

17 February 2025

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 23286

Thank you for your information request received on 21 January 2025. You asked for:

- (a) The number of cases that have been referred to Cafcass Cymru for a Child Impact Report from the commencement of the Pathfinder private law scheme. Please provide this information by court and by month from the date of commencement of the Pathfinder private law scheme in each area.
- (b) Of those cases, the number of referrals for risk assessments that have been made by Cafcass Cymru to the relevant specialist domestic abuse service. Please provide this information by court and by month from the date of commencement of the Pathfinder private law scheme in each area.
- (c) In how many of the cases in (a) above did Cafcass Cymru speak to the child(ren) who were the subject of the proceedings in preparing the Child Impact Report? Please provide this information by court and by month from the date of commencement of the Pathfinder private law scheme in each area.
- (d) What is the number of cases where Cafcass Cymru did not prepare a Child Impact Report? Please provide this information by court and by month from the date of commencement of the Pathfinder private law scheme in each area.

Our response

Our response is attached as an Annex.

In respect of the data provided for part (c), we started recording data in a reportable format in October 2024 on the number of children with whom we undertake **direct work**, so we have provided that data in relation to cases allocated to Cafcass Cymru from 1 October 2024. The data provided is for CIRs received on or after this date; is completed after the report has been filed; and is a count of children's records (NOT cases) as data is recorded individually for each child.

In respect of this data for cases allocated to Cafcass Cymru prior to that date, although we may hold it, 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.

On the basis of the response to part a), Cafcass Cymru was allocated 1765 cases in the period Feb 2022 – Sept 2024. To provide the information would therefore take an estimated 118 hours. This is based on it taking a nominal 4 minutes per file, to locate, retrieve and extract the information (1765 files x 4 minutes = 7,060 minutes/60 = 118 hours).

If you are dissatisfied with our 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 number 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely