

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 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 contact Child Maintenance Options for support in setting up a new child maintenance arrangement. All new applications for child maintenance are dealt with by the Child Maintenance Service and statistics on this are published separately.

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

Headlines

- There are 779,000 cases managed by the CSA. This continues to fall as the CSA closes its cases through the Case Closure process. Just 900 of the total caseload still have a current liability and these cases are due to have their liability ended through the Case Closure process.
- Between October 2017 and September 2018, the CSA collected £72m of child maintenance and £29m of this was arrears. In the same period an estimated £14m of child maintenance was arranged through Maintenance Direct. These figures continue to fall as cases are closed on the CSA.

Regular Maintenance Collected



Arrears Collected



Estimated value of Maintenance Direct Arrangements



99.9%

£72m of child maintenance was collected or arranged between October 2017 and September 2018

Almost ALL of the cases on the CSA have had their liability ended

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-september-2018>

The publication does not cover the 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>

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Feedback is welcome

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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 setting up a new child maintenance arrangement. The process of closing cases on the CSA is known as **“Case Closure”**.

Note to users

We currently produce two statistical publications about the Child Support Agency (CSA); Quarterly Summary of Statistics about the performance of the CSA, and a separate publication covering the progress of the CSA Case Closure Programme.

The caseload on CSA is falling at a faster rate as we are approaching the end of the Case Closure programme. We have now ended liabilities on the majority of CSA cases and will be taking steps to conclude the remaining cases before the end of 2018.

An operational exercise to correct the amount of arrears held on cases remaining on the CSA has been carried out as part of the final stages of the Case Closure programme. This has led to a fall in the total number of cases, and a fall in the number of cases with arrears with a corresponding increase in the number of cases with no arrears. Any operational adjustments have been excluded from the arrears collected and arranged figures in this release.

We anticipate that these CSA publications will contain less relevant information going forward, therefore, we are reviewing our future publication strategy.