

# Brain / Head Injury Claims

## A guide to compensation

### Expert advice

When someone suffers from a head or brain injury, the impact can dramatically change their life and affect their family.

Having specialised in cases of brain injury for many years, Slater and Gordon understand just how much life can change at this time and it's our aim to make the claims process as easy as possible for everyone concerned and to ensure you get the best possible outcome.



### What is a traumatic brain injury?

A traumatic brain injury occurs when a person receives a blow to the head or a jolt that causes the brain to move inside the skull or even collide with the skull. For example, traumatic brain injuries can occur when being hit in the head or face, being violently shaken or falling with the skull hitting the ground.

A traumatic brain injury can affect someone physically and can also have an effect on their social and emotional behaviour.

### What is an acquired brain injury?

An acquired brain injury is caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain. There are various ways in which an acquired brain injury can be caused, such as brain tumours, infections and poisoning. These issues can prevent oxygen getting to the brain, causing an acquired brain injury.

Acquired brain injuries can be more difficult to treat because they are not limited to one area of the brain and may affect more functions. It's common for people with an acquired brain injury to suffer from memory loss and it can also cause emotional difficulties.

### What are the effects of a brain injury?

There are many different effects of a brain injury with many levels of severity. Some effects can be temporary, others can be permanent. Some of the problems faced by those suffering from a brain injury include:

- Dizziness
- Headaches
- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness
- Vomiting
- Difficulty speaking or slurred speech
- Lethargy or inability to stay awake
- Blurred vision or blindness
- Loss of bowel control or bladder control
- Paralysis
- Respiratory failure
- Poor memory
- Poor planning and problem solving skills
- Inability to understand and communicate
- Poor concentration
- Poor perception, recognition and judgement
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Slowed responses
- Loss of physical sensations
- Personality changes
- Loss of skills, management and day to day affairs

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My lawyers helped me through such a difficult time and made me feel valued. I cannot speak highly enough of the services they offer.

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Please feel free to discuss your own position and concerns.  
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Slater and Gordon is one of the UK's leading and largest legal practices with offices throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

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# Advice on making a claim for compensation

For those who don't have experience of the legal process, contacting a lawyer and making a claim for compensation can be a daunting prospect. However, we're with our clients every step of the way, ensuring they understand the claims process, and relieving the burden of having to deal with a variety of practical issues, at what can be a difficult time.



## What should you do if you think you have a claim?

Contact us. Our team of specialists have a vast amount of experience in dealing with brain injury cases.

Once we've taken details, we'll confirm whether or not you have a claim. If you're entitled to compensation, we can start work on your case straightaway and begin gathering evidence.

Time limits apply when making a claim for compensation, so don't delay in contacting us.

## What is the cost of making a claim?

We understand that the cost of legal advice can be a worry, but there are options available to fund injury claims.

You may have legal expenses insurance under an existing insurance policy which entitles you to free representation. If legal expenses insurance is not in place, we may be able to conduct your case under a Conditional Fee Agreement, also known as a 'No Win, No Fee' Agreement. This means if the case fails, no payment is due.

Once we know the circumstances of your case, we'll be able to discuss your funding options in more detail.

## What is the amount of compensation likely to be?

Compensation will be based on the severity of the injury, and also on the personal circumstances of the injured person. For example, if they've been unable to work as a result of their injury, loss of earnings may be accounted for. If the injured person requires rehabilitation, treatment, aids, equipment or adaptations, we'll also seek to recover these costs.

## Frequently asked questions

### Will I have to go to court?

A large majority of cases settle before a trial takes place. However, if the case doesn't settle before trial, attendance at court may be necessary.

### What if the injury requires rehabilitation or treatment?

As we have many years' experience working on behalf of people who have suffered serious injuries, we see it as an important part of our role to make sure that our clients get the best quality support to maximise the chances of recovery and future independence.

We work closely with case managers, medical experts and approved rehabilitation providers to ensure that a tailored programme is put in place as soon as possible so rehabilitation can begin without delay.

### How do I prevent financial difficulties before the case settles?

It's difficult to say how long a case may take to resolve, yet rehabilitation, aids and equipment, and adaptations to a property or buying a new property are needed as soon as possible in order to provide the necessary tools to assist recovery and future independence.

Where we've proved that the other side were to blame, whether partly to blame or fully, we can obtain financial assistance in the form of interim payments. These are compensation payments which can be made before a case reaches settlement. Interim payments can pay for lost earnings, treatment, adapted accommodation, equipment and professional care. In some cases they can also pay for rehabilitation.

### What if I need assistance in other areas?

We have expert lawyers in many areas of law such as family, employment, welfare benefits, trusts, Court of Protection and disability rights and work closely with those departments to ensure that you get the best possible outcome.