



Cafcass National Office
3rd Floor
21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 15-96
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-96

Tel 0300 456 4000

16 July 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2015. You made the following requests for information:

- 1) How many surrogacy arrangements were made in the UK each year since 2010

Cafcass does not hold information relating to the number of surrogacy arrangements made in the UK. Cafcass only holds information relating to those surrogacy arrangements which result in the parents making an application for a parental order; Cafcass also only holds information in respect of applications made in England.

- 2) If you can only say how many PO were given, how many were given? How many of these were to same sex parents?

Cafcass records the number of parental order applications received by Cafcass in England, but does not hold outcome data relating to these.

- 3) Is there any idea how many same sex surrogacy cases take place to British couples every year.

Cafcass holds data for the number of parental order applications which are received by Cafcass in England. Please see below for this information.

Cafcass does not centrally record the number of same sex couples involved in parental order applications; the information held reflects whether applicants are the same gender. Cafcass only deals with cases where the application is made in England and does not record the nationality of the applicants.

Please see the table below for the number of parental order applications recorded by Cafcass case management systems as received by Cafcass, and

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the total number of these where applicants are recorded as having the same gender.

Please note the following points about the data:

- Parental Order applications listed here are based on the following application types received in England: Parental Order (s54 HF&E), Parental Order (s30 HF&E) and Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act.
- Number of applications with recorded applicants of the same gender may not accurately reflect the total number of same sex couples involved in surrogacy cases.
- Totals are based on the date the application was received (by year from April - March).
- The data is taken from reporting on Cafcass case management systems and there may be some margin of human error in the data entry. The data sources are:
 - ECMS: ECMS is a live system, continually updated and is subject to change when further updates are made; it was introduced on 11 July 2014.
 - CMS: Prior to July 2014, information is taken from CMS (Case Management System) which was introduced national in 2007-08; data from CMS is a static snapshot on the day it ceased to be a live database, 11th July 2014.

	Number of Parental Order applications	Number of applications with same gender applicants recorded
2010-11	109	2
2011-12	138	1
2012-13	152	7
2013-14	202	25
2014-15	241	68

Please note that Cafcass will shortly be publishing research in this field. The research provides basic descriptive data on applications for Parental Orders made in 2013/14 in five areas: the proceedings; the work of the Parental Order Reporter (POR); the surrogacy arrangements; the applicants (commissioning parents); and the surrogate. This is expected to be published within the next month and will be available on [our website's research pages](#).

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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):

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

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk

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Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice
Cafcass National Office, 3rd Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF | DX Cafcass 310101 Bloomsbury 11