

20 May 2016

Dear

Request for Information – reference ATISN 10429

Thank you for your request received on 05 May. You asked:

- How many care and adoption cases have CAFCASS Cymru been involved with since 2004 and
- in these cases, how many of the recommendations made to the court by CAFCASS Cymru were agreed by the court?

With regard to the first part of the request, I can confirm that since April 2004, CAFCASS Cymru have been involved with 13,388 Public Law cases.

Each year, within the CAFCASS Cymru Annual Report we publish details of the number of Public Law cases we have been involved with. This information is contained within the 'Service Demand' section of the report. Annual Reports from 2009/10 to 2014/15 are available on our website at:

http://cafcass.gov.wales/leaflets-and-publications/our_annual_reports?lang=en

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 the second part of 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. Retrieving information for previous years would involve scrutiny of hard copy case files and this would take far longer.

I have therefore concluded it will take in excess of 892 hours to gather the requested information. The estimate is based on it taking a minimum time of 4 minutes per file x 13,388 files. Based on these calculations, I have decided not to provide you with the information requested in the second part of your request.

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	Tel: 01625 545 745
Cheshire	Fax: 01625 524 510
SK9 5AF	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.