

# KINGS CHAMBERS LEGAL THOUGHT LEADERS



## DEBRIEF: A Kings Chambers Podcast Factsheet

### EPISODE 13 – In Conversation with Helen Vernon

Nigel Poole QC in conversation with Helen Vernon, Chief Executive of NHS Resolution: The Role of NHS Resolution.

Helen Vernon is Chief Executive of NHS Resolution, the body charged with handling clinical negligence and other claims brought against NHS bodies, including hospital trusts. After graduating in Law from Cambridge, Helen started her career in insurance and then moved to the Medical Defence Union (MDU) before joining NHS Resolution in 1998, becoming its Director of Claims in 2013 and Chief Executive in 2014. Helen is a Chartered Insurer and an Accredited Mediator.

In this Podcast, Helen talks about the number of claims handled by NHS Resolution, how decisions are made, and initiatives adopted by NHS Resolution to advance learning from clinical errors that come to their notice. NHS Resolution now employs specialist clinicians to look at the evidence gained from handling claims within certain fields of practice such as Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics. Helen also talks about the Early Notification Scheme and the increased use of Mediation – both attempts to make the process of bringing and defending a claim less stressful and burdensome. She also considers the overall cost of clinical negligence litigation and what might be the main drivers behind the ever increasing size of those costs.



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## Materials:

NHS Resolution's website is at: **NHSResolution.nhs.uk**. There is a host of resources on the website available for download.

NHS Resolution produces an annual report. The July 2019 report can be found here: **Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19**

Helen refers to Factsheet 5 in the Podcast. A link to Factsheet 5 with claims data for 2018-19 is **here**

A Progress Report on the Early Notification Scheme is **here**

NHS Resolution Strategy Refresh is **here**

## Speaker Profiles



### **Nigel Poole QC**

*Nigel is ranked as a leading QC by Chambers UK and the Legal 500. He is Head of Kings Chambers and sits as a Deputy High Court Judge and a chair of the Bar Tribunal and Adjudication Service. He has appeared in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. He is the author of 'Clinical Negligence Made Clear' and writes a blog, Learned Friend.*