

30 June 2021

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15191

I refer to your information request received on 2 June. The response provided below is set out in the same order as your original request.

1. How many women out of our current caseload have had their child removed by their child's biological father?

We do not hold information matching this description of your request.

2. How many women out of our current caseload are having their child's biological fathers take them to court to remove the child?

Whilst we do not hold information matching the exact description of your request, there are currently 551 active cases on our case management system where the father has made a Child Arrangements application to the court (although it is likely this will be the child's biological father, we do not know this for certain). Child Arrangements applications include applications for the child to live with the applicant and/or for the child to spend time with them.

3. Of these women how many have reported some sort of domestic abuse?

Whilst Cafcass Cymru may hold information that falls within the description of this part of your request, we can only retrieve this information by examining individual case files. In order to identify and locate the information, we estimate it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer your request. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

Normally, I would undertake a sample check of cases to evidence the time it would take to locate, retrieve and extract the information. However, I have undertaken similar sample checks in the past and these have averaged 4 minutes per case. The information you have requested is less accessible and I am therefore satisfied retrieving this would take longer than 4 minutes.

Based on the figures provided in response to the part of your request, and at a nominal 4 minutes per file (in reality the average time is likely to be more than this) to locate, retrieve and extract the information would take an estimated 37 hours (551 files x 4 minutes = 2,204 minutes/60 = 37 hours).

4. Since 2006 what has been the increase on men taking children and women having to attend court to try and return custody?

We do not hold information matching the description of the first part this request, i.e. *since 2006 what has been the increase on men taking children*. Whilst we do not hold information matching the exact description of the second part of this request, i.e. *since 2006 what has been the increase on women having to attend court to try and return custody*, we are able to provide you with the number of cases since 2014, in which Cafcass Cymru has been involved, where the mother of the child/ren made a Child Arrangements application to the court. As explained in our response to Part 2 of your request (above), Child Arrangements applications include applications for the child to live with the applicant and/or for the child to spend time with them):

2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021**
448	763	817	911	1016	1039	969	426

* data from 1 May

** data to 23 June.

5. How long does it take for the average woman to get to court after having a child removed by the child's biological father?

6. How long on average does it take for a child to be returned in these cases?

7. How does the family court efficiently stop men from using coercive control to initially take a child after a separation?

8. How many emergency applications were refused in the last year (1/6/2020-1/6/2021)

We do not hold information relating to parts 5, 6, 7 or 8 of your request.

In our acknowledgement on 3 June to your request, we explained the last two parts of your request fall outside the scope of the FoIA requirements and we would consider them separately as a general enquiry rather than through the FoIA process. We have provided a response to you on these two points in the covering email with this letter.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to:





Nigel Brown
Chief Executive
Cafcass Cymru
cafcasscymru@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference numbers above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Normally, however, you should pursue the matter through our internal procedure before you complain to the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely