

29 March 2023

Section (9)(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 102858

Tēnā koe Section (9)

### **Official Information Act request: Dissolution applications**

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information on dissolutions in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki.

Your request was for the following:

1. *The number of divorces in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki in each year for the last five years? Can this please be broken down into each city/town please.*
2. *Can the ethnicities of the divorcees, in each of the last five years in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki, please be specified.*
3. *Can I please have the ages of the divorcees, in each of the last five years in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki, please be specified*
4. *Can I please have the number of separations in each of the last five years in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki that have been cancelled, for example, the couple worked things out and continued their marriage.*

Your request has been numbered for clarity.

On 28 February 2023, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) contacted you to clarify your request. You clarified that your request referred to both dissolution of marriages and civil unions and that question four referred to dissolutions rather than separations. You also agreed to have the locations be broken down by court location and Justice Service Area (JSA).

In response to question 1, please refer to Table 1 enclosed. Table 1 provides the number of dissolution applications, by court location and JSA, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs.

In response to question 2, please refer to Table 2 enclosed. Table 2 provides the number of dissolution applications, by ethnicity and filing court, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs.

In response to question 3, please refer to Table 3 enclosed. Table 3 provides the number of dissolution applications, by age group and filing court, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs.

In response to question 4, please refer to Table 4 enclosed. Table 4 provides the number of dissolution applications with an outcome of 'Lapsed', 'Withdrawn' or 'Discontinued', by filing court, from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs.

Please note the following for the data:

- In 2014 the Central Registry was established to centralise the administration of dissolution applications.
- Dissolution applications can be filed at a District Court, where it will be transferred to the Central Registry. In this situation the filing location of the applicant is recorded as the location of the District Court. Dissolutions can also be filed directly with the Central Registry and the filing location of the application is recorded as 'Central Registry'.
- Applications will only remain in or be returned to a District Court location where Registrar or Judicial intervention is required.
- The data enclosed in this response counts dissolution applications filed directly to the District Courts in Waiariki and Bay of Plenty JSAs. Counts for the Central Registry and the national total have been included for comparison.

If you require any further information, please contact the Ministry's Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Richard Williams

**Group Manager (Acting), Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**

**Table 1: Number of dissolution applications, by court location and JSA, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs**

Justice Service Area	Court Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National		8,457	8,467	7,796	7,247	7,864
Central Registry		570	742	891	1,347	2,620
Waiariki	Rotorua DC	119	124	103	91	86
	Taumarunui DC	13	6	10	9	5
	Taupō DC	59	73	71	44	47
	Tokoroa DC	24	43	32	23	23
Bay of Plenty	Ōpōtiki DC	1	0	0	1	0
	Tauranga DC	361	334	365	335	273
	Waihi DC	0	0	0	3	1
	Whakatāne DC	83	71	59	41	40

**Notes for Table 1:**

- Data is based on the Case Management System used by the Courts as at 14 March 2023. Since this is an operational system, data for earlier months may have been updated since any previous publications.
- Applications are included based on the year they were filed.
- This data consists of the following applications:
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Civil Union
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Civil Union.
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Marriage.
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Marriage.

**Table 2: Number of dissolution applications, by ethnicity and filing court, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs**

Justice Service Area	Court location	Ethnicity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National		Asian	2,306	2,451	2,119	2,026	2,336
		European	11,816	11,506	10,826	10,101	10,374
		Maori	1,298	1,319	1,161	1,001	1,137
		Other	1,201	1,371	1,209	1,143	1,406
		Pacific Peoples	873	841	788	619	691
		Unknown	62	82	58	49	57
Central Registry		Asian	176	235	272	489	909
		European	740	955	1159	1747	3395
		Maori	73	96	123	155	312
		Other	136	153	200	263	481
		Pacific Peoples	50	80	72	99	208
		Unknown	3	11	17	9	23
Waiariki	Rotorua DC	Asian	20	19	15	17	17
		European	168	164	148	113	111
		Maori	52	44	45	43	35
		Other	11	22	12	12	14
		Pacific Peoples	5	5	3	6	3
		Unknown	0	2	0	2	0
	Taumarunui DC	Asian	0	0	0	1	0
		European	19	9	14	17	8
		Maori	5	3	4	0	2
		Other	2	0	3	1	0
		Pacific Peoples	1	0	0	0	0
		Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	Taupō DC	Asian	10	9	8	2	5
		European	89	101	115	74	77
		Maori	16	19	10	8	9
		Other	8	24	7	4	4
		Pacific Peoples	0	2	3	2	1
		Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	Tokoroa DC	Asian	0	1	0	2	7
		European	39	59	48	28	27
		Maori	4	18	10	8	10
		Other	4	3	4	5	4
		Pacific Peoples	2	9	3	3	1
		Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	Ōpōtiki DC	Asian	0	0	0	0	0
		European	2	0	0	2	0
		Maori	0	0	0	0	0
		Other	0	0	0	0	0

		<b>Pacific Peoples</b>	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Tauranga DC</b>	<b>Asian</b>	47	42	36	70	34
		<b>European</b>	570	525	595	506	412
		<b>Maori</b>	60	57	67	53	67
		<b>Other</b>	61	61	49	61	37
		<b>Pacific Peoples</b>	15	9	14	3	8
		<b>Unknown</b>	1	2	0	0	1
	<b>Waihi DC</b>	<b>Asian</b>	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>European</b>	0	0	0	4	2
		<b>Maori</b>	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Maori</b>	0	0	0	0	0
		<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	2	0
	<b>Whakatane DC</b>	<b>Asian</b>	10	10	9	1	1
		<b>European</b>	108	94	74	59	62
		<b>Maori</b>	36	27	27	19	13
		<b>Other</b>	19	17	13	3	2
<b>Pacific Peoples</b>		5	1	0	5	2	
<b>Unknown</b>		0	0	0	1	0	

#### Notes for Table 2:

- Data is based on the Case Management System used by the Courts as at 14 March 2023. Since this is an operational system, data for earlier months may have been updated since any previous publications.
- Applications are included based on the year they were filed.
- This data consists of the following applications:
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Civil Union
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Civil Union.
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Marriage.
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Marriage.
- The data shows the ethnic group of the applicants and respondents.
- 'Multiple ethnicity' information is used in this table. This means for each ethnicity a person is counted once per year (eg they may be counted in both European and Māori). As some people have multiple recorded ethnicities this will result in the sum of ethnicities being greater than the total number of people each year.
- Parties are counted once per year per filing court.

**Table 3: Number of dissolution applications, by age group and filing court, filed from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs**

Justice Service Area	Court Location	Age group	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National		16 to 19 years	0	1	1	2	1
		20 to 29 years	1,202	1,188	1,152	863	921
		30 to 39 years	4,199	4,280	4,015	3,916	4,108
		40 to 49 years	5,103	5,002	4,546	4,212	4,541
		50 years or more	6,197	6,214	5,686	5,350	5,972
		Unknown	162	210	160	132	157
Central Registry		16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	1
		20 to 29 years	73	67	107	176	306
		30 to 39 years	259	334	377	755	1,357
		40 to 49 years	317	408	533	716	1,566
		50 years or more	473	640	726	1,016	1,946
		Unknown	12	31	32	27	51
Waiariki	Rotorua DC	16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	0
		20 to 29 years	11	10	14	8	8
		30 to 39 years	60	48	49	47	48
		40 to 49 years	61	87	58	65	44
		50 years or more	102	99	83	61	72
		Unknown	4	4	0	1	0
	Taumarunui DC	16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	0
		20 to 29 years	2	0	3	0	0
		30 to 39 years	4	1	4	6	0
		40 to 49 years	10	3	6	6	3
		50 years or more	10	8	7	6	7
		Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	Taupō DC	16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	0
		20 to 29 years	6	10	13	2	5
		30 to 39 years	24	33	22	22	22
		40 to 49 years	33	37	47	28	25
		50 years or more	52	63	59	34	41
		Unknown	3	1	1	2	1
	Tokoroa DC	16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	0
		20 to 29 years	2	1	7	0	7
		30 to 39 years	9	27	13	7	15
		40 to 49 years	16	17	12	22	3
		50 years or more	18	40	32	17	21
		Unknown	3	0	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	Ōpōtiki DC	16 to 19 years	0	0	0	0	0
		20 to 29 years	0	0	0	0	0
		30 to 39 years	0	0	0	0	0
		40 to 49 years	1	0	0	1	0

	<b>50 years or more</b>	1	0	0	1	0
	<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Tauranga DC</b>	<b>16 to 19 years</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>20 to 29 years</b>	58	47	48	41	22
	<b>30 to 39 years</b>	184	148	163	155	144
	<b>40 to 49 years</b>	206	185	207	201	140
	<b>50 years or more</b>	267	284	305	265	238
	<b>Unknown</b>	7	2	7	6	2
<b>Waihi DC</b>	<b>16 to 19 years</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>20 to 29 years</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>30 to 39 years</b>	0	0	0	2	0
	<b>40 to 49 years</b>	0	0	0	0	2
	<b>50 years or more</b>	0	0	0	4	0
	<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Whakatane DC</b>	<b>16 to 19 years</b>	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>20 to 29 years</b>	4	4	5	7	1
	<b>30 to 39 years</b>	32	30	26	23	22
	<b>40 to 49 years</b>	44	42	35	13	14
	<b>50 years or more</b>	85	64	51	39	40
	<b>Unknown</b>	1	2	1	0	1

**Notes for Table 3:**

- Data is based on the Case Management System used by the Courts as at 14 March 2023. Since this is an operational system, data for earlier months may have been updated since any previous publications.
- Applications are included based on the year they were filed.
- This data consists of the following applications:
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Civil Union
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Civil Union.
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Marriage.
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Marriage.
- This data counts both the applicants and respondents age at the time the applications were filed.
- Parties are counted once per year per filing court.

**Table 4: Number of dissolution applications with an outcome of 'Lapsed', 'Withdrawn' or 'Discontinued', by filing court, from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022 in the Bay of Plenty and Waiariki JSAs**

Justice Service Area	Court Location	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
National		62	52	49	48	43
Central Registry		4	8	2	12	11
Waiariki	Rotorua DC	0	1	1	2	0
	Taumarunui DC	1	0	0	0	0
	Taupō DC	1	1	0	0	0
	Tokoroa DC	0	1	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	Ōpōtiki DC	0	0	0	0	0
	Tauranga DC	2	4	1	2	3
	Waihi DC	0	0	0	0	0
	Whakatāne DC	0	0	0	0	1

**Notes for Table 4:**

- Data is based on the Case Management System used by the Courts as at 14 March 2023. Since this is an operational system, data for earlier months may have been updated since any previous publications.
- Applications are included based on the year of the outcome date.
- This data consists of the following applications:
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Civil Union
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Civil Union.
  - S37 Joint Dissolution of Marriage.
  - S37 Single Dissolution of Marriage.
- The data includes dissolution applications with an application outcome of 'lapsed', 'withdrawn', or 'discontinued'.