

19 May 2021



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 April 2021 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *If you don't mind, can I get statistics on the number of children adopted from Korea to New Zealand so far?*

New Zealand is a contracting state to the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (HCCH 1993 Adoption Convention.)

New Zealand has intercountry adoption programmes with seven countries through the Hague Convention. These country programmes are the only ones New Zealanders can apply to adopt a child who is not related to them. Each country has its own requirements for adoptive applicants and their own adoption process. New Zealand does not have any adoption programme with the Republic of Korea.

You can find more information about the intercountry adoption process and adoption agreements on the Oranga Tamariki website at the below link:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/adoption/adopting-a-child-from-overseas/>

Information about our intercountry adoption programmes is reported to the Hague Conference and is publicly available at the link provided below. This notes the countries of origin for children adopted to New Zealand families:

<https://assets.hcch.net/docs/a4590986-a162-4191-9032-09433ac30782.pdf>

You will note the Hague Conference statistics show that the Republic of Korea (South Korea) is listed as the country of origin for two adoptions in the 2002/03 financial year, one adoption in the 2003/04 financial year and four adoptions in the 2010/11 financial year. These occasional adoptions completed in the past would be carried out by an individual or through family adoption processes. The New Zealand Central Authority for Intercountry Adoption at the National Office of Oranga Tamariki does not hold any records regarding these adoptions.

Adoption orders that are made in the Family Court in New Zealand are reported on the Ministry of Justice website. Please see the below link to the Ministry of Justice website, which shows the number of applications for adoption and number of adoption orders granted:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/4z64t6-Children-adopted-jun2019-v1.0.xlsx>

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted, and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services