



Victoria Soeder
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Your ref: CAF 19-156
Our ref: Gov/CAF 19-156

Cafcass National Office
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Email: governance@cafcass.gov.uk

16 October 2019

Dear Ms Soeder,

Re: Freedom of Information request

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

Please provide the following information under FOIA

1. Please provide the

- a. Information
- b. Incorporated research
- c. Feedback

from the Judiciary, academics and therapists involved in the consultation of CAFCASS CIAF

Please note that Cafcass did not conduct a consultation on the Child Impact Assessment Framework (CIAF) and we were not obliged to conduct a formal consultation on the CIAF as this is internal guidance for Cafcass staff.

However, during the framework's development Cafcass sought and incorporated feedback from helpful discussions with a range of sector experts and family justice stakeholders. This included the judiciary, lawyers, academics, therapists, mediators, parent groups, children's advocacy groups, charities, and the Family Justice Young People's Board. Their feedback was considered alongside that from Cafcass staff and is reflected in the final version of the CIA

Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive





Information and feedback from the judiciary, academics and therapists concerning the CIAF are considered exempt from disclosure under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act, as in our view disclosure would be likely to “inhibit” the provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation between those involved with developing the Framework and would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs (see this exemption set out below – section b(ii)).

In this case it has been decided that the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Compromising the safe space for developing ideas, debating issues and making decisions would damage the effective working of Cafcass which is a public body necessary to the effective working of the family justice system. This outweighs the public interest in transparency and accountability of the activities and topics discussed, which can be provided once final decisions have been made.

Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs – [Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act](#) provides that:

- (2) Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act—
 - (b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit—
 - (i) the free and frank provision of advice, or
 - (ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation, or
 - (c) would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

A range of academic material and research was also used in developing the CIAF. These are noted in the Further reading list for the Child Impact Assessment Framework’ document, Please see attached for the ‘Further reading list for the Child Impact Assessment Framework’ document and a zip file of the resources referred to in the ‘Further reading list for the Child Impact Assessment Framework’.

Cafcass cannot provide copies of the resources as part of an FOI response as these items are part of the Cafcass library and are only available for use by Cafcass staff. The resources are publications including books and journals which are available in the public domain. Research reports published by Cafcass are available on the Cafcass [website](#).

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/>):

Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive





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Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
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0303 123 1113

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Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

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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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