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31 December 2009

Tim Loughton MP
House of Commons
London
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Christine Gilbert
Her Majesty's Chief
Inspector

Dear Mr. Loughton,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 307489: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each Ofsted inspection of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each year since such inspections began?

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

From 2001 to April 2007 inspection of Cafcass was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration (formerly HM Magistrates Court Service Inspectorate). Ofsted does not have cost data for this period.

From April 2007 to mid 2008, Ofsted undertook three inspections based on the old Cafcass structure (co-terminous with the nine Government Office regions), using the legacy inspection framework. During the summer of 2008 Ofsted developed a new framework and methodology for the inspection of Cafcass, which had re-structured into 21 service areas. Each service area will be inspected every three years.

The costs of this inspection programme to Ofsted in 2007/8 were £435,843. In 2008/9 they were £397,402. Both figures include corporate overheads and development costs, where incurred. The first three year inspection cycle will be completed by August 2011.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Yours sincerely
Christine Gilbert

Christine Gilbert

