



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0200, 22 July 2019

# Effectiveness of the child maintenance service

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## Summary

At 2.30 pm on 23 July 2019 there will be a Westminster Hall debate on the effectiveness of the child maintenance service. The debate will be led by Martyn Day MP. This debate pack gives an overview of the child maintenance service as well as some general statistics around caseload, compliance and enforcement, appeals and arrears. This debate pack also highlights relevant briefing papers related to child maintenance.

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Effectiveness of the Child Maintenance Service	2
<b>2.</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Caseload	5
2.2	Compliance and enforcement	5
2.3	Appeals	6
2.4	Arrears	6
<b>3.</b>	<b>News</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Parliamentary Material</b>	<b>11</b>

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

## 1.1 Effectiveness of the Child Maintenance Service

The current “2012” statutory child maintenance scheme, operated by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS), is different in nature to the predecessor “1993” and “2003” schemes that were run by the Child Support Agency (CSA). The current scheme opened to certain new cases in December 2012 (and all new cases from November 2013). In addition, existing CSA clients were invited to transfer their case to the 2012 scheme, a process that was completed in respect of cases with ongoing maintenance liabilities (rather than arrears only cases) by the end of 2018.

Shortly after the launch of the current scheme, the then Minister responsible for child support explained that the Government had “created a new, fundamentally different and much more effective approach to child maintenance. One that intervenes early, putting in place support to encourage separated parents to work together and play an active role throughout their children’s lives”, and the then 2012–2017 arrears and compliance strategy added that “our aim is to act within 72 hours of a missed payment”.<sup>1</sup> (The reference to 72 hours was not included in the new version of the strategy published in July 2018.<sup>2</sup>)

The Government noted that “the intention of the Child Maintenance reforms is to encourage parents to make Family Based Arrangements where they can do so. Where parents are not ready or able to make their own arrangement, the statutory scheme remains available” – either through Direct Pay or Collect and Pay (where the paying parent pays the receiving parent via the CMS, who monitors payments and can take action if necessary).<sup>3</sup>

Measures introduced under the 2012 scheme to ensure that the right level of child maintenance is paid on time and in full include:

- in most cases basic income data was automatically sent from HM Revenue and Customs to the CMS, and in-year amendments were only considered if a non-resident parent’s income changed by more than 25%, so reducing the time the CMS spent calculating and re-calculating child maintenance;

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, [Preparing for the future, tackling the past: Child Maintenance – Arrears and Compliance Strategy 2012 – 2017](#), January 2013, p3 and p13, para 3

<sup>2</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, [The Child Maintenance Compliance and Arrears Strategy – Government response to the consultation](#), July 2018

<sup>3</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, [Child Maintenance Service 2012 Scheme Experimental Statistics – Data for August 2013 – June 2017](#), 30 August 2017, p7

- while a receiving parent can continue to apply for a “variation” from the standard child maintenance formula if, for example, a paying parent is suspected of diverting their income, since December 2018, if a paying parent has substantial, non-income generating assets then a variation can also be applied for by the receiving parent to take the notional income from such an asset into account. However, the “income not consistent with lifestyle” ground for a variation that existed under the 2003 scheme has not been carried across to the 2012 scheme;
- the existing, rather broad, spectrum of collection actions and enforcement powers available to the CMS has been expanded further with the bringing into force of a long-standing provision to allow a paying parent’s passport to be removed (on application to the courts). Some non-payment cases can be investigated by the Financial Investigations Unit (FIU);
- fees for using the child maintenance scheme were introduced for the first time in 2014:
  - a one-off £20 application fee was introduced for applying to the CMS.
  - ongoing collection fees to those cases on Collect and Pay to encourage those responsible for children to make their own arrangements and to keep to them. If enforcement action has to be taken (which can only happen if a case is on Collect and Pay), a fee is charged to the paying parent.

In addition, in December 2018 new powers were introduced to allow the large-scale write-off of outstanding arrears in respect of CSA cases in certain circumstances.

These steps were intended to allow the CMS to concentrate its resources on the ensuring payment was flowing in the most difficult cases. As the Government noted, those cases that transferred to Collect and Pay “will be the most difficult cases to collect maintenance from since those who are more likely to demonstrate compliant behaviour might be more successful in setting up a collaborative arrangement”.<sup>4</sup>

However, the single parent charity Gingerbread provided evidence in 2016 to the Work and Pensions Select Committee that there could be “a lot of prevarication and foot dragging” before the CSA/CMS used their powers to collect arrears, and said that the CSA/CMS were “only willing to do it in the most exceptional case”.<sup>5</sup> The Committee itself said in May 2017 that data published by the CMS “reinforced the impression provided by stakeholders that the CMS is reluctant to use its enforcement powers”.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, [Child Maintenance Service 2012 Scheme Experimental Statistics – Data for August 2013 – June 2017](#), 30 August 2017, p7

<sup>5</sup> Work and Pensions Committee, [Oral evidence: Child maintenance services](#), 2016–17 HC 587, 16 November 2016, Qq 53 and 63

<sup>6</sup> Work and Pensions Committee, [Child Maintenance Service](#), 2016–17 HC 587, 2 May 2017, p27, para 68

A report published in March 2017 by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that “since 2012 the Department [for Work and Pensions] has reduced its overall enforcement actions to recover arrears on the 1993 and 2003 schemes”. The report noted that, compared to 2012–13, the use of certain types of collection and enforcement action in 2015–16 in respect of arrears on 1993 and 2003 scheme cases had changed by the following:

- 15% increase in Deduction Orders (from e.g. bank accounts);
- 69% decrease in the use of Deductions from Earnings Orders;
- 73% decrease in Bailiff referrals;
- 77% decrease in Liability Orders granted (allowing enforcement powers to be used);
- 98% decrease in prosecutions.<sup>7</sup>

Further information on the matters discussed above can be found in the following Library briefing papers:

- [Child maintenance: income in the CMS formula \(including why gross income is used, and annual reviews\)](#);
- [Child maintenance: variations, including the new notional income criterion \(GB\)](#);
- [Child maintenance: enforcing payment of arrears \(GB\)](#);
- [Child maintenance: the multi-billion pound write-off of arrears on Child Support Agency cases \(GB\)](#);
- [Child maintenance: fees \(UK excluding NI\)](#);
- [Child maintenance: new steps to improve compliance and to allow arrears to be written off \(UK excluding NI\)](#).

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<sup>7</sup> National Audit Office, [Child maintenance: closing cases and managing arrears on the 1993 and 2003 schemes](#), HC 1054 2016-17, 28 March 2017, p6, para 8

## 2. Statistics

### 2.1 Caseload

By the end of March 2019 there were **475,400 child maintenance arrangements** set up in the 2012 CMS scheme, and **446,600 paying parents** (a parent may be liable to pay to more than one arrangement).

Of these arrangements, **165,900 (35%)** were Collect-and-Pay arrangements, whereby the CMS itself manages and enforces collection of the money (as opposed to the Direct Pay arrangement, which is managed by the parents themselves).<sup>8</sup>

Intake into the 2012 CMS averaged 24,550 cases per quarter during 2018/19, with 23,500 successful applications in the most recent quarter (Jan-Mar 2019).<sup>9</sup>

### 2.2 Compliance and enforcement

In the first quarter of 2019, there were 134,100 parents who were liable to pay some child maintenance through the CMS collect-and-pay service. Of these, **67% were compliant** with their liability (i.e. they were due to pay money in that quarter and did so). This means that **33% of paying parents in the collect-and-pay service built up arrears in that quarter** due to non-compliance. Of the £58.5 million due to be paid through Collect-and-Pay in that quarter, £40.6 million (69%) was paid.<sup>10</sup>

This is unlikely to be a comprehensive count of all paying parents who have some arrears, as some parents who were technically compliant with their liability arising in Q1 2019 may still have unpaid arrears from previous quarters.

The most common enforcement action against non-compliant paying parents is a **deduction from earnings order**. In the first quarter of 2019, there were 46,100 deduction from earnings orders/requests in place in respect of paying parents in the Collect-and-Pay service. In 37,300 of these cases (81%) the paying parent was compliant, and £25.3 million was collected as a result.

Where a parent is non-compliant with a deduction from earnings order, the CMS **Financial Investigation Unit** can conduct an investigation. In

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<sup>8</sup> [DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 4](#)

<sup>9</sup> [DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 3](#)

<sup>10</sup> [DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics tables 7 and 8](#)

total during 2017/18 and 2018/19, 1,310 investigations were completed. In almost all cases the investigation resulted in an outcome of compliance with the deduction from earnings order, or a decision that a deduction from earnings order was no longer appropriate.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.3 Appeals

A parent can appeal a child maintenance decision about payment amounts. Before the appeal reaches the Tribunal Service, the CMS looks at the contested decision again ('mandatory reconsideration'). Only if the CMS stands by its original decision does the case go to the Tribunal.

Between April 2015 and March 2019, a total of 6,300 appeals were cleared (completed). In 1,635 cases (26%) the CMS revised its original decision, and in 1,390 cases (22%) the Tribunal service overturned the CMS decision in favour of the appellant parent.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.4 Arrears

As of the end of March 2019, cumulative arrears in the 2012 CMS scheme were **£275.3 million**. This equates to **11%** of the total child maintenance liability in the 2012 CMS scheme that should have been paid by that date.

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<sup>11</sup> [DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 12](#)

<sup>12</sup> [DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 16](#)

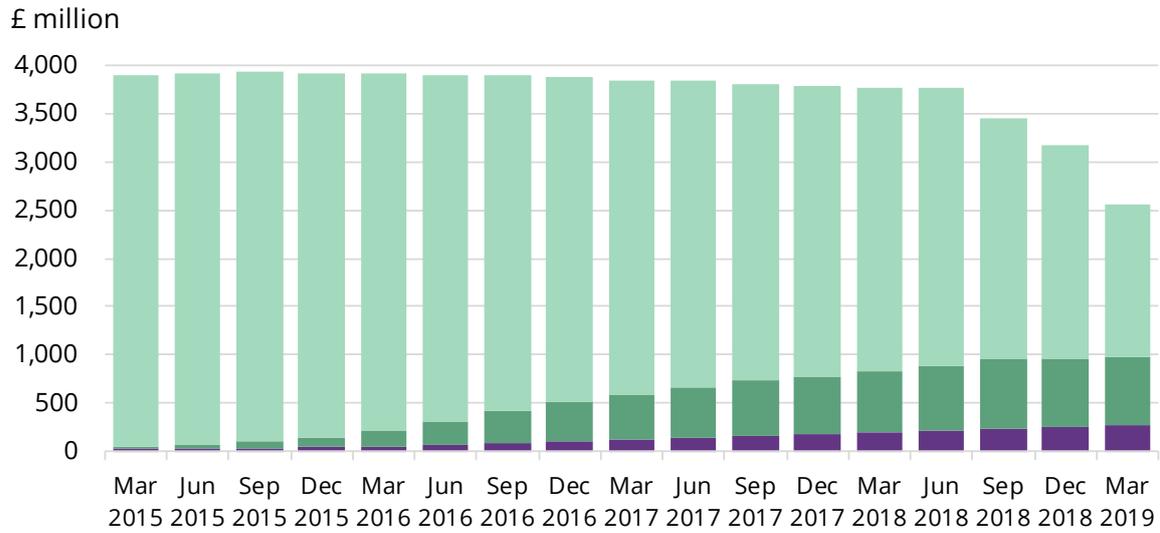
Child maintenance arranged in the 2012 CMS scheme					
Cumulative by the end of:	Child Maintenance that should have been paid			Unpaid and now needing to be collected through Collect and Pay	
	Total due	Of which: collection arrangement		£m	% of total due
		Direct pay	Collect and Pay		
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Mar 2015	152.1	92.3	59.8	25.9	17%
Jun 2015	202.7	130.2	72.5	30.7	15%
Sep 2015	264.2	175.5	88.7	38.1	14%
Dec 2015	335.2	228.0	107.2	46.4	14%
Mar 2016	418.6	290.7	127.9	55.8	13%
Jun 2016	519.5	366.5	153.0	67.9	13%
Sep 2016	635.0	453.1	181.9	82.3	13%
Dec 2016	764.3	550.9	213.4	97.6	13%
Mar 2017	907.8	659.6	248.2	113.7	13%
Jun 2017	1,071.7	784.1	287.6	133.0	12%
Sep 2017	1,250.9	919.0	331.9	154.2	12%
Dec 2017	1,440.2	1,059.0	381.2	177.1	12%
Mar 2018	1,637.6	1,203.6	434.0	197.8	12%
Jun 2018	1,853.5	1,361.4	492.1	219.0	12%
Sep 2018	2,081.7	1,527.8	553.9	240.8	12%
Dec 2018	2,313.8	1,698.1	615.7	259.2	11%
Mar 2019	2,544.6	1,867.3	677.3	275.3	11%

**Source**

[DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 9](#)

Arrears built up within the 2012 CMS account for nearly 11% of the total outstanding child maintenance/child support arrears built up within the various statutory schemes (CSA 1993 and 2003, CMS 2012). By the end of 2019 the DWP had closed the last remaining CSA cases and begun a programme of large-scale write-offs of unrecoverable CSA debt, hence the large fall in outstanding historic CSA arrears in recent months (see table and chart below).

### Cumulative outstanding child maintenance arrears in statutory schemes, GB



**Source** DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 9; Child Support Agency quarterly statistics tables 2 and 4

- CSA outstanding arrears still on CSA systems
- CSA outstanding arrears transferred to the CMS
- CMS arrears to be collected through Collect and Pay

<b>Cumulative outstanding child maintenance arrears in statutory schemes</b>				
Great Britain				£ million
<b>Arrears built up under...</b>	<b>Child Maintenance Service (2012-)</b>	<b>Child Support Agency (1993 and 2003 schemes)</b>		<b>Total</b>
	CMS arrears to be collected through Collect and Pay	CSA outstanding arrears transferred to the CMS	CSA outstanding arrears still on CSA systems	
Cumulative as of month:				
Mar 2015	26	29	3,850	<b>3,905</b>
Jun 2015	31	41	3,845	<b>3,916</b>
Sep 2015	38	57	3,836	<b>3,931</b>
Dec 2015	46	93	3,788	<b>3,927</b>
Mar 2016	56	153	3,718	<b>3,927</b>
Jun 2016	68	233	3,592	<b>3,893</b>
Sep 2016	82	339	3,484	<b>3,905</b>
Dec 2016	98	416	3,375	<b>3,889</b>
Mar 2017	114	480	3,249	<b>3,842</b>
Jun 2017	133	527	3,185	<b>3,845</b>
Sep 2017	154	577	3,076	<b>3,807</b>
Dec 2017	177	603	3,004	<b>3,785</b>
Mar 2018	198	633	2,942	<b>3,773</b>
Jun 2018	219	663	2,891	<b>3,773</b>
Sep 2018	241	719	2,487	<b>3,447</b>
Dec 2018	259	707	2,200	<b>3,166</b>
Mar 2019	275	698	1,596	<b>2,569</b>

**Note**

CSA arrears include money owed to the Secretary of State as well as to parents with care.

All CSA cases were closed by December 2018. A programme of large-scale write-offs of historic CSA arrears commenced from that date.

**Sources**

[DWP Child Maintenance Service quarterly statistics table 9](#)

[DWP Child Support Agency quarterly statistics tables 2 and 4](#)

### 3. News

[More than one-third of single mothers in debt as former partners fail to pay child support, research finds](#), Independent, 13 December 2018

[Government could write off £2.5bn in child maintenance debts because it fears money may never be recovered](#), Independent, 14 January 2018

## 4. Parliamentary Material

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 277219, 18 July 2019

**Asked by:** Day, Martyn | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many full-time enforcement case managers are employed by the child maintenance service.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

Child Maintenance Service employs 104 full-time Enforcement Case Managers. Enforcement Case Managers are those caseworkers who do court action rather than administrative enforcement action or financial investigation.

For context the overall head count i.e. people (part-time or full-time) who are Enforcement Case Managers number 269. This equates to an overall resource, referred to as Full-time equivalent of 220.91.

This is correct as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

[Child Maintenance Service](#), HC, PQ 275246, 17 July 2019

**Asked by:** Rashid, Faisal | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department has plans to increase (a) funding and (b) staffing of the Child Maintenance Service.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

Child Maintenance Service funding and staffing is determined as part of the funding settlement that DWP receives to provide the range of services that it provides. DWP, along with all other Government Departments, is currently agreeing its budgets for the approaching Spending Review period with HM Treasury. No decisions on the level of future budgets has been agreed at this point but is expected to be resolved in the latter part of 2019.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 273429 , 9 July 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many times the Child Maintenance Group has registered the maintenance debt of a non-resident parent with credit rating agencies in the last year.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

This information is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 271510, 4 July 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, by what methods (a) HM Paymaster, (b) the Defence Council and (c) an authorised officer determine the amount payable by a member of the armed forces in child maintenance.

**Answering member:** Mr Tobias Ellwood | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Ministry of Defence

The Child Maintenance Service (CMS) is responsible for setting the overall amount of child maintenance to be paid.

The Ministry of Defence has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the CMS to facilitate the direct deduction of child maintenance payments from the pay of non-resident parents who are Service personnel. Under the MOU, the Department calculates a 'Minimum Drawing Rate', which takes into account gross basic pay, specialist pay, some allowances as well as gross statutory deductions such as National Insurance and PAYE.

Child maintenance deductions are always made. The only exception is when the Service person is on military operations and their Commanding Officer may advise that engagement with the CMS be delayed until their return to the UK when they are in a position to consider properly any papers from the CMS and respond accordingly, at which point deductions would commence.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 11 June 2019 to Question 261264 which detailed the administrative reasons for the rejection of deduction of earnings requests.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 269080, 1 July 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many committal orders have been issued under each category for (a) the Child Maintenance Service and (b) the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

Committal orders, or sanctions as they are called in the Child Maintenance Service, are reported in our published statistics and can be found on table 11 of the tables document on the attached link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-maintenance-service-august-2013-to-march-2019-experimental>

We reported enforcement activities in our CSA statistics until September 2017 when we reduced the number of tables published because most CSA cases had been closed or had begun the Case Closure process. The last publication including the enforcement activities can be found on table 22 of the attached link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-support-agency-quarterly-summary-of-statistics-june-2017>

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 268613, 27 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reason the Child Maintenance Group has not used its powers to require a non-resident parent in arrears to make penalty payments to the Secretary of State; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The power to impose penalty payments under the Child Support Agency scheme has been superseded by the new fee structure that the Child Maintenance Service now operates as an incentive for non-resident parents to comply.

The Service charges a 20 per cent collection fee to non-resident parents who use Collect & Pay, because they are unlikely to keep up with regular maintenance payments through the Direct Pay service or a private family arrangement.

Where arrears accrue and enforcement action is required the Service will add charges of £50 to £300 to the maintenance debt, depending on the type of action being taken.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 268612, 27 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much money has been spent from the public purse on lodging liability orders through courts by (a) the Child Maintenance Service and (b) the Child Support Agency.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The information is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 268611, 27 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, for what reason the Child Maintenance Group has not used its powers to make an administrative liability order without the permission of a court; and if this will be considered.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The current process of applying for liability orders through the courts provides the right balance of operational efficiency and appropriate oversight. There are no plans to change this process at this time.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267759, 26 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Maintenance Service cases were in payment arrears for each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |

**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The following table shows the number of Paying Parents who had outstanding unpaid child maintenance (which now needs to be collected through the Collect & Pay service) at the end of the relevant month.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Paying Parents with CMS arrears</b>
Sep-17	105,900
Dec-17	117,100
Mar-18	126,800
Jun-18	136,400
Sep-18	143,800
Nov-18*	148,200

Please note the following points:

A Paying Parent may be paying towards multiple child maintenance arrangements;

These figures do not consider unpaid child maintenance that was arranged by the Child Support Agency;

Paying Parents with any amount of unpaid maintenance which was arranged by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) are considered as having arrears;

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Information prior to September 2017 is not readily available and to produce it would incur disproportionate cost.

\*Information for December 2018 is not readily available; November 2018 figures have been used instead.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267758, 26 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents were paying child maintenance using a deduction from earnings request under the child maintenance service in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |

**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The number of Paying Parents who were paying child maintenance using a Deduction from Earnings request under the Child Maintenance Service in each quarter of the last three years are outlined in the tables below. These figures count all Paying Parents due to pay maintenance via Deduction from Earnings request, regardless of whether any maintenance had been paid in that quarter.

#### Calendar Year 2018

Quarter ending	March 2018	June 2018	September 2018	December 2018
Number of paying parents with a Deduction from earnings request	480	580	590	570

#### Calendar Year 2017

Quarter ending	March 2017	June 2017	September 2017	December 2017
Number of paying parents with a Deduction from earnings request	290	320	330	380

#### Calendar Year 2016

Quarter ending	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	December 2016
Number of paying parents with a Deduction from earnings request	210	230	250	270

Please note that figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267247, 26 June 2019

**Asked by:** Jones, Darren | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether she plans to review the Government's decision to calculate child maintenance liabilities as a proportion of gross rather than net parental income; and if she will make a statement.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |

**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The paying parent's gross income is taken directly from HM Revenue and Customs for the latest tax year available. Using the paying parent's gross income allows calculations to be made quickly and accurately.

There are no plans to change the way the Child Maintenance Service calculates child maintenance liabilities.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267757, 26 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of paying parents using the collect and pay service have paid some child maintenance in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The latest statistics on the number of paying parents and the proportion of those parents using the Collect & Pay service, who have paid some child maintenance in each quarter in the last three years are published in Table 7 of the Child Maintenance Service Statistics: Paying Parents Compliance.

It is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-maintenance-service-august-2013-to-december-2018-experimental>

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267323, 25 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents under the Child Maintenance Service were paying child maintenance using a Deduction from Earnings order in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The below table gives the number of Paying Parents on the Child Maintenance Service, who, at the end of each quarter, were using the Collect & Pay service with a Deduction from Earnings Order. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. These figures count all Paying Parents using a Deduction from Earnings Order, regardless of whether any maintenance had been paid in that quarter. The figures do not include Deduction from Earnings Requests.

<b>Quarter Ending</b>	<b>DEOs in place</b>
Mar-16	14,800
Jun-16	16,900
Sep-16	18,800
Dec-16	20,700
Mar-17	21,700
Jun-17	23,900
Sep-17	26,200

Dec-17	30,200
Mar-18	36,000
Jun-18	40,800
Sep-18	43,300
Dec-18	45,100

Statistics including data to March 2019 will be published on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267322, 25 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total amount of uncollected child maintenance payments was under the Child Maintenance Service in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The information requested is published in Table 9 (How much child maintenance the Child Maintenance Service has arranged) of the quarterly Child Maintenance Service statistics, which are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-maintenance-service-august-2013-to-december-2018-experimental>

The latest published statistics include data to December 2018.

Table 9 gives the cumulative total, at the end of each quarter, of maintenance arranged through the Child Maintenance Service that had not been paid, and now needs to be collected through the Collect & Pay service.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267321, 25 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases administered by the Child Maintenance Service were on (a) Direct Pay and (b) Collect and Pay in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The information requested is published in Table 4 (Child Maintenance Arrangements for Paying Parents) of the quarterly Child Maintenance Service statistics, which are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/child-maintenance-service-august-2013-to-december-2018-experimental>

The latest published statistics include data to December 2018.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 267320, 25 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much money has been collected through the (a) four and (b) 20 per cent charge under the Child Maintenance Service's Collect and Pay system in each quarter of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

'PP Collection Charges' are Paying Parent Collection Charges. They are set at a rate of 20%, which is added to the Child Maintenance a Receiving Parent is due to be paid, and collected once a payment is received from the Paying Parent.

'RP Collection Charges are Receiving Parent Collection Charges. They are set at a rate of 4%, which is deducted from the amount of money paid by a Paying Parent before CMG send the payment onto the Receiving Parent.

These are the 3 most recent years we are able to report on. The 2018/19 CMS Annual Report and Accounts haven't been audited yet so we are unable to include these figures.

		<b>2017-18</b>				
		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Total</b>
PP						
Collectio	20	3,442,49	3,950,79	4,354,30	5,130,11	<b>16,877,71</b>
n Charge	%	9	0	6	7	<b>2</b>
RP						
Collectio	4%	662,253	758,110	831,407	988,763	<b>3,240,532</b>
n Charge						
		<b>2016-17</b>				
		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Total</b>
PP						
Collectio	20	2,139,70	2,433,74	2,756,59	3,163,72	<b>10,493,77</b>
n Charge	%	8	8	2	5	<b>3</b>
RP						
Collectio	4%	414,140	471,370	532,039	608,169	<b>2,025,718</b>
n Charge						
		<b>2015-16</b>				
		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Total</b>
PP						
Collectio	20	1,020,05	1,245,43	1,528,71	1,779,06	<b>5,573,264</b>
n Charge	%	3	3	6	2	
RP						
Collectio	4%	200,423	243,329	296,804	345,797	<b>1,086,353</b>
n Charge						

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 266704, 24 June 2019

**Asked by:** Shannon, Jim | **Party:** Democratic Unionist Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is taking to retrieve money owed by absent parents.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

The Child Maintenance Service (CMS) replaced the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in 2012 and brought significant reforms to the Child Maintenance system in Great Britain. Child Maintenance in Northern Ireland is a devolved issue, although they run a broadly similar scheme. Any questions should be directed to the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.

We support separated parents to make their own family based arrangements wherever possible. This allows families to create flexible arrangements that work for their individual circumstances and, where parents are able to work together, this can be better for their children. Where this is not possible, the CMS offers an effective and efficient statutory scheme for those parents who really need it.

Under the statutory scheme, where paying parents fail to pay on time and in full, we aim to take immediate action to recover the debt and re-establish compliance. Where compliance is not achieved we are committed to using our wide ranging enforcement powers proportionally, and in the best interests of children and separated families.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 264781, 19 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2019 to Question 261264 on Children: Maintenance, how many of the 75 rejections related to serving members of the armed forces.

**Answering member:** Mr Tobias Ellwood | **Party:** Conservative Party | **Department:** Ministry of Defence

All 75 rejections related to serving personnel and were on administrative grounds as the incorrect form had been submitted by the Child Maintenance Service.

[Children: Maintenance](#), HC, PQ 264780, 19 June 2019

**Asked by:** Fellows, Marion | **Party:** Scottish National Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many deductions of earnings (a) orders and (b) requests were issued by the Child Maintenance Service to the Ministry of Defence's Defence Business Services for the purpose of collecting child maintenance in each of the last three years.

**Answering member:** Will Quince | **Party:** Conservative Party |  
**Department:** Department for Work and Pensions

Information on the number of paying parents under the Child Maintenance Service with a Deduction from Earnings Order or

Deduction from Earnings Request in place can be found in the latest Published statistics last updated 17 April 2019, a link to which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-the-2012-statutory-child-maintenance-scheme>

The Child Maintenance Service does not issue Deduction from Earnings Orders to the Ministry of Defence.

The information specifically on how many Deduction from Earnings Requests were issued to the Ministry of Defence's Defence Business Services in each of the last three years is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

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