

23 April 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 22 April 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on entries to care relating to physical discipline. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

*For each year covering the period 2010 through to 2026*

- *How many incidences have there been of children being removed by Oranga Tamariki (formerly CYF) from parents / caregivers either temporarily or permanently because of claims of “smacking” or “minor acts of physical discipline” (with no presenting injuries)*
- *How many of these occurrences were referred to the Police, or from the Police*
- *What have been the outcomes of these investigations (temporary removal, permanent removal, police charges, no further action etc)*

The information you have requested is not held in a structured format that can be filtered for. In order to provide the information you have requested, a manual review of all case files would be required, which constitutes substantial manual collation. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

Oranga Tamariki has considered whether to consult with you to refine this request, as required under section 18B of the Act. However, we do not believe that this would affect our ability to respond to your request.

Oranga Tamariki also considered whether to apply a reasonable charge for the supply of information in accordance with section 15(1A) of the Act. However, due to the uncertainty of whether the information could be released once found, we have decided that a charge is not appropriate in this instance.

IN-CONFIDENCE

While we are unable to provide you with the data you have requested, I wish to stress that Oranga Tamariki do not seek custody orders unless there are serious concerns about a child or young person's care, safety, or wellbeing, and these concerns cannot be adequately addressed without the child or young person entering care. In most cases, children are kept safe through engagement, safety planning, or interventions by NGOs, wider community, or family members. "Smacking" or "minor acts of physical discipline", in the absence of any other serious concerns about a child, is highly unlikely to involve Oranga Tamariki seeking custody orders.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@ot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz). Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Simon Harding  
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**Tamariki and Whānau Services**