

03/09/2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\96

PRIVATE FAMILY LAW EARLY RESOLUTION ACTION PLAN

Dear Sir

Thank you for your request for information dated 6 August 2024. Responses to each question are detailed below.

1. Can you confirm if there has been any subsequent review of the effectiveness of this Action Plan?

The Plan has not been reviewed at this stage. Actions under the Plan remain in train, with a number of tools for separating parents expected to launch in the near future.

2. Can you advise if there are any metrics for measuring the uptake of the action provided for within the plan?

Means of measuring uptake are being considered in advance of launching tools.

3. Can you advise how many Family court cases are estimated to have been prevented since the plan was enacted?

The Department does not hold any recorded information within the scope of this request. As the state is not a party in private family law disputes, the number of potential actions cannot be quantified.

4. Can you please advise of the average cost to the public purse of a Family Proceedings Court case which requires court resolution for the years 2016, 2021 and 2024?

The requested information is not held.

5. Can you advise of the total number of Family Proceedings Court cases in each of the three years since its publication and the total number of cases each year for the five years prior to the document?

NICTS publishes information in relation to Family Proceedings Court cases received and disposed on an annual basis in Judicial Statistics (Final year Figures). It has also published Q1 and Q2 2024 data (provisional figures). The links below refer:

[NICTS Judicial Statistics | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/nict/judicial-statistics)

(Go to 2023 ODS tables, open and choose Children Order worksheet.)

[NICTS Business Data | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/nict/business-data)

(Go to appropriate Quarter and open the ODS tables and choose the Children Order worksheet.)

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review, please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review, you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask the Commissioner to investigate whether the DOJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Records & Information Manager