and Tribunals Service Northern Ireland via this link.

It may also be useful to mention the Dental Complaints Service (DCS). This is a free mediation service funded by the GDC which seeks to resolve patient's complaints about private dental care. As the DCS seek to mediate low level complaints, solutions include refunds or alternative corrective treatments however does not include compensation. Any complaints of a more serious nature and concerning fitness to practise matters are more likely to be dealt with by the GDC or a civil claim for personal injury. Further information on the DCS can be found here.

Compensation settlements are more likely to be private information which is settled between the dental professional and the patient, rather than spending large amounts of money presenting their cases in court. If compensation is agreed. As this is private information, the amounts would not be recorded by a public body.

It may be possible that relevant NHS bodies that handle claims for negligence against dental professionals providing dental care on the NHS are likely to hold information for example, NHS Resolution for claims against NHS England Claims Management - NHS Resolution. There may also be private bodies or charities who hold this data which has already been collected from the courts or the NHS who may be able to direct or assist you.
with which departments to approach to obtain the information you require, this includes Association of Personal Injury Lawyers: [Injury lawyers - april](#) or Action against Medical Accidents charity: [AvMA](#).

Please let us know if we have misinterpreted, or you would like to refine/clarify your request.