

T Hall

Date: 3 August 2009

request-13674-  
xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ref: VTR 1239

Dear T Hall,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 25 June 2009. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. Your request has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Please find below a copy of your request together with a corresponding response.

**Request**

- 1) Since the agency initiated their managerial steer, whereby arrears on a case are collected within a 2 year period. How many individual cases have been committed by the agency, to conform with this course of action?
- 2) Of the total cases pertaining to 1), how many of these are specifically collecting money destined for the Secretary of State as opposed to private individual clients?

**Response**

1. As at March 2009, there were 87,000 child maintenance cases whereby arrears are due to be cleared within 2 years.
2. The information you requested is not available. While management information can classify debt into that owed to a parent with care and that owed to the Secretary of State, many cases will have arrears owing to both. It is not possible to differentiate between arrears collected or owed to the parent with care and arrears collected which are owed to the Secretary of State.

In order to comply with your request, we would have to create new information, which falls outside the FOIA. Furthermore, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for non-departmental public bodies, such as the Commission, it is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.25 working days in determining whether the Commission holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the FOIA the Commission is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

I'm sorry on this occasion I could not provide you with the full information you requested.

Yours sincerely

**Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission  
Freedom of Information Act Focal Point**

---

**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [FOI.FocalPoint@childmaintenance.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.FocalPoint@childmaintenance.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, Freedom of Information Act Focal Point, PO Box 61791, London, SW1P 9NT. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)