



**Re: Compensation should have gone towards health staff – *South Wales Evening Post* (19 June, page 6)**

Sir,

The real concern about the amount of compensation paid by Swansea's hospitals should be the proven failure to uphold reasonable standards of care for patients.

The extent of the financial cost reflects the cost to quality of life as a result of birth errors. A baby who is severely brain damaged will probably never be able to feed, clothe, or bathe himself and will not lead the life he could, and should, have enjoyed. In short, life-altering injuries are expensive. Needless injuries must be cut if the NHS is to cut its compensation bill.

All injuries cost the victim more than bald figures and statistics can ever convey. When failures have been proven, it is quite right that an injured patient is able to pursue redress to help him get his life back on track as much as possible.

Deborah Evans

Chief Executive

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