



28 SEP 2017

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Dear Emily

Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request OIA 17/18-0104

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 15 September 2017.

You requested

- *in how many opposite-sex marriages does the husband change his surname to the wife's surname?*
- *in how many opposite-sex marriages does the wife change her surname to the husband's surname?*
- *in how many opposite-sex marriages do both parties change their surnames? and of that, how many are hyphenations and how many are novel names (not either of the original surnames)?*
- *in how many same-sex marriages between women does one woman change her surname to the other woman's surname?*
- *in how many same-sex marriages between women do both women change their surnames? and of that, how many are hyphenations and how many are novel names (not either of the original surnames)?*
- *in how many same-sex marriages between men does one man change his surname to the other man's surname?*
- *in how many same-sex marriages between men do both men change their surnames? and of that, how many are hyphenations and how many are novel names (not either of the original surnames)?*

The information you have requested is not recorded by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department). In New Zealand, a person may assume their partners name through marriage or civil union. Assuming a name through marriage or civil union does not affect a person's birth registration and allows them to legally use the names in all aspects of their life, while retaining their name at birth.


A person may choose to register their married name with the Department and change their birth registration, however if this is done, the Department does not match this to their marriage record. The assumption of a married name is not registered with the Department in any manner.

For this reason your request is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held by the Department or any other Government organisation.

However, it is noted that a form is provided to couples after marriage for them to easily update their details with the Electoral Commission. You may wish to contact the Electoral Commission to seek further information as to whether they hold the requested data.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Briget Ridden', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Briget Ridden

Manager Business Improvement and Support

Births, Deaths, Marriages, Citizenship and Translations.