



Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Paper for the Board Meeting on 7 October 2010

Performance Report: August 2010 (year to date)

1	Aim and Purpose
1.1	To provide the Board with an overview of the operational service position as at 31 August 2010.
2	Action for the Board
2.1	This report is for information and discussion only.
3	Recommendation
3.1	For the Board to note the report and key issues.

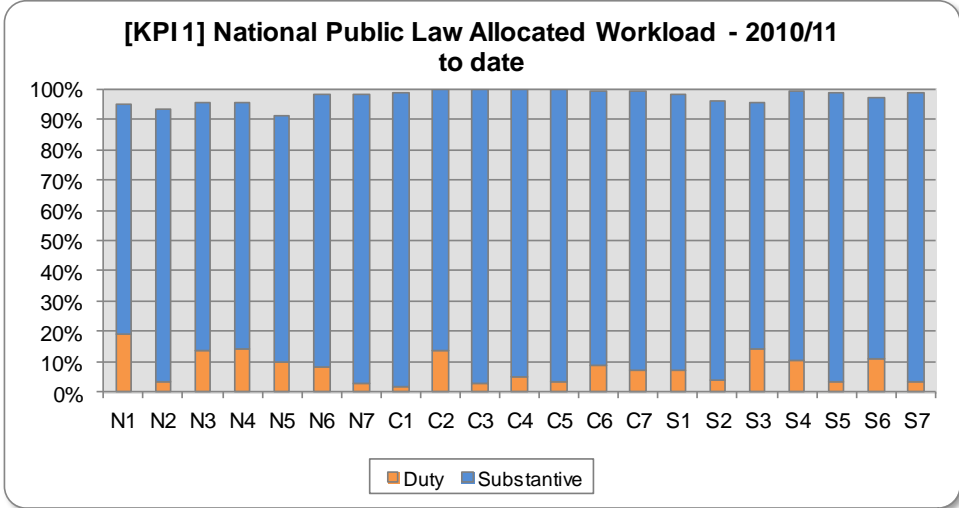
Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target	Performance	Trend
1: Public allocated workload	97%	97.3%	↑
2: Private allocated workload	97%	94.0%	↔
3: Safeguarding assessments rated as satisfactory or higher	97%	96.1%	↓
4: Service users expressing overall satisfaction	65%	59.7%	↓
5: Risk assessment duty rated as satisfactory or higher		tbc	
6: Care cases allocated by CMC date	97% (by Mar-11)	73.0%	↓
7a: Multiple issue section 7 reports filed by agreed date	tbc Q2	57.2%	↑
7b: Single issue section 7 reports filed by agreed date	tbc Q2	62.0%	↔
7c: Risk assessment section 7 reports filed by agreed date	tbc Q2	63.7%	↑
7d: Wishes & feelings section 7 reports filed by agreed date	tbc Q2	66.7%	↑

Bruce Clark – Director of Policy
Andrew Thorpe – Senior Research & Data Analyst

Public Law - KPI 1: Public law workload allocated at month end

Target:	97%
Performance:	97.3%
Trend:	↑

This indicator measures all public law cases, received and ongoing, as a snapshot at the end of the month. All public law cases should be allocated upon receipt either on a duty or substantive basis. Cases should remain allocated until the case is closed, though this may involve reallocation or changes from duty allocation to substantive allocation.



For this measure a year to date average is reported to build a picture of performance for the year as it progresses. Performance for this indicator has increased from the previous month's figure of 97.0% to 97.3%.

All three operational areas have been able to maintain performance in the amber range of above 90%, with the Central area exceeding the target at 99.4%, despite the continuing Care demand increases (see page 4 for further details), in part through the use of duty advice arrangements.

Best Performance: C5 is achieving 99.9% this year to date.

Service Area Hotspots: All service areas are within or higher than the amber range of above 90% for the year to date.

Comparison: Performance last year to the end of August for this indicator was 91.8%.

Unallocated: At end of August 2009 = 1,248 cases (979 Care cases)
At end of July 2010 = 211 cases (143 Care cases)
At end of August 2010 = **242** cases (**159** Care cases)

There are several different stages in which a public law Care case can have the status of 'unallocated' in Cafcass' Case Management System (CMS):

- **Stage 1:** Of the 159 unallocated Care cases, **28** (17.6%) cases are at the beginning of a case before the Case Management Conference (CMC) has taken place, typically 45 calendar days (6 weeks) from the application issue date.
- **Stage 2:** **4** (2.5%) cases are beyond CMC, but without a final hearing or final legal output entered on CMS, and between 6 weeks and 29 weeks old, **6** (3.8%) cases are between 30 and 49 weeks old, **3** (1.9%) cases are between 50 and 79 weeks old, and **5** (3.1%) cases are more than 79 weeks old.
- **Stage 3:** **113** (71.1%) cases are beyond final hearing and/or have a final legal output entered in CMS. These will be cases awaiting notice of final legal output from the court, or awaiting administrative closure on CMS.

Duty: At end of August 2009 = 553 cases (442 Care cases)
At end of July 2010 = 1,253 cases (1,049 Care cases)
At end of August 2010 = **1,221** cases (**1,017** Care cases)

- Of the 1,017 duty allocated Care cases, **370** (35.3%) cases are at Stage 1.
- **562** (53.6%) cases are at Stage 2 and between 6 and 29 weeks old, **57** (5.4 %) are between 30 and 49 weeks old, **18** (1.7%) cases are between 50 and 79 weeks old, and **9** (0.9%) cases are more than 80 weeks old.
- **33** (3.1%) cases are at Stage 3.

The definitions of public law case statuses and stages can be seen on page 14 of this document.

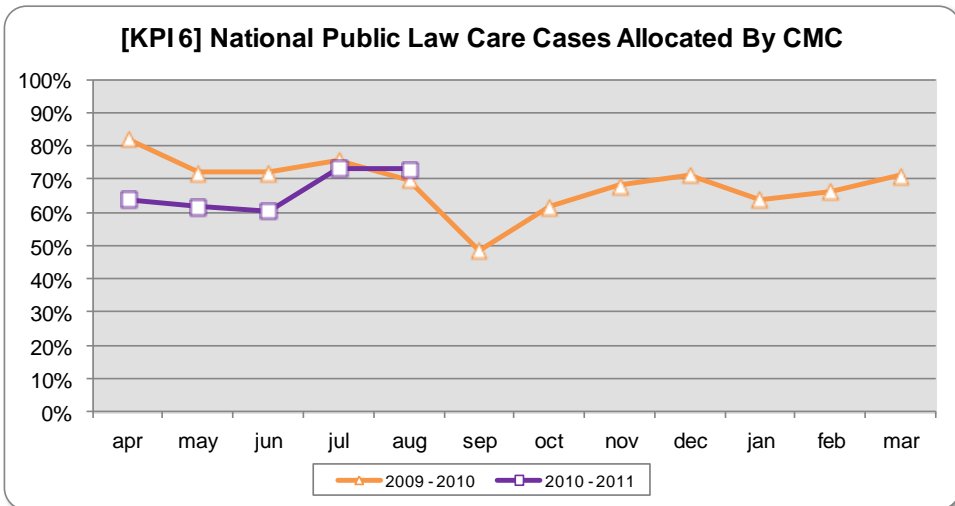
Public Law - KPI 6: Care cases allocated by CMC date

Target:	97% (by Mar-11)
Performance:	73.0%
Trend:	↓

This indicator is a measure of the ability to allocate, on a substantive basis, a Cafcass Family Court Advisor or self-employed contractor as a Children’s Guardian to all public law Care cases by point in time which the Public Law Outline (PLO) specifies that the Case Management Conference (CMC) is to take place. This is a specific requirement of the President’s Interim Guidance, originally introduced in July 2009 and renewed in April 2010, which has effect until September 2010.

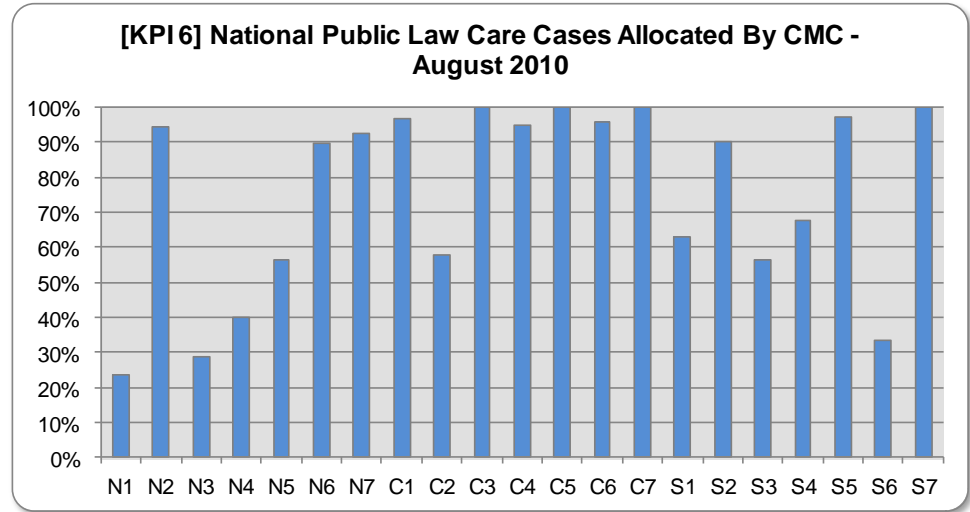
The purpose of the CMC is to enable the case management judge or case manager, with the co-operation of the parties, actively to manage the case and, at the earliest practicable opportunity, to identify the relevant and key issues and give full case management directions including confirming the Timetable for the Child.

The CMC is expected by the terms of the PLO to take place no later than 45 calendar days of the application issue date, and the precise measurement of the indicator is defined on this basis.



For this measure only the most recent month is reported because the target of 97% is only to be achieved by the end of March 2011. This date has been selected to give time for teams across the country to establish sustainable models of intervention in public law care cases, in accordance with the President’s Interim Guidance.

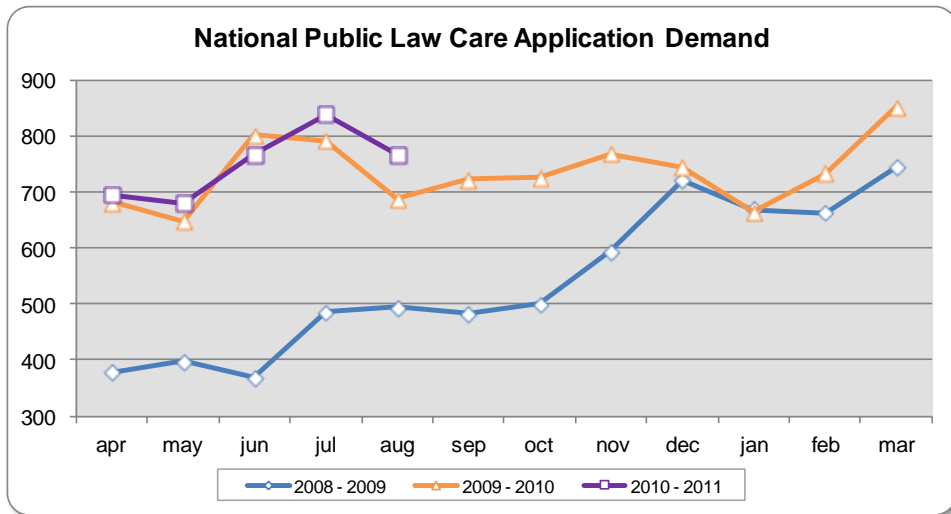
In August 2010, 804 Care cases were allocated for the first time on a substantive basis, with 73.0% (587 cases) being allocated within 45 calendar days of the issue date of the court application. This is a slight decrease from the previous month’s figure of 73.1%.



Best Performance: In August 2010, 100% of Care cases in C3, C5, C7, and S7 were allocated within 45 calendar days of the application issue date.

Comparison: National performance in August 2009 for this indicator was 69.8%.

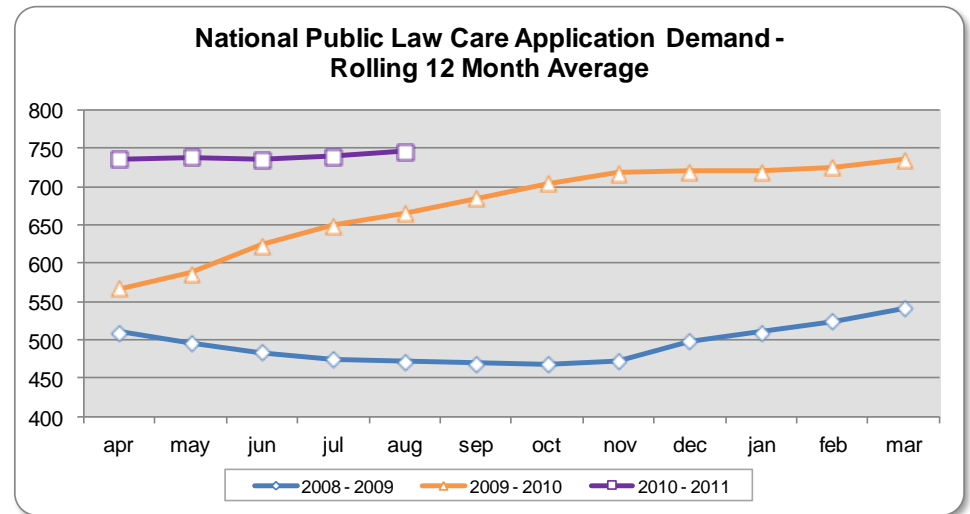
Public Law – Care application demand



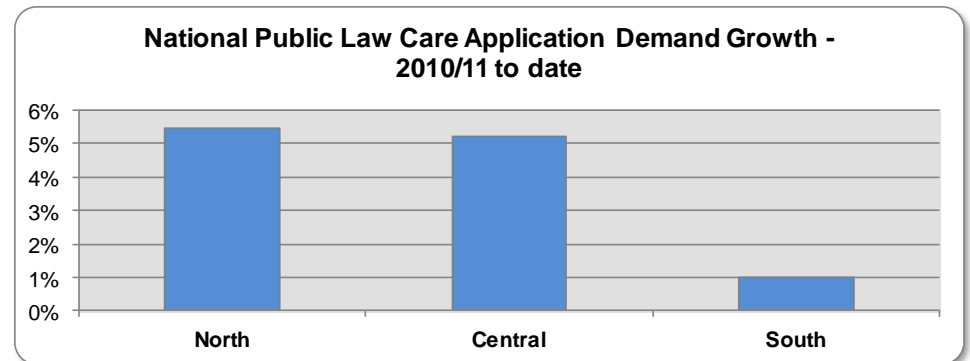
2008-09 - Following the implementation of the Public Law Outline (PLO) in April 2008, Cafcass experienced a 27.3% drop in demand for Care cases across the country from April to June 2008, in comparison to the same period in 2007. Demand levelled off for the period of July to October 2008 but then rose sharply resulting in a significant increase in applications, coinciding with the Baby Peter case. The second half of the 2008-09 year saw nearly 50% more care applications than the first half. Overall, care demand for 2008-09 was up 4% compared to the previous year.

2009-10 – Throughout the year, Care demand remained at unprecedentedly high levels. Comparing the whole year of 2009-10 to the previous year, care demand was up by 35.7% (2,320 applications), from 6,496 to 8,816 applications. March 2010 (851 applications) was the highest Care demand figure ever recorded for a single month since Cafcass began collecting this data.

2010-11 – Comparing April-August 2010 against the same period in the previous year, Care demand is up by 3.7% (135 applications), from 3,609 to 3,744 applications. A total of 766 Care applications were received in the month of August 2010, an increase of 11.5% (79 applications) from the 687 applications received in August 2009. The April (694), May (680), July (838) and August application numbers were the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months.

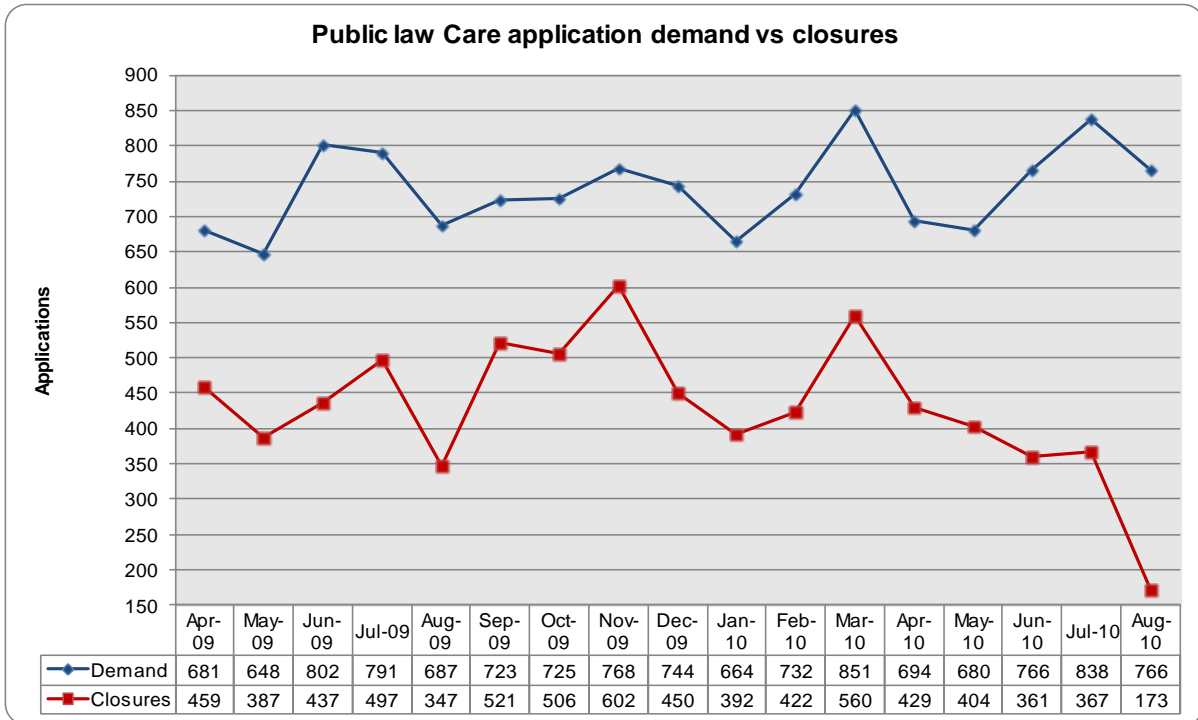


The above graph displays rolling 12 month average for Care application demand, as a supplement to the individual month figures. The rolling 12 month average smoothes out the seasonal variations and helps to highlight longer term trends.

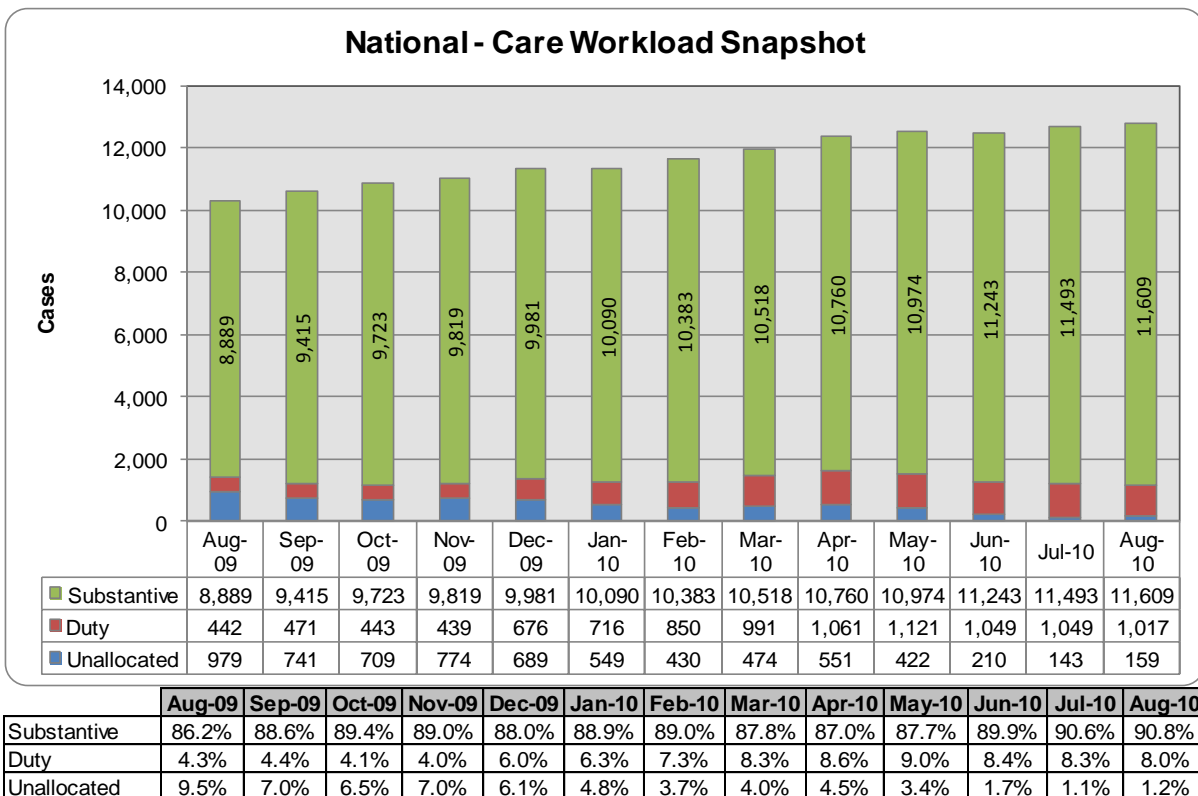


Comparing April-August 2010 against the same period in the previous year, Care demand is up by 5.5% in the North area from 1,077 to 1,136 applications. Care demand is up by 5.2% in Central area from 1,204 to 1,267 applications. Care demand is up by 1.0% in the South area from 1,328 to 1,341 applications.

Public Law – Care workload



NB: Care closures in the most recent months are not concluded due to closure procedures and awaiting court orders.

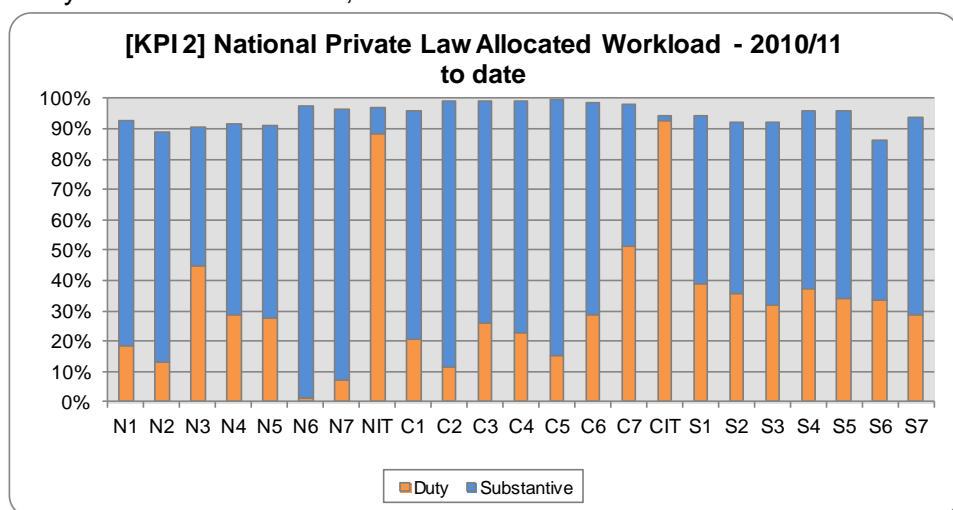


The above graphs demonstrate the sustained high demand for Care applications, a trend that began in November 2008 (see page 4), linked to the publicity surrounding the death of Baby Peter. The first graph shows that the number of new cases entering the system has substantially exceeded the number leaving the system. The result of this has been a steady increase in the size of the overall national Care workload, evidenced in the second graph. This also shows the reduction of unallocated cases, from 979 in August 2009 to 159 in August 2010, and the increased number of cases allocated on a duty basis, from 442 in August 2009 to 1,017 in August 2010. On the whole, Cafcass is now dealing, on a substantively allocated basis (Children's Guardian appointed), with around 30% (or 2,700) more Care cases in August 2010 compared to August 2009.

Private Law - KPI 2: Private Law workload allocated at month end

Target:	97%
Performance:	94.0%
Trend:	↔

This indicator measures all private law cases received and ongoing, as a snapshot at the end of the month. It is expected that all private law cases will be allocated upon receipt, and that they will remain allocated, either on a duty or substantive basis, until the case is closed.



For this measure a year to date average is reported to build a picture of performance for the year as it progresses.

Performance for this indicator has remained the same as the previous month's figure of 94.0%.

Best Performance: C5 is achieving 99.4% this year to date.

Unallocated: At end of August 2009 = 9,729 cases
 At end of July 2010 = 1,292 cases
 At end of August 2010 = **1,252** cases

There are several different stages in which a private law case can have the status of 'unallocated' in the CMS. Of the seven sub-categories below, Stage 3 b & c are particularly problematic:

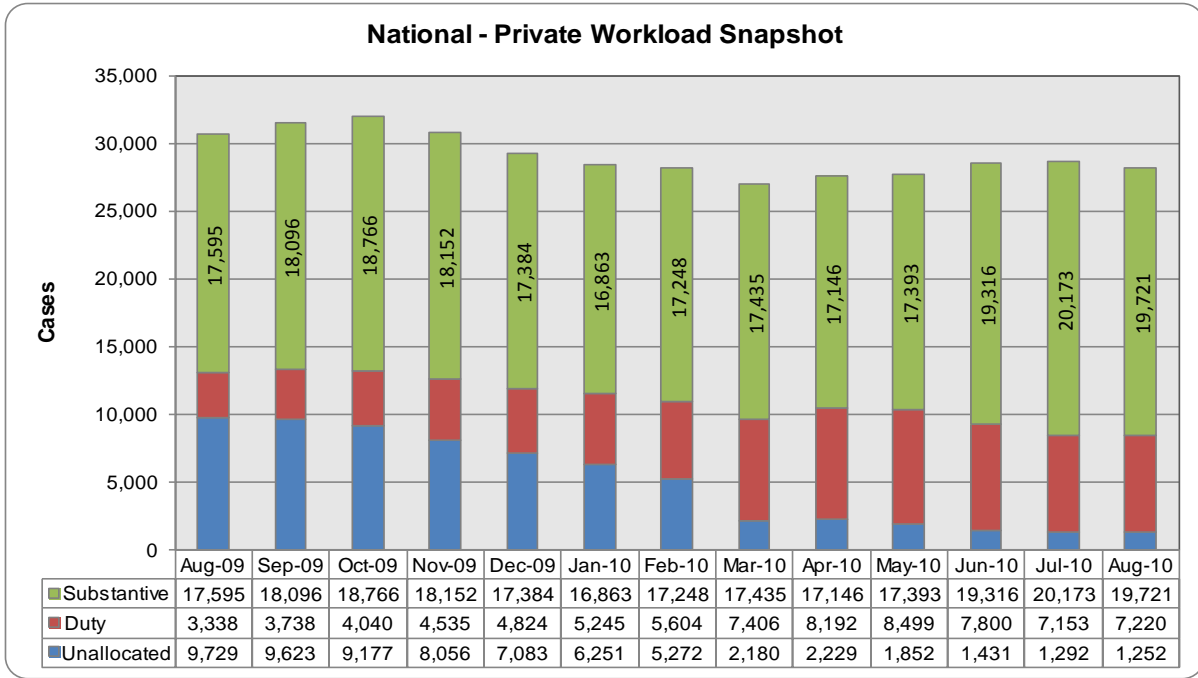
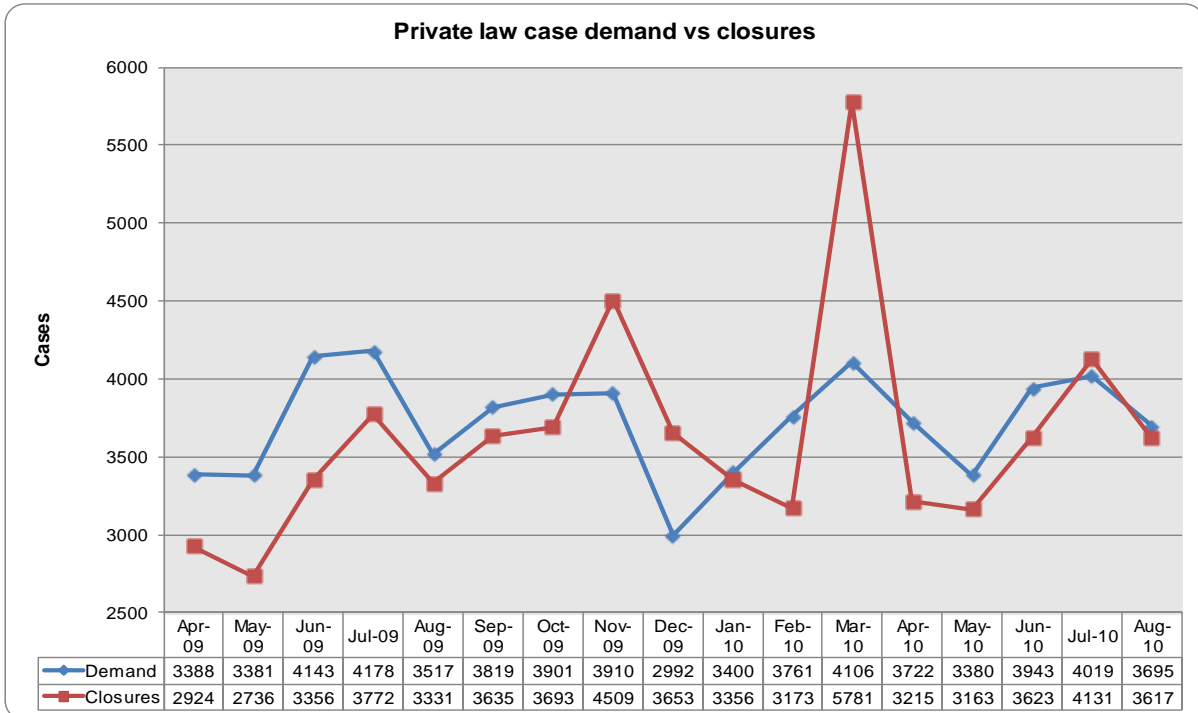
- **Stage 1:** Of the 1,252 unallocated cases, **58** (4.6%) cases have yet to reach the first hearing.
- **Stage 2a:** **326** (26.0%) cases are after a court hearing at which further Cafcass work has not yet been requested, but a further hearing may have been scheduled, or safeguarding checks are outstanding.
- **Stage 2b:** **232** (18.5%) cases are after a court hearing at which further Cafcass work has not yet been requested, no further hearing has yet been scheduled, and all safeguarding checks are complete.
- **Stage 3a:** **57** (4.6%) cases have a report which has more than 10 weeks until the filing date.
- **Stage 3b:** **89** (7.1%) cases have a report which has less than 10 weeks until the filing date.
- **Stage 3c:** **224** (17.9%) cases have a report which has gone beyond the filing date.
- **Stage 4:** **266** (21.2%) cases have had all reports filed and are awaiting notification of the final outcome.

Duty: At end of August 2009 = 3,338 cases
 At end of July 2010 = 7,153 cases
 At end of August 2010 = **7,220** cases

- Of the 7,220 duty allocated cases **1,920** (26.6%) cases are at Stage 1.
- **1,908** (26.4%) cases are at Stage 2a.
- **1,171** (16.2%) cases are at Stage 2b.
- **463** (6.4%) cases are at Stage 3a.
- **935** (13.0%) cases are at Stage 3b.
- **398** (5.5%) cases are at Stage 3c.
- **425** (5.9%) cases are at Stage 4.

The definitions of private law case statuses and stages can be seen on page 15 of this document.

Private Law – Workload



	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10
Substantive	57.4%	57.5%	58.7%	59.0%	59.3%	59.5%	61.3%	64.5%	62.2%	62.7%	67.7%	70.5%	69.9%
Duty	10.9%	11.9%	12.6%	14.8%	16.5%	18.5%	19.9%	27.4%	29.7%	30.6%	27.3%	25.0%	25.6%
Unallocated	31.7%	30.6%	28.7%	26.2%	24.2%	22.0%	18.7%	8.1%	8.1%	6.7%	5.0%	4.5%	4.4%

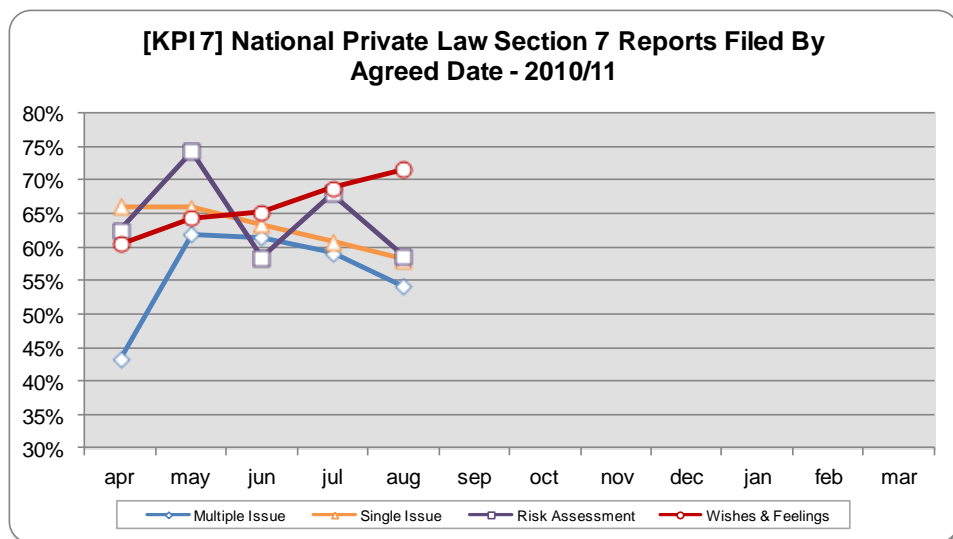
The above graphs clearly show the progress that has been made in reducing the private law unallocated cases, from 9,729 in August 2009 to 1,252 in August 2010. The main contributing factors to this are that of the acceleration of case closures (first graph), and the increase of duty allocation schemes (second graph). The revised model of private law work, combined with the increased administration efficiency in closing completed cases, has enabled Cafcass to ensure that case closure levels have run, on average, in line with the number of new cases in the period since August 2009. The use of private law duty schemes, in ways that have proved acceptable to senior local judges, has steadily increased up to May 2010, but is showing signs of levelling out in more recent months.

Private Law - KPI 7: Section 7 reports filed by agreed date

KPI	7a – Multiple Issue	7b – Single Issue	7c – Risk Assessment	7d – Wishes & Feelings
Target:	tbc Q2	tbc Q2	tbc Q2	tbc Q2
Performance:	57.2%	62.0%	63.7%	66.7%
Trend:	↑	↔	↑	↑

Since 1 April 2010, Cafcass has recorded the four distinct types of welfare report that can be ordered under section 7 of the Children Act 1989: multiple issue, single issue, risk assessment, and wishes & feelings. These categories of report are set out in schedule I of the President’s Private Law Programme 2010.

This indicator measures the rate of each the four types of section 7 report that are filed by the date agreed between the Court and Cafcass.



Year to date performance against this indicator increased for multiple issue, risk assessment, and wishes and feelings reports, and remained at the same level for single issue reports from the previous month’s figures.

For the year to date, Cafcass filed 1,043 multiple issue reports, with 597 (57.2%) meeting the filing date, 1,467 single issue reports with 910 (62.0%) meeting the filing date, 215 risk assessment reports with 137 (63.7%) meeting the filing date, and 1,234 wishes & feelings reports with 823 (66.7%) meeting the filing date.

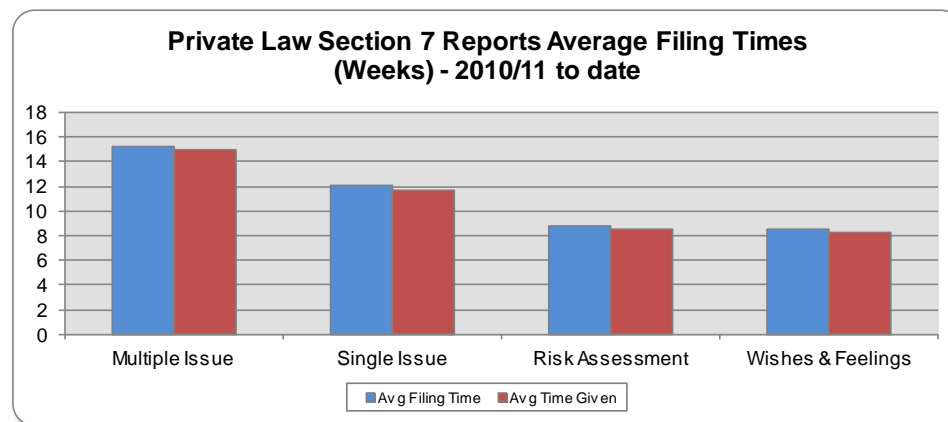
Best Performance (August 2010)

7a: N2 and S1 filed 100% of multiple issue reports by the agreed filing date.

7b: N2 filed 100% of single issue reports by the agreed filing date.

7c: C1, C2 and S6 filed 100% of risk assessment reports by the agreed filing date.

7d: N1, N2, N4, and S7 filed 100% of wishes & feelings reports by the agreed filing date.

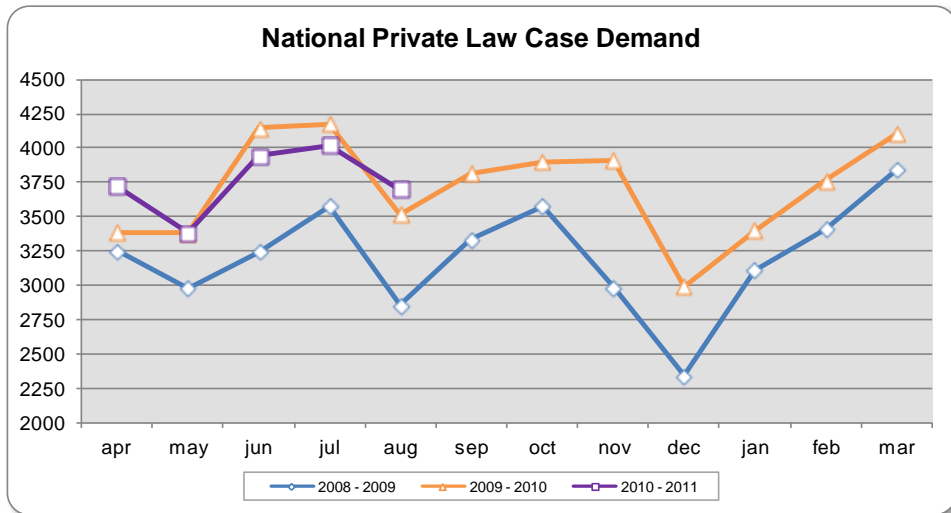


For the year to date, the 1,043 multiple issue reports filed were filed at an average of 15.3 weeks, against an average agreed filing time of 15.0 weeks. The 1,467 single issue reports were filed at an average of 12.1 weeks, against an average agreed filing time of 11.7 weeks. The 215 risk assessment reports were filed at an average of 8.8 weeks, against an average agreed filing time of 8.5 weeks. The 1,234 wishes and feelings report were filed at an average of 8.5 weeks, against an average agreed filing time of 8.2 weeks.

Private Law – Case demand

Private Law Cases

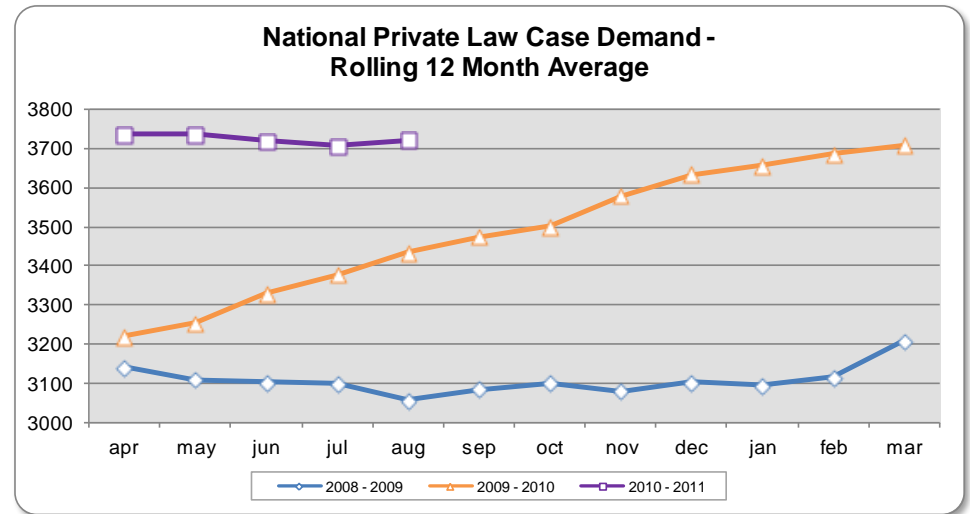
All court application forms received by Cafcass are screened for possible risks to the child or other family members. Depending on the level of identified safeguarding and welfare issues involved, some cases result in no further work for Cafcass beyond the first court hearing, while some others are dealt with by local authority children’s services.



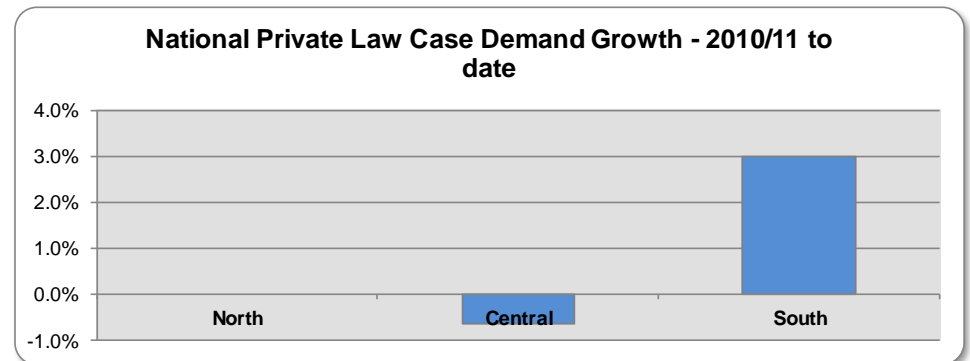
2009-10 – Comparing the whole year of 2009-10 to the previous year, private law case demand was up by 15.6% (5,995 cases), from 38,501 cases to 44,496 cases. A total of 4,178 cases were received in July 2009, which is the highest private law case demand figure ever recorded for a single month.

2010-11 - Comparing April-August 2010 against the same period in the previous year, Private law case demand is up 0.8% (152 cases), from 18,607 cases to 18,759 cases. A total of 3,695 cases were received in the month of August 2010, an increase of 5.1% (178 cases) from the 3,517 cases received in August 2009.

One factor in the increase since the 2008-09 year is the continuing work to improve the transmission of C100s from the Courts to Cafcass.



The above graph displays rolling 12 month average for private law case demand, as a supplement to the individual month figures. The rolling 12 month average smoothes out the seasonal variations and helps to highlight longer term trends.

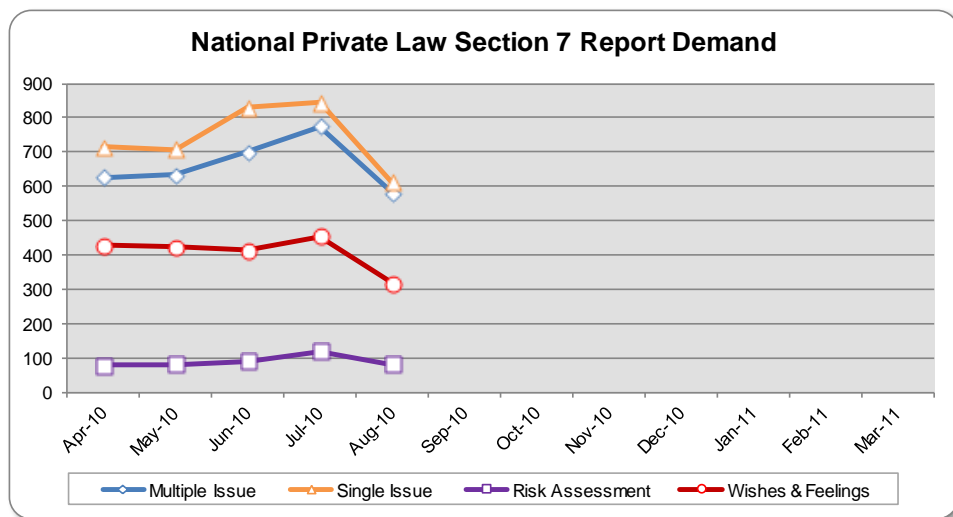


Comparing April-August 2010 against the same period in the previous year, private law case demand is at exactly the same level in the North area at 5,379 cases. Demand is down by 0.6% in the Central area from 6,754 applications to 6,711 cases. Demand is up by 3.0% in the South area from 6,474 cases to 6,669 cases.

Private Law – Further work demand

Section 7 Reports

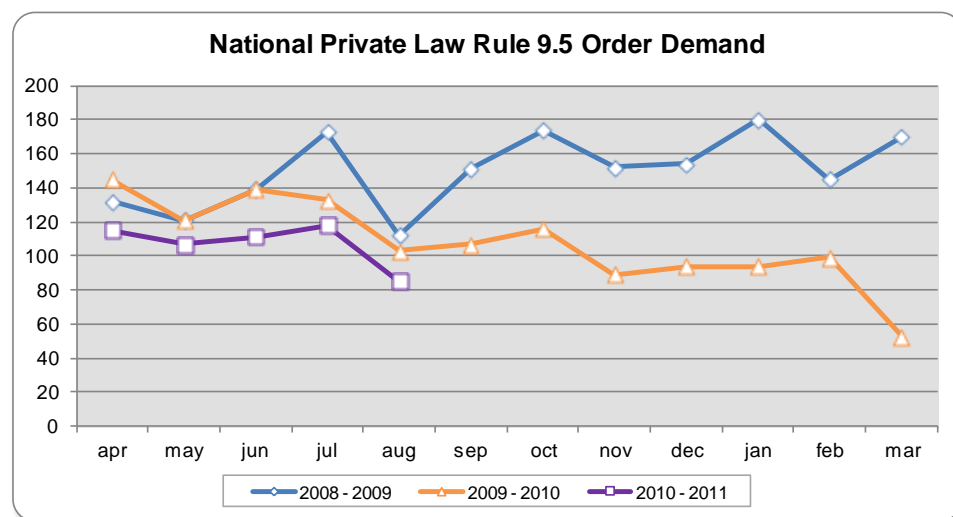
Where the courts request further work by Cafcass, this can take one or more of a number of forms – the most usual type of work is the preparation of a section 7 report.



For the period of April to August 2010, Cafcass has been requested to prepare a total of 9,512 section 7 reports. Single Issue reports have been the most frequent, with 3,708 requests, whilst there have been 3,314 requests for multiple issue reports, 2,037 requests for wishes and feelings reports, and 451 requests for risk assessment reports.

Rule 9.5 appointments

Rule 9.5 appointments are ordered where the court decides, in more complex cases, that the child should become party to the proceedings and be separately represented by a guardian ad litem and a solicitor.



2009-10

Comparing the whole year of 2009-10 to the previous year, Rule 9.5 demand was down by 28.3% (510 orders), from 1,803 orders to 1,293 orders.

2010-11

Comparing April-August 2010 against the same period in the previous year, Rule 9.5 demand is down by 16.4% (105 orders), from 641 orders to 536 orders.

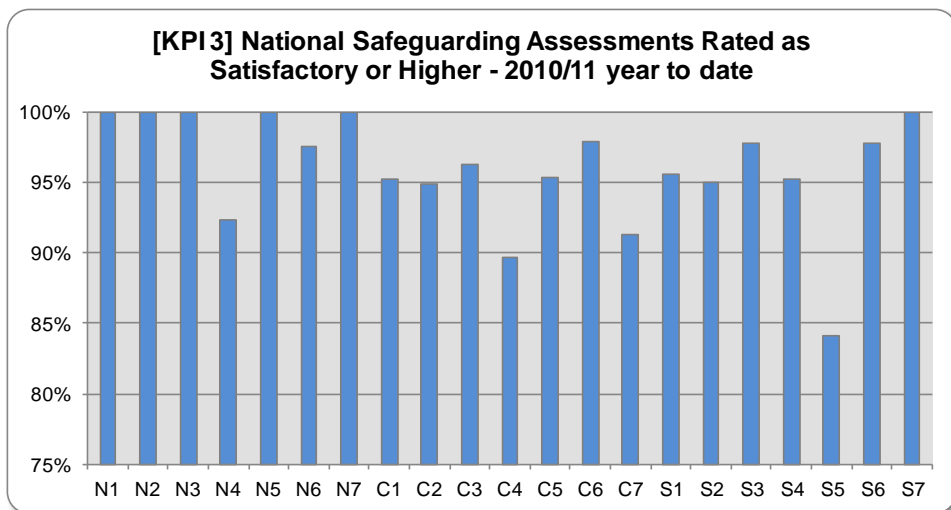
A total of 85 orders were received in the month of August 2010, a decrease of 17.5% (18 orders) from the 103 orders received in August 2009.

Safeguarding - KPI 3: Safeguarding assessments rated as satisfactory or higher

Target:	97%
Performance:	96.1%
Trend:	↓

Safeguarding is monitored through routine supervision, audits and appraisal using the Quality for Children (Q4C) performance management system. Q4C contains a standardised toolkit that line managers and quality improvement specialist managers use as the basis for their assessment of the quality of staff work.

All Cafcass practitioners will have a sample of their case files assessed through supervision at least twice within the financial year by their line manager. Staff members with a safeguarding assessment rated as inadequate are supervised in accordance with the performance and conduct policy.



Performance for this indicator has decreased slightly from the previous month's figure of 97.0% to 96.1%.

Best Performance: Six service areas are achieving 100% this year to date.

Service Area Hotspots: C4 are achieving 89.7% this year to date (52 of 58 assessments rated as satisfactory). S5 are achieving 84.1% this year to date (53 of 63 assessments rated as satisfactory).

Supporting Information

Nationally, 1,082 safeguarding assessments of practitioners have been carried out this year to date, with 1,040 or 96.1% rated as satisfactory or higher.

Safeguarding Checks

Requests for Local Authority checks in private law have been sent by Cafcass for 98.3% of service users in private law cases received in the year to date. The average time for Cafcass to send for Local Authority checks has reduced from 6.7 working days from receipt of the case in April 2010 to 2.0 working days in August 2010.

Requests for Police checks have been sent by Cafcass for 98.6% of service users on private law cases received in the year to date. The average time for Cafcass to send for Police checks has reduced from 9.3 working days in April 2010 to 2.1 working days in August 2010.

Safeguarding - KPI 5: Risk assessment duty rated as satisfactory or higher

KPI 5 will measure the quality of practice in fulfilling Cafcass' section 16A Children Act 1989 risk assessment duty. The commencement for recording of this indicator is to be confirmed.

Service User Engagement - KPI 4: Service users giving feedback express overall satisfaction with the service they have received from Cafcass

Target:	65%
Performance:	59.7%
Trend:	↓

Cafcass launched HearNow in December 2007 as a mechanism for collecting service user feedback. It is an electronic feedback questionnaire that is completed online.

From 1st December 2007 to 31st July 2010, we received 1,637 responses complete enough to be included in this analysis of overall satisfaction with Cafcass' service. Of these responses, 273 children, aged 5-8 years, 509 young people aged 9-17 years and 855 adults completed the survey.

Of the 1,637 responses collected, 1,587 answered questions about their overall satisfaction with Cafcass' service and of these 947, or 59.7% expressed a positive overall opinion. The confidence interval for this analysis is 4.0%, which is within the desired level of 5%. The confidence interval tells us that if the exercise were repeated one hundred times under the same conditions, the results would fall within 5% either side of our stated result on ninety-five of those one hundred occasions. A confidence interval of 5% is the standard point at which results can be considered universally representative.

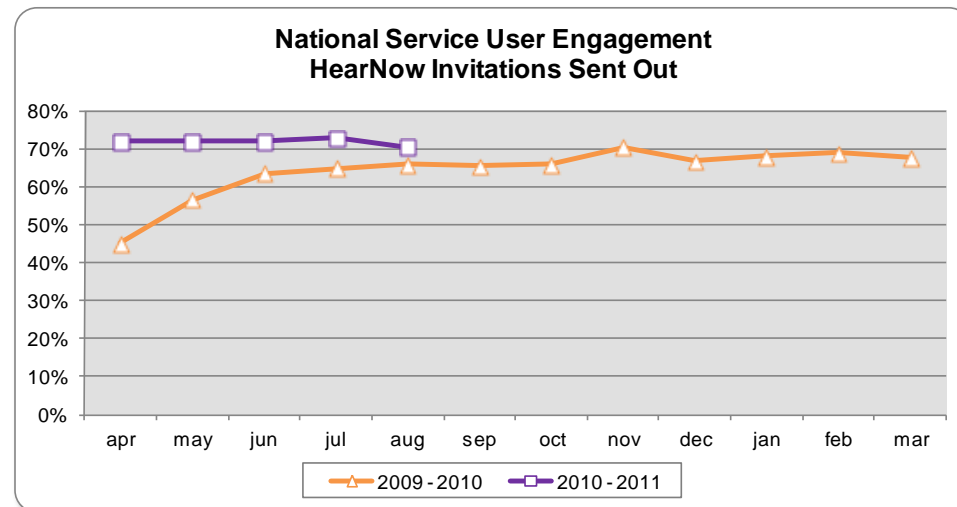
21.2% of services users were either "not sure" or "didn't know" their level of satisfaction with the level of work performed by their Cafcass practitioner. 19.1% of service users expressed dissatisfaction with Cafcass' services.

5 – 8 Years Old: Younger children (aged 5-8 years) who responded to the survey were most satisfied with Cafcass' work, with 79.9% (218 children) reporting that their Cafcass workers' were either "great" (56.4%, 154 children) or "ok" (23.4%, 64 children).

9 - 17 Years Old: Among young people (aged 9-17 years), 63.3% (315 young people) have reported being either "very satisfied" (37.8%, 188 young people) or "fairly satisfied" (25.5%, 127 young people) with the service Cafcass provided since the survey began.

Adults: Among adults, 50.7% (414 adults) have expressed satisfaction with our service, with 29.9% (244 adults) stating that they were "very satisfied" with our work and 20.8% (170 adults) being "fairly satisfied".

The graph below displays the percentage of service users who are being given the opportunity to record their feedback via HearNow. The introduction of welcome packs in April 2009 initially increased the number of HearNow invitations sent to service users, although this has levelled off in recent months. Following feedback from staff, the contents of the welcome packs have been revised into a more simplified format, which was introduced in November 2009. The revised packs are expected to have a positive impact on the number of questionnaires that will be completed in the future.



APPENDIX 1 – Cafcass service area map 2010-11



North operational area

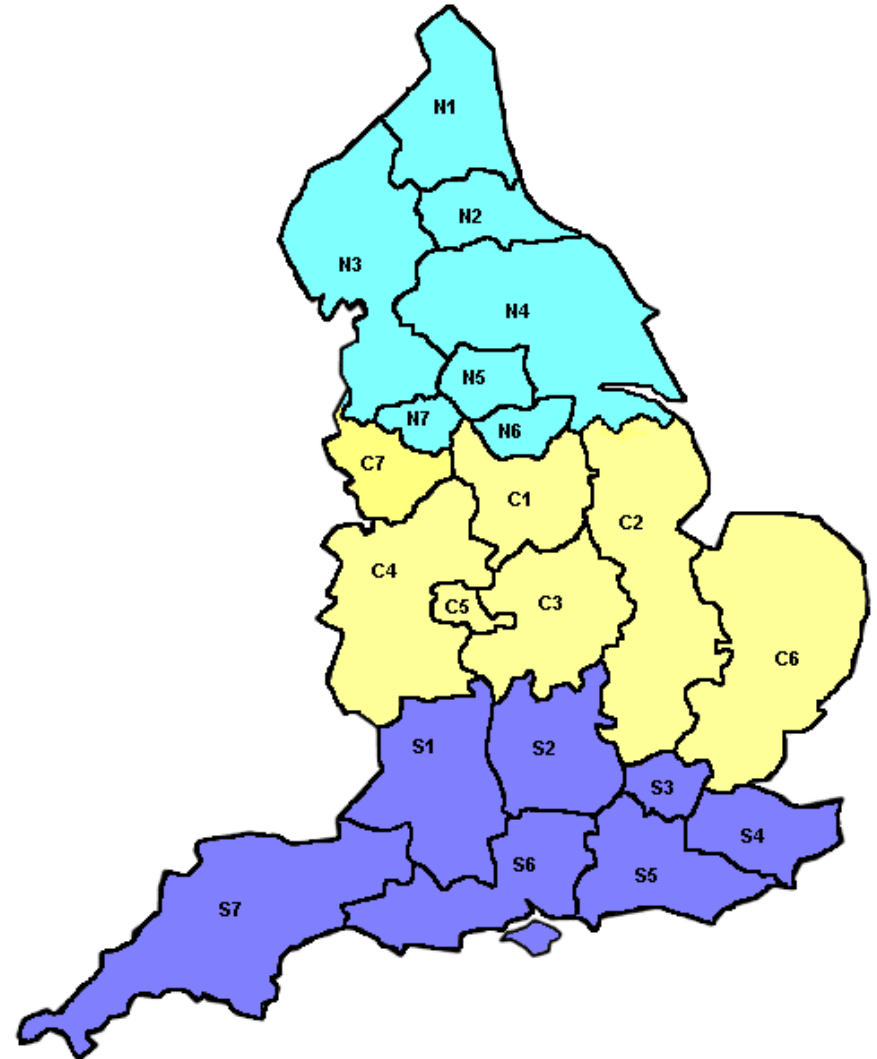
- N1:** North & South of Tyne
- N2:** Durham & Tees Valley
- N3:** Blackburn, Cumbria, Lancaster/Blackpool, & Preston
- N4:** Hull, South Humberside, & York
- N5:** Batley, Bradford, Leeds, & Wakefield
- N6:** Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, & Sheffield
- N7:** Bolton, Manchester, Rochdale, & Stockport
- NIT:** North Intake Team

Central operational area

- C1:** Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire
- C2:** Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, & Cambridgeshire
- C3:** Coventry, Leicestershire, & Northamptonshire
- C4:** Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke, & Worcestershire
- C5:** Birmingham & Black Country
- C6:** Chelmsford, Colchester, Norfolk, & Suffolk
- C7:** Cheshire, Liverpool, Southport, & St Helens
- CIT:** Central Intake Team

South operational area

- S1:** Avon, Gloucestershire, & Wiltshire
- S2:** Berkshire, Milton Keynes, & Oxford
- S3:** Greater London & High Court Team
- S4:** East & West Kent
- S5:** East & West Sussex, & Surrey
- S6:** Dorset, Isle of Wight, North Hampshire, Portsmouth, & Southampton
- S7:** Cornwall, Exeter, Plymouth, & Somerset



APPENDIX 2 – Cafcass case status and stage definitions

Case status

Unallocated – This category should only comprise brand new cases.

Duty allocated – This category comprises where we will both react to incoming information and also will take pro-active steps at appropriate points in time to review the status, needs and level of priority of the case.

Allocated – (substantive or fully allocated) cases where the named worker will both react to incoming information and take appropriate pro-active steps and, in addition, will undertake the work that is set out in the case plan, and also in accordance with the courts' requests/directions. A substantive allocation includes the production of the case plan and any required reports for the case. A substantive allocation is also allocation to an appointment of Children's Guardian by the court in s31 care, supervision and other relevant Public Law cases.

Case stages

Private law

Stage 1 – 'work to first hearing' (WTFH)

Stage 2 – 'work after first hearing' (WAFH), but where no report (further work) has been ordered.

- **2a** – Outstanding safeguarding checks and/or hearings **2b** – All safeguarding checks received and no outstanding hearings

Stage 3 – Post-first hearing private law cases where further work/reports have been requested

- **3a** – Report is due in more than 10 weeks **3b** – Report is due in less than 10 weeks **3c** – Report is overdue

Stage 4 – Post-first hearing private law cases where further work/reports have been requested, and where all reports have been filed. These will be cases awaiting the outcome and where the need for active work has ended.

Public law (Care)

Stage 1 – Pre-CMC hearing public law care cases. 45 calendar days from application date will be used as a proxy as not all CMC hearings are currently being added.

Stage 2 – Post CMC hearing (45 calendar days) but pre-final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome)

- **2a** – 45 calendar days to 29 weeks **2b** – 30 weeks to 49 weeks **2c** – 50 weeks to 79 weeks **2d** – 80 weeks or more

Stage 3 – Past final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome) entered in CMS. These will be cases awaiting final legal output (outcome) and/or administrative closure.

- **3a** – less than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in CMS **3b** – more than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in CMS

Public law (Non Care)

Stage 2 – Post CMC hearing (45 calendar days) but pre-final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome)

- **2a** – 0 days to 29 weeks **2b** – 30 weeks to 49 weeks **2c** – 50 weeks or more

Stage 3 – Past final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome) entered in CMS. These will be cases awaiting final legal output (outcome) and/or administrative closure.

- **3a** – less than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in CMS **3b** – more than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in CMS