

18 MAY 2020

Zane Collins  
[fyi-request-12476-ea878467@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12476-ea878467@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.

On 1 April 2020, the Ministry notified you of an extension of time, to within 20 working days of the office re-opening. The extension was required as the Ministry is responding and re-directing resources as needed, to assist with the government's response to COVID-19.

On 23 March you clarified you were not seeking information on disposal time but instead for the following:

- the average waiting time from when court participants file their initial applications for parenting orders until their defended hearing in the family court by region, and,
- the average waiting time from when court participants file their initial applications for protection orders until their defended hearing in the family court by region.

The information you are seeking is not held by the Ministry as we do not record waiting times for a defended hearing. The Ministry's standard timeframe measure is for disposal time. Therefore, I am refusing your request pursuant to section 18(g)(i) of the OIA, as the Ministry does not hold this information, and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

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](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

I trust this information assists.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**

Ref: 81207