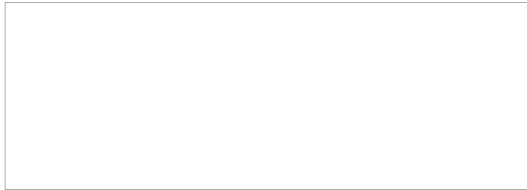




21 JUL 2016



Dear

On 18 May 2016, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The total number of children removed from their parents within two months of birth in each of the last five calendar years (2011-2015). Can this also be broken down by region please.*
- *The total number of children removed from their parents within six months of birth in each of the last five years, broken down by region.*
- *The total number of children removed from their parents within one year of birth in each of the last five years, also broken down by region.*

The Ministry of Social Development always works in the best interests of the child, young person or infant and any decision to remove an infant from their family is a decision that is not taken lightly. As with all actions taken by Child, Youth and Family, the interests of the child or young person are paramount. If no family member is identified as being able to safely care for the infant, then the infant will be placed with an approved Child, Youth and Family caregiver. Wherever possible and appropriate, the relationship between the infant and their family is maintained and strengthened.

There may be times when Child, Youth and Family have care and protection concerns before a child's birth. Where there are serious concerns about the safety of an unborn child the Court will grant orders to place them out of their parent's care when they are ready to leave the hospital, after their birth. This occurs in very serious situations where it is determined that there are no other options for ensuring the infant's safety

Please find enclosed a table showing the number of children in out of home placements within their first year of life by region and age group, for the 2011 to 2015 calendar years. As communicated to you on 16 June 2016 the age group data the Ministry can provide on children placed into care is divided by age groups, which are grouped by days of age (rather than by months as you initially requested, due to variation in the length of calendar months). The age groups are as follows: 0-30 days, 31-60 days, 61-90 days, 91-180 days, and 180-364 days.

The data is broken down into five regions. For further detail of the locations and office sites encompassed in each region please refer to <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/contactus/locations.html>.

In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to privacy concerns, some data has been suppressed.

You may be interested in further national and local level data on children and young people in care, which is publically available on the Child, Youth and Family website at: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/kids-in-care.html>

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

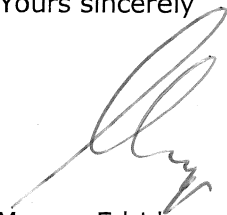
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

I hope you find this information regarding child placements in their first year of life helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Murray Edridge
**Deputy Chief Executive
Child, Youth and Family**

Number of children in out of home placements within their first year of life by region and age group for the 2011 to 2015 calendar years

Calendar Year	Region	Age Group (days)					Total
		0-30 Days	31-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-180 Days	180-364 Days	
2011	Te Tai Tokerau	S	0	0	S	S	10
	Auckland Region	37	9	S	S	19	85
	Midlands Region	S	7	S	S	S	54
	Central Region	26	6	S	S	15	64
	Southern Region	60	10	14	17	17	118
	Total	149	32	24	55	71	331
2012	Te Tai Tokerau	S	0	0	S	S	12
	Auckland Region	53	S	14	S	34	123
	Midlands Region	S	S	9	10	20	76
	Central Region	36	10	6	S	S	72
	Southern Region	40	11	6	18	13	88
	Total	166	31	35	51	88	371
2013	Te Tai Tokerau	S	S	0	S	S	15
	Auckland Region	51	10	8	25	25	119
	Midlands Region	S	S	6	S	S	72
	Central Region	39	S	S	16	15	80
	Southern Region	40	10	6	18	15	89
	Total	173	32	23	74	73	375
2014	Te Tai Tokerau	S	S	S	S	S	15
	Auckland Region	54	14	8	22	23	121
	Midlands Region	21	11	S	S	24	68
	Central Region	S	S	7	S	S	75
	Southern Region	34	S	S	10	14	66
	Total	141	37	24	57	86	345
2015	Te Tai Tokerau	7	0	S	S	S	14
	Auckland Region	69	12	S	S	24	125
	Midlands Region	35	6	S	S	15	66
	Central Region	39	8	S	S	S	79
	Southern Region	35	8	6	11	8	68
	Total	185	34	22	41	70	352

Notes:

Out of home placements exclude the placement types 'Independent Living', 'Remain Home' and 'Return Home'.

'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect client privacy.