



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

Your ref: CAF 16-12
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-12

Tel 0300 456 4000

2 February 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your letter dated 27 January 2016, which was received by our office on 1 February 2016.

In response to questions 5 and 6, the specific requested information is not recorded. However, it may be useful to note some general information in relation to interviews with children.

Family Court Advisers decide what enquiries to make in line with the directions of the court and the specific circumstances of the case. Every case is different and we do not have a specified procedure. Interviews will usually include the children subject to the application, unless there is a good reason not to interview them. It is also usual for the child to be interviewed without a parent present. However, these decisions are made at the discretion of the relevant practitioner. The needs and circumstances of each individual case will determine the nature of the enquiries made by the practitioner, depending on how each practitioner has planned to carry out their work of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child.

Cafcass is not able to provide you with the information you requested in relation to the recommendations made within Cafcass section 7 reports (questions 1-4 and 7-8), as the cost of compliance with this request would exceed the appropriate limit for responses to Freedom of Information requests.

Cafcass does not collect information on individual recommendations within reports centrally. In order to provide a response, each case file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass handles thousands of cases annually involving section 7 reports, the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit which for Cafcass is £450. In our estimation the cost (a flat rate of £25 per hour provided by the FOI Act) would exceed the appropriate limit which is 18 hours for Cafcass, in order to complete one or more of the following activities permitted to be accounted for, which are:

- Determining whether the information is held;

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- Locating the information, or a document containing it;
- Retrieving the information, or a document containing it; and
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.

A response to this request is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

[12 Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.](#)

1. *Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*
2. *Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit. .*
3. *In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases. .*
4. *The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority— .*
 - (a) by one person, or*
 - (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,**the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.*
5. *The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.*

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

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Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk

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