

House of Commons

Written answer

24 November 2020

NHS: Negligence

Jeremy Hunt:

[115554]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans the Government has to introduce fixed costs in clinical negligence cases up to £25,000 to prevent rising litigation costs within the NHS.

Ms Nadine Dorries:

[Holding answer 19 November 2020]: The continued rises in clinical negligence costs are eating into resources available for front-line care; this is unsustainable. This is despite our substantial safety programmes. In 2017 the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Justice commissioned the independent Civil Justice Council (CJC) to draw up a new claims handling process for clinical negligence claims of up to £25,000, together with proposals for fixed recoverable costs for these cases. The CJC published its report with recommendations on a new claims handling process for Clinical negligence claims up to £25,000 in October 2019. We are analysing the report closely and will consult on next steps shortly.