

Mr Philip J Measures  
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**Your ref: CAF 537**  
**Our ref: JJ/CAF 537**  
**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012**

Dear Mr. Measures

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

Thank you for your email that was received on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 requesting the following information:

### **Children seen in Private Law Proceedings**

Please advise for the years ending 31-12-2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 the numbers of Private Law Applications received by Region, how many proceeded to Allocation to a Family Court Adviser, how many of those proceeded to a Court Hearing, how many children were actually seen by either a Family Support Worker and / or FCA in order to ascertain their Wishes and Feelings.

Please note: Private law cases can also have a co-worker in addition to the lead practitioner.

**Family Support Workers (FSWs):** FSWs cannot be allocated as lead practitioners to private law cases, but can be allocated as a co-worker to a FCA. In rule 9.5 / 16.4 cases, if the judge in a case, where there is an appointed Children's Guardian, has the court's approval to the involvement of a FSW in the work, it is acceptable to allocate the FSW as a co-worker to the case. If the court's approval has not been obtained, the FSW should not be undertaking work on the case, nor should they be allocated in any way, including through CMS notes.

Please see table for FSW co-allocation below.

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

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental public body of the Department for Education  
Cafcass National Office, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT

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

**Post**

Information Commissioner's Office  
510  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jasvinder Jassal

**Information Assurance & Data Handling Officer**

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FSW allocation

Service Area	2008			2009			2010			2011		
	Total cases received	Cases with FSW co-allocated	% Cases with FSW co-allocated	Total cases received	Cases with FSW co-allocated	% Cases with FSW co-allocated	Total cases received	Cases with FSW co-allocated	% Cases with FSW co-allocated	Total cases received	Cases with FSW co-allocated	% Cases with FSW co-allocated
A1	838	30	3.6%	1,052	81	7.7%	980	69	7.0%	871	65	7.5%
A2	912	26	2.9%	934	56	6.0%	814	34	4.2%	874	17	1.9%
A3	1,330	33	2.5%	1,538	48	3.1%	1,619	85	5.3%	1,415	74	5.2%
A4	1,395	19	1.4%	1,459	42	2.9%	1,501	23	1.5%	1,233	4	0.3%
A5	1,284	25	1.9%	1,441	87	6.0%	1,422	107	7.5%	1,169	38	3.3%
A6	843	51	6.0%	951	72	7.6%	905	85	9.4%	738	21	2.8%
A7	1,638	35	2.1%	1,778	55	3.1%	1,661	101	6.1%	1,471	60	4.1%
A8	1,393	6	0.4%	1,522	28	1.8%	1,448	28	1.9%	1,195	26	2.2%
A9	2,090	67	3.2%	2,448	115	4.7%	2,505	141	5.6%	2,047	57	2.8%
A10	1,182	74	6.3%	1,291	141	10.9%	1,295	162	12.5%	1,028	99	9.6%
A11	1,472	74	5.0%	1,698	158	9.3%	1,545	169	10.9%	1,372	138	10.1%
A12	1,762	245	13.9%	2,031	194	9.6%	2,025	183	9.0%	1,760	80	4.5%
A13	566	46	8.1%	814	118	14.5%	779	78	10.0%	602	46	7.6%
A14	2,428	120	4.9%	2,795	192	6.9%	2,597	223	8.6%	2,095	100	4.8%
A15	2,468	138	5.6%	2,687	144	5.4%	2,835	188	6.6%	2,784	49	1.8%
A16	968	103	10.6%	1,037	122	11.8%	1,049	156	14.9%	923	48	5.2%
A17	802	255	31.8%	888	242	27.3%	832	159	19.1%	851	59	6.9%
<b>National</b>	<b>23,371</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>5.8%</b>	<b>26,364</b>	<b>1,895</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>25,812</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>22,428</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

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