

OIA-CE-2024-02763

24 January 2025

P O'Reilly

fyi-request-29698-1b285f1b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your email, received on 7 January 2025, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on care and protection concerns raised in the Family Court and objections to further involvement from Oranga Tamariki. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

I am writing to request information in regards to the 2024 calendar year, and in particular to ask how many times the family court has brought Oranga Tamariki into existing proceedings, how many of those Oranga Tamariki has acknowledged care and protection concerns, and how many of those cases Oranga Tamariki has objected to further involvement purely for financial reasons.

When care and protection concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of a tamariki or rangatahi are raised, these are acknowledged by Oranga Tamariki and the appropriate supports are put in place. These matters are considered on a case-by-case basis, to ensure that the specific circumstances of the young person involved are addressed appropriately.

Responding to your request regarding how many times the Family Court has brought Oranga Tamariki into existing proceedings cannot be done without a manual review of a significant number of individual case files. To do so would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the ability of Oranga Tamariki to carry out its other operations.

As such, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In determining how to respond to a direction of the Court to be involved in a matter, Oranga Tamariki applies the relevant legal frameworks, which centre on the wellbeing and best interests of tamariki.

Oranga Tamariki considered whether to consult with you to refine this request, as required under section 18B of the Act. However, we do not believe that this would affect our ability to respond to your request.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Oranga Tamariki also considered whether to apply a reasonable charge for the supply of information in accordance with section 15(1A) of the Act. However, due to the uncertainty of whether the information could be released once found, we have decided that a charge is not appropriate in this instance.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Philip Grady
Deputy Chief Executive
System Leadership