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Your ref: CAF 16-118
Our ref: Gov/CAF 16-118

Tel 0300 456 4000

23 September 2016

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 5th September 2016. You made the following requests for information:

1. Between 1 April 2010 and 30 March 2013, how many cases dealt with by CAF/CASS in the North East of England (County Durham, Tyne and Wear, Teesside and Northumberland) involved or mentioned allegations of domestic abuse or coercive control?

Data source: Data taken from the Cafcass national databases (Case Management System (CMS) and ECMS). ECMS is a live system, continually updated and is subject to change when further updates are made. Data from CMS is a static snapshot on the day it ceased to be a live database, 11th July 2014.

Cafcass did not record Domestic Abuse on cases until 23rd March 2015 as such, data below is reflective of the time period between 23/03/15 and 23/09/16. There is no clear method of discerning whether the record was for alleged or actual Domestic Abuse, it is used as an indicator for Cafcass' Social Workers (Family Court Advisers) that Domestic Abuse is a factor in the case. The recording of Domestic Abuse and other case factors is not mandatory, therefore the data is only representative of cases whereby this has been recorded. Cafcass as an organisation is broken down into 18 Service Areas, each of which cover a specific geographical 'patch'. The areas outlined fall across two of these, known internally as A1 and A2, the area that they cover includes Tyneside, Northumbria, Durham, Teesside, North Yorkshire, York, Cumbria and Lancashire.

SA	Cases where Domestic Abuse recorded
A1	175
A2	127
Total	302

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





2. Between 1 April 2013 and 30 March 2016, how many cases dealt with by CAFCASS in the North East of England (County Durham, Tyne and Wear, Teesside and Northumberland) involved or mentioned allegations of domestic abuse or coercive control?

See answer 1 above.

3. Of the cases dealt with by CAFCASS in North East England (County Durham, Tyne and Wear, Teesside and Northumberland) involving or mentioning allegations of domestic abuse or coercive control between 1 April 2010 and 30 March 2013; how many involved either an applicant, a respondent, or both acting as a Litigant in Person, or had no legal representation made known to CAFCASS?

Cafcass does not hold data on Litigants in Person, this information may be available from the Department for Education (DfE).

4. Of the cases dealt with by CAFCASS in North East England (County Durham, Tyne and Wear, Teesside and Northumberland) involving or mentioning allegations of Domestic abuse or coercive control between 1 April 2013 and 30 March 2016, how many involved either an applicant, a respondent, or both acting as a Litigant in Person, or had no legal representation made known to CAFCASS?

See answer 3 above.

5. In the last 24 months, how many recommendations have CAFCASS officers in North East England (County Durham, Tyne and Wear, Teesside and Northumberland) made that a subject of a CAFCASS report be referred to a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme (DVPP)?

During the period March 2014 and April 2016, data provided by Cafcass' National Commissioning Team (NCT) shows that 129 individuals were successfully referred onto a DVPP by Cafcass. The courts may act independently in some cases and refer parties themselves which we do not record and not all recommendations made by Cafcass result in a successful referral. We are unable to provide geographical certainty around this data as groups run in several places across the areas.

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/>):

Baroness Tyler of Enfield Chair
Anthony Douglas CBE Chief Executive





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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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