



Marta Paszkowska

Your ref: CAF 20-095

Our ref: Gov/CAF 20-095

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

Tel 0300 456 4000

Email: governance@cafcass.gov.uk

11th December 2020

Dear Marta Paszkowska ,

Re: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 15th November 2020. You made the following requests for information:

- 1. Requests (Private Law) to access between 2010-2020 were refused in area of Cheshire and Trafford***
- 2. How many complaints were not processed regarding (Private Law) between 2010-2020 in area of Cheshire and Trafford***
- 3. How many complaints were not processed/refused when the disabled child was involved in a case between 2010-2020 in area of Cheshire and Trafford (Private Law)***

We unfortunately cannot provide this data as it is recorded in individual reports and not easily extractable. It will take more than 18 hours to extract the data looking at individual reports. In order to provide a response, each case file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass handles thousands of these cases annually, the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit which for Cafcass is £450. In our estimation the cost (a flat rate of £25 per hour provided by the FOI Act) would exceed the appropriate limit which is 18 hours for Cafcass, in order to complete one or more of the following activities permitted to be accounted for, which are:

- Determining whether the information is held;
- Locating the information, or a document containing it;

Sally Cheshire CBE Interim Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive

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- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

A response to this request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

4. How many disabled children were refused to access information held about them by CAFCASS 2010-2020 in area of Cheshire and Trafford (Private Law)

SAR disclosures for children are assessed on the age of the child and whether they have capacity to make the request. Having a disability does not necessarily mean that an individual lacks capacity, therefore a SAR disclosure would not be refused purely on the basis of disability. You can find out more information on our [Subject Access Request page](#),

Cafcass will record the reason why a child subject access request has been declined, however, this information is not collated centrally. In order to respond to your request, we would need to manually look through each SAR request from 2010-2020, to locate those from Cheshire and Trafford and then identify which ones have been refused. For the last three years there are over 1000 files alone, therefore, to look through the past 10 years of files, would take in excess of 18 hours.

We therefore cannot provide this data as it is recorded in individual reports and not easily extractable. It will take more than 18 hours to extract the data looking at individual reports. In order to provide a response, each case file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass handles thousands of these cases annually, the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit which for Cafcass is £450. In our estimation the cost (a flat rate of £25 per hour provided by the FOI Act) would exceed the appropriate limit which is 18 hours for Cafcass, in order to complete one or more of the following activities permitted to be accounted for, which are:

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- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

A response to this request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gov.uk

Sally Cheshire CBE Interim Chair
Jacky Tiotto Chief Executive

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