



Stuart Graham
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21 Bloomsbury Street
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WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 18-095

Our ref: Gov/CAF 18-095

Tel 0300 456 4000

21 September 2018

Dear Mr Graham

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 13 September 2018. You made the following requests for information:

A year by year breakdown since CAF/CASS started on the following:

1. How many cases they dealt with

Please note that Cafcass only holds this data from 2009-10 onwards.

Financial Year	Number of new Private Law cases
2017-18	42,058
2016-17	40,824
2015-16	37,649
2014-15	34,357
2013-14	46,465
2012-13	45,804
2011-12	41,818
2010-11	43,759
2009-10	44,722

2. How many children within those cases?

Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Please note that Cafcass only holds this data from 2009-10 onwards.

Please note that for years 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 201-13, the data on the number of children is not held by law type and is only held in total.

Financial Year	Number of children
2017-18	60,986
2016-17	60,537
2015-16	54,757
2014-15	50,299
2013-14	66,135
2012-13	87,282
2011-12	80,270
2010-11	82,860
2009-10	85,720

3. How many of these represent cases that return to Court?

Cafcass does not collect information or collate data on the number of private law cases which return to court centrally. In order to provide a response, each private law case file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass handles tens of thousands of 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;
- 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.

12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

1. *Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*



2. Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
3. In subsections (1) and (2) "the appropriate limit" means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
4. The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 - (a) by one person, or
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
5. The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

In 2017, Cafcass published a study into the scale and patterns of private law cases that returned to court. This work is being used to inform discussions on family justice reform, better sustain court arrangements, safely resolve cases outside of court, and innovate within practice. The study can be accessed [here](#).

4. How many return to CAFCASS?

Please see the answer to question three. Please note that Cafcass can only become involved in cases when directed to do so by the family court. If a case has returned to Cafcass, then it will have also returned to the family court.

[The above questions apply only to private law](#)

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



Edward Timpson CBE Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gov.uk

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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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