



B Maloney  
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Your ref: CAF 17-74  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 17-74

Cafcass National Office  
3rd Floor  
21 Bloomsbury Street  
London  
WC1B 3HF

Tel 0300 456 4000

11 July 2017

Dear B Maloney

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2017. You made the following requests for information:

In the Panel Discussion Report from your Cafcass Open Board Meeting 27th January 2017 ([https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/304301/open\\_board\\_panel\\_discussion\\_report.pdf](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/304301/open_board_panel_discussion_report.pdf)) in the section entitled "2. Joint research" you say that Cafcass is undertaking joint research with Women's Aid to better understand what is happening where there are allegations of domestic violence in family court cases about child contact. Please provide me with the following information:

- 1) What is the exact brief of the research?
- 2) What criteria will be used to select the cases for the research?
- 3) Who are the members of the research team?
- 4) What are the academic qualifications of the researchers?
- 5) How much funding is Cafcass providing for this research?
- 6) Is any funding being provided to Women's Aid, if so, how much?
- 7) Will any Cafcass staff be involved in the research and in what capacity?
- 8) What is the definition of domestic violence to be used in the research to identify allegations?
- 9) Is the research also looking at false allegations of domestic abuse?
- 10) How will the researchers identify and report cases of false allegations of domestic abuse?

Please see below for our response.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





This information is information relating to ongoing research between Cafcass and Women's Aid. It is therefore currently exempt from disclosure under [Section 22 A of the Freedom of Information Act](#).

[Section 22 A of the Freedom of Information Act](#)

*(1) Information obtained in the course of, or derived from, a programme of research is exempt information if —*

*(a) the programme is continuing with a view to the publication, by a public authority or any other person, of a report of the research (whether or not including a statement of that information), and*

*(b) disclosure of the information under this Act before the date of publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice —*

*(i) the programme,*

*(ii) the interests of any individual participating in the programme,*

*(iii) the interests of the authority which holds the information, or*

*(iv) the interests of the authority mentioned in paragraph (a) (if it is a different authority from that which holds the information).*

*(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1) if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1)(b).*

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

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice  
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