



Cafcass National Office
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Your ref: CAF 16-79
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-79

Tel 0300 456 4000

21 June 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2016. You made the following requests for information:

[the latest numbers for parental orders in the UK? It would be great if I could see the data split by country of birth too in order to understand the domestic/overseas ratio.](#)

Please see the table for the number of parental order applications recorded by Cafcass case management systems as received by Cafcass (which therefore only relate to applications within England, rather than the UK).

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.
- Totals are based on the date the application was received (by year from April - March).
- The data has been taken from the Cafcass national database ECMS; this is a live system which is subject to continual updating and change. As with any large scale recording system, these figures are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Year	Number of parental order applications
2013-14	202
2014-15	242
2015-16	295

Unfortunately Cafcass does not hold information on the country of birth centrally in a reportable format. This information has been checked for cases received in 2013-14 as part

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of research in this field which can be seen on our website: [Cafcass study of Parental Order Applications made in 2013/14](#).

In order to provide a response for other years, each case file would need to be checked individually; as Cafcass handles hundreds of parental order cases annually, 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;
- 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):

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Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





Post

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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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