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Your ref: CAF 15-202
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-202

Tel 0300 456 4000

16 December 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 15 December 2015. You made the following requests for information:

1. [In what year did Cafcass start the DVPP program for male perpetrators?](#)

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes (DVPPs) were introduced in 2009 as a response to the amendment to the Children Act 1989. Cafcass commissions service providers for DVPPs as court-ordered activities.

2. [Specifically, why Cafcass does not 'currently contract with any DVPP providers that work with female perpetrators'?](#)

The DVPP providers which Cafcass contract with must be approved and accredited by Respect (if they are voluntary sector providers) or by the National Probation Service (if they are provided by the Community Rehabilitation Companies). They are contracted with Cafcass following successful tender bids.

These approved providers deliver programmes which specifically address male to female domestic violence. These programmes are underpinned by a solid evidence base regarding male perpetrators of abuse in intimate partner relationships.

We recognise the desirability of having such a programme available for cases where we have assessed female perpetrator behaviour. However, as yet there is no equivalent provider sector for female to male domestic violence because there is no solid research base or wide programme availability. This would be required in order to allow us to expand into offering this programme as a court-ordered activity.

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Currently we may refer male victims of domestic violence to available services, such as Respect, and in relevant cases we seek to identify where community resources could support the family.

3. What time-scale do Cafcass have for starting a program for female perpetrators?

Cafcass will continue to be alert to the development of new interventions and programmes developing within the sector. We hope to be able to encourage provision of additional programmes to address violence perpetrated by women during our next tendering round for services from March 2017.

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):

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Yours sincerely,

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