

12 July 2023

Section (9)(2)(a)

Section (9)(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 105240

Tēnā koe Section (9)(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request: Adoption law reform information

Thank you for your email of 13 June 2023, asking for adoption law reform information. Specifically, you requested:

Can you please give me the sign-off/release dates for the following two documents:

- 1. <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Interim-RIS-Consultation-options-for-adoption-law-reform-Proactive-Release.pdf>*
- 2. <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Proactive-release-Second-Interim-Regulatory-Impact-Statement-Consultation-options-for-adoption-law-reform.pdf>*

Also, I just want to check the number of adoptions noted in Document 4, Adoption law reform: Briefing 4 - Intercountry and Overseas Adoptions, dated 28 March 2022. At point 9c it states that, 'approximately 900 adoptions automatically recognised by the Department of Internal Affairs' in 2021. The document is published here. I suspect it ought to read 90. Can you please confirm that number?

Your request has been referred to me for response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Manager, Family Law Policy, and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The final version of the document you refer to in question 1 was signed off by the responsible manager on 4 May 2021 and was first uploaded to the Ministry's website on 18 September 2021.

The document referred to in question 2 was signed off on 23 May 2022 and was first uploaded to the Ministry's website on 14 June 2022.

Regarding your question around automatically recognised adoption numbers, the number (900) is correct, and refers primarily to overseas or intercountry adoptions that are recognised in New Zealand. The data was provided to us by the Department of Internal Affairs.

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/.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Naomi Stephen-Smith', with a stylized, wavy line extending to the right.

Naomi Stephen-Smith
Manager, Family Law Policy