

- 1 APR 2020

Zane Collins

fyi-request-12475-1c0f156a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) of 19 March 2020 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) regarding parenting and protection orders in the Family Court.

Specifically, you have requested:

- the average waiting time for parenting orders defended hearings in the family court by region, and
- the average waiting time for protection orders defended hearings in the family court by region.

The Ministry of Justice is responding and re-directing resources as needed, to assist with the government's response to COVID-19. This is impacting our ability to deliver some of our usual functions within the normal timeframes. In the current climate it is not possible to provide you with a definitive date by which we will be able to respond to your request. However, please be assured that we will keep you updated and will provide you with a new expected due date as soon as we are in a position to do so. We are grateful for your patience and understanding in these unprecedented times.

The OIA requires that we advise you of our decision on your request no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. As mentioned above, it will not be possible to meet that time limit. Therefore, we are writing to notify you of an extension of the time to make our decision, to within 20 working days of the office re-opening.

If you require any further information, please contact Jerram Watts, Team Leader Media and External Relations (acting), on 027 291 3518, or email media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied about the decision to extend the time frame for response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

Ref: 81207