

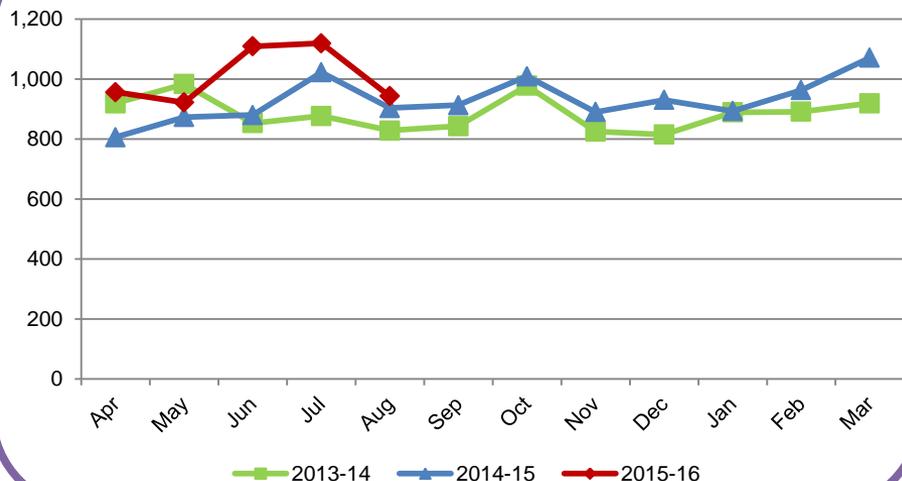
Cafcass – September 2015 Performance Report

Summary



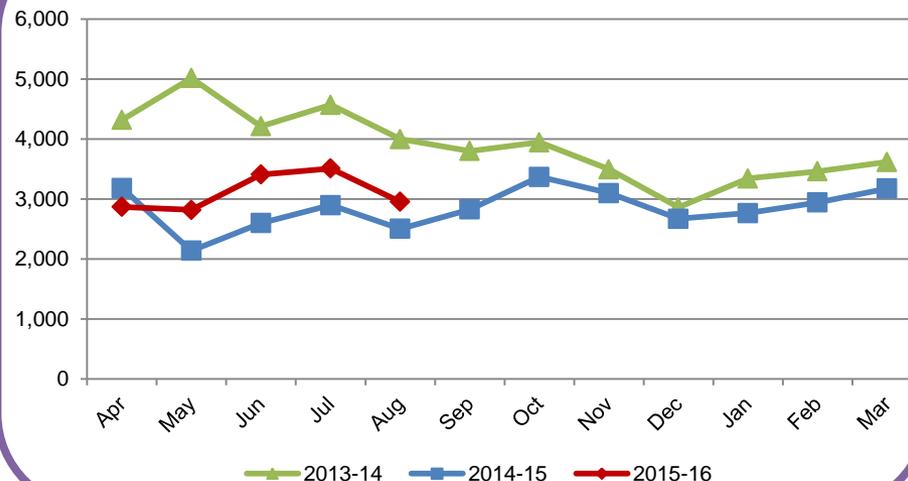
Public Law (Care)

Public law care application demand



Private Law

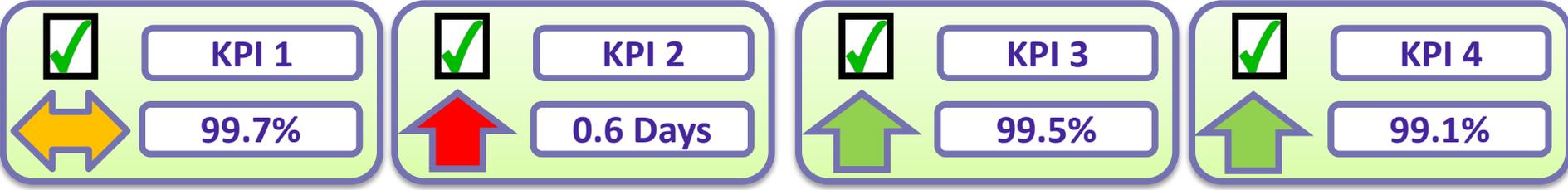
Private law case demand



- Between April and August 2015, Cafcass received **5,049** care applications. This figure is **12.6%** (565 applications) higher than the same period last year. The figure for July 2015 (1,119 applications) is the highest number of applications received by Cafcass in any individual month.
- The **11,718** care application received between September 2014 and August 2015 represent the highest demand for a 52 week period on record, and represents an ongoing trend of significant demand increase that has been evident for the last 12 months.
- The trend for our stock of open care cases continues to increase, compared to Aug 2014 (7,692 cases), the stock at the end of Aug 2015 (**8,288** cases) is **596** cases more, this is the highest in the last 22 months.
- s31 applications completed in the Q1 2015-16 took on average **30 weeks** to conclude. This trend has been static for the last 12 months.
- Total new Public Law cases have increased **15.7%** (April-August) at **6,889**.

- Cafcass received a total of **15,561** private law cases between April and August 2015. This figure is **17%** higher (2,238 cases) than the same period last year and 30% lower (6,553 cases) when compared to April to August 2013. July 2015 received the highest demand in a month for the last 17 months.
- The stock of open private law cases as at the end of August 2015 (**14,566** cases) is **14.7%** lower than August 2014 (17,085 cases). As monthly demand levels continue to increase it is forecast that open case levels will increase for the remainder of the year.
- Average Cafcass private law duration has remained static at **25 weeks**. This is the measure of the case duration for Cafcass performance in isolation.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)



Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target
1: Public care cases allocated to Children’s Guardian at month end	97%
2: Average working days to allocate Children’s Guardian to care case	<3 working days
3: Private law cases allocated to Family Court Adviser at month end	97%
4: Private law section 7 reports filed by agreed date	97%

Additional KPI performance information can be viewed here: 

- Cafcass has exceeded KPIs targets all year.
- All Cafcass Service Areas are achieving KPI requirements year to date.
- KPI 2 performance is 0.6 days to allocate a Care Case (year to date) an increase from 0.5 for the same period in 2014/15.
- KPI 1 performance has been in excess of 99.5% all year nationally against the backdrop of significantly increased demands for service.
- KPI3 has been above 99% for the last 12 months.
- Details of the national Key Performance Measures (KPMs) monitored by the Family Justice Board are provided below for information. Although Cafcass is not directly measured by these, they cross reference with Cafcass’ performance monitoring.

Key Performance Measure (KPM)	Ambition
1: Average duration of section 31 care or supervision cases	Within 24 – 26 weeks (averaged over the year)
2: Percentage of section 31 cases which are completed within 26 weeks	26 weeks, in line with the statutory requirement
3: Average number of hearings per new section 31 care or supervision cases	Average of 5 (or fewer) hearings be held per new section 31 care or supervision case
4: Timeliness of progression of section 8 cases in court:	
4a: Proportion of section 8 cases where the FHDRA or urgent first hearing takes place within six weeks	70% - 80% of FHDRA hearings take place within 6 weeks of the application
4b: Average time from application to first full order for section 8 cases	Average time for section 8 cases is maintained at 16 weeks, with an expectation that this should be reduced this during year
5: Take-up and initial effectiveness of publicly-funded family mediation:	
5a: Number of couples attending a MIAM where one or both parties are publicly-funded	6000 couples a quarter attending a MIAM
5b: Number of publicly-funded family mediations reaching full/partial agreement on the issues in dispute	2400 publicly funded mediation agreements a quarter reaching full/partial agreement on the issues in disagreement
5c: Proportion of MIAMs converted to Mediations Starts. The FJB has agreed that KPM5c also records the total number of mediation starts	No specific level of ambition set

Public Law (Care)



Open Cases

7.7%



Allocation Time

0.8 Days



Demand

12.6%



Throughput

85.7%



Duration

30 Weeks

Additional Public Law performance information can be viewed here:

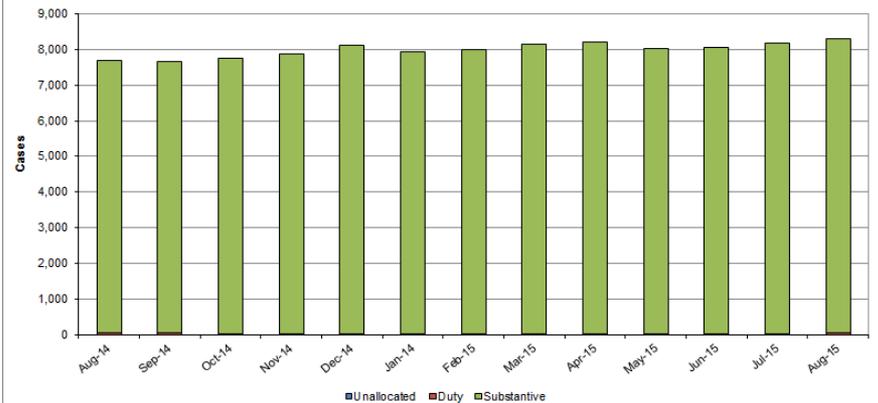


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Increases in the child population (as well the factors identified below) is expected create an increased 'at risk' child population. This is likely to contribute to Cafcass' increased demand:

- **Cuts to early help services** (reported by the ADCS).
- **Greater awareness of harm** caused to children by remaining in abusive environments for long periods.
- **Changing social care thresholds** reported by ADCS. A lower tolerance of maltreatment has led to the increased and subsequently sustained level of demand since 2007.
- **Greater awareness of issues such as child sexual exploitation** in 88 LA's providing data to ADCS there was a 5.1% increase in referrals.
- **Increased numbers of children and young people becoming subjects of an initial child protection plan** is likely to have a knock on effect on applications being applied for under s31.
- **Repeat applications for removal of children** is a more prominent feature of the care case population than previously thought.

Public law care workload



Private Law



Open Cases

-12.4%



S7 Reports filed by
Agreed date

99.1%



Demand

16.8%



Throughput

108.2%



S7 Average
Filing Times

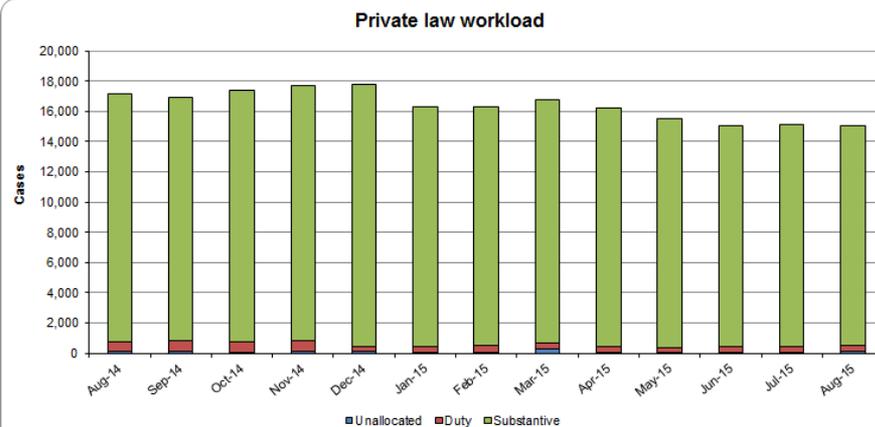
10.2 Weeks

Additional Private Law
performance information
can be viewed here:



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- Overall demand is significantly higher in 2015/16 compared to the reductions that were experienced following the introduction of the CAP in April 2014.
- Average S7 filing times have continue to reduced from 12.0 weeks in 2013-14, 11.2 weeks in 2014-15, to a current level of 10.2 weeks.
- Recent internal research analysing C100 cases received in 2015 confirms that many applications could have been dealt with through mediation or MIAMs or alternative solutions before proceedings.
- Ongoing internal research by Cafcass indicates a higher number of cases that would have been suitable and should have proceeded to a MIAM.
- It was also found that the majority of applicants are still opting for solicitors as their first option.
- Further work is being undertaken to understand why there is a low take up of MIAM, and also the effectiveness of the intervention.

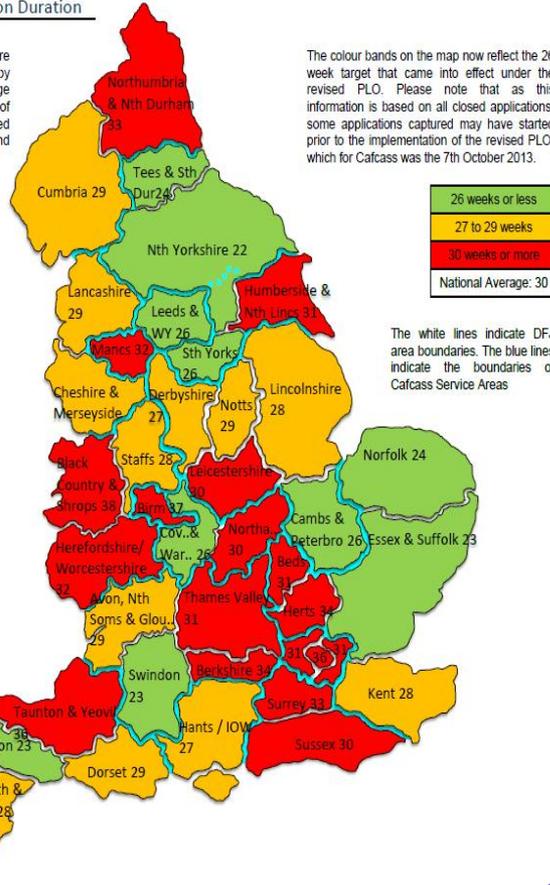


Public Law Care Application Heat Map

Care Application Duration by DFJ area

DFJ Q1 15/16 Care and Supervision Duration

This heat map shows the average duration of care (s31 applications closed in the selected quarter by Designated Family Judge (DFJ) area. The average (calendar weeks) is calculated from date of application to court to date application completed as recorded in the Cafcass databases (CMS and ECMS).

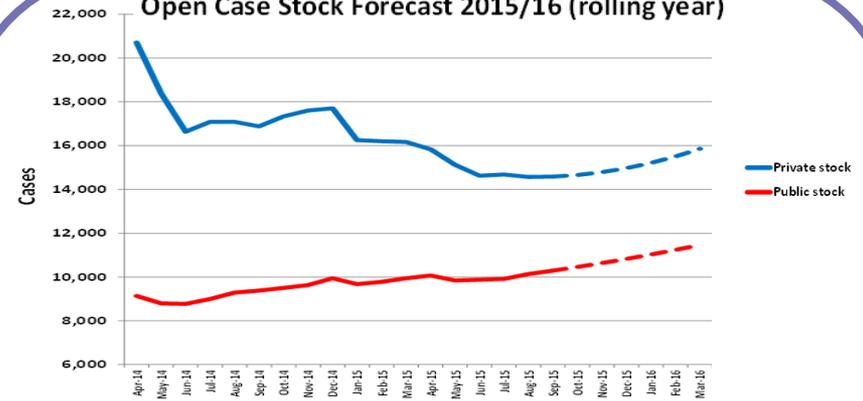


A full breakdown by DFJ can be accessed by clicking the icon:

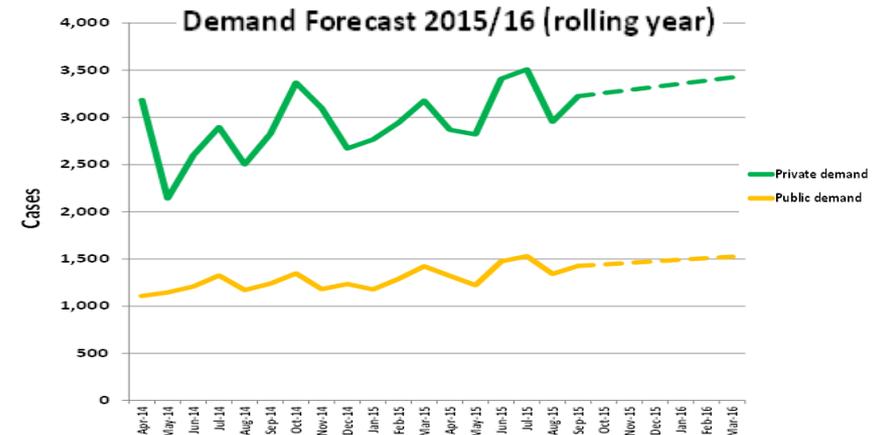


Demand Forecast

Open Case Stock Forecast 2015/16 (rolling year)



Demand Forecast 2015/16 (rolling year)



- Based on current levels of demand for both public and private law, it is forecast that 2015/16 is likely to experience an increase in new cases for than the previous financial year.
- By projecting current demand and throughput levels, the stock of open cases for both public and private law is forecast to increase by year end.