

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 have now all had their requirement to pay child support ended and parents have been encouraged to contact Child Maintenance Options for support in setting up a new child maintenance arrangement with the Child Maintenance Service. All new applications for child maintenance to the Child Maintenance Service are included in a separate publication.

This publication contains information on cases currently being managed and closed by the CSA. The on-going liability (requirement to pay child maintenance) was ended on all CSA cases before the end of December 2018 as part of the Case Closure process.

## Headlines

- There are an estimated 613,300 cases still managed by the CSA. There are no longer any cases required to pay on-going child maintenance with the CSA and all cases remaining are either arrears only, or have no on-going liability and have no arrears and are in the process of being closed.
- Between January 2018 and December 2018, the CSA collected £29m of child maintenance and £18m of this was arrears. In the same period an estimated £6m of child maintenance was arranged through Maintenance Direct, where the CSA has worked out an amount of child maintenance to be paid but the parents arrange the payments between themselves.

### Regular Maintenance Collected

£11m

### Arrears Collected

£18m

### Estimated value of Maintenance Direct Arrangements

£6m

# 100%

of cases have no on-going  
requirement to pay child maintenance

**£35m of child maintenance was collected or  
arranged between January 2018 and December  
2018**

**ALL of the cases on the CSA have now 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-december-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 had two primary functions when it was set up:

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

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, all cases have had their on-going liability to pay child maintenance ended 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

The caseload on CSA is falling at a faster rate as we are approaching the end of the Case Closure programme and activity to implement the compliance and arrears strategy has begun. We have now ended liabilities (the requirement to pay on-going child maintenance) on all of the CSA cases. All cases remaining are either arrears only, or have no on-going liability and have no arrears and are in the process of being closed. The remaining cases will be closed following the collection or write off of historic arrears as stated in the Compliance and Arrears Strategy.

Please note this is the final publication in its current form. Our future publications will focus on the closure of the remaining cases on the CSA and the handling of the arrears associated with those cases. Please see the following announcement, released alongside this publication, for details of our future publication plans:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-support-agency-statistics-publication-strategy>