



Cafcass National Office  
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21 Bloomsbury Street  
London  
WC1B 3HF

**Your ref: CAF 16-115**  
**Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-115**

Tel 0300 456 4000

12 September 2016

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. You made the following requests for information:

In your press release "Spotlight on Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes", August 2016 ([https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2016/august/spotlight-on-domestic-violence-perpetrator-programmes.aspx?utm\\_source=Cafcass+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=900d20b8cb-External\\_August\\_Newsletter8\\_22\\_2016&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_502fc80acc-900d20b8cb-117908577](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2016/august/spotlight-on-domestic-violence-perpetrator-programmes.aspx?utm_source=Cafcass+Newsletter&utm_campaign=900d20b8cb-External_August_Newsletter8_22_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_502fc80acc-900d20b8cb-117908577)) you say:

"Last year over 700 men were referred across England to attend a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVPP) as a court ordered activity"

I would like to know:

- 1) In the same period how many women were referred across England to attend a DVPP as a court ordered activity?
- 2) How many places are available on DVPP programmes across England for women?
- 3) Given that the Crime Survey of England and Wales consistently finds 40% of perpetrators of Domestic Violence are women, how are Cafcass and the Family Court complying with their public sector duty of equality if they are only referring men to DVPP courses?

Please see below for our response.

Cafcass does not hold the data you have requested as Cafcass does not as yet have a perpetrator programme for women which we are able to commission as a court ordered activity. This is because Cafcass provide accredited programmes and as yet there are no consistent standards or accreditation for programmes which are specifically for women perpetrators although Cafcass acknowledges that men can be victims too. In relevant case Cafcass will respond by offering signposting to male victim support services and ensuring that our

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assessments are balanced and safe for the child in proceedings regardless of the provenance of the domestic abuse. Cafcass is working with partner agencies to consider gender neutral and female perpetrator programmes and how they might be commissioned in the future.

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 (<https://ico.org.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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Governance Team

Cafcass

[Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Governance@cafcass.gsi.gov.uk)

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair  
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive



Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, is a non-departmental body of the Ministry of Justice  
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