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Your ref: CAF 15-151
Our ref: Gov/CAF 15-151

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28 August 2015

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2015. You made the following requests for information:

1. [Serious Case Reviews carried out per year by each national authority \(2012 – 2015\)](#)

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are convened and managed by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). Cafcass does not have any data concerning the number of SCRs that have been convened by each LSCB. Data relating to the number of SCRs is collated by the [National Panel of Independent Experts on Serious Case Reviews](#).

Cafcass holds data in relation to the number of SCRs to which Cafcass contributed. Please see the table below which is set out by financial year and divided by relevant LSCB.

Number of Cafcass contributions to SCRs			
LSCB	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Barking & Dagenham	0	1	0
Barnsley	0	0	1
Birmingham	0	1	1
Blackburn	0	0	1
Bristol	1	0	0
Bromley	0	0	1
Buckinghamshire	0	1	2
Cambridgeshire	0	1	1
Croydon	1	1	1
Derby	0	2	0

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Dorset	0	0	1
Ealing	1	0	0
East Sussex	0	0	1
Essex	1	0	0
Hampshire	0	1	0
Harrow	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1
Islington	1	0	1
Lancashire	0	0	1
Lincolnshire (NE)	0	1	0
Liverpool	1	0	0
Manchester	0	0	1
Norfolk	0	0	2
Northampton	0	1	0
Nottingham	0	1	0
Oxford	0	4	2
Peterborough	0	3	2
Portsmouth	1	1	0
Rochdale	0	2	0
Sandwell	0	0	1
South Gloucester	1	0	0
Southampton	1	3	0
Staffordshire	0	1	1
Stockton	0	1	0
Sunderland	0	0	1
Surrey	1	0	0
Sutton	1	1	1
Thurrock	0	0	1
Wakefield	0	1	0
Warwickshire	0	1	1
Total	11	30	26

2. What is the standard referral time for case referrals (to local authorities)?

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For referrals to local authorities and their responses, the relevant statutory guidance is [Working Together](#). Guidance entitled [What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#) may also be relevant.

For Cafcass child protection referrals, please see the Cafcass [Child Protection Policy](#). This sets out that having discussed the situation with a Service Manager, the practitioner should:

- Make the referral by phone at the earliest opportunity to the local authority where the child lives or is found, to the contact number stipulated within LSCB procedures.
- Contact the local authority within 1 working day of the written referral being sent if receipt of the referral has not been acknowledged by them.
- Contact the local authority within 2 working days to establish what decision has been made in respect of the referral.

3. How many agency staff are there working in social care departments compared to permanent staff - divided by local authority?

Please see below the number of employed and agency social workers by geographic region at Cafcass, as of 26/8/15:

Region	Number of Employed Social Work Staff	Number of Agency Social Work Staff
Tyneside, Northumbria and Cumbria	67	2
Durham, Teesside and North Yorkshire	58	0
Greater Manchester	81	2
South Yorkshire and Humberside	61	3
West Yorkshire	70	4
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	39	0
Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Buckinghamshire	96	0
Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset	69	0
Cheshire, Merseyside and Lancashire	128	5
Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	49	2
Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire	115	5
Birmingham, the Black Country	80	0
Coventry and Northampton	38	11
Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire	106	5
Greater London (Public Law)	98	0

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Greater London (Private Law)	78	5
Surrey and Sussex	56	0
Kent	43	2
National Business Centre	0	7
Other Departments	19	0
Total	1351	53

4. What are the typical caseloads per social worker and per family engagement worker and are there statistics of how these caseloads vary in different local authorities?

Cafcass does not measure workload in terms of number of cases, as the demands of a case vary depending on law type, stage of case within proceedings, and other factors such as working hours of an individual member of staff.

However, we do record the number of cases received by Cafcass by area. For public law cases, this is recorded by local authority. These figures are published monthly on our website's [Cafcass care demand statistics](#). Please click [here](#) to view the spreadsheet which shows the monthly national number of care cases received; separate tabs display a breakdown of application and children numbers by local authority for each complete quarter from April 2012.

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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 Information Commissioner's Office
 Wycliffe House, Water Lane,
 Wilmslow,
 Cheshire
 SK9 5AF

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 01625 524 510
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Yours sincerely,

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