

10 October 2022

Section (9) (2) (a)

Section (9) (2) (a)

Our ref: OIA 99253

Tēnā koe Section (9) (2) (a)

### **Official Information Act 1982 request: applications under the Adoption Act 1955**

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), data on applications made and released under section 23 of the Adoption Act 1955. Specifically, you requested:

*For each of the past 20 years:*

*How many adopted adults have applied for the release of their adoption records under s23 of the 1955 Adoption Act?*

*How many were granted partial access?*

*How many were granted full access?*

As outlined in section 23 of the Adoption Act, adoption records can be inspected by executors, administrators or trustees of an estate or trust, registrars or marriage celebrants, social workers, or on the order of the court. The relationship of the applicant to the adoption record is not recorded in the Case Management System used by the courts.

This level of information, as well as the level of access granted for a successful application, is recorded in individual court files and under section 2(6)(a) is not subject to the Act. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the requested information is not held by the Ministry of Justice or believed to be held by another department.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā



Bruce Findlay

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