



First Release

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Coverage: Great Britain

Theme: Social and Welfare

Child Support Agency quarterly summary of statistics

Introduction

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission was established in July 2008 and took over responsibility of the Child Support Agency functions, staff and estates on 1st November 2008.

The CSA is responsible for tracing non-resident parents, working out how much maintenance they should pay and collecting and enforcing payments.

The figures presented include cases managed off system.

Main Findings

- At the end of March 2012, the CSA live and assessed caseload stood at 1.13 million.

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

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Telephone:
Press Office: 0203 267 5144

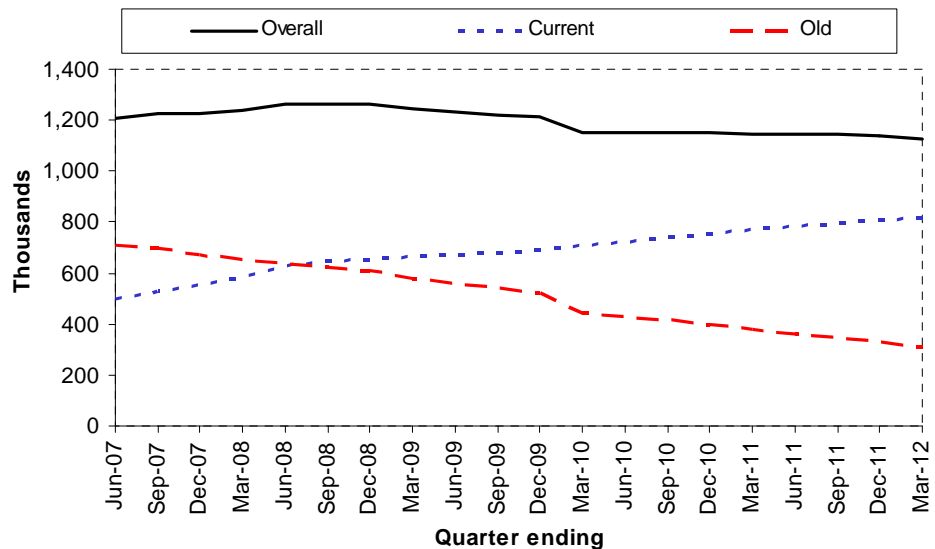
Website:
www.dwp.gov.uk

Statistician:
Lorna Morns-Stephenson
Information, Governance and Security Directorate
Department for Work and Pensions
BP 5201
Benton Park View
Benton Park Road
Longbenton
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE98 1YX

Telephone: 0191 2166101
Email: lorna.morns-stephenson@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

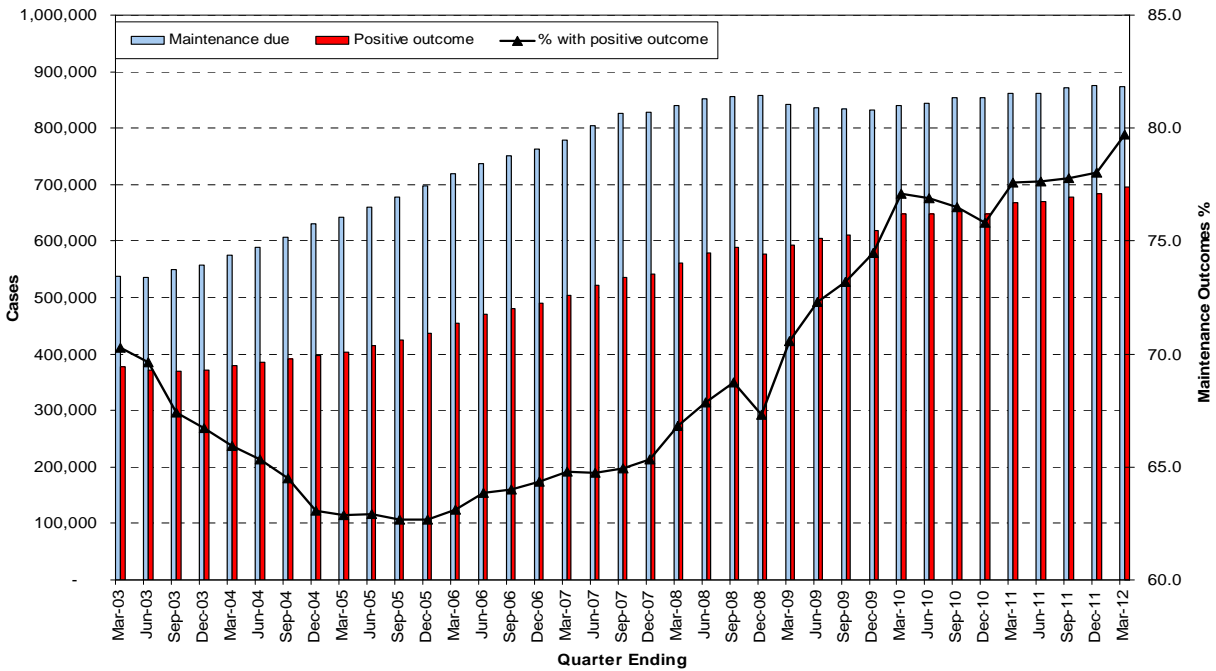
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Overall Caseload by Scheme



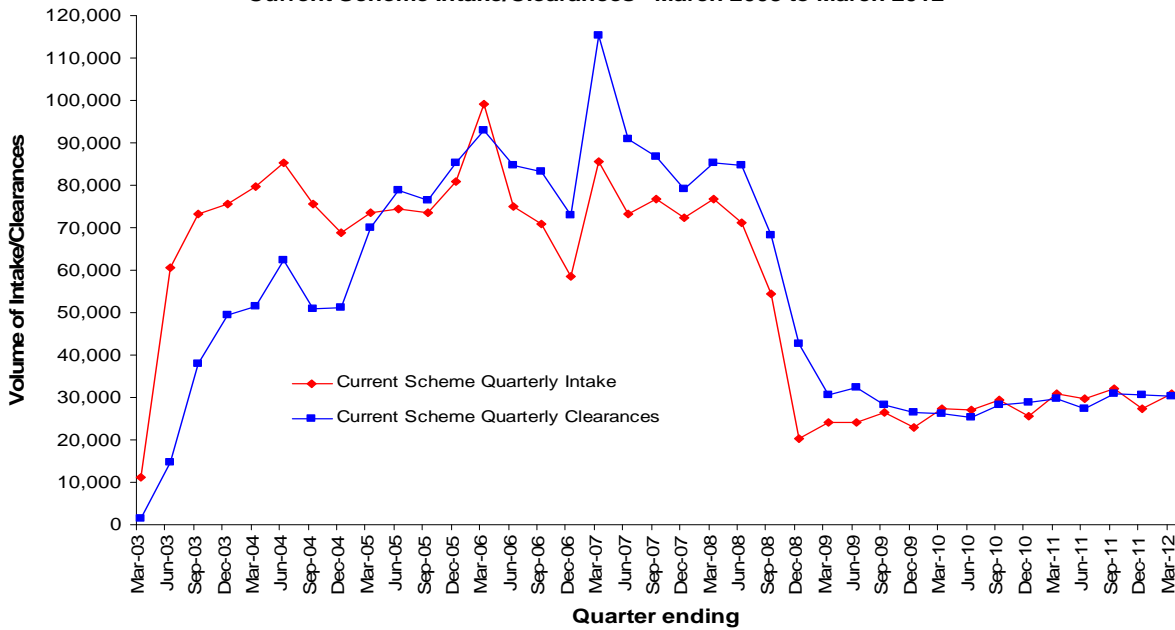
- In the quarter ending March 2012, 79.7% of all cases in which maintenance was due had either received maintenance via the CSA collection service, or had a maintenance direct arrangement in place.
- In the three months to March 2012, maintenance had been collected or arranged by the CSA via the statutory maintenance service on behalf of 899,700 children.
- In the quarter to March 2012, the CSA collected or arranged £300.7m in child maintenance (regular and arrears), of which £28.6m was arrears. In the year to March 2012, the CSA collected or arranged £1,186.6m in child maintenance (regular and arrears), of which £118.5m was arrears.

Cases Benefiting from Maintenance



- 89.6% of intake received in December 2011 was cleared within 12 weeks. 94.4% of intake received in October 2011 was cleared within 18 weeks.
- Uncleared work has increased by 500 to 13,700. This represents an increase of 3.8%.

Current Scheme Intake/Clearances - March 2003 to March 2012



- Outstanding child maintenance arrears have increased from £3.792bn in December 2011 to £3.799bn in March 2012¹.
- At the end of March 2012, the average maintenance calculation was £23.00 per week (including zero calculations).
- In March 2012, the Agency answered 94.8% of the telephone calls they received within 60 seconds.
- In March 2012, there were 7,900 full time equivalent people working for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

Latest statistical data available from <http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/index.html>

¹Figures 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://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/index.html>. Adjustments have also been made from 2010/11 onwards which are yet to be agreed with National Audit Office.

Notes to Editors

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, established as a crown non-departmental public body under the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, is responsible for the child maintenance system in Great Britain.

The Commission assumed responsibility for the Child Support Agency (CSA) from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on 1st November 2008.

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 period both before and after the Commission assumed responsibility for the CSA on 1st November 2008. 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.

Last quarter 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.