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Your ref: CAF 15-176  
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-176

Tel 0300 456 4000

9 November 2015

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2015. You made the following requests for information:

- 1) Are ALL Fathers that apply for a Contact Order in relation to their Child asked questions about their Religious beliefs, their Parents religious beliefs, their Grandparents religious beliefs, which effectively is the Child's deceased Great Grandparents religious beliefs?

Cafcass recently reintroduced national recording of diversity information, including religion, about our service users in order to support our workforce to better understand and integrate equality and diversity considerations into their working practices. In addition, it is the Cafcass practitioner's responsibility to identify any relevant diversity issues in a specific case and, where relevant diversity issues are identified, to include/analyse these. This is in the context of the [welfare checklist](#), set out in part 1, section 1 of the Children Act 1989, which the court must have regard to when considering whether to make a section 8 order (this would include a child arrangements order, previously called a contact order). The welfare checklist includes at 3)d) "his age, sex and background and any characteristics of his which the court considers relevant."

- 2) If 100% are not asked for the above information by Cafcass Officers, then what percentage of Fathers are asked such questions about ancestral religious beliefs when they are white or British with an ethnic mix?

As stated above, all service users are asked for diversity information including their religion where applicable.

- 3) Under the Freedom of Information Act is it usual procedure and protocol to ask all Father's about his Child's Parents, Grandparents and Great Grandparents religious beliefs?

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Please see the response to question 1 above which sets out how Cafcass identifies and collects diversity information. Cafcass' guidance on diversity is set out in sections 2.43 to 2.47 of Cafcass' [Operating Framework](#) and our [Equality and Diversity Strategy 2013-15](#).

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

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0303 123 1113

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[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)

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive

