



Family Courts at “breaking point” as latest England & Wales statistics are revealed

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Commentary by Nick Manners, Partner in the Family department at Payne Hicks Beach, on the latest statistics on activity in the family courts of England and Wales for the most recent quarter (January to March 2021) that have shown an increase in the number of cases started in the Family Court, published by the Ministry of Justice on 24 June 2021.

Nick Manners commented that the figures are further evidence that the Family Courts are close to breaking point and there was now a perfect storm with an increase in cases coming in at a time when the Courts are struggling to cope due to funding cuts. As part of the Family team and as a specialist divorce and family lawyer, Nick said that, “We see daily that the delays cause significant and increased stress to families and couples who are seeking resolution through the courts for serious issues, particularly in cases involving domestic violence or challenging divorces. The court system urgently needs more support at a time of increasing applications and demand, after a long period of neglect.”

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Nick is a specialist family lawyer who focuses on all areas of family law, including issues arising from divorce, cohabitation and the financial consequences of a relationship breakdown. Nick also regularly advises on children disputes involving contact, residence and relocation (including international relocation), as well as pre and post-nuptial agreements. He works for a variety of HNW and UHNW clients on both contentious and non-contentious matters, including those with a complex international angle. He also has experience of advising clients upon the breakdown of civil partnerships and Inheritance Act claims. Nick has been involved in a number of high profile and reported cases at first instance and the Court of Appeal.

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