

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012

Coverage: Great Britain

Theme: Social and Welfare

## CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### Introduction

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. It funds information and support for separating parents and runs the statutory child maintenance schemes, currently operated through the Child Support Agency (CSA).

DWP assumed responsibility for the CSA from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the 1 August 2012, following an announcement on 14 October 2010 that the Commission would become an executive agency of DWP as part of the Public Bodies Reform. The Commission had responsibility for the CSA between the 1 November 2008 and the 31 July 2012, prior to that DWP had responsibility for the CSA.

The figures presented include cases managed off system.

### Main Findings

- At the end of June 2012, the CSA live and assessed caseload stood at 1.12 million.

**DWP** Department for Work and Pensions

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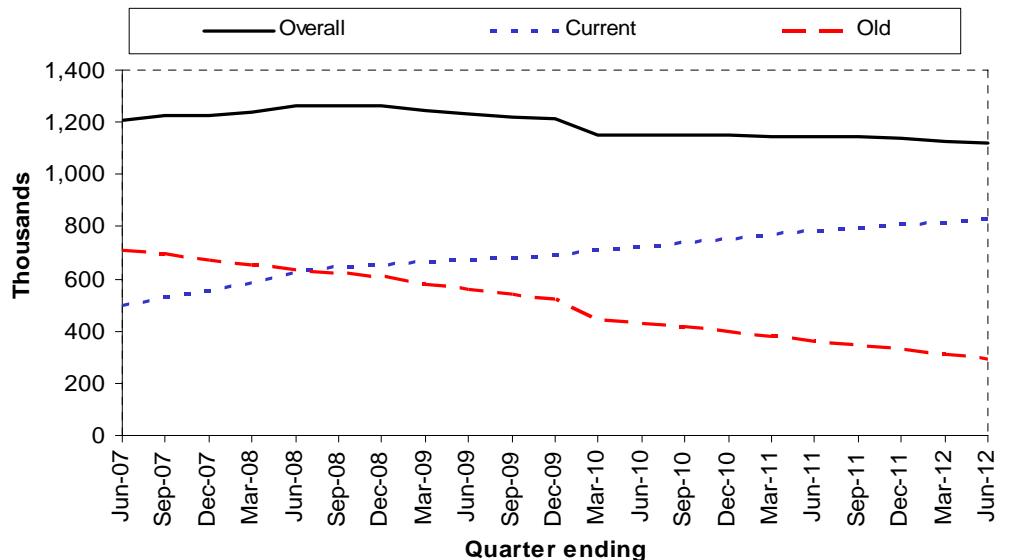
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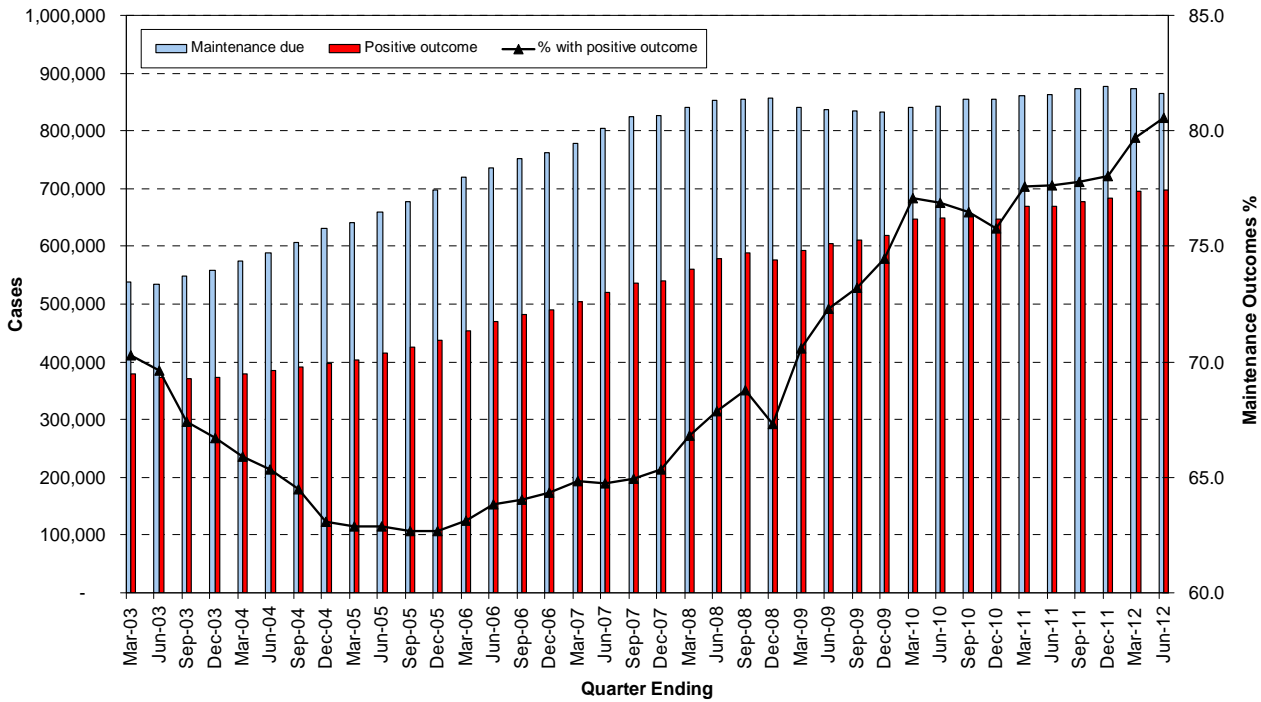
**Next Publication:**  
October/November 2012

**Overall Caseload by Scheme**



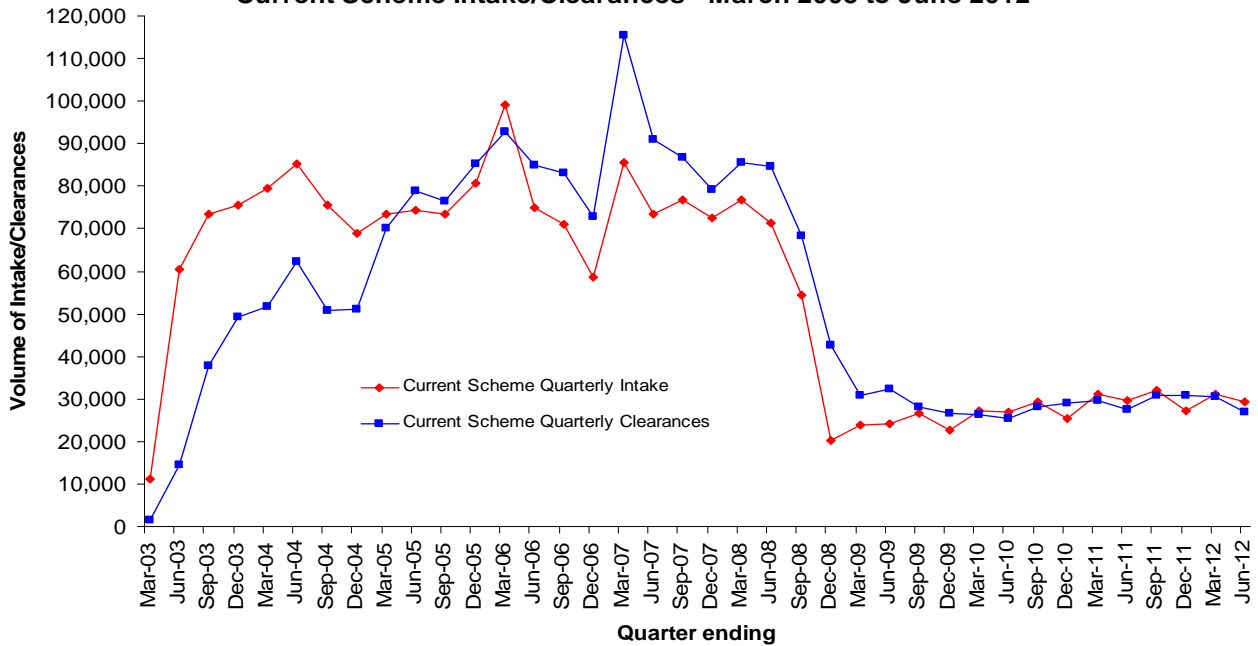
- In the quarter ending June 2012, 80.6% of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.
- In the quarter to June 2012, maintenance had been collected or arranged by the CSA via the statutory maintenance service on behalf of 900,800 children.
- In the quarter to June 2012, the CSA collected or arranged £301.2m in child maintenance (regular and arrears), of which £27.5m was arrears. In the year to June 2012, the CSA collected or arranged £1,194.8m in child maintenance (regular and arrears), of which £115.8m was arrears.

### Cases Benefiting from Maintenance



- 88.2% of intake received in March 2012 was cleared within 12 weeks. 94.4% of intake received in January 2012 was cleared within 18 weeks.
- Uncleared work has increased by 2,200 to 15,900. This represents an increase of 16.1% since March 2012.

### Current Scheme Intake/Clearances - March 2003 to June 2012



- Outstanding child maintenance arrears have increased from £3.799bn in March 2012 to £3.802bn in June 2012<sup>1</sup>.
- At the end of June 2012, the average maintenance calculation was £23.30 per week (including zero calculations).
- In June 2012, the Agency answered 88.4% of the telephone calls they received within 60 seconds.
- In June 2012, there were 7,700 full time equivalent people working for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

<sup>1</sup>Figures for 10/11 and 11/12 have yet to be audited and finalised. Following publication of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 Client Fund Accounts, outstanding arrears figures have been adjusted. See accounts publications for further detail on changes: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120104120950/http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/CMEC-Client-Funds-Account-09-10.pdf> Adjustments have also been made from 2010/11 onwards which are yet to be agreed with National Audit Office.

- **Notes to Editors**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain. It funds information and support for separating parents and runs the statutory child maintenance schemes, currently operated through the Child Support Agency (CSA).

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This publication, produced in conjunction with DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate, contains the most up-to-date tables and breakdowns on the CSA's two existing statutory child maintenance schemes.

The data covers the periods when DWP had responsibility for the CSA, and when the Commission had responsibility. The data also covers the period both before and after the removal of the compulsion on parents with care who are claiming income based benefits to use the CSA to collect or arrange maintenance payments. The change, which came into force on 27th October 2008, affects CSA clients who can now choose to make private maintenance arrangements with the non resident parent.

After this date, some parents with care have opted to end their child support claim with CSA. This can be seen as a fall in overall caseload after October 2008.

#### **Changes in this QSS**

There are no changes in this QSS.

Previously it was announced that we intended to publish additional tables and breakdowns to increase understanding of the CSA's collections and arrears.

Work is ongoing to develop and finalise proposals and additional data will be published when it is considered appropriate to do so.