

Jane Webb <mailto:request-12580-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx>



**Your ref: CAF228**  
**Our ref: JJ/CAF228**  
**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Cafcass  
6th Floor Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0844 353 3317  
Fax: 0844 353 3398

Dear Ms Webb

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your recent request, which was received on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 requesting the following:

- 1 *I would like to know more about the partnership coram have with Cafcass also statistics of how many children were adopted without parents consent in past year and for each area*
- 2 *Also how many fathers who had or were suspected of domestic violence were given access or custody of their children.*
- 3 *I would also like to know national statistics for complaints.*

Please see below:

- 1 *I would like to know more about the partnership coram have with cafcass also statistics of how many children were adopted without parents consent in past year and for each area.*

The Cafcass Case Management System does not record whether an adoption order was made with or without the parents consent. You may be able to obtain this information from Her Majesty's Courts Service <http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk>.

- 2 *Also how many fathers who had or were suspected of domestic violence were given access or custody of their children.*

Cafcass does not have this information available on its Case Management System. This information would be found only in the individual case file. Cafcass case recording requires a copy of all court reports to be retained on the manual case file, but there is no requirement for the reports (and therefore fathers who had or were suspected of domestic violence and if they were given access or custody of their children) to be filed electronically. Furthermore, Cafcass case files are not usually held in Cafcass offices after case closure but are sent off



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for storage. To gather the information requested would mean retrieving manual files from storage, searching through more than approx 38,000 cases (which is the approximate number for 2008/09 alone) in which court reports were requested in Cafcass. The time it would take to do this would exceed the £450 upper limit assigned to Cafcass. Our firmly held view therefore is that the information is not held in a retrievable form and to comply with this request would cost more than the upper limit. Cafcass are therefore unable to provide you with the information due to the reasons above.

**3 I would also like to know national statistics for complaints.**

This information can be found in the Cafcass Annual Report and Accounts on the Cafcass website. [www.cafcass.gov.uk](http://www.cafcass.gov.uk). The 2008-09 annual report and accounts will be published at a future date and is therefore exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are unhappy with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review to be undertaken. If you are dissatisfied with the way the internal review is handled or with the final decision made at that review about the information released, you are free to contact the Information Commissioner's office ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk))

**Post**

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524 510

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jasvinder Jassal

**Corporate Governance Officer**

[XXXXXXXXX.XXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XX](mailto:XXXXXXXXX.XXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XX)

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

1. Information is exempt information if -
  - o (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),
  - o (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
  - o (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).
2. The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1 (1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).



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