

15 February 2023

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2023 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting data around non-relative adoptions and foster placements. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

- *For the most recent year available:*
 - *The percentage of NZ non-relative adoptions occurring in that year that are classified as 'open adoptions' (the adults have a direct relationship with each other)*
 - *The percentage of NZ non-relative foster placements where the adult parties have a direct relationship with each other*

For the purposes of responding to your request we have interpreted *the adult parties have a direct relationship with each other* as meaning:

- *adult parties* – the biological parents and the adoptive parents or foster carers.
- *have a direct relationship with each other* - they are known to one another in some capacity – e.g friends, workmates, members of church congregation etc. They are not strangers. They have an affiliation of some sort.

Information on the relationships between adults involved in non-relative “open” adoptions or non-relative foster placements is not collated and therefore not available.

I can confirm there were 105 adoption orders made in the Family Court for the 2021/2022 financial year. This data is reported by the Ministry of Justice and is available at [nc9tz-Children-adopted-jun2022-v1.0.xlsx](https://www.moj.govt.nz/nc9tz-Children-adopted-jun2022-v1.0.xlsx) ([live.com](https://www.moj.govt.nz/nc9tz-Children-adopted-jun2022-v1.0.xlsx))

I can also advise that in the 12 months ending June 2022, Oranga Tamariki submitted 105 adoption interim order court reports to the New Zealand Family Court. The breakdown of these reports is:

Domestic non-relative	17
Domestic family / whanau	22
Domestic parent / spouse	23
Non-relative ICA	s
Relative ICA	s
NZ gestational Surrogacy	15
NZ genetic surrogacy	9
International Gestational surrogacy	8
International genetic surrogacy	s
International unrelated surrogacy	s

Please note that where the number of young people is low or can be calculated and demographic information provided may result in identification, this has been withheld – represented in the table with an ‘S’ – in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of the child.

Oranga Tamariki issued a total of 14 social work placement approvals for adoption placements during this 12-month period. While we do not know specifically what degree of ‘openness’ is involved in these adoption placements without manually reviewing each case record, we do know that openness is promoted, and that the majority of adoption placement processes involve the negotiation of a contact agreement as part of the placement facilitation. Please see: [What is open adoption | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

However, we recognise that Oranga Tamariki facilitated placements are a small proportion of the total number of adoption applications that are determined by the court each year.

To enable us to respond to your request we would need to manually review these records for the information you requested which would require substantial resource and time, taking staff away from their core duties. Therefore, both parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Paula', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paula Attrill
**General Manager International Casework and Adoption
Service Delivery**