

06 May 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – reference ATISN 10388

Thank you for your request received on 16 April. You asked for information relating to private law cases for each year between 2006 and 2015. Specifically you requested for each year, the number of cases in which:

- 1) Cafcass Cymru recommended direct contact with a parent;
- 2) Cafcass Cymru recommended indirect contact only with a parent (i.e. no direct contact);
- 3) the recommendation for indirect contact only was imposed by the court;
- 4) indirect contact subsequently lead to re-establishing of direct contact with the parent who had indirect contact.

The recommendations made to the court and the final decisions made by the court are contained within court reports and court orders held in individual case files. Whilst CAFCASS Cymru holds information which falls within the description specified in your request, it can only be retrieved by examining individual case files.

In order to identify and locate the information, we estimate it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

In 2016, CAFCASS Cymru introduced a new electronic case management system, resulting in court reports and court orders being more accessible than in previous years. We have undertaken a sample exercise on 10 electronic case files to identify and collate the information. This exercise took 40 minutes. From the results of the exercise, we estimate it will take in excess of 266 hours for each year to gather the requested information in respect of parts one and two of your request. This is based on an average of 4000 case files per year x 4 minutes = 266 hours. Retrieving the information from previous years would involve an examination of hard copy files and this would take far longer. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to:

Nigel Brown
Deputy Chief Executive
CAFCASS Cymru
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Normally, however, you should pursue the matter through our internal procedure before you complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.