



Cafcass National Office
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21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 15-62
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-62

Tel 0300 456 4000

17 April 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2015. Please see below for our responses to your requests for information.

1. The number of 16.4 cases month on month / year on year for the last few years (both before and after LASPO) - I am expecting an increase in the number of 16.4 cases.

The following table shows Rule 16.4 Appointment Orders received nationally by Cafcass by month and year:

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Apr	123	118	150	154	134
May	112	136	156	113	134
Jun	115	176	151	103	162
Jul	133	152	157	149	151
Aug	138	140	133	121	121
Sep	113	131	157	120	172
Oct	99	176	181	154	147
Nov	140	167	170	141	152
Dec	130	164	113	117	143
Jan	123	163	118	126	121
Feb	129	168	144	133	131
Mar	181	172	142	140	106
Total	1536	1863	1772	1571	1674

Please note:

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





1. Data prior to July 2014 is taken from the Cafcass Case Management System (CMS), after July 2014 data is taken from the Cafcass Electronic Case Management system (ECMS) which is a live database and is continually being updated. Please note that the method of identifying these cases has changed in ECMS.
 2. The unit of measurement is cases types of '16.4 - Appointment' where the order for 16.4 Appointment was made in the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 (April - March)
2. Your personal view of the impact of LASPO on 16.4 Children's Guardians and what differences you are experiencing as a result. For example, whether that be in the role you are expected to perform, or the changes CAFCASS as a whole is having to perform or the services they are having to offer etc.

Please see attached the response of Cafcass to a recent consultation by the [Justice Committee on Impact of changes to civil legal aid under Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#).

Cafcass made a submission to this inquiry in November 2014. This was in response to a request from the Committee for information on the pilot projects Cafcass is currently involved in, to strengthen support for separating parents and their children.

The response summarises the pilot projects launched by the Ministry of Justice in October, and other work in private law that we are supporting.

3. Any other comment or information regarding Children's Guardians which you feel may be of assistance to my paper [regarding the effects of LASPO on the Rule 16.4 Children's Guardian and whether it is being exploited by the Courts to circumvent the cuts].

Cafcass knows of no other recorded information in relation to the impact of LASPO on the work of Cafcass or specifically on Rule 16.4 appointments. For further information about Rule 16.4 appointments please see the [Cafcass Operating Framework](#), sections 4.26 – 4.32.

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,

Governance Team

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Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice
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