

06 May 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – reference ATISN 10393

Thank you for your request received on 18 April. You asked for:

1. The number and percentage of cases where recommendations for Indirect Contact have been made to the Family Court for accounting years 2015 and 2016;
2. Guidance given to FCAs to assist them in determining when indirect contact only is an appropriate recommendation.

The recommendations made to the court and the final decisions made by the court are contained within court reports and court orders held on 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 ten 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 to gather the requested information for the 2016 year. The estimate is based on an average time of 4 minutes per file x 4000 files = 266 hours. Providing the information for 2015 year would take longer. Based on these calculations, I have decided not to provide you with the information you requested.

With regard to the guidance provided to FCAs, there is no specific document detailing when indirect contact only is an appropriate recommendation. In reaching this conclusion, FCAs would rely on their professional judgement based on an assessment and analysis of safeguarding information and what is in the best interest of the child.

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.

Tîm Cefnogaeth Ganolog ■ Central Support Team
GCCLBT Cymru ■ CAFCASS Cymru
Sarn Mynach
Cyffordd Llandudno ■ Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ
Ffôn ■ Tel 03000 625500



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CAFCASS Cymru is part of
the Welsh Government

