



Victoria Soeder
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Your ref: CAF 18-174
Our ref: Gov/CAF 18-174

Tel 0300 456 4000

04 February 2019

Dear Ms Soeder

Re: Freedom of Information Request - Internal Review

Thank you for your email of 09 January 2019. You requested an internal review of the response to your Freedom of Information request (CAF18-174) which was sent to you on 08 January 2019. An internal review involves a review of the decision on disclosure in the original response and the way in which the request was handled. The internal reviewer can either uphold or overturn the original decision.

Melanie Carew, Head of Legal who was not party to the original decision on whether to release the information, has now conducted the internal review. Please see their response below.

In your request for an internal review you stated:

I am dissatisfied with your response as I believe a Cafcass do hold information which allows them to form medical judgements. Please provide this information.

Please provide information that shows where the FCA can take medical definitions/symptoms that have been made by medical experts then "redefine" the symptoms. I believe complex as it is Cafcass does hold this information. Please provide a flowchart of information that allows FCA's to redefine expert medical symptoms.

Cafcass does not have a policy, procedure or hold any documents or information that permits FCAs or any other Cafcass staff or to take medical definitions/ symptoms that have been made by medical experts then "redefine" the symptoms.

As stated in our response to your Freedom of Information request, FCAs may report on medical information about a service user obtained from a medical professional and include this information as part of their assessment. All practitioner recommendations

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are based on their professional judgement of the child's welfare and on their professional assessment of the circumstances as presented to the court, which will include the result of any safeguarding checks with wider agencies.

The response to your Freedom of Information request is therefore upheld.

Cafcass does not hold a flowchart of information that allows FCA's to redefine expert medical symptoms as FCAs do not redefine medical symptoms. Cafcass does not hold the requested information; as a response to this request would require the creation of new information, the request is not valid under the Freedom of Information Act.

We hope that you feel your question has been answered effectively. 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

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Yours sincerely,

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