

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 and these statistics are published separately.

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

## Headlines

- There are 838,200 cases managed by the CSA. This will continue to fall as the CSA closes its cases through the Case Closure process. Just 14,000 of the total caseload still have a current liability and these cases are due to have their liability ended by the Case Closure process.
- Between April 2017 and March 2018, the CSA collected £141m of child maintenance and £46m of this was arrears. In the same period an estimated £39m of child maintenance was arranged through Maintenance Direct. These figures continue to fall as cases are closed on the CSA.

### Regular Maintenance Collected



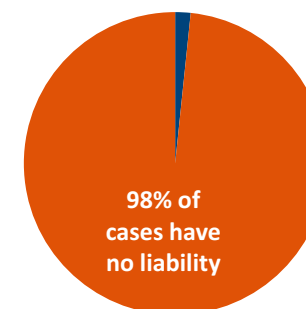
### Arrears Collected



### Estimated value of Maintenance Direct Arrangements



**£180m of child maintenance was collected or arranged between April 2017 and March 2018**



**Just 2% of the cases on CSA have a current liability**

## 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-march-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

In November 2017, we made a small methodological change to the calculation of arrears that was applied to data from June 2017 onwards. We have now applied this change to figures going back to March 2016. These figures can be seen in tables 5 and 7 of the tables document that accompanies the release. The underlying data is no longer available prior to 2016 so the figures from 2015 and earlier will remain unchanged.

For more information on the methodology change please see the summary note to external users:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-of-statistics-for-great-britain-background-information-and-methodology>