

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

Our Ref: 2020-2102

12 February 2020

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 19 January 2020.  
You asked:

**“Dear Child Maintenance Service,**

**How many deaths have been reported of paying parents, receiving parents and eligible children in 2017-19?”**

The numbers of recorded deaths of individuals associated with Child Maintenance Service (CMS) cases in Great Britain, from the beginning of January 2017 to the end of September 2019, are tabulated below. For context, the total number of such individuals who used the Child Maintenance Service during this period has been included

**Numbers of recorded deaths of individuals associated with Child Maintenance Service (CMS) cases by group, January 2017 - September 2019, Great Britain**

| Group               | Individuals using the CMS | Recorded Deaths |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Paying Parents      | 716,990                   | 3,270           |
| Receiving Parents   | 757,000                   | 1,350           |
| Qualifying Children | (see note 5)              | 200             |

Please note the following points:

1. Counts have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The counts include individuals associated with cases in which arrears have been transferred from the legacy system (the Child Support Agency) for collection by the CMS, but no new child maintenance has been arranged by the CMS. Such cases are not usually included in regular published CMS statistics.
3. It is possible that individuals may be counted under multiple categories, as they may have been involved in multiple CMS cases in different ways (e.g. they could have been a Receiving Parent in respect of one of their children, and a Paying Parent in respect of another).
4. There are approximately 50 records in the specified time period in which the CMS received notification that a parent had died, but it was not possible to determine from

readily available summary data whether this was the Paying Parent or the Receiving Parent. These records have not been included in counts.

5. The total number of Qualifying Children covered by the CMS during the period January 2017 to September 2019 is not readily available. However, it may be useful to note that, as of the end of September 2019, the number of Qualifying Children covered by the CMS was 724,200 (to the nearest 100). Equivalent statistics for earlier periods are available in National Table 6 of the Child Maintenance Service statistics, published online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-maintenance-service-statistics-data-to-september-2019-experimental>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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### **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF <https://ico.org.uk/>