



18 February 2021

45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 495 7200

Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

Website www.dia.govt.nz

Sean Marshall

[fyi-request-14500-](mailto:fyi-request-14500-8da68144@requests.fyi.org.nz)

[8da68144@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14500-8da68144@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Sean

Official Information Act 1982 request 2021-0400

I refer to your request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 21 January 2021. This response is provided to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act).

You requested—

- *for each of the last 10 years, how many preliminary notices of birth were given other than by an occupier of a hospital, a doctor or a midwife. In other words, how many notices were given under section 5A(3)(c) of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995?*

In response to your request I can provide you with the following information:

When an individual is completing the notice of birth, the request for the organisation and profession of the notifier is a free text field, meaning they do not have to provide this information. As the birth notice does not hold this information, it is not possible to provide an accurate figure to indicate who has submitted the notice of birth under section 5a(3)(c) of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995.

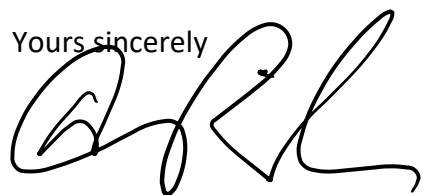
Therefore, I must refuse your request under Section 18(g) of the Act; that the information requested is not held by the department or another agency.

However, I can provide you with general information in relation to our findings, that you might find useful. With the data gathered, we can estimate the number of births given by a non-medical professional to be anywhere between 1 and 4,000 in any one of the last 10 years.

There has also been an increase in birth notices given by medical professionals in the year 2020. It is important to note that from as of mid-2019, the Department has started advising any parent requesting a birth notice to consult a medical professional before we provide them with a form.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Philp', written in a cursive style.

David Philp
General Manager Partners And Products
Service Delivery and Operations