



15 July 2019

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Dear Brodie

### **Official Information Act 1982 request 1819-0812 Statistics on gender markers**

I refer to your request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 17 June 2019. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested—

*1) How many, if any, people have requested to use the gender-neutral “X” option on passports since the legislation was introduced, broken down by year?*

*2) How many, if any, people have requested to change the gender markers on their passport via self-determination, since the legislation was introduced, broken down by year?*

*3) How many, if any, people have gone through Family Court processes to change the gender markers on their birth certificate in the past five years, broken down by year?*

#### **1) How many, if any, people have requested to use the gender-neutral “X” option on passports since the legislation was introduced, broken down by year?**

*Passports issued with gender recorded as X 2005 to 2007 inclusive*

In 2005, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) changed the standard for recording ‘unspecified’ gender on passports from a dash (-) to an X. Therefore, in order to comply with the standards, in November 2005 the Passport Office began issuing such passports with an X. Please note that how we recognise gender is in line with ICAO standards rather than being prescribed in the Passports Act 1992.

Year	Passports changed from (-), M or F to X
2005	9
2006	27
2007	17

The Department wishes to advise that a small number of old records have not been included in this data set as the full content of the historic passport records was not transferred over to the new operating system. The list provided relates to applicants who applied for a new passport in 2005 to 2007 inclusive and which were issued using “X”. It is possible that an applicant sought a change to how their gender was recorded (in terms of other records held by a government agency), but that they did not advise the Passport Office/did not seek a change to how this was displayed on their Passport record at that time.

*Passports issued with gender recorded as X 2008 to 2018 inclusive*

Year	Passports changed from either M or F to X	Year	Passports changed from either M or F to X
2008	17	2014	4
2009	19	2015	6
2010	17	2016	8
2011	22	2017	11
2012	23	2018	8
2013	4		

**2) How many, if any, people have requested to change the gender markers on their passport via self-determination, since the legislation was introduced, broken down by year?**

The table below sets out the number of people who have changed the gender marker on their passport since the passport gender policy was amended in 2012.

Applicants could potentially have also gone through the Family Court process, but the Passport Office would not necessarily be aware of this, as it is not a requirement to have completed this process in order to change gender on a passport. The data below is therefore based on the information that is held by the Department via passport records.

Year	Passports changed from M to F	Passports changed from F to M
<b>2012</b>	5	10
<b>2013</b>	21	10
<b>2014</b>	21	15
<b>2015</b>	38	13
<b>2016</b>	56	40
<b>2017</b>	51	29
<b>2018</b>	64	52

**3) How many, if any, people have gone through Family Court processes to change the gender markers on their birth certificate in the past five years, broken down by year?**

The table below sets out the number of people from 2014 to 2018 inclusive who have changed the gender marker on their birth certificate through the Family Court process. Please note that it is not possible to tell the original gender recorded (M, F or I) as these records are closed.

Year	Change to F	Change to M	Total
2014	15	2	17
2015	7	3	10
2016	0	1	1
2017	7	2	9
2018	6	2	8

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



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