



Emma Busby  
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**Your ref: CAF 18-116**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 18-116**

Tel 0300 456 4000

31 October 2018

Dear Ms Busby,

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2018. You made the following requests for information:

1. Your domestic abuse pathway says that you have 10 tools for Family Court Advisors to use. Please can you provide me with details of all Elearning training that you provide to your employees on each of the tools referenced within the Domestic Abuse Pathway.

Cafcass does not have eLearning specifically on the tools referenced in the Domestic Abuse Pathway which are resources for assessing domestic abuse. Cafcass has an eLearning module 'Evidencing Private Law assessment tools' which includes some brief guidance on the use of some of the tools referenced in the Domestic Abuse Pathway.

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.

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

2. Would you also please provide details of any other Elearning that you provide on the Domestic Abuse Pathway.

Cafcass does not have eLearning on the Domestic Abuse Pathway. Training on the pathway was rolled out across Cafcass from January 2017, in the form of a presentation called 'Contemporary practice in domestic abuse assessment.'

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Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





The main training we provide on domestic abuse, is included in our Risk and Harm induction training. This training aims to help ensure practitioners:

- understand Cafcass' legal responsibilities regarding the assessment of risk and harm
- understand the key requirements of Cafcass' [Child Protection Policy](#) and [Operating Framework](#) regarding risk identification and risk assessment.
- understand what [risk assessment tools](#) are available and when to use them
- apply Cafcass' expectations regarding risk identification and risk assessment to case planning, assessment and analysis in public and private law cases.
- be able to use assessment tools correctly and with confidence

Risk and Harm training includes two required eLearning modules to be completed prior to the training day: 'Risk and Harm in Cafcass' and 'Risk and Harm Domestic Abuse eLearning'.

Core training of Legal Context and Court Skills includes also information on domestic violence and the law. Cafcass also provides a knowledge bite 'Post Separation Control: impact on a child'.

A range of additional training and courses are available to Cafcass staff. These include:

- *Child Protection and Decision Making*: in depth training over three days in relation to evidence-based assessments, applying a safeguarding assessment and analysis framework and constructing core and specialist assessments for court.
- *Attachment and Parenting Capacity*
- *16.4 Private Law*: a number of High Conflict Private Law disputes become 16.4 cases where a guardian is appointed to represent a child in proceedings. This course looks at some of these issues.
- *Defensible Decision Making*: explores how to evidence critical decisions in casework
- *Developing Private Law Practice Skills*: all private law staff received this training after the introduction of the Child Arrangement Programme. It explores practitioner intervention skills to support the achievement of safe and child centred arrangements in private law proceedings.
- *Legal Roadshow*: this looks at different family law topics each year
- *Knowledge Bites*: these are short updates in relation to a range of topics with up to date reference lists. These include:
  - *Emotional Harm*: understanding the possible implications of sustained parental conflict on children.
  - *Contact in Private Law Proceedings*: the messages from research and key practice considerations.

Cafcass is a learning organisation and further to training, there are learning and development opportunities through monthly 'Learning and Development Bulletins' which highlight available learning; 'knowledge alerts' shared when new practices are in place; 'development days' for teams on relevant topics; and the eLearning and the

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Cafcass Library which are able to provide up to date information on requested areas such as domestic abuse and its effects on children.

3. And could you also provide the numbers of employees that have completed each Elearning training last year and this year. I would really like this data by year and by service area.

Cafcass does not have any eLearning on the Domestic Abuse Pathway or eLearning specifically on the tools referenced in the Domestic Abuse Pathway.

4. Could you also supply copies of each eLearning course please and let me know who developed them and when they developed them for you

Please see the answer to question three.

Cafcass eLearning is developed by Cafcass' National Improvement Service.

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,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524 510

**Tel**

0303 123 1113

**E-mail**

[casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

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Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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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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