



Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Performance report: March 2015

Cafcass publishes monthly performance reports which describe and analyse demand and performance trends for Cafcass operational services.

Key issues:

- Care applications were in total **4.8%** higher for 2014/5 compared to the previous year. Demand has been increasing more recently with it being widely reported that March 15 was the highest ever recorded by Cafcass with **1,066** care applications. The trend is evidenced by comparing demand for the last 6 months being **7.9%** higher than the previous year (Oct 2014 – Mar 2015 compared to the same period for 2013/14) compared to a smaller increase of **2%** for the first half of the year (Apr – Sept 2014 compared to the same period for 2013). There is not one clear explanation but rather we are seeing a rise in demand due to a number of factors, including higher levels of referrals to local authorities, in part due to a greater awareness of issues like child sexual exploitation following coverage of high profile cases. Demand levels are also affected by more rigorous reviewing and scrutiny within local authorities of plans for children where remaining at home is too dangerous, including after treatment programmes.
- Public law case duration continues to show an overall decrease. At the end of Q3 the average duration of care applications was **30 weeks** compared to 35 weeks at the end of Q3 2013-14. Currently 50% of Cafcass care cases requires a final hearing, which is requiring a higher level of practitioner resource than cases that are resolved prior to this point. Although no direct internal comparison is available, other available research undertaken into care proceedings supports the view that this has increased from five years ago when around 20% of cases required a final hearing.
- Demand for private law cases has experienced a **26.3%** year to date reduction after the introduction of the Child Arrangements Programme on 22 April 2015. Following an additional drop in demand recorded in May 2015, the overall trend for the year has been one of increase (except a downward trend in November and December which was in line with previous seasonal variation). Our demand has seen month on month increases since the start of 2015 and although it is lower than previous years, this gap has narrowed throughout the period, evidenced by the decrease for the last 6 months being **12.2%** (Oct 2014 – Mar 2015 compared to the same period for 2013/4) whereas the reduction was **37.5%** for the first half of the year (Apr – Sept 2014 compared to the same period for 2013).
- Average private law duration has increased slightly in quarter 3 to 27 weeks but this is a whole systems measure, not a measure of Cafcass performance in isolation. The overall consequence of the demand shift in private law cases is being analysed by Cafcass including evaluations of the 'private law pilots', which has involved teams in five Service Areas working to provide section 7 reports in timescales that are much quicker than the current national average.

Key trends

- All KPIs have exceeded target levels for March 2015.
- The number of care applications between April 2014 and March 2015 has increased by **4.8%** (**507** applications) compared to the same period last year.
- The stock of open care cases at the end of March 2015 (**8,144** cases) is higher than in March 2014 (**7,950** cases). When compared to the previous month (February 2015), the stock has increased by **2%** (**151** cases). The proportion of inactive stock is **5.4%** (**439** cases).
- Private law case demand during April 2014 and March 2015 has decreased by **26.3%** (**12,279** cases) compared to the same period last year.
- The stock of open private law cases at the end of March 15 has decreased by **23.8%** (**5,237** cases) compared to March 2014. When compared to the previous month (February 15), the stock decreased by **2.7%** (**447** cases). The proportion of inactive stock is **23.8%** (**3,975** cases).

Cafcass uses a red / amber / green banding to indicate the level of performance against the Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Target	Year to date (YTD) Performance	Trend
1: Public care cases allocated to Children's Guardian at month end	97%	99.7% (Green)	Stable: (last month YTD: 99.7%)
2: Average working days to allocate Children's Guardian to care case	<3 working days	0.8 days (Green)	Stable (last month YTD: 0.8 days)
3: Private law cases allocated to Family Court Adviser at month end	97%	99.4% (Green)	Decreasing (last month YTD: 99.5%)
4: Private law section 7 reports filed by agreed date	97%	97.8% (Green)	Stable (last month YTD: 97.8%)

Christine Banim – Service Director
Jigna Patel – MIS Operational Manager

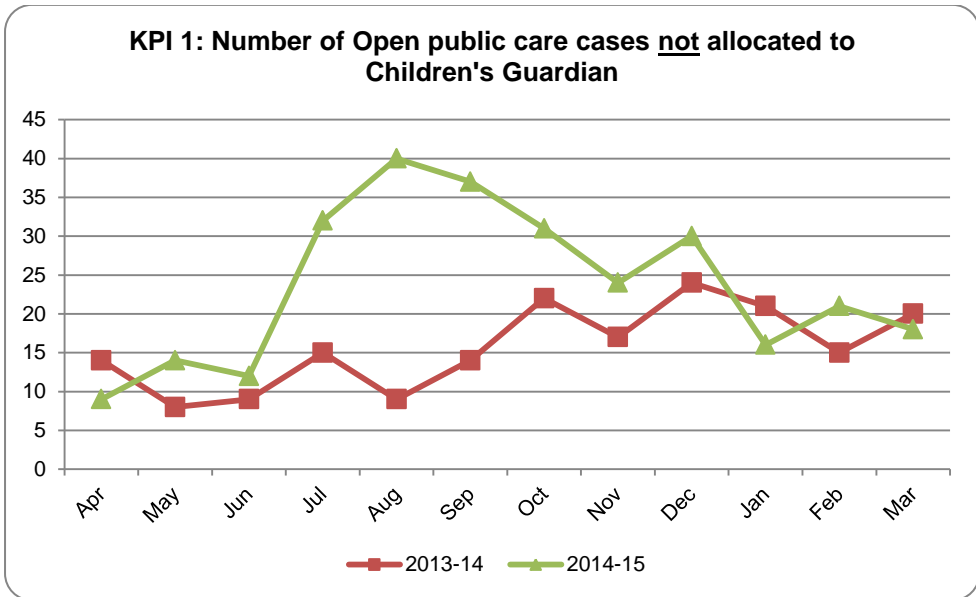
Public law - KPI 1: Public law care cases allocated to Children's Guardian at month end

Target:	97%
YTD Performance:	99.7% (Green)
Trend:	Stable (last month YTD: 99.7%)

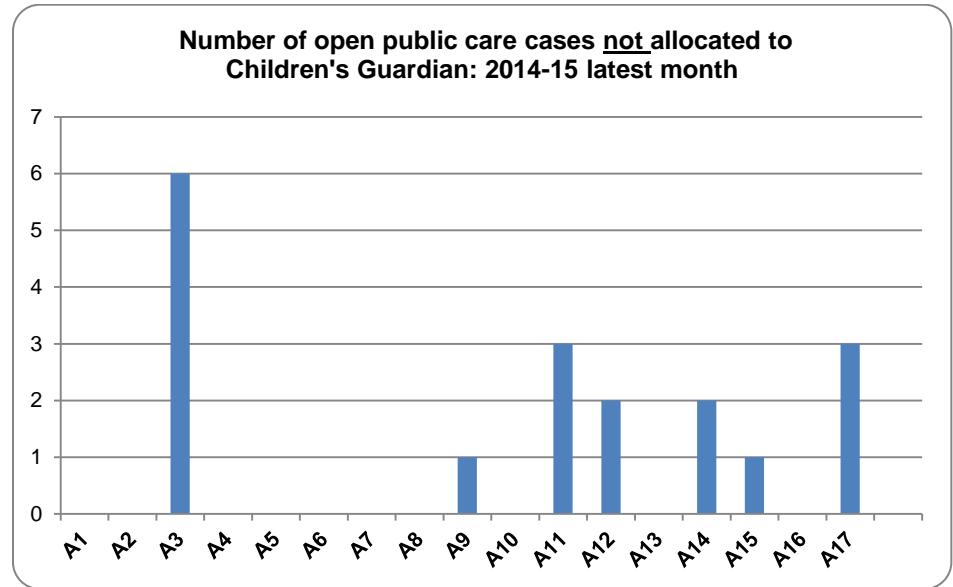
This indicator measures all public law care cases, received and ongoing, as a snapshot at the end of the month. All public law care cases should be substantively allocated to a children's guardian upon receipt, and should remain allocated until the case is closed.

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 stable at the year to date figure of 99.7%.

Nationally, Cafcass has exceeded the 97% target for this KPI in each month since January 2011.



The following graph displays the proportion of open cases not allocated to a Children's Guardian in the latest month, by service area.



Best performance: Four service areas are achieving 100% for the year to date.

Service area hotspots: All service areas are exceeding the target of 97%, (see page 8 for further details).

Comparison to previous year: Performance in February 2014 for this indicator was 99.8%.

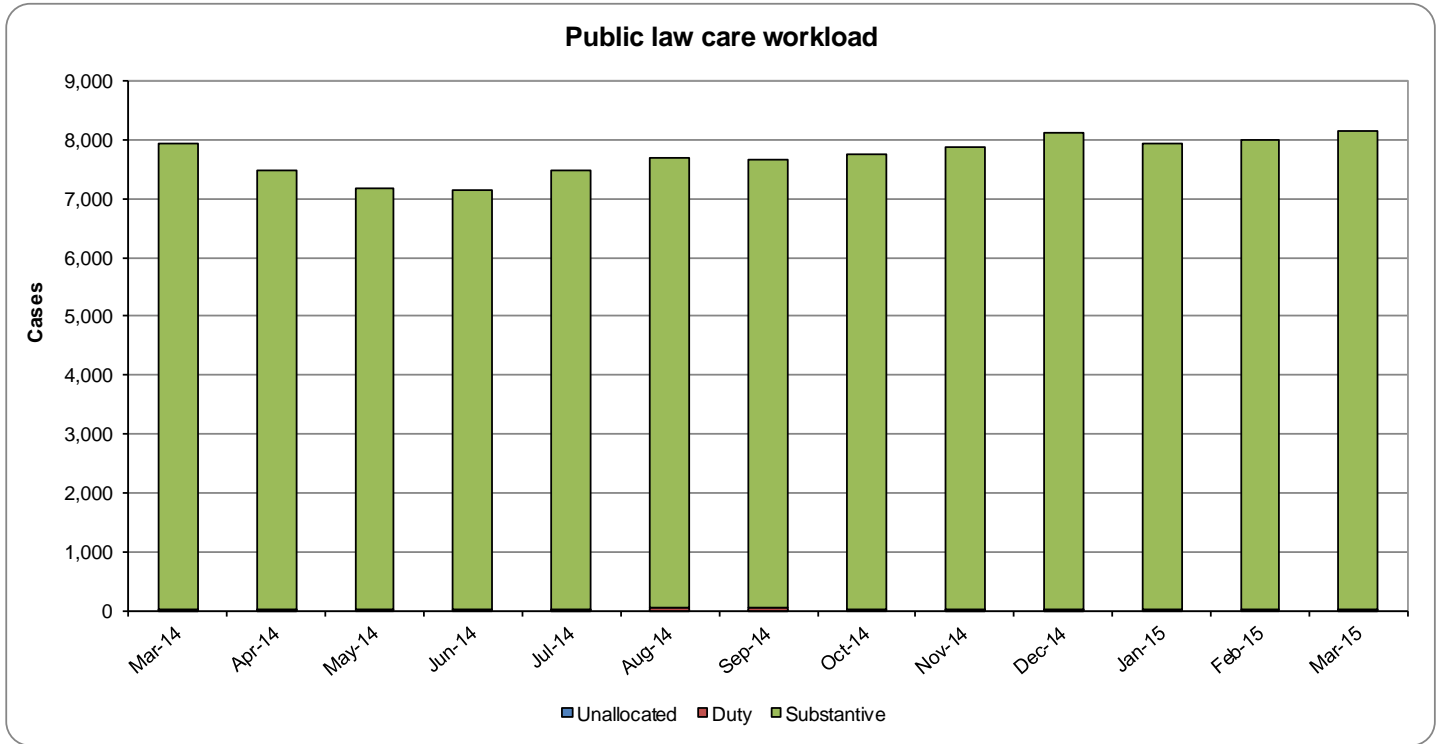
Unallocated: At end of March-14 = 3 cases
 At end of February -15 = 0 cases
 At end of March -15 = 1 case

Duty: At end of March -14 = 17 cases
 At end of February -15 = 21 cases
 At end of March -15 = 18 cases

Of the 17 duty allocated care cases at the end of March 2015, 16 are at stage 1, defined as new cases which are yet to reach case management hearing.

The full definitions of public law case statuses and stages can be seen on page 16 of this document.

Public law – Care workload stock



National Total	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Substantive	7,930	7,473	7,163	7,131	7,448	7,652	7,619	7,717	7,858	8,074	7,909	7,972	8,126
Duty	17	8	14	12	30	39	35	31	23	29	16	21	17
Unallocated	3	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1
Total workload	7,950	7,482	7,177	7,143	7,480	7,692	7,656	7,748	7,882	8,104	7,925	7,993	8,144

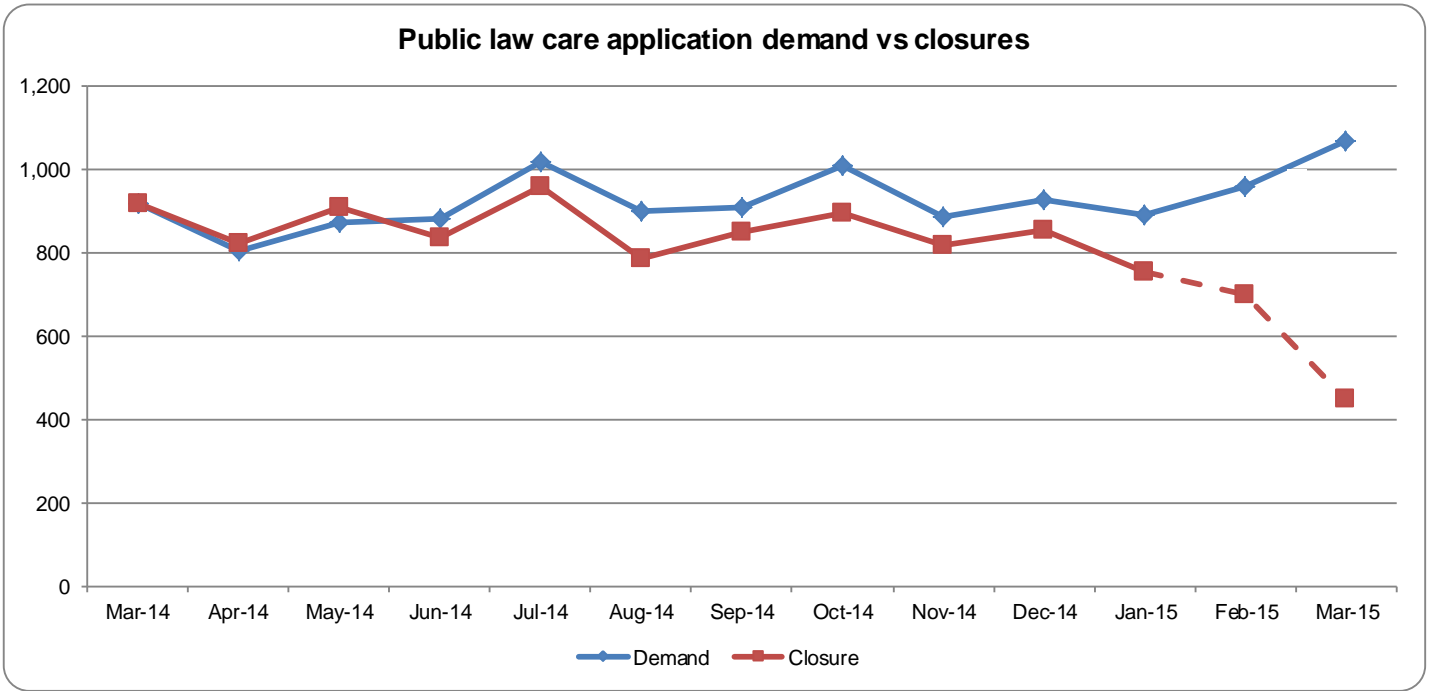
	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Substantive	99.7%	99.9%	99.8%	99.8%	99.6%	99.5%	99.5%	99.6%	99.7%	99.6%	99.8%	99.7%	99.8%
Duty	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Unallocated	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Following a low point in June 14, the trend for our stock of open cases continues to increase which reflects increases in our demand, especially this quarter. Compared to March 2014 (7,950 cases), the stock at the end of March 2015 (8,144 cases) is 194 cases more, this is the highest it has been since March 2014.

There are a number of reasons for the difference between the 'stock' bar chart and the 'flow' graph:

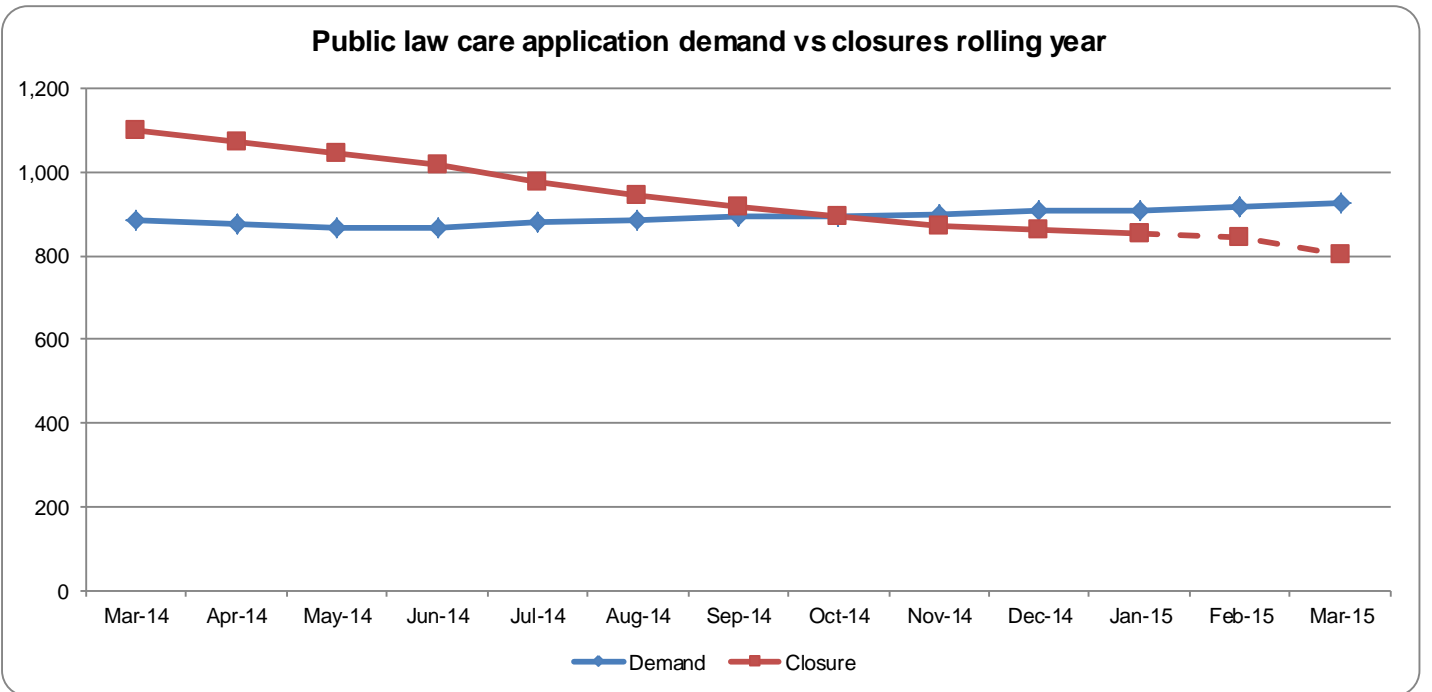
- Difference in the units of measurement. The stock bar chart shows current open cases while the flow graph shows incoming and outgoing applications.
- New care applications can be added to existing cases. This results in an increase in the care application demand shown on the flow graph but it has no effect on the number of cases shown in the stock bar chart.
- A care case can remain open even though all applications have been closed. This is due to factors such as awaiting the arrival of court orders and undertaking 'farewell work' with children. In this situation, the stocks bar chart will show no movements, but the closed application/s will feature among the closures on the flow graph.
- Linked to this, a care case can be closed (and disappear from the stock bar chart) sometime after the application has been closed. Hence, the changes in the stock bar chart will not match the changes in the flow graph, as they happen at different times. For example, the current report now shows 846 care application closures in January 2014, while the performance report for January 2014 showed only 403 care application closures for the same month at that time.

Public law – Care workload flow



	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Demand	919	805	873	880	1,020	901	910	1,007	888	927	891	959	1,066
Closure	916	822	907	838	959	787	851	896	816	855	755	699	448

NB. Care closures in the most recent two months are not all concluded due to closure procedures and awaiting court orders – illustrated by the dotted line on the graph.



	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Demand	885	876	866	869	881	887	892	895	900	909	909	915	927
Closure	1,099	1,071	1,044	1,018	976	943	915	892	870	861	853	842	803

The above graph displays rolling year averages for care application demand and closures, as a supplement to the individual month figures. The rolling year average evens out the seasonal variations and helps to highlight longer term trends.

Public law – Non care workload

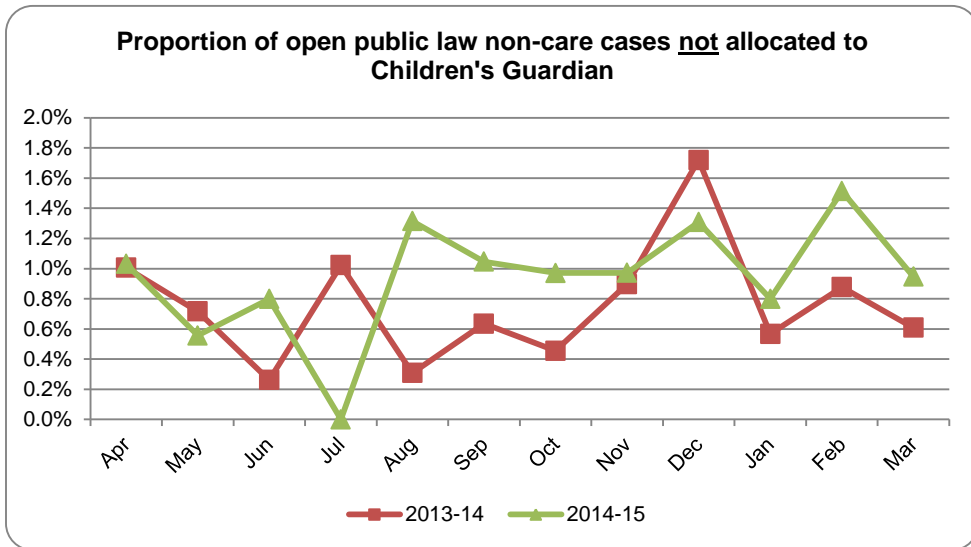
YTD Performance:	99%
Trend:	Stable (last month YTD: 99%)

As a supplement to care workload covered in KPI 1, this page details the workload status of the non-care public law cases, received and ongoing, as a snapshot at the end of the month. As the measure is not a KPI for Cafcass, hence there is no defined performance target level.

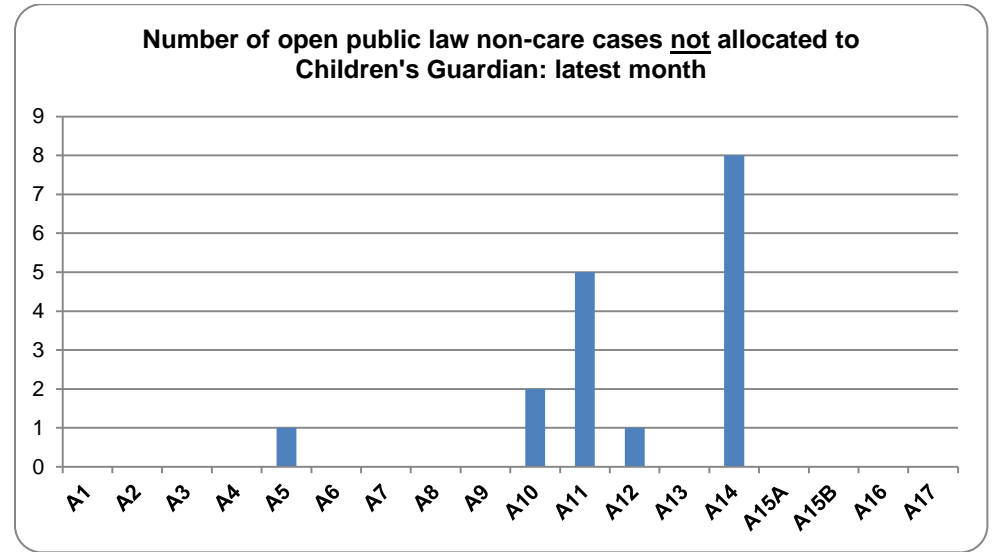
All public law cases should be substantively allocated to a children’s guardian upon receipt, and should remain allocated until the case is closed.

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 stable and the current year to date figure is 99.1%.

Nationally, Cafcass has exceeded 97% in each month since November 2011.



The following graph displays the number of open cases not allocated to a Children’s Guardian in the latest month, by service area.



Best performance: Four service areas are achieving 100% in the year to date.

Service area hotspots: All areas are at or above 97%

Comparison to previous year: Year to date performance in March 2014 was 99%.

Unallocated: At end of March-14 = 0 case
 At end of February-15 = 2 cases
 At end of March-15 = 0 case

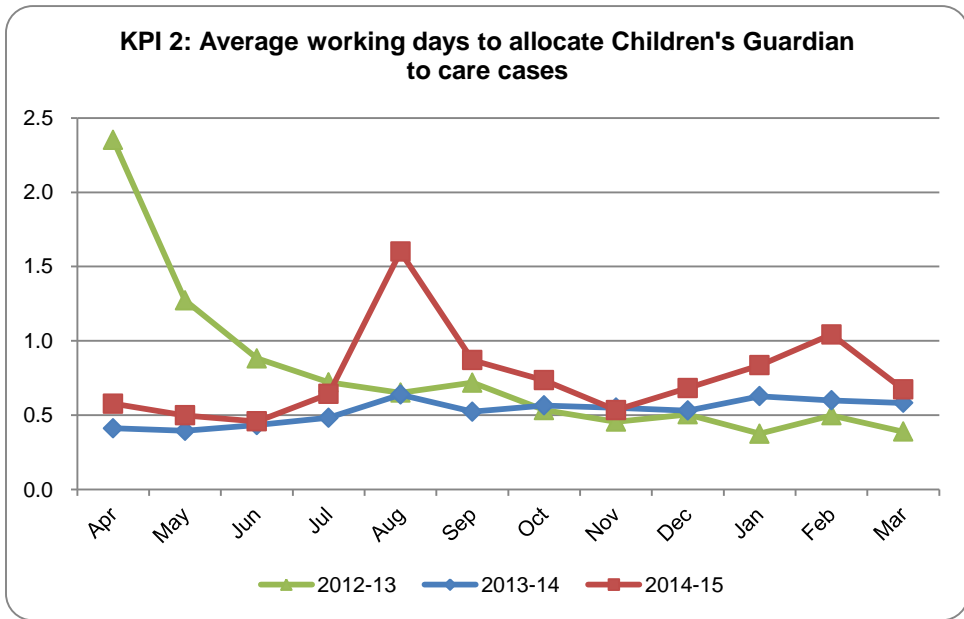
Duty: At end of March-14 = 10 cases
 At end of February-15 = 25 cases
 At end of March-15 = 17 cases

The full definitions of public law case statuses and stages can be seen on page 16 of this document.

Public law - KPI 2: Average working days to allocate Children's Guardian to care cases

Target:	<3 working days
YTD Performance:	0.8 days (Green)
Trend:	Stable (last month YTD: 0.8 days)

This indicator is a measure of the ability to allocate, on a substantive basis, a Cafcass Family Court Adviser or self-employed contractor as a Children's Guardian to all public law care cases within 3 working days from receipt of the application.

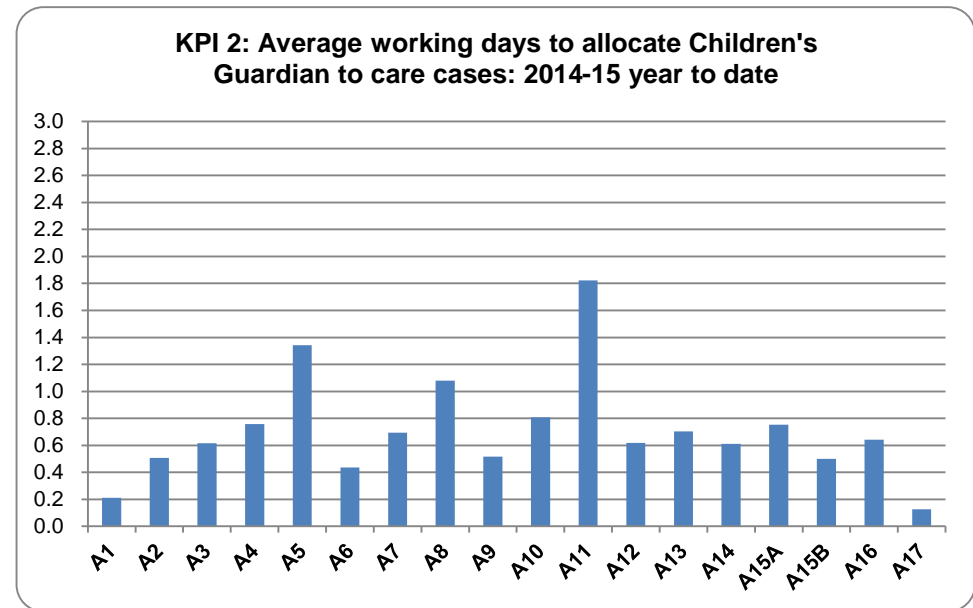


2012-13: In this year a total of 10,181 care cases were allocated to a Children's Guardian, at an average of 0.8 working days, furthering the progress made in the previous year. Aside from April and May, all subsequent months were below 1 working day.

2013-14: Between April 2013 and March 2014, a total of 9,462 care cases were allocated to a Children's Guardian, at an average of 0.5 working days.

2014 – 15 year to date: During April 2014 and March 2015, a total of 10,800 care cases were allocated to a Children's Guardian, at an average of 0.8 working days.

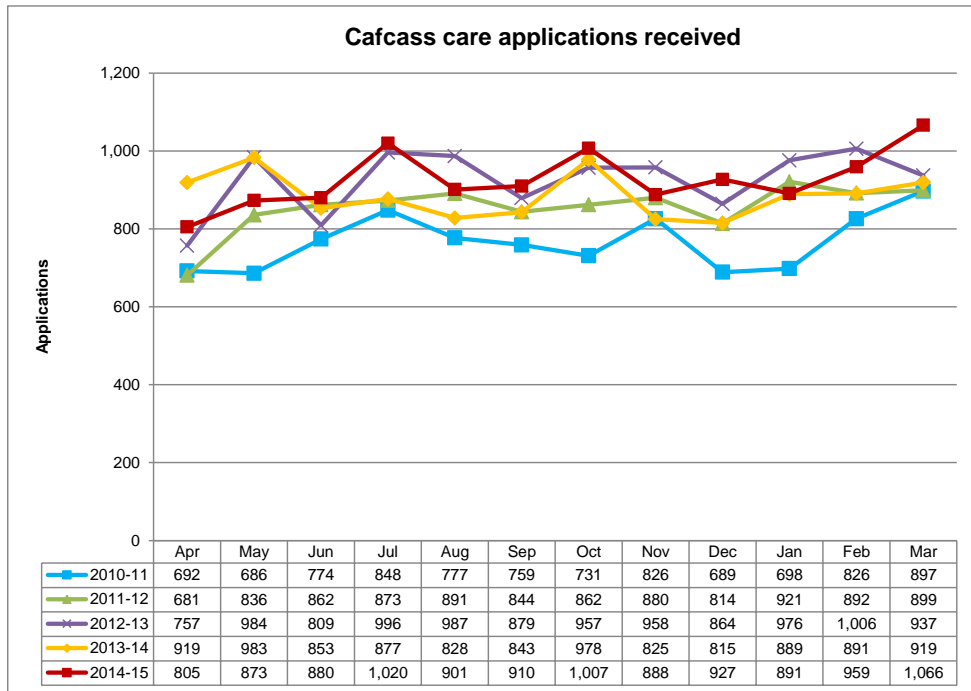
The following graph shows the average working days to allocate case cases in the year to date for each service area:



Best performance: Between April 14 and March 2015, A17 allocated care cases to a Children's Guardian in an average of 0.1 working days. 14 other areas achieved an average of less than or equal to 1 day.

Service area hotspots: Year to date, A11 is taking 1.8 working days to allocate due a peak at 11 days in August 2014, due to an error in data entry which is being corrected. All other months are showing KPI2 at an average of 1 day to allocate.

Public law – Care application demand

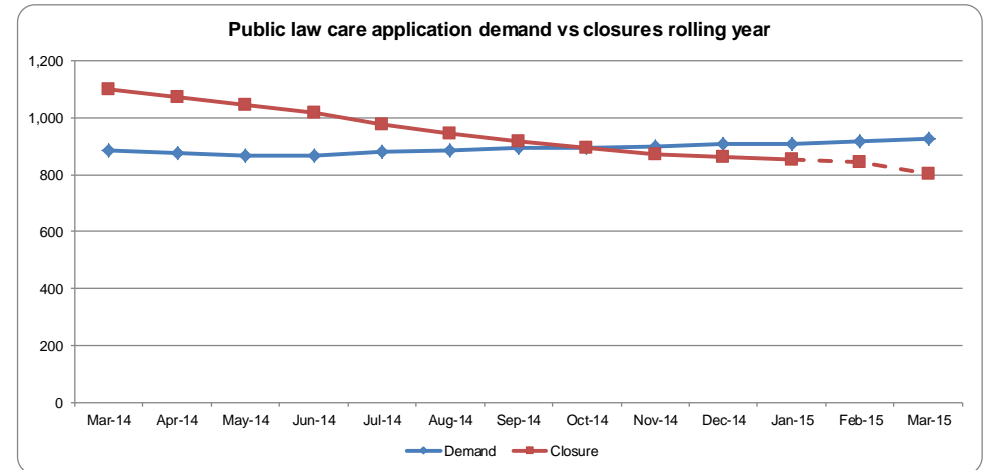


2012-13: Cafcass received 11,110 new applications in this year, an 8% increase on the 10,255 received in 2011-12. Applications received during all months, except June, were the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months at this time, with the 1,006 applications received in February 2013 being the highest ever recorded for a single month. The comparatively lower demand in June 2012 is believed to be due to the lack of working days available due to the special bank holidays in the year.

2013-14: Cafcass received a total of 10,620 care applications in this year, a 5% decrease on the 11,110 received last year. The demand for all individual months bar April and October 2013 was lower than the same months in the previous year. When compared to 2011-12, the 2013-14 year's figure is 4% (361 applications) higher.

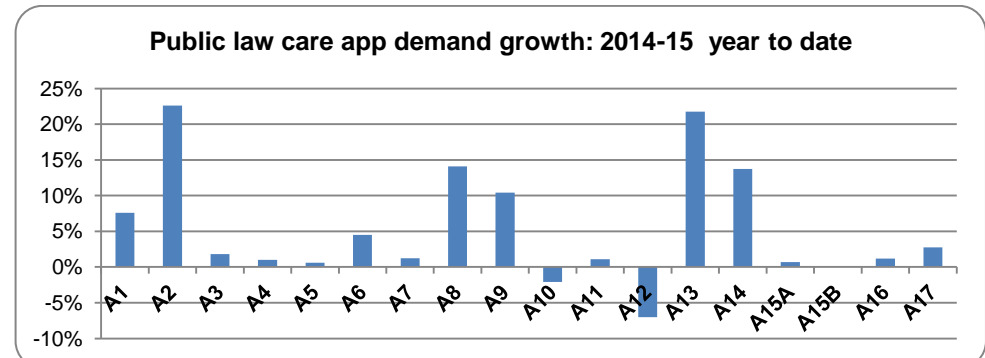
2014-15 to date: During April 14 to March 2015, Cafcass received a total of 11,127 new care applications. This figure is 4.8% higher (507 applications) than this time last year and higher than the same period in 2012. Several months this year have seen record applications for those periods, with March 15 being the highest ever recorded by Cafcass. We will continue to monitor the impact of changes introduced in the revised PLO on care application demand.

Cafcass performance report: March 2015



	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Demand	885	876	866	869	881	887	892	895	900	909	909	915	927
Closure	1,099	1,071	1,044	1,018	976	943	915	892	870	861	853	842	803

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



Comparing April 14 to March 2015 against the same period last year, two service areas have seen a decrease in care demand. The highest decrease is in A12 (7% or 44 applications), with the highest increase in A2 (22.6% or 85 applications). Annex 4 on page 19 of this report displays the number of applications per 10,000 children by service area for each of the past five years.

Private law - KPI 3: Private law workload allocated at month end

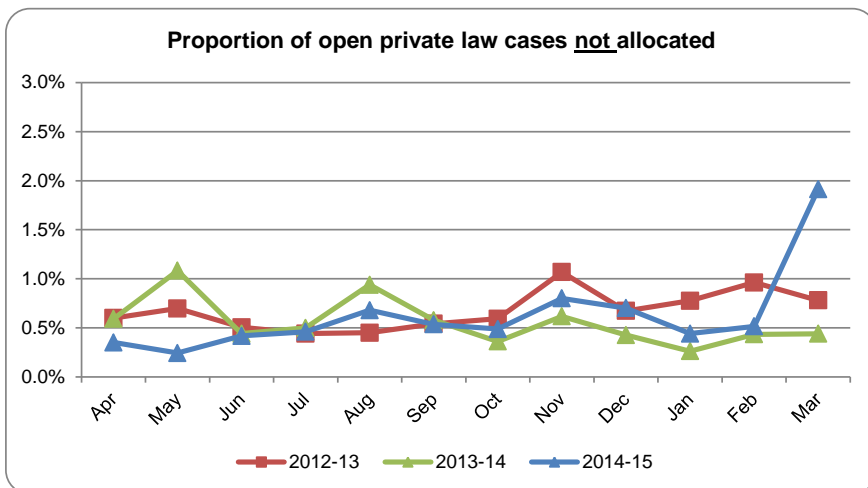
Target:	97%
YTD Performance:	99.4% (Green)
Trend:	Decreasing: (last month YTD: 99.5%)

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.

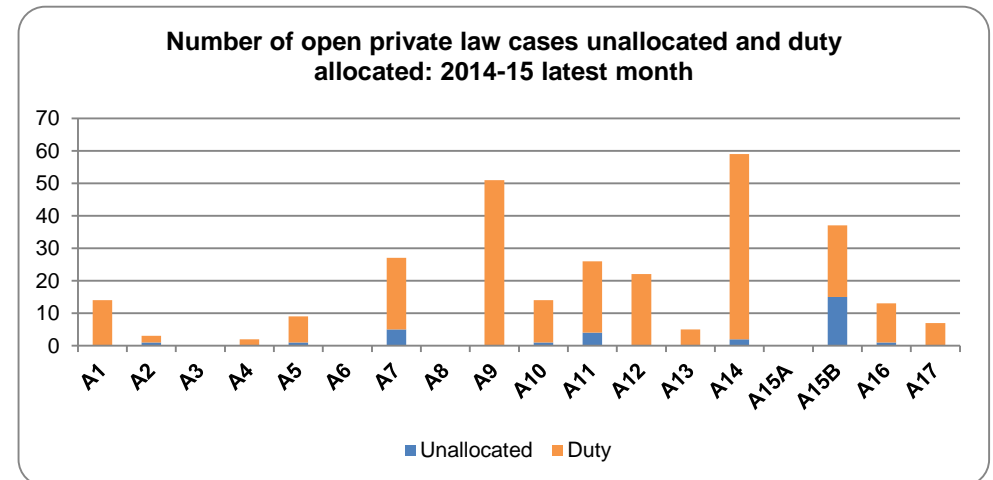
All private law cases received by Cafcass are inputted onto the Cafcass Case Management System (CMS) and Electronic Case Management (ECMS) by the Cafcass Intake Team (CIT). Practitioners at the CIT screen each case before transferring to the appropriate local Cafcass office for allocation to a Family Court Adviser.

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

Nationally, Cafcass has exceeded the 97% target for this KPI in each month since October 2010. The below graph shows the proportion of open cases which are not allocated at month end has been maintained at a consistently low level, except March 2015.



The following graph displays the number of open private law cases that were unallocated and duty allocated at the end of March 2015, by service area.



Best Performance: Eight areas are achieving 100% for the year to date.

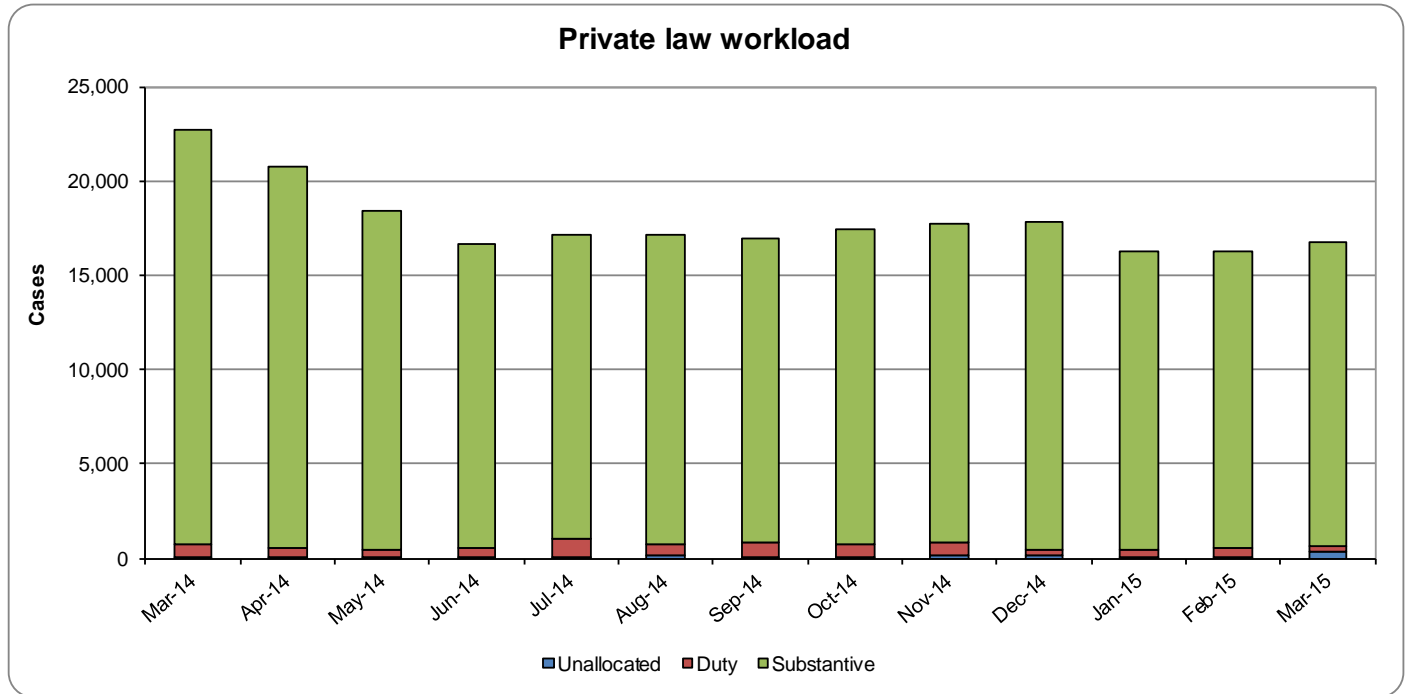
Service area hotspots: No areas are currently hotspots. All service areas are within or higher than the green band of above 97% for the year to date. However, IT issues encountered this month have had an impact on the teams' capacity to accept all transfers from CIT before month end.

Unallocated: At end of March-14 = 100 cases (89 at CIT)
 At end of February -15 = 84 cases (77 at CIT)
 At end of March-15 = 320 cases (290 at CIT)

Duty: At end of March-14 = 661 cases (282 at CIT)
 At end of February -15 = 420 cases (165 at CIT)
 At end of March-15 = 371 cases (112 at CIT)

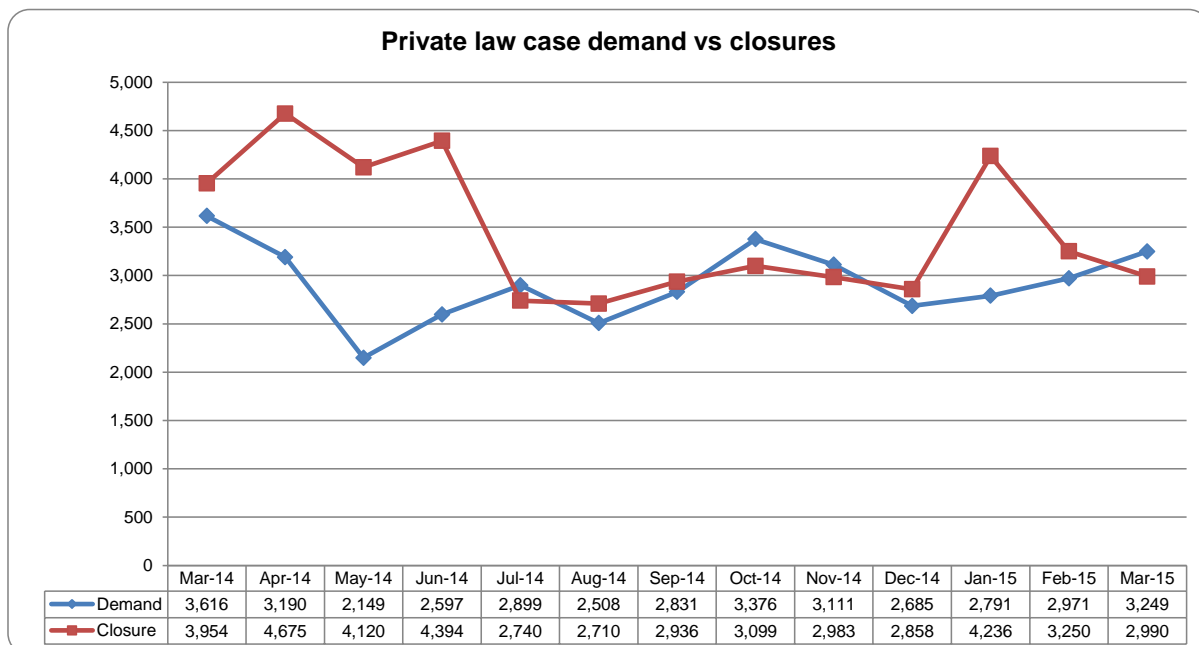
Private law – Workload stock and flow

Following an initial reduction due to decrease in demand and a higher rate of closures between April and June 14, the stock of open and ongoing cases has displayed a fairly consistent trend throughout the period. The overall trend did increase between July and December 14, as demand caught up and closures reduced, but has since reduced to 16,278 cases at the end of February 2015 and 16,725 at the end of March 2015, this being a consistent trend for the final quarter.



National Total	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Substantive	21,962	20,208	17,938	16,155	16,094	16,480	16,162	16,691	16,888	17,360	15,844	15,774	16,034
Duty	661	481	440	477	970	595	704	630	697	333	389	420	371
Unallocated	100	73	45	70	79	117	91	85	142	125	72	84	320
Total workload	22,723	20,762	18,423	16,702	17,143	17,192	16,957	17,406	17,727	17,818	16,305	16,278	16,725

	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15
Substantive	96.7%	97.3%	97.4%	96.7%	93.9%	95.9%	95.3%	95.9%	95.3%	97.4%	97.2%	96.9%	95.9%
Duty	2.9%	2.3%	2.4%	2.9%	5.7%	3.5%	4.2%	3.6%	3.9%	1.9%	2.4%	2.6%	2.2%
Unallocated	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	1.9%

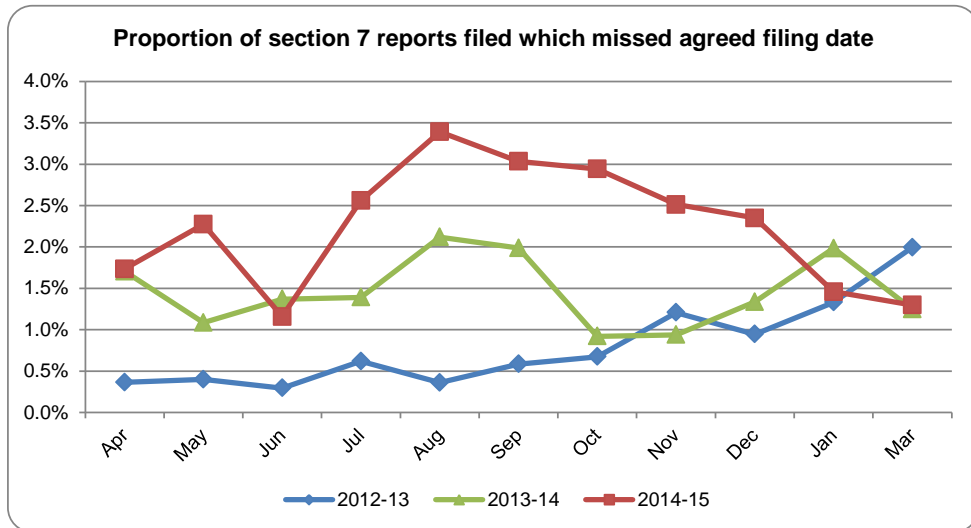


v - KPI 4: Section 7 reports filed by agreed date

Target:	97%
YTD Performance:	97.8% Green
Trend:	Stable: (last month YTD: 97.8%)

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

Nationally, Cafcass has exceeded the 97% target for this KPI in every month since March 2011. The below graph shows the proportion of section 7 reports which have missed the agreed filing date in each month.



2012-13: In this year, Cafcass filed a total of 22,847 reports at an average of 12.3 weeks, with 99.2% (22,654) filed by the agreed date. Performance declined slightly in the second half of the year, but still exceeded the target and reported an overall improvement on the previous year.

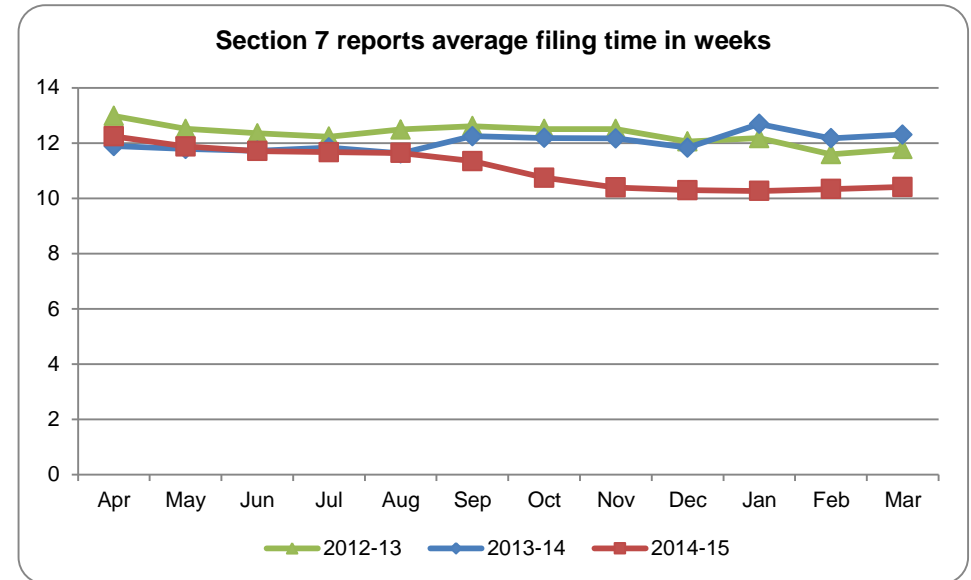
2013-14: In this year, Cafcass filed a total of 24,979 reports at an average of 12 weeks, with 98.5% (24,434 reports) filed by the agreed date.

2014-15 to date: Between April 14 and March 2015, Cafcass filed a total of 19,853 reports at an average of 11.2 weeks, with 97.8% (19,412 reports) filed by the agreed date.

Best performance: Two areas (A2 and A6) are achieving 100% in the year to date.

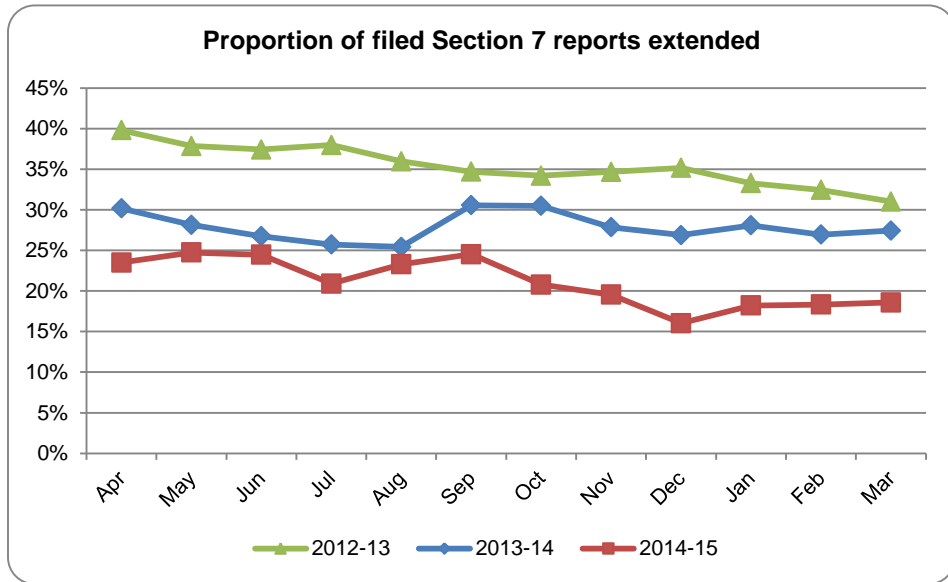
Service area hotspots: Four areas have a KPI performance rated as amber, 90- 96.9% year to date.

The following graph shows the average filing time in weeks for all section 7 reports filed, showing a gradual decrease over the past few years.



v - KPI 4: Section 7 reports filed by agreed date – Proportion of reports extended

All section 7 reports which Cafcass have been ordered to produce by the Court will have a filing due date, which will usually be set for a date shortly before the hearing at which the report will be considered. In the period between the requesting of the report and the specified filing date Cafcass may request that the Court agree an extension to the original filing date. Such requests are usually approved, and for the purpose of measuring performance in relation to KPI 4, the achievement of the extended filing date is used.

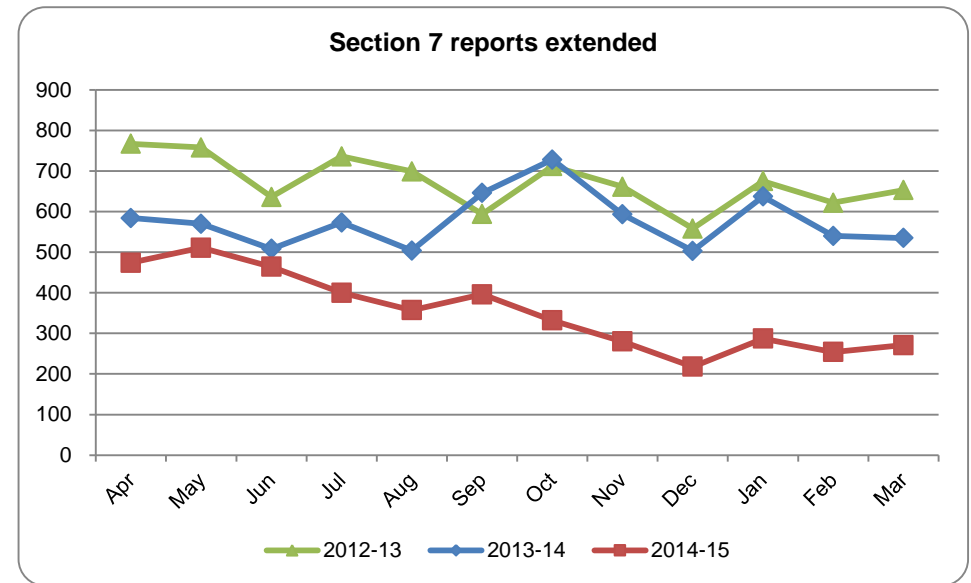


2012-13: In this year, a total of 22,847 section 7 reports were filed, with 35% (8,071) being extended. The decreasing trend has continued from the previous year, dropping from 40% in April 2012 to 31% in March 2013.

2013-14: In this year, Cafcass filed a total of 24,797 section 7 reports, with 28% (6,922) being extended.

2014-15 to date: Between April 14 and March 2015, Cafcass filed a total of 19,853 s7 reports, 21.4% (4,244 reports) of which were extended.

The following graph displays the proportion of filed section 7 reports in 2014-15 year to date which were extended, by service area.

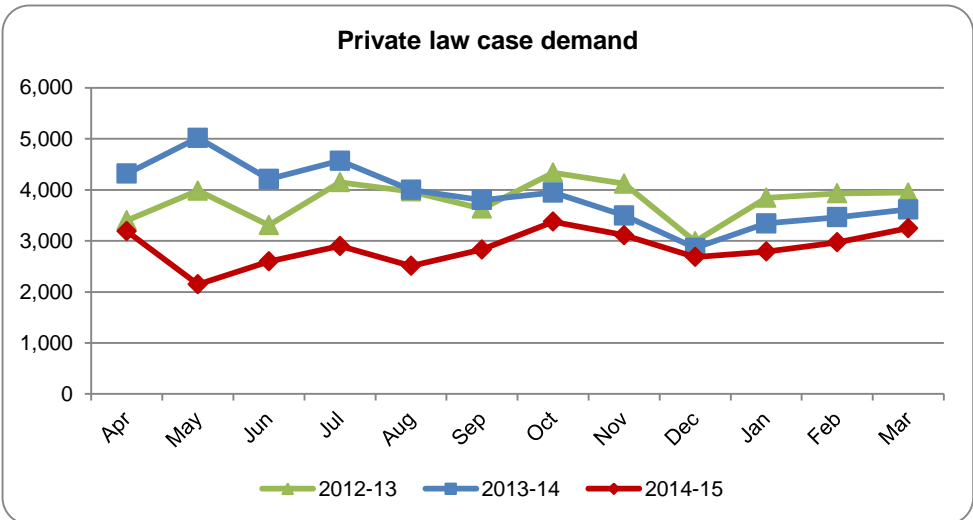
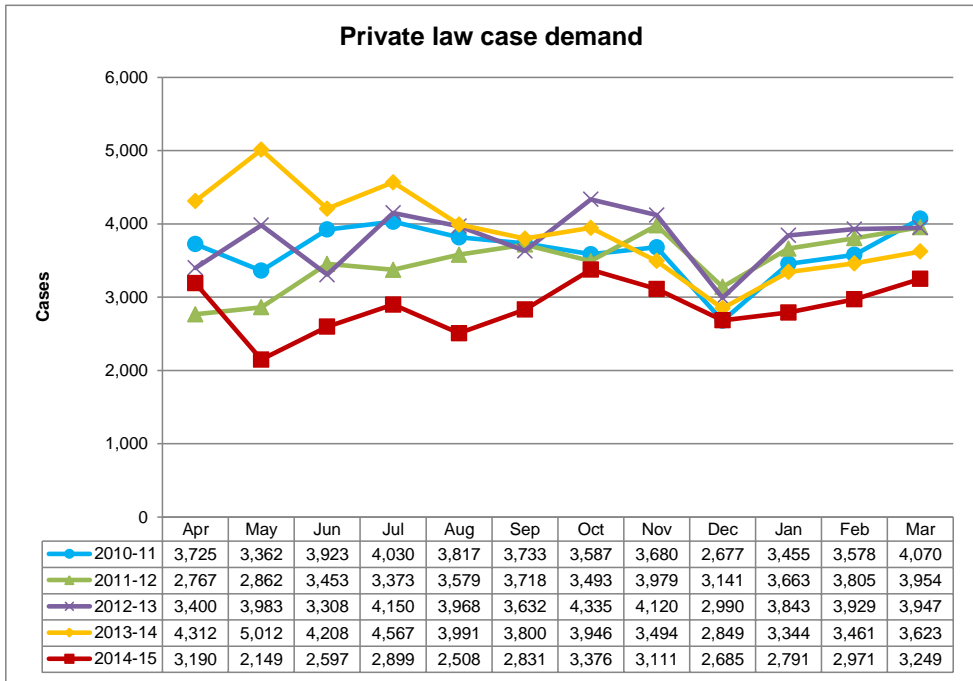


Best performance: A6 filed of 410 s7 reports in the period, with 12.7% (52 reports) being extended: this is the lowest rate of all service areas. Seven other areas have an extension rate lower than the national average.

Service area hotspots: Year to date, A3 filed 1,174 section 7 reports, with 26.2% (308 reports) being extended: A15B had the second highest extension rate at 25.5%.

Five other areas have an extension rate higher than the national average (21.4%).

Private law – Case demand

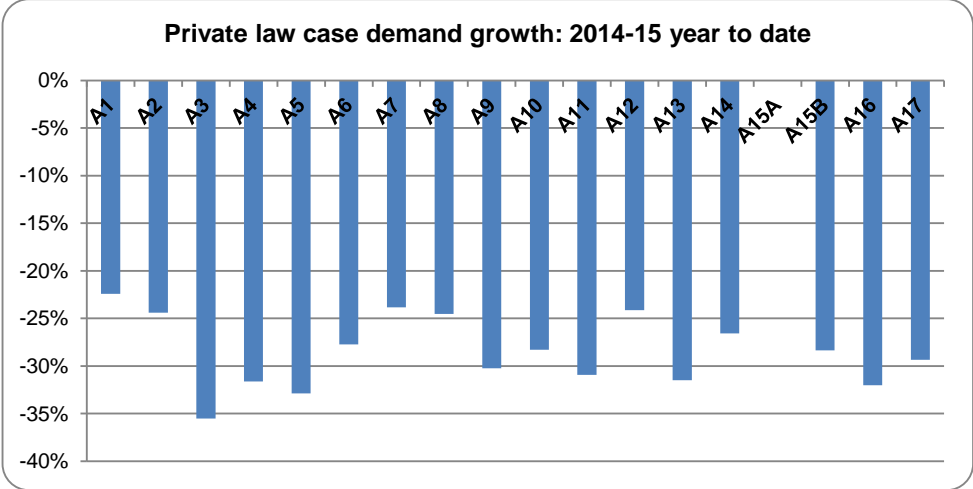


The above graph displays rolling year average for private law case demand, as a supplement to the individual month figures. The rolling year average evens out the seasonal variations and helps to highlight longer term trends.

2012-13: Cafcass received 45,605 new private law cases in this year, a 9% increase on the 41,787 cases received last year, and represents the highest ever annual total received by Cafcass. Case demand in May, August, October, November, January and February have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass in those individual months at that time.

2013-14: Cafcass received 46,591 private law cases in this year, a 2% (986 cases) increase on the 45,605 received during last year. The rate of increase has slowed down dramatically in the latter months compared to the increase seen in the first few months of this financial year.

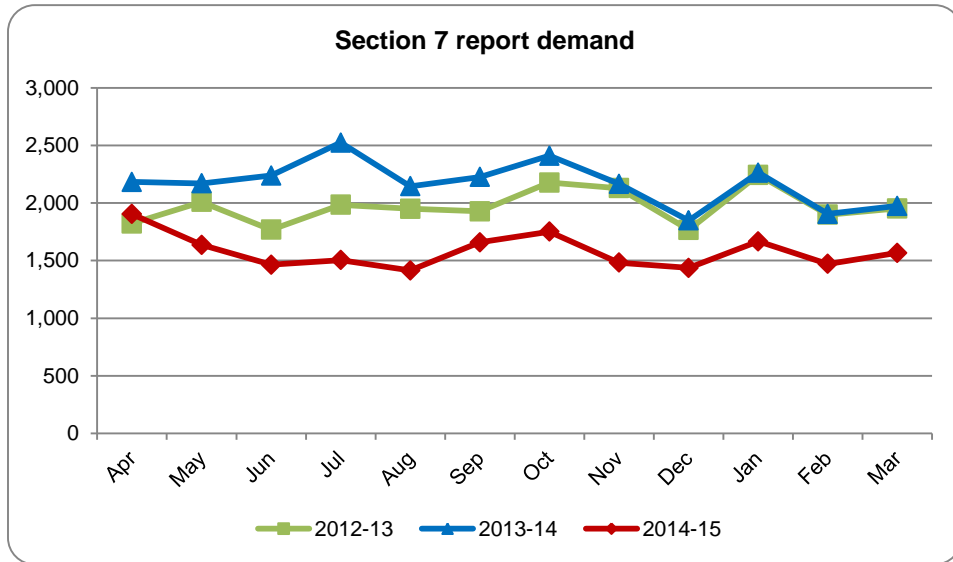
2014-15 to date: Cafcass received a total of 34,357 private law cases between April 14 and March 2015. This figure is 26.3% (12,279 cases) lower than the same period last year and 24.7% (11,248 cases) lower when compared to the same period in 2012. The months bar April 14 to March 2015 have received the lowest ever cases for those individual months.



Comparing April 14 to March 2015 against the same period last year, all service areas have seen a decrease in private law demand. The highest decrease is in A3 (35.5% or 1,095 cases). The area with lowest decrease in YTD demand is A1 (22.4% or 382 cases).

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 reports.



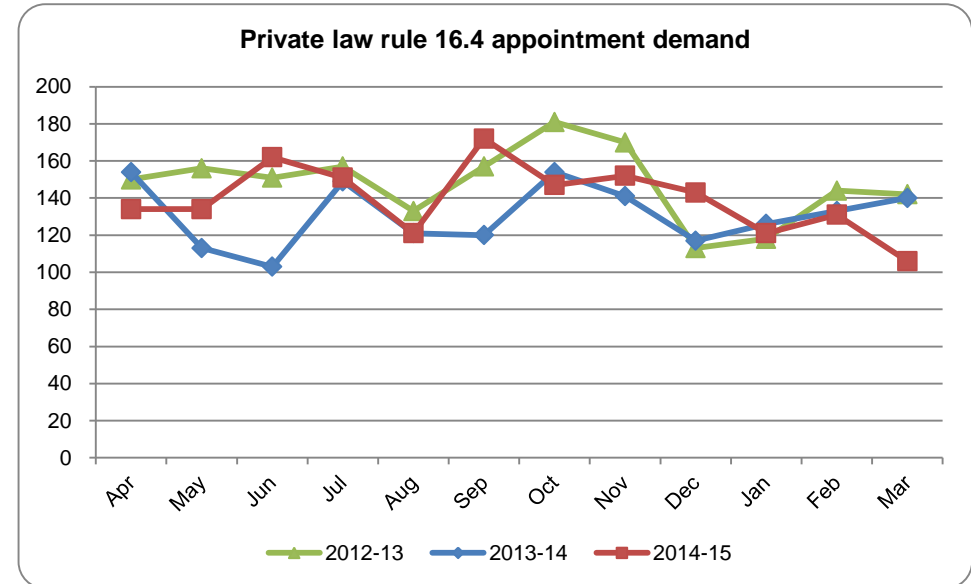
2012-13: In this year, Cafcass received 23,630 requests for section 7 reports, a decrease of 5% (1,315) from the 24,945 received in the previous year.

2013-14: In this year, Cafcass received 26,062 requests for section 7 reports, an increase of 10% (2,427) from the 23,630 received in 2012-13.

2014-15 to date: During April 14 to March 2015, Cafcass received 18,958 requests for section 7 report a decrease of 27.2% (7,099 reports) in the number of requests received during the same period last year.

Rule 16.4 appointments

Rule 16.4 of the Family Procedure Rules 2010 enables the court, in complex cases, to direct that the subject child should be made party to the proceedings and represented by a children’s guardian and a solicitor.



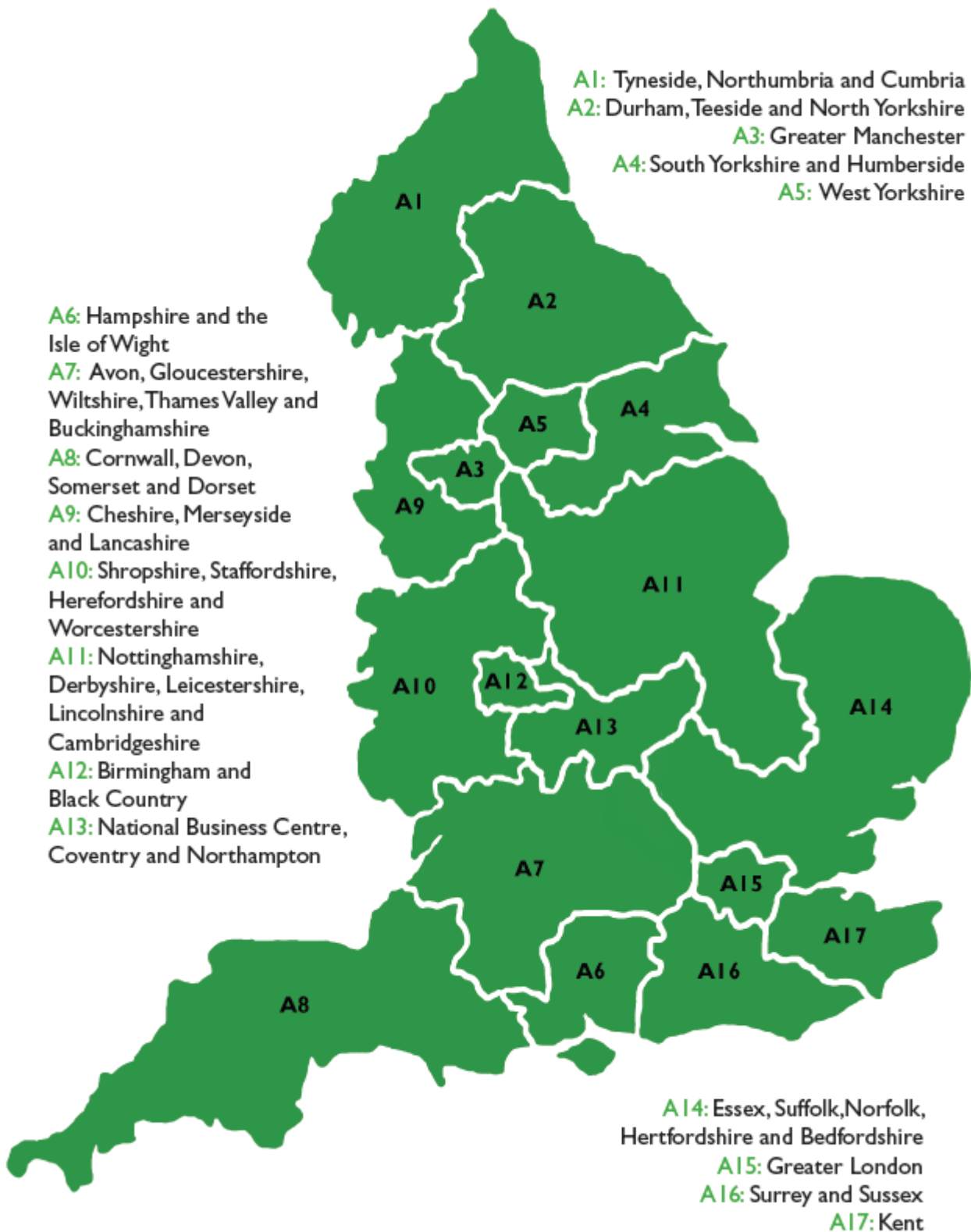
2012-13: In this year, Cafcass received 1,772 rule 16.4 appointments, a decrease of 5% (91 cases) from the 1,863 received in the previous year.

2013-14: In this year, Cafcass received 1,571 rule 16.4 appointments, a decrease of 11.3% (201 cases) compared to 2012-13.

2014-15 to date: During the period April 14 to March 2015, Cafcass received 1,674 rule 16.4 appointments, an increase of 6.6% (103 cases) compared to the same period last year.

ANNEX 1 – Cafcass service area map

Cafcass Service Area Map



ANNEX 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 proactive 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.

- **4a** – outstanding hearings.
- **4b** – no outstanding hearings. These will be cases awaiting the outcome and where the need for active work has ended.

Public law (care)

Stage 1 – pre case management hearing (CMH) in public law care cases. From receipt to 18 working days from application date.

Stage 2 – post CMH (19 working days) but pre-final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome)

- **2a** – 19 working days to 12 calendar weeks
- **2b** – 13 calendar weeks to 25 calendar weeks
- **2c** – 26 calendar weeks to 39 calendar weeks
- **2d** – 40 calendar weeks or more

Stage 3 — Past the last hearing (any type) **AND** legal outputs (outcomes) are entered in ECMS for all children.

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

Public law (non-care)

Stage 2 – pre-final hearing and/or final legal output (outcome)

- **2a** – receipt to 12 calendar weeks
- **2b** – 13 calendar weeks to 25 calendar weeks
- **2c** – 26 calendar weeks or more

Stage 3 – Final legal output (outcome) entered in ECMS. These will be cases awaiting administrative closure.

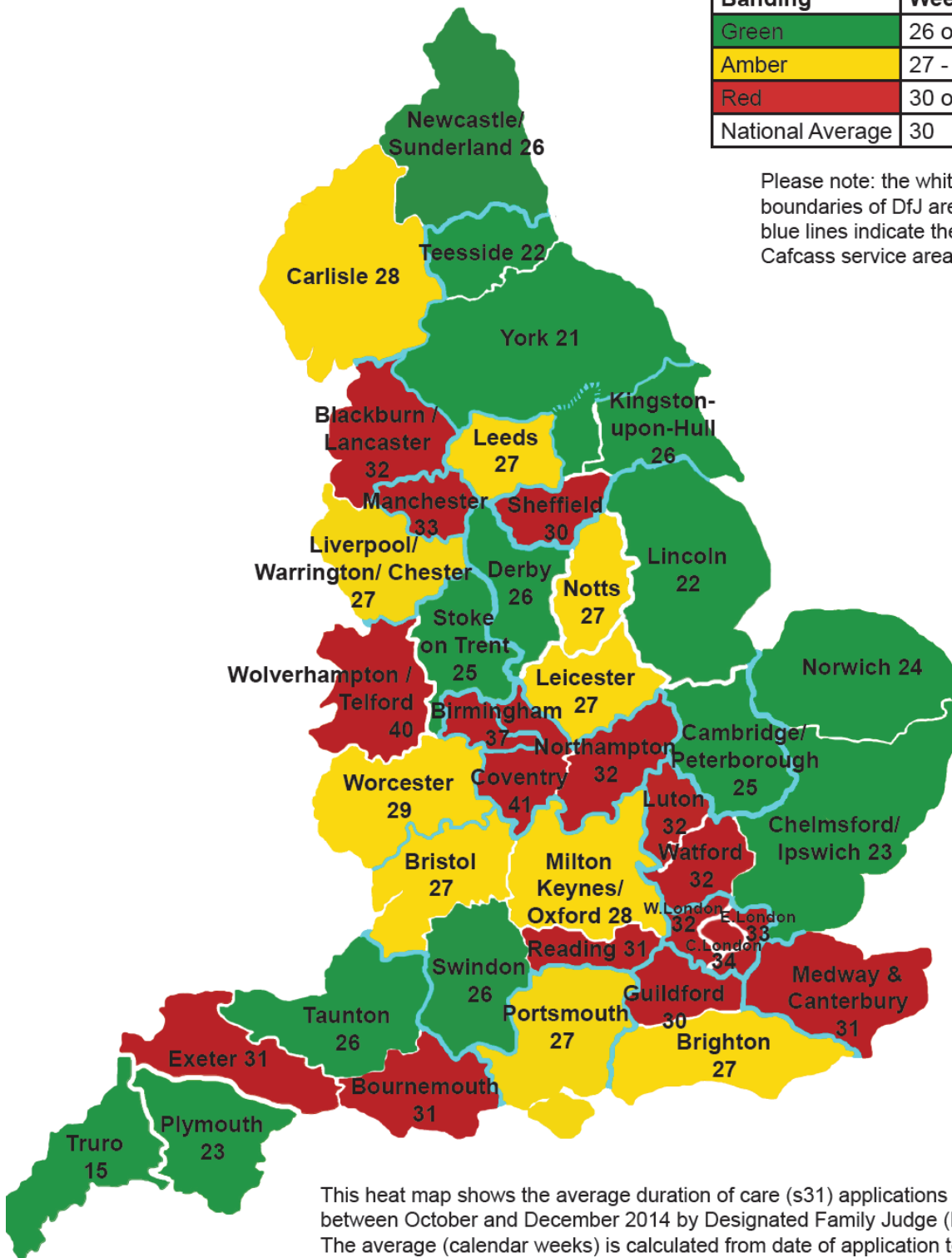
- **3a** – less than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in ECMS
- **3b** – more than 4 weeks from last hearing entered in ECMS

ANNEX 3 – Care application duration heat map and table

Care (s31) Application Duration Q3 October - December 2014

Banding	Weeks
Green	26 or less
Amber	27 - 29
Red	30 or more
National Average	30

Please note: the white lines indicate boundaries of DfJ areas, and the blue lines indicate the boundaries of Cafcass service areas.



This heat map shows the average duration of care (s31) applications closed between October and December 2014 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).

The colour bands on the map now reflect the 26 week target that came into effect under the revised PLO. Please note that as this information is based on all closed applications, some applications captured may have started prior to the implementation of the revised PLO, which for Cafcass was the 7th October 2013.

ANNEX 3a - Cafcass care application average duration in calendar weeks

Duration is measured in calendar weeks from application issue date to the date the application was completed.

DFJ Area	1112	2012 - 2013				2013 - 2014				1415		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Birmingham	66	56	57	48	46	46	45	42	46	41	39	37
Blackburn/Lancaster	65	69	60	50	45	41	43	37	42	30	36	32
Bournemouth	40	38	34	39	38	37	36	45	29	24	27	31
Brighton	54	53	53	51	53	48	43	40	34	35	28	27
Bristol	59	55	60	55	45	41	41	40	37	28	27	27
Cambridge/Peterborough	56	49	46	40	30	33	32	26	35	23	25	25
Carlisle	38	44	42	34	46	41	39	41	43	30	29	28
Central London	58	61	52	51	49	48	44	42	45	38	36	34
Chelmsford/Ipswich	51	52	52	48	43	42	38	32	32	28	26	23
Coventry	57	53	50	47	55	45	41	41	49	36	37	41
Derby	42	38	37	30	31	30	26	24	24	22	22	26
East London	63	55	55	56	55	46	44	48	39	41	35	33
Exeter	44	55	52	45	48	41	36	42	39	35	38	31
Guildford	57	58	60	57	51	59	50	44	38	36	34	30
High Court	82	70	62	66	70	62	52	62	56	47	40	45
Kingston-upon-Hull	58	55	46	45	53	43	33	32	25	27	22	26
Leeds	47	48	46	42	39	38	30	31	30	27	29	27
Leicester	54	53	50	50	43	38	39	40	27	29	28	27
Lincoln	37	31	31	28	26	23	25	22	26	21	23	22
Liverpool/Warrington/Chester	62	57	47	44	37	36	26	31	25	26	26	27
Luton	65	62	52	53	48	46	46	44	36	34	27	32
Manchester	60	56	47	46	42	40	36	33	35	28	30	33
Medway/Canterbury	59	65	54	55	52	51	40	37	39	31	32	31
Milton Keynes/Oxford	46	51	49	43	37	40	28	33	29	29	29	28
Newcastle/Sunderland	59	52	55	52	45	45	38	37	34	31	30	26
Northampton	53	46	42	49	41	42	50	43	46	33	35	32
Norwich	40	40	47	37	39	38	31	28	30	24	22	24
Nottingham	50	44	39	36	36	35	34	33	38	32	31	27
Plymouth	60	46	42	41	28	30	25	23	22	26	26	23
Portsmouth	52	48	47	54	42	41	34	37	36	28	26	27
Reading	46	48	53	47	42	39	40	34	32	31	28	31
Sheffield	45	46	45	42	38	40	37	35	37	39	33	30
Stoke-on-Trent	41	39	34	30	29	29	23	22	23	23	22	25
Swindon	67	60	59	49	40	46	41	30	44	27	30	26
Taunton	48	63	56	53	50	42	37	35	48	37	33	26
Teesside	50	43	35	37	40	28	26	26	29	23	20	22
Truro	46	40	39	29	30	24	17	18	17	16	21	15
Watford	63	67	58	65	47	46	50	40	49	38	38	32
West London	59	62	56	56	51	53	43	41	42	37	36	32
Wolverhampton/Telford	56	50	43	46	42	39	37	34	33	29	34	40
Worcester	46	48	47	34	40	27	33	30	29	24	27	29
York	49	48	40	37	30	33	28	25	27	20	25	21
National Average	55	53	49	47	44	41	37	35	33	31	30	30

Data is taken from the Cafcass Management systems, the Case Management System (CMS) and the Electronic Case Management System (ECMS). ECMS is a live and continually updated national database. Each application can involve multiple children. ECMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data.

Overall trend for public law care application duration is downwards. The latest data show the care applications that concluded between October 14 and December 14 took on average 30 calendar weeks to conclude, an overall reduction in care duration by 5 weeks when compared to the same quarter last year. Of the total 42 DfJ areas, 26 (62%) have care duration below or in-line with national average. 14 DFJs have an average duration of 26 weeks or below (33%).

Annex 3b – Breakdown of Q3 2014-15 durations by ‘old’ applications

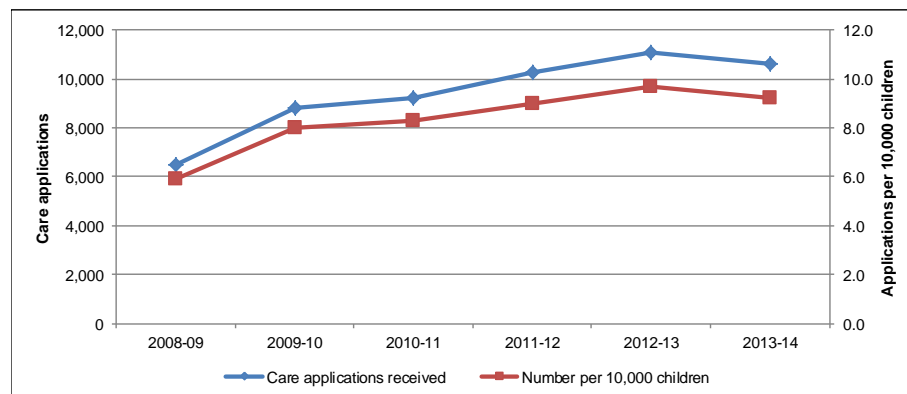
The table below shows the breakdown of closures for ‘old’ applications (received before 7th Oct 2013). As the data shows below, a majority (82%) of the applications closed in the recent quarters were received after 7th of October 2013 by which date Cafcass nationally implemented the revised PLO. The average duration for these applications is 25 weeks. Of the total 42 DFJs, 31 (74%) are below or in line with 26 weeks. 14 (33%) are closing application in an average or less than 23 weeks.

DFJ	Applications received <u>on or after</u> 7th of Oct 2013		Applications received <u>before</u> 7th of Oct 2013	
	Number of disposals	Average Duration	Number of disposals	Average Duration
Birmingham	124	27	43	71
Blackburn/Lancaster	200	25	62	60
Bournemouth	61	24	7	52
Brighton	106	24	25	57
Bristol	137	24	24	49
Cambridge/Peterborough	116	23	9	47
Carlisle	58	24	11	53
Central London	417	28	155	56
Chelmsford/Ipswich	184	22	27	51
Coventry	103	28	50	59
Derby	127	23	4	41
East London	222	29	66	59
Exeter	50	26	15	62
Guildford	61	25	22	58
High Court	69	28	47	66
Kingston-upon-Hull	118	22	13	46
Leeds	281	24	46	53
Leicester	93	26	16	43
Lincoln	70	22	0	0
Liverpool/Warrington/Chester	391	23	56	48
Luton	82	25	13	63
Manchester	374	26	63	58
Medway/Canterbury	153	25	46	53
Milton Keynes/Oxford	110	25	17	52
Newcastle/Sunderland	192	23	47	52
Northampton	61	25	17	64
Norwich	116	21	12	49
Nottingham	134	24	30	56
Plymouth	107	24	6	53
Portsmouth	222	23	42	49
Reading	65	24	23	48
Sheffield	174	27	56	56
Stoke-on-Trent	158	23	6	39
Swindon	50	19	14	57
Taunton	63	25	18	54
Teesside	143	20	10	34
Truro	69	17	1	44
Watford	62	28	25	55
West London	221	28	82	55
Wolverhampton/Telford	175	27	59	58
Worcester	100	24	12	51
York	70	20	2	79
National	5,889	25	1,299	56

x = Aggregated figures showing 5 or less are not shown in order to protect confidentiality.

ANNEX 4 – Care application demand and rates per 10,000 children

Cafcass service area	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children	Care applications received	Number per 10,000 children
A1	299	7.9	370	9.9	435	11.6	505	13.4	500	13.3	472	12.6
A2	273	6.7	425	10.6	460	11.4	513	12.8	517	12.9	376	9.4
A3	458	7.9	632	11.0	656	11.4	686	11.4	752	12.4	706	11.5
A4	409	9.4	497	11.0	537	12.3	513	12.8	476	11.8	398	9.9
A5	367	7.5	442	9.0	479	9.7	578	11.5	538	10.7	506	9.9
A6	186	4.8	219	5.7	270	7.2	266	6.7	339	8.6	354	8.9
A7	317	3.9	509	6.1	504	6.2	476	6.0	634	8.0	594	7.4
A8	306	5.2	419	7.4	462	7.8	569	9.4	648	10.6	603	9.7
A9	494	6.1	700	8.6	736	9.2	806	10.0	923	11.5	1,034	12.8
A10	212	4.4	337	7.2	341	7.3	380	8.0	451	9.5	479	10.0
A11	489	5.3	657	7.4	734	8.3	826	9.1	892	9.8	906	9.9
A12	385	7.1	573	10.4	508	9.3	561	9.7	669	11.5	626	10.6
A13	179	5.3	220	6.6	201	6.0	298	8.8	357	10.4	338	9.8
A14	554	4.5	831	6.5	889	6.8	1,011	7.3	1,027	7.3	996	7.0
A15	1,166	7.1	1,389	8.4	1,259	7.5	1,471	8.1	1,689	9.2	1,557	8.3
A16	289	5.2	410	7.4	422	7.5	417	7.4	357	6.3	333	5.8
A17	113	3.0	202	5.4	310	8.3	377	9.8	338	8.8	324	8.3
National	6,496	5.9	8,832	8.0	9,203	8.3	10,253	9.0	11,107	9.7	10,602	9.2



Notes:

- Figures in the above table and graph are provided from the Cafcass national case management system (CMS) and the ONS. The units of measurement are a) care applications, upon receipt from the Court and entry into CMS by Cafcass and b) the child population (0 - 17) as estimated by ONS based on 2011 census information.
- The calculated figures are multiplied by 10,000 to obtain tangible units and therefore represent the applications per 10,000 child population.
- Child population figures are provided by Local Authority and have been repackaged geographically into Cafcass service area.
- CMS is a live system and any late entries will be accounted for at the time of release of subsequent updates to this data.