

# Field Fisher Waterhouse wins compensation for dextrose overdose girl



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**Press Release Summary: Field Fisher Waterhouse wins substantial compensation for premature girl left with brain damage following dextrose overdose**

Press Release Body: Law firm, **Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP** has won substantial compensation for **Romy Smith**, a seven year old girl who was given an excessive dose of dextrose shortly after birth and suffered severe and permanent brain damage as a result. Romy will receive damages that could add up to more than £10 million over her lifetime.

Romy Smith was born prematurely at 29 weeks in 2001 at the Ipswich General Hospital and was transferred to the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, where she was given a "grossly excessive dose" of the sugar dextrose. This resulted in perfusion [brain injury](#), which caused severe learning difficulties and autism. Romy's communication and social skills are very limited, she needs constant care and will remain totally dependent on carers for the rest of her life.

Romy, however, has a special talent for music, which is her primary means of enjoyment. In addition to her care, the payment will also cover the cost of music therapy.

The East and North Herfordshire NHS Trust, which had previously admitted liability, will pay Romy an initial sum of £2.36 million and a series of index-linked "periodical payments" to cover Romy's lifetime care expenses.

Paul McNeil, clinical negligence partner at Field Fisher Waterhouse, was instructed by Romy's mother to represent her in the claim.

After the case, Romy's parents, Sally and **Tim Smith** said: *"We are absolutely delighted at the settlement that Paul McNeil has secured for our daughter. Throughout the whole time that Paul has worked with us, we have found him to be very caring, extremely skilled and highly organised. He has kept our family's best interests at heart at all times and has always answered any concerns we may have had calmly, quickly and efficiently. We are enormously grateful to him for the way in which he conducted our case and we cannot praise him enough. We would not hesitate in recommending him to anyone."*

**Paul McNeil, clinical negligence partner at Field Fisher Waterhouse** said: *"Although nothing can be done to undo the mistake made in the special care baby unit, there is a lot that can be done to maximise Romy's potential. The payments guaranteed to Romy will ensure her needs are covered for life. Those close to Romy were delighted that the judge supported the need to have access to music therapy."*

Claim number HQ06X01206

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**About Field Fisher Waterhouse**  
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP is a full-service European law firm with offices in Brussels, Hamburg and London. With 119 partners, over 200 other lawyers and nearly 300 support staff, FFW assist a wide range of international clients, advising across a full range of legal issues.

The main areas of practice are corporate and commercial, IP and technology, banking and finance, regulatory and real estate. Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP also have particular expertise in competition & EU law, dispute resolution, employment, asbestos claims, [personal injury](#), [brain damage](#) cases, clinical negligence, public sector and tax.

**Web Site:** <http://www.personalinjury.ffw.com/>

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