

# Withdrawn

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# Uses and users of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics

## ***Introduction***

The Child Support Agency (CSA) Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) is a National Statistics product which is produced by the Department for Work and Pensions, and contains the most up-to-date tables and breakdowns on the CSA's 1993 and 2003 statutory child maintenance schemes, including those cases being managed off the main IT systems.

The CSA QSS is published quarterly (March, June, September and December) alongside a DWP First Release, with regional figures being produced six monthly (alongside December and June publications).

## ***Consultation***

On 15 May 2013 a [consultation](#) was launched seeking views on changes to existing tables and proposed new tables, which would incorporate new methodologies and data sources.

A [response to this consultation](#) was published on 19 September 2013.

The consultation proposed moving to a new methodology which allows us to compare receipts with accrued liability. Accrued Liability is the amount of maintenance which is required to be collected, regardless of the amount of maintenance requested. Changing the methodology in this way gives a more accurate, accounting based approach to case compliance, where we can track whether an arrears balance increases or decreases, and reflects more closely the experience of clients.

## ***Known uses of CSA Quarterly Summary of Statistics***

The CSA QSS (and underlying datasets) are used by a number of internal stakeholders for:

- Monitoring and reporting performance trends against key indicators
- Informing briefing, lines to take and press releases
- Internal communications
- Answering Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information requests
- Undertaking internal analysis and producing figures at a lower and more granular level
- Setting internal performance measures
- Policy evaluation and to help external users gauge the effectiveness of Child Maintenance Systems

Our external, internet based, publication means that we cannot ascertain all the varied uses of the numbers produced. However, we do know that the CSA QSS is used for:

- Providing general information on the Child Support Agency in Great Britain
- Measuring performance against key indicators
- Providing a view broken down to a regional level on a quarterly basis
- Informing discussions and meetings with external stakeholders and MPs
- Social research and academic studies of the effectiveness of social policy

### ***Valid uses of the CSA Quarterly Summary of Statistics***

The CSA QSS can be used for:

- Reviewing and monitoring performance against key areas including the number of children benefiting from maintenance, total value of money collected and arranged and the number of cases where there has been a successful outcome
- Understanding the split of cases and performance across the two statutory child maintenance schemes
- Providing a full view of child maintenance activity from application to enforcement.

### ***Areas of unmet need and where future development is needed***

Statistics giving the full benefit split. Currently this only includes Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Incapacity Benefit. The National Benefits Database needs refreshing to include the full range of DWP benefits.

### ***How to comment and get involved***

The Department for Work and Pensions is always glad to hear the comments and views of customers on the CSA QSS. A number of routes are already used to seek user views. For example:

- National Statistics consultations are run for large proposed changes.
- Experimental tables have been used to present new information seeking and acting on user views to inform further publications
- Holding regular forums with external stakeholders where issues or queries regarding the QSS can be raised or discussed
- Monitoring the usage of the websites
- Monitoring ad hoc analysis requests

***Main users of the CSA Quarterly Summary of Statistics***

- The public
- External interest groups
- Parliament
- Department for Work and Pensions Ministers
- Ministers and officials in other Government departments
- Academics
- The media and external commentators
- Department for Work and Pensions policy and operational officials