

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request:

1. Copies of any Litigation Management Protocol (LMP), framework, or formal document governing the handling of legal claims arising from the Northern Ireland Neurology Recall.
2. Copies of any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), agreement, or formalised arrangement between the Department of Health (NI) and:
 - Belfast Health and Social Care Trust,
 - Directorate of Legal Services (BSO),
 - or any external legal representatives,concerning the management, coordination, or oversight of Neurology Recall litigation.

For clarity, this request applies regardless of the title of the document and includes any document that has the substantive effect of setting out roles, responsibilities, authority to settle, case-handling standards, or coordination mechanisms for recall-related claims.

Timeframe: 1 January 2017 to present.

Response

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST

I refer to your request regarding governance documents relating to claims connected with the Northern Ireland Neurology Recall.

I can advise you that following a search of our electronic records for related documents for the period 1 January 2017 to present that the Department of Health does not hold the information you requested.

Whilst not falling within the scope of a Freedom of Information request, for clarity, indemnity for Health and Social Care (HSC) services in Northern Ireland is provided under the Department of Health's Medical Indemnity Circular (1989). Each HSC Trust administers its own indemnity arrangements, funded by the Department under this Circular. Neurology recall litigation claims fall under these arrangements; no separate indemnity mechanism, protocol, or framework exists for legal claims arising from the Northern Ireland Neurology Recall.

Judicial and medico-legal processes operate independently of government; thus, the Department does not influence or administer medical negligence claims.

As noted in our response of 8 January 2026 ([FOI/2025-0314](#)), the Directorate of Legal Services (BSO) has a dedicated legal team which provides advice, support and representation to Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in complex and sensitive litigation claims.

Date response issued: 18 March 2026

Reference Number: DOH/2026-0040