



Cafcass National Office
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21 Bloomsbury Street
London
WC1B 3HF

Your ref: CAF 15-147
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-147

Tel 0300 456 4000

1 September 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2015 which was forwarded to Cafcass on 4 August 2015. You made the following requests for information:

[Country of surrogates involved in parental order applications since 2000](#)

Please see below for our response.

Please see the below tables for the number of parental order applications received by Cafcass annually since 2008 (the start of Cafcass records in its central database CMS), and information relating to the recorded country of the address of female respondents in parental order applications.

Please note:

- The data includes all Parental Order (s54 HF&E) and Parental Order (s30 HF&E) applications received by Cafcass in the period 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2015.
- Data is reported where the gender of the respondent is known to be female. There may be more than one female respondent on a case. All female respondent details have been summarised therefore it is possible the number of respondents exceeds the number of cases in the period.
 - 'Non UK other' relates to female respondents whose country of address is not clear from the recorded information held
 - 'Unknown address' relates to female respondents whose addresses are not recorded
 - 'Respondent information not held' relates to cases where no female respondents are recorded
- There may be some margin of human error in the data entry. The data sources are:

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- 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); data from CMS is a static snapshot on the day it ceased to be a live database, 11th July 2014.

Country	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Canada				1	2	1	1
England	10	11	63	81	90	105	89
Georgia						2	4
India			6	16	19	32	47
Ireland			1	1			
Nigeria							2
Russia				2		1	2
Scotland			1	2	1	1	1
South Africa				1			3
Thailand			1				12
Ukraine			1	1	1	2	1
USA	1	1	7	10	18	30	48
Wales			2	2	1	4	
Non UK Other			2	4	2	1	3
Unknown address			3	3	2	8	14
Respondent information not held	52	46	23	14	17	14	14
Grand Total	63	58	110	138	153	201	241

It may also be of interest to see a recent research project carried out by Cafcass looking at [Parental Order applications made in 2013-14](#), with a section on surrogacy arrangements (page 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):



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

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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