

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Central Freedom of Information Team

freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Our reference: VTR1196

Date: 12 April 2017

Dear Mr Walker

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 23 March 2017.

You asked:

- 1. If payments, "of any amounts" are made to the CSA for onward submission to the parent with responsibility, does this still mean that a valuation of the property will be sought, as the parent with non responsibility is still making payments of some amount?*
- 2. Who are the legal teams/firms used by the CSA who would in turn contact local property experts?*
- 3. Does the CSA or anyone in relation to property valuations, use online property sites to value properties owned by the non resident parent? These sites include, Rightmove, Prime Location, Zoopla?*
- 4. Does the CSA pass the information as to who they spoke to who valued the property (estate agents), on the parent who owns the property?*

Our response:

1. Both the Child Support Agency (CSA) and Child Maintenance Service (CMS) review each case on an individual basis and consider the circumstances prior to taking action. Should an offer of payment be made it would then be considered if the enforcement activity would continue, but this is at the discretion of a decision maker who would review all evidence on a case.
2. The legal firm appointed to manage the CSA and CMS order for sale cases is Drydensfairfax.
3. Caseworkers will use online property sites such as Rightmove to determine if the case meets the criteria to proceed with early order for sale action but do not use these sites as a means to value the property. The CSA and CMS appoint legal experts to seek the estimated value of a property and work with local property experts to conduct drive by valuations.

4. If the owner of a property wished to request details of who values a property they could request a Subject Access Request. You are entitled to request any information that the Department holds on you under the Data Protection Act 1998. Additionally, as part of the order for sale court proceedings, the drive by valuation may be provided to the defendant as part of the evidence bundle.

Yours sincerely,

Child Maintenance Group Freedom of Information Focal Point
Department for Work and Pensions

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745