

Ref: VTR 365, 395, 396

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W www.childmaintenance.org

Date: 16 June 2009

Ian Tyes [request – 8612-3ea4030c@whatdotheyknow.com]  
[request – 8802-fbf7e71@whhatdotheyknow.com]  
[request – 8803-e4cxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx]

Dear Mr Tyes,

**Re: Internal Review**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 1 April 2009, and two further e-mails dated 4 April 2009. Your request is being considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In your e-mail you asked for a review of your original request for information.

Firstly, I would like to sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to your request for information and an internal review. We are currently addressing the difficulties that led to this problem.

I have completed an internal review and I am in a position to inform you of the outcome. I can confirm that I was not connected with the consideration of your original request. Having reviewed the responses we provided you, I have decided to uphold the Agency's original decision. I will address each review individually.

**Response: VTR365 dated 2 April 2009. Request for review received 1 April 2009.**

In your original request you asked about two things; the number of cases where arrears arrangements had been revised to bring the timescale over which arrears would be repaid down to 2 years or less, and the proportion of a non-resident parent's income we anticipated taking to achieve the new repayment schedule. The response you were issued on 2 April 2009 informed you that the improvement in collection of child maintenance arrears was related to the Child Support Agency's three year Operational Improvement Plan, implemented from April 2006. It also provided further information on the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission and when it expects to begin the new statutory maintenance scheme in 2011. The response explained the policy on collecting child maintenance debt and gave you what statistical information we hold that

appeared to be relevant to your first question. The response also explained the Child Support Agency does not collate information on the proportion of individual non-resident parents' income which is used to pay child maintenance arrears, although it does make the point that we can only collect up to 40 per cent of a non-resident parent's income without going to court for authorisation to take more.

Having been provided with a comprehensive response to your question, I can add no further information which may be of assistance to you in this matter.

**Response: VTR395 dated 2 April 2009. Request for review received 4 April 09.**

The response we provided for you dated 2 April 2009 explains we do not have the information you requested. The Child Support Agency records clients' dates of death when notified, however, the Agency does not enquire on or record the cause of death nor does it collate figures on the number of non-resident parents who have died.

**Response: VTR 322 April 2009. Request for review received 4 April 2009.**

The response we provided for you dated 22 April 2009 explains the agreed funding for the current three year spending review. You may find the following link to The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission Business Plan 2008/09 is available under the section 'publications' on the following link: [www.childmaintenance.org](http://www.childmaintenance.org)

If you are still not satisfied, having received the results of my review you can ask the Information Commissioner to look into the way your request has been handled. The Commissioner is an independent officer who is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen and reports directly to Parliament. The Commissioner can see all the papers about your request and decide whether my decision is fair and meets the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Telephone: 01625 545 745  
Fax: 01625 545 510  
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website [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Duncan Gilchrist**  
**Head of Policy**  
**Child Maintenance & Enforcement Commission**