



Tracy Maclennan
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Cafcass National Office
3rd Floor
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 18-131
Our ref: Gov/CAF 18-131

Tel 0300 456 4000

07 December 2018

Dear Ms Maclennan,

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 17 November 2018. You made the following requests for information:

[How many applications have been made to revoke a special guardianship orders.](#)

Please see below for the number of applications to discharge a Special Guardianship Order received by Cafcass, broken down by financial year.

Financial Year	Number of applications
2013-14	28
2014-15	37
2015-16	59
2016-17	79
2017-18	109
2018-19 YTD (April – December)	81

[How many special guardianship orders have been revoked and the child/children have returned to the parent/parents](#)

Cafcass does not collect information on the outcome of cases concerning applications to discharge or vary a Special Guardianship Order issue centrally. This information will

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be held in court orders in each individual case file. In order to provide a response, each case file would need to be checked individually; the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit which for Cafcass is £450. In our estimation the cost (a flat rate of £25 per hour provided by the FOI Act) would exceed the appropriate limit which is 18 hours for Cafcass, in order to complete one or more of the following activities permitted to be accounted for, which are:

- Determining whether the information is held;
- Locating the information, or a document containing it;
- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

A response to this request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

[12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.](#)

1. *Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*
2. *Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.*
3. *In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.*
4. *The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
(a) by one person, or
(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,
the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.*
5. *The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.*

We hope that you feel your question has been answered effectively. 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 (<https://ico.org.uk/>):



Post

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

Fax

01625 524 510

Tel

0303 123 1113

E-mail

casework@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gov.uk

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Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice
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