

Mr/Ms LS Palmer  
request-55202-439b6978@whatdotheyknow.com



**Your ref: CAF413**  
**Our ref: JJ/CAF413**  
**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

6th Floor  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
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Tel: 0844 353 3350  
Fax: 0844 353 3398

Dear Mr./Ms Palmer

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email received on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2010 requesting the following:

In relation to the children that have been clients of your service since 2003 please can you provide the following information:

1. How many Criminal proceedings have been commenced relating to the abuse or neglect of your clients?
2. How many of your client children have received injuries for which their parents have been criminally convicted?
3. What proportion of children are recommended for adoption outside of their birth family?
4. How many adoption placements have failed?
5. How many children have been placed for adoption more than once?
6. How many times has Cafcass recommended a 'freeing Order' dispensing with the parent's consent for adoption?
7. How many complaints have been made that children have been sexually abused by foster carers or adoptive parents?
8. How many of your client children have received injuries since becoming clients for which carers other than their parents have received criminal convictions?

Please see below:

1. How many Criminal proceedings have been commenced relating to the abuse or neglect of your clients?
2. How many of your client children have received injuries for which their parents have been criminally convicted?
3. What proportion of children are recommended for adoption outside of their birth family?

Cafcass does not collect this information centrally. Cafcass does not collect the case information as requested above of court proceedings in a central system, such as the case management system and there is not a requirement for Cafcass to do so. Such information would be found in reports prepared for court.

Cafcass will be unable to provide the requested information in points 1-3. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows a public authority the ability to not comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. The fees regulation state that this cost limit is £450 for all public authorities.

Cafcass have considered the time and cost taken to determine whether it holds the information, locate the information, or documents containing it, retrieving the information, or document containing it and extracting the information from a document containing it. The cost would exceed the £450 limit afforded to Cafcass and therefore there is no requirement for Cafcass to undertake the work.

4. How many adoption placements have failed?
5. How many children have been placed for adoption more than once?

Cafcass does not collect this information as noted in my response above. You may be able to obtain this information from the Ministry of Justice at this link:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/requestinginformation.htm>

6. How many times has Cafcass recommended a 'freeing Order' dispensing with the parent's consent for adoption?
7. How many complaints have been made that children have been sexually abused by foster carers or adoptive parents?
8. How many of your client children have received injuries since becoming clients for which carers other than their parents have received criminal convictions?

Please see the response above to 1-3.

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 ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk))

**Post**

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

**Fax**

01625 524 510

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jasvinder Jassal

**Information Assurance & Data Handling Officer**

[jasvinder.jassal@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jasvinder.jassal@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk)



Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- (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

