



Victoria Soeder
request-630180-ad0bccca@whatdotheyknow.com

Your ref: CAF 19-218
Our ref: Gov/CAF 19-218

Cafcass National Office
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21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Tel 0300 456 4000
Email: governance@cafcass.gov.uk

09 January 2020

Dear Ms Soeder,

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2019. You made the following requests for information:

Cafcass training shows FCA's are being provided with training to use 'Mentalization' : (Mentalization based-treatment, a form of psychodynamic psychotherapy) which is a specialised psychotherapeutic modality requiring registration to practice therefore:

1a Please provide the number of FCA's qualified in Psychodynamic psychotherapy

A qualification in Psychodynamic psychotherapy is not a job requirement for Family Court Advisers; all Family Court Advisers are required to be qualified social workers with a Diploma in Social Work (or recognised equivalent) and at least three years post qualifying experience in social work with children and families at risk. The [job description for a Family Court Adviser](#) is available on our website.

As the information you have requested is not a requirement, it may not be held and is not centrally collated by Cafcass. This information if held, would be in each individual employee's file. In order to provide a response, each file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass has over 1500 Family Court Advisers, 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

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- 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.

b. Of these how many listed on the registers of :British Psychological Society (BPA) , British Association for Counselling (BACP) and UK council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) or registers of psychotherapeutic counsellors or psychotherapists.

Please see the answer to question 1 a.

Cafcass training also incorporates 'Use of self': therapist (FCA) use of self depends on their awareness of counter transference.

2a. Please provide the training provide to FCA's in transference/countertransference

Cafcass does not provide training for FCA's in transference or countertransference.

b. Please provide the clinical supervision provided to FCA's in this clinical work and the tools available to Cafcass FCA's to avail themselves of their unavoidable emotional reactions to clients (as per your training)



FCAs do not have clinical supervision and do not conduct clinical work.

Please see our [Supervision Policy](#) for general information on how Cafcass practitioners' work is monitored and supervised. Cafcass also monitors compliance, conduct and performance through a range of routine performance management tools:

- myWork provides practitioners real-time personal data on their individual, team and service area performance, and how this compares to others across the country;
- Quarterly structured Performance and Learning Review (PLR) meetings between the manager and the individual, where, following each discussion, an assessment of 'good,' 'met' or 'not met' will be made of the member of staff, with learning objectives set to support their development;
- At least annual management observation of practice with service users;
- Regular case audits from the National Improvement Service on a service area, team and individual level;
- 360 feedback from colleagues, service users and other relevant stakeholders.
- Every Cafcass report which is filed with the court is subject to a quality assurance check.

Please see section 11 of the [Operating Framework](#) for more information on how performance is monitored, measured and assessed at Cafcass.

All of Cafcass's tools which are available to our staff are available to view on our [website](#). The use of tools is a matter for the practitioner's professional judgement. Cafcass has brief guidance for staff on the use of each tool. These can be seen on our [website](#) next to the link to each individual tool. This provides a guide to which tool could be selected in which circumstance and for what purpose, which will be identified by the practitioner when planning a case.

Guidance for the use and choice of tools which are relevant to individual cases is also set out in the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) section 10.

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,

Fax

01625 524 510

Tel

0303 123 1113

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Yours sincerely,

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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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