

3 August 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 105544

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request: Parenting order applications

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), statistics about interim parenting orders in New Zealand. Specifically, you requested:

- *The number of applications made for interim parenting orders in New Zealand?*
- *The number of applications made for interim parenting orders in Whangārei?*
- *The average or median time taken by the Family Court to dispose of interim parenting orders in New Zealand?*
- *The average or median time taken by the Family Court in Whangārei to dispose of interim parenting orders?*
- *The longest time taken by the Family Court to dispose of an interim parenting order in New Zealand?*
- *The longest time taken by the Family Court in Whangārei to dispose of an interim parenting order?*

On 5 and 10 July 2023, the Ministry of Justice contacted you to clarify the scope of your request. On 10 July you agreed to amend the scope of your request to the following:

- *Statistics on opposed parenting order applications, specifically the volume, and the average time taken from application filing to application receiving a final outcome for each of the last three financial years.*

In response to your request, please find Tables 1 and 2 attached:

- Table 1 provides you with the number of parenting order applications, both defended and undefended for Whangārei District Court and New Zealand, for the 2020 to 2023 financial years.
- Table 2 provides you with the number of defended parenting order applications disposed and the average time of disposal for Whangārei District Court and New Zealand, for the 2020 to 2023 financial years.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry's website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses](https://www.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 read 'Richard Williams', written in a cursive style.

Richard Williams
Acting Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Table 1: Number of Parenting Order applications filed between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023, by defended status.

Court	Defended			Undefended			Total		
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Whangārei DC	127	138	114	176	111	197	303	249	311
National	4,089	3,495	3,335	4,447	3,556	4,351	8,536	7,051	7,686

Notes for Tables 1:

- This data was extracted from the case management system on 25 June 2023. Since this is an operational system, data may differ from previously released or published data.
- Defended status of an application may change during the period an application is active. The status for applications in these statistics is at the date of data extraction.
- This data counts the number of applications filed each financial year. Financial years start on 1 July and end on 30 June.
- Application types included in this data:
 - S47 Consented Parenting Order
 - S47 Parenting Order
 - S47 Leave to Apply for Parenting Order

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Table 2: Number of defended Parenting Order applications disposed and the average time to disposal in days, for applications disposed between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023.

Court	Applications disposed			Average time to disposal (days)		
	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Whangārei DC	276	146	212	536	560	546
National	5,490	4,713	4,678	410	431	455

Notes for Tables 2:

- This data was extracted from the case management system on 25 June 2023. Since this is an operational system, data may differ from previously released or published data.
- Defended status of an application may change during the time an application is filed to when it is disposed. The status for applications in these statistics is at the date an application was disposed.
- This data counts the number of Parenting Order applications recorded as defended and disposed in each financial year. Financial years start on 1 July and end on 30 June.
- The age of disposal is determined by the number of calendar days from the filing date to the date of disposal for an application.
- Application types included in this data:
 - S47 Consented Parenting Order
 - S47 Parenting Order
 - S47 Leave to Apply for Parenting Order

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982