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**Your ref: CAF 15-207**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-207**

Tel 0300 456 4000

4 January 2016

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 23 December 2015. You made the following requests for information:

I would like further information on the S.37 Report  
Can you send me details such as what is included  
and who would be writing this report  
and where I can find the underpinning legislation  
And similar details for a Section 7 report  
and details of Sect 8 Children's Act 1989

Please see below for our response.

In some family proceedings where there is a view that the situation may warrant the making of a care or supervision order, the court may exercise its s37 Children Act 1989 power and direct a local authority to undertake and provide to the court a child welfare investigation report. These are completed by the local authority, not Cafcass; for details of how these are completed and what is included this information would need to be requested from the local authority. Please see this section of the legislation which sets out the relevant information:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/37>

In some private law family proceedings Cafcass will be instructed by the court to provide a section 7 report as part of work after the first hearing in private law cases. These are completed by Cafcass when ordered by the court under [Section 7 of the Children Act 1989](#). Please see the Cafcass [Operating Framework](#) (sections 4.19-4.24) which sets out what Cafcass practitioners should have regard to when working on a section 7 report. Cafcass practitioners also use a [standard form](#) of report which

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provides template headings for each subsection. All Cafcass recommendations are based on professional judgement of how a child's welfare can best be promoted and safeguarded, with reference to the [Welfare Checklist](#), and all recommendations are case specific.

Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 is available online:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/8>

We hope that you feel your question has been answered effectively. If you are unhappy with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may ask for an internal review to be undertaken. If you are dissatisfied with the way the internal review is handled or with the final decision made at that review about the information released, you are free to contact the Information Commissioner's office ([www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)):

**Post**

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

**Fax**

01625 524 510

**Tel**

0303 123 1113

**E-mail**

[casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

[Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk)

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Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

