

3 February 2020

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 13671

I refer to your information request received on 07 January.

You asked for:

1. a breakdown of the number of child arrangement orders by region and per year in Wales.
2. a breakdown as to the gender of the person alleged breaching of the order and if the child was living with this parent from 2000 to 2019.
3. a copy of information you supply to parents regarding a breach of a child arrangement order.
4. the Cafcass Cymru policy or advice to Cafcass Cymru staff re allegations of parental breach of contact orders.
5. details of circumstance which would lead to a Cafcass Cymru professional supporting a breach of an order.
6. financial information regarding the costs involved arising from a breach of a child arrangement order in Wales.
7. details as to how many times Cafcass Cymru has been involved in c79 cases, providing a breakdown per year and per region and gender of the alleged parent in breach.
8. details of the number of c79 cases in Wales per year and per region.
9. details of cases Cafcass Cymru was involved in and enforcement has led to the parent being sent to prison, fined, or transfer of residence of the child. Again year, region, gender.
10. a copy of any Welsh Government minutes, documents, policies in relation to civil imprisonment and contempt of court in Wales relating to child contact order breaches.
11. any further details regarding enforcement of child arrangement orders in Wales.
12. information relating to the Welsh Governments position on child contact, child contact orders and enforcement.
13. a breakdown of Welsh Government funding relating to child contact actions, child contact arrangement hearings, and C79 hearings please. If possible can you break this down into gender, region and year.

You also asked:

14. What is the Welsh Government's stance on Domestic Abuse, requesting minutes from meetings and or policy papers.

We do not hold information in respect of requests 3, 5, 6 and 10. As mentioned in our acknowledgement letter, you may wish to contact the Ministry of Justice in relation to some of the information you are seeking.

Whilst Cafcass Cymru holds some information which falls within the description specified in the request, part of this can only be retrieved 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 5 minutes per case. The information you have requested is less accessible and I am therefore satisfied retrieving this would take at least a similar amount of time.

In regard to child arrangement orders and based on the details on our electronic database from 2014 at a nominal 5 minutes per file to locate, retrieve and extract the information it would take an estimated 810 hours (9731 cases x 5 minutes = 48,655 minutes/60 = 810 hours).

The same exercise in respect of C79 cases would take an estimated 143 hours (1723 cases x 5 = 8614 minutes/60 = 143 hours).

The information held by Cafcass Cymru/Welsh Government in respect of the remaining requests is attached at Annexes A and B.



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. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to:

Nigel Brown
Chief Executive
Cafcass Cymru
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ.

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

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

Tîm Cefnogaeth Ganolog ▪ Central Support Team
Cafcass Cymru
Sarn Mynach
Cyffordd Llandudno ▪ Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ

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Llywodraeth Cymru
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