



HM TREASURY

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15 October 2009

F Mason

Information Rights Unit

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www.hm-treasury.gov.uk
FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gsi.gov.uk

Ref: 9/850

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: CAFCASS

Thank you for your enquiry dated 6 October, requesting information under the Freedom of information Act

2. You asked for information about the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) covering –

- *where CAFCASS funding comes from*
- *who controls the funding*
- *who CAFCASS answer to*
- *who accounts for their actions*
- *who legislates for CAFCASS*
- *who represents CAFCASS in Parliament*
- *who deals with complaints about CAFCASS and remedial action*

3. CAFCASS' Annual Report and Accounts provides the information you request. It is available on the CAFCASS website at –

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/publications/reports_and_strategies.aspx

4. To be helpful, I would summarise that CAFCASS is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and its funding is by grant in aid from that Department. The Secretary of State appoints the Chief Executive to manage the operation of CAFCASS and delegates responsibility for its day-to-day functions to him. CAFCASS reports through the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to Parliament.

5. Finally, you asked about what to do if unsatisfied with the services provided by CAFCASS. CAFCASS operates at arm's length from the Department and is required by law to have a fair and transparent complaints procedure in place. Details are also available on their website at –

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/PDF/Cafcass%20Complaints%20Procedure.pdf>

6. CAFCASS is itself subject to the Freedom of Information Act and you can make a request direct to them –

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/system_page/freedom_of_information.aspx



7. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



Paul Morran
Information Rights Unit

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

