OT-OIA-2026-0277

28 September 2026

s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Thank you for your email to Ministry of Justice, that was transferred on 1 September 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information about non-kin domestic adoption statistics. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each of your requests below:

1. *The total number of adoption orders granted in the New Zealand Family Court, broken down by category: non-kin (stranger) domestic adoptions, kin/relative adoptions, step-parent adoptions, surrogacy-related adoptions, and intercountry adoptions*

Please note the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publish statistical data on adoption orders made, which can be found here. However, MoJ figures do not record the different categories of adoption orders that are made each year. While Oranga Tamariki does not hold data on actual adoption orders made, **Table One** below provides information on the *Adoption Court Reports* completed by Oranga Tamariki.

These reports are prepared to assist the Court in determining adoption applications. They also provide an indication of the volume and type of adoption applications that are considered by the Court. Please note that these numbers reflect the number of applications made to the Court, and not the number of adoption orders that were made.

Table One - Categories of Adoption Court Reports completed in the financial years F21 - F26.

Adoption Court Report Type	F21	F22	F23	F24	F25	F26
Non-relative (New Zealand)	22	17	9	16	9	11
Step-parent (New Zealand)	17	23	11	21	19	8

Other relative (New Zealand)	28	22	22	29	33	22
Intercountry application in the NZ Court	6	4	7	14	7	15
Surrogacy adoption (both NZ and international in origin.)	41	39	36	42	58	47
Total	**114**	**105**	**85**	**122**	**131**	**103**

2. *For non-kin domestic adoptions specifically, I would also like to request any available breakdown by the composition of the adoptive household, including: opposite-sex couples, same-sex female couples, same-sex male couples, and single applicants.*

Oranga Tamariki cannot report on the information specific to your request as this would require a manual check of each individual case record. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

3. *I am particularly interested in accurately identifying the number of domestic non-kin adoptions facilitated through Oranga Tamariki's adoption pool each year, as the publicly available Ministry of Justice figures appear to aggregate all adoption types without this breakdown.*

Oranga Tamariki's Adoption Service offers training and assessment for people who want to be available as approved adoptive applicants when expectant parents choose to place their child with an adoptive family. **Table Two** below provides the number of domestic adoptions that progressed as a result of birth parents selection of Oranga Tamariki approved adoptive applicants.

Prior to 2025, the number of 'Social work placement approvals' used to generate this number also included some surrogacy scenarios. We have only separately recorded placement approvals issued for 'non-kin ministry adoption pool' placements since 2024. However, the numbers of domestic adoption placements from the ministry's pool of approved applicants were in single figures for the previous four years.

Please note, where the number is low and may result in identification, or can be calculated, this has been suppressed – represented by an 'S' in order to protect the privacy of individuals in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.

Table Two - Number of Domestic Adoptions facilitated through Oranga Tamariki's pool of approved adoptive applicants

Year	Number of Domestic Adoptions Progressed
F25	S
F26	5

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. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. 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 or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Natasha Marland
General Manager Operations Delivery & Enablement
Tamariki and Whānau Services