

Child maintenance is financial support between separated parents to help with the everyday costs of looking after children. The Child Support Agency (CSA) was set up in 1993 to calculate how much child maintenance parents should pay and if necessary to manage the payments between the parents. In 2012 the Child Maintenance Service was created to replace the CSA. Cases managed by the CSA are being closed and parents are encouraged to arrange child maintenance themselves or to contact the Child Maintenance Service. All new applications for child maintenance are dealt with by the Child Maintenance Service, these statistics are published separately.

This publication only contains information on cases currently being managed by the CSA.

## Headlines

- There are 866,700 cases managed by the CSA. This will continue to fall as CSA cases are closed through the Case Closure process. Just 37,300 of the total caseload still have a current liability on CSA, these cases are due to have their liability ended by the Case Closure process.
- Between January and December 2017, the CSA collected £193m of child maintenance; £55m of this was arrears. In the same period an estimated £58m of child maintenance was arranged through Maintenance Direct. These figures progressively fall as cases are closed on the CSA.

### Regular Maintenance Collected

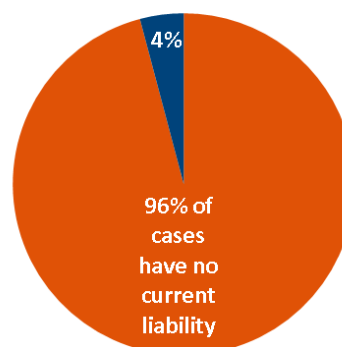
£137m

### Estimated value of Maintenance Direct Arrangements

£58m

### Arrears Collected

£55m



Less than £1,000  
55%

More than £1,000  
45%

**£251m of child maintenance was collected and arranged between January and December 2017**

**Just 4% of the cases on CSA had a current liability at the end of December 2017**

**55% of cases with arrears have less than £1000 owed**

## What you need to know

This publication contains the most up-to-date statistics on the **child maintenance schemes operated by the CSA**. Full data and statistics are available in the accompanying published tables:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-of-statistics-december-2017>

The publication does not cover Child Maintenance Service, statistics and information on the Child Maintenance Service can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-the-2012-statutory-child-maintenance-scheme>

This publication does not cover statistics on arrears and unpaid child maintenance that have been transferred from the CSA to the Child Maintenance Service. This information is published in the Client Funds Accounts:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-client-funds-account-2014-to-2015>

Previous versions of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-statistics--2>

## Background

Child maintenance is financial support between separated parents to help with the everyday costs of looking after children. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain.

The CSA has two primary functions:

1. To calculate how much child maintenance should be paid
2. If necessary collect, enforce and transfer payments between parents.

There are two schemes managed by the CSA, the 1993 scheme and the 2003 scheme which was introduced to replace the 1993 scheme. In 2012 the Child Maintenance Service was established to replace the CSA. Parents are now encouraged to arrange child maintenance themselves. The Child Maintenance Service was created for when parents need help to do this.

With the introduction of the Child Maintenance Service, the CSA is being closed down and cases managed by the CSA are being closed. Parents are encouraged to contact Child Maintenance Options for support in agreeing a new child maintenance arrangement. The process of closing cases on the CSA is known as “**Case Closure**”.

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Feedback is welcome

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