



13 APR 2018

Zane Collins
fyi-request-7453`-19b33fa2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 14 March 2018 requesting Family Court statistics from 2010 to 2018.

Your request is set out below:

I would like to request the statistics of NZ family court cases wait times and caseloads also taking into account any cases currently waiting to be scheduled, factoring them into the delay estimates. I want them grouped per region, per year, from 2010 to 2018. Example: from the date of the first application is received by the court until a date allocated for the final hearing.

The information you have requested with respect to case waiting times is part of the Court record. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as the information is not held the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown, organisation or local authority. An application can be made to the relevant Court for access to information on the court record. Any application to the Court should comply with the relevant court rules. You can find a list of Courts and their contact information at: justice.govt.nz/contact-us/find-us/

The Ministry of Justice does not report regularly on the caseload for the Family Court. Data is provided for substantive applications rather than cases as each case may have more than one substantive application under consideration by the Family Court, where those applications are being managed separately.

Your request for the caseload has therefore been interpreted as the number of active Family Court applications, by case type, per Service Delivery Area, per year, as at 31 December 2010 to 2017, and is included in Table 1 below.

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

I trust that this information assists.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'JS' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

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

Ref: 67189

Table 1 : Number of active Family Court applications, by case type, per Service Delivery area, per year as at 31 December, 2010 to 2017

Service Delivery Area	Case type	Year									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Auckland SDA											
CYPF		495	500	516	456	473	504	421	432		
Dissolution		210	190	147	70	16	7	7	5		
Domestic Violence		473	366	443	516	460	489	507	562		
Guardianship/Hague		2,885	2,503	2,645	2,754	2,280	2,179	2,042	1,949		
Mental Health		75	55	78	107	47	47	54	63		
Other		375	321	338	339	305	301	292	244		
PPPR		200	190	228	226	263	375	354	259		
Property		725	663	630	814	781	741	668	723		
Total		5,438	4,788	5,025	5,282	4,625	4,643	4,345	4,237		
Bay of Plenty/Coromandel SDA											
CYPF		175	159	152	172	167	127	135	154		
Dissolution		23	27	31	34	2	2	2	1		
Domestic Violence		103	118	98	129	157	131	179	221		
Guardianship/Hague		1,018	845	803	860	762	705	786	957		
Mental Health		4	6	6	4	3	7	8	7		
Other		76	82	80	75	73	54	70	75		
PPPR		39	40	39	74	85	80	132	107		
Property		134	103	83	73	71	53	91	116		
Total		1,572	1,391	1,292	1,421	1,320	1,159	1,403	1,638		
Canterbury SDA											
CYPF		441	574	315	396	276	261	310	440		
Dissolution		61	75	61	51	4	8	5	8		
Domestic Violence		249	246	199	264	236	310	274	376		
Guardianship/Hague		1,604	1,608	1,092	1,246	1,010	1,020	1,142	1,476		
Mental Health		34	29	20	16	19	21	45	63		
Other		137	162	127	103	115	108	129	166		
PPPR		82	110	63	88	70	84	158	200		
Property		256	285	246	214	179	170	151	146		
Total		2,864	3,089	2,123	2,378	1,909	1,982	2,214	2,875		

Number of active applications Service Delivery Area	Case type	Year									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Central North Island SDA											
	CYPF	135	153	163	130	159	148	168	120		
	Dissolution	16	27	19	16	2	1	2	2		
	Domestic Violence	105	89	84	98	102	87	95	126		
	Guardianship/Hague	822	662	632	584	638	588	624	555		
	Mental Health	1	3	2	2	1	1	-	2		
	Other	53	51	51	47	24	28	28	35		
	PPPR	20	33	42	53	15	39	38	55		
	Property	54	51	41	31	29	24	30	36		
	Total	1,206	1,069	1,034	961	970	916	985	931		
East Coast/Hawke's Bay SDA											
	CYPF	108	122	140	149	189	177	188	294		
	Dissolution	21	22	19	21	-	1	-	1		
	Domestic Violence	207	129	108	107	115	124	172	149		
	Guardianship/Hague	922	920	909	882	578	615	832	743		
	Mental Health	15	4	3	8	2	16	13	8		
	Other	62	69	53	46	52	52	66	73		
	PPPR	32	39	41	50	43	42	66	83		
	Property	47	77	82	69	58	36	50	66		
	Total	1,414	1,382	1,355	1,332	1,037	1,063	1,387	1,417		
Manawatu/Wairarapa SDA											
	CYPF	147	148	155	151	193	163	207	253		
	Dissolution	35	22	25	32	-	1	-	-		
	Domestic Violence	117	119	112	148	130	122	126	169		
	Guardianship/Hague	791	767	623	806	670	600	677	749		
	Mental Health	3	3	7	2	7	7	10	6		
	Other	53	43	37	45	42	38	42	46		
	PPPR	41	47	75	59	78	51	68	59		
	Property	67	73	63	54	58	60	45	36		
	Total	1,254	1,222	1,097	1,297	1,178	1,042	1,175	1,318		

Number of active applications Service Delivery Area	Case type	Year									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Manukau SDA											
	CYPF	420	435	433	503	624	519	586	627		
	Dissolution	87	109	119	54	10	7	4	5		
	Domestic Violence	442	320	306	353	405	379	421	360		
	Guardianship/Hague	2,431	2,089	1,819	1,844	1,773	1,802	1,804	1,561		
	Mental Health	34	34	41	25	21	24	36	30		
	Other	205	175	188	175	165	150	121	147		
	PPPR	96	128	115	115	147	148	169	212		
	Property	273	237	209	213	252	238	249	264		
	Total	3,988	3,527	3,230	3,282	3,397	3,267	3,390	3,206		
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast SDA											
	CYPF	97	138	96	102	93	78	110	83		
	Dissolution	24	20	18	13	2	-	1	-		
	Domestic Violence	51	50	73	78	88	95	119	130		
	Guardianship/Hague	377	378	275	305	337	270	401	399		
	Mental Health	6	4	5	3	5	8	2	11		
	Other	52	53	37	23	39	33	27	29		
	PPPR	10	15	24	22	30	30	41	29		
	Property	67	75	57	64	60	59	74	66		
	Total	684	733	585	610	654	573	775	747		
Northland SDA											
	CYPF	150	200	179	209	179	247	225	238		
	Dissolution	33	19	32	29	2	-	2	3		
	Domestic Violence	158	144	181	159	174	207	171	149		
	Guardianship/Hague	1,267	1,295	1,262	1,194	956	936	1,042	1,067		
	Mental Health	7	9	13	5	11	6	12	5		
	Other	80	85	88	81	52	40	51	33		
	PPPR	52	44	30	68	51	59	74	71		
	Property	134	173	167	116	96	64	70	83		
	Total	1,881	1,969	1,952	1,861	1,521	1,559	1,647	1,649		

Number of active applications Service Delivery Area	Case type	Year									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Otago/South Canterbury SDA											
CYPF		173	161	180	179	156	124	156	132		
Dissolution		19	28	19	28	3	-	-	-		
Domestic Violence		74	64	44	79	56	67	56	74		
Guardianship/Hague		501	413	352	366	293	345	459	511		
Mental Health		11	13	8	6	7	3	11	13		
Other		65	57	38	51	36	45	52	63		
PPPR		36	23	41	59	56	46	49	46		
Property		71	47	42	40	49	40	61	68		
Total		950	806	724	808	656	670	844	907		
Southland/Central Otago SDA											
CYPF		108	122	97	93	108	112	119	83		
Dissolution		6	9	5	15	-	1	2	-		
Domestic Violence		30	33	43	32	44	38	43	40		
Guardianship/Hague		347	267	237	237	264	269	258	257		
Mental Health		3	1	2	1	-	2	2	1		
Other		36	37	30	24	28	26	31	25		
PPPR		10	20	17	23	17	24	28	22		
Property		50	48	32	48	47	48	50	59		
Total		590	537	463	473	508	520	533	487		
Taranaki/Wanganui SDA											
CYPF		125	112	93	131	111	120	91	127		
Dissolution		17	27	26	28	-	1	-	-		
Domestic Violence		135	119	100	122	132	131	136	162		
Guardianship/Hague		883	782	708	768	609	601	664	619		
Mental Health		7	5	4	2	2	1	3	5		
Other		37	61	69	50	55	54	40	39		
PPPR		33	36	54	92	86	76	71	66		
Property		73	76	68	58	56	66	58	60		
Total		1,310	1,218	1,122	1,251	1,051	1,050	1,063	1,078		

Number of active applications Service Delivery Area	Case type	Year									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017		
Waikato SDA	CYPF	263	162	241	232	286	192	242	240		
	Dissolution	53	42	32	32	1	2				
	Domestic Violence	145	137	101	144	222	225	230	225		
	Guardianship/Hague	1,472	1,168	994	1,078	1,011	762	940	1,069		
	Mental Health	17	11	21	3	15	19	29	18		
	Other	85	72	83	74	70	63	91	75		
	PPPR	92	47	53	36	88	110	97	92		
	Property	121	90	104	74	86	58	73	80		
	Total	2,248	1,729	1,629	1,673	1,779	1,431	1,702	1,799		
Wellington SDA	CYPF	191	156	178	242	208	217	239	279		
	Dissolution	53	60	74	191	592	597	757	897		
	Domestic Violence	256	222	178	208	230	221	248	302		
	Guardianship/Hague	1,170	1,073	956	896	760	815	785	929		
	Mental Health	26	22	13	16	24	35	43	45		
	Other	130	121	91	87	75	84	97	96		
	PPPR	96	63	83	84	86	113	138	130		
	Property	148	153	157	122	103	94	105	145		
	Total	2,070	1,870	1,730	1,846	2,078	2,176	2,412	2,823		

Data is provided for substantive applications rather than cases as each case may have more than one substantive application under consideration by the Family Court, where those applications are being managed separately.

Substantive applications comprise applications grouped under the following case types: Adoption, Alcohol & Drugs, Child Support, Children Young Persons and their Families (CYPF), Dissolution/Marriage, Domestic Violence, Estates, Family Proceedings, Guardianship, Hague Convention, Mental Health, Protection of Personal and Property Rights (PPPR), Relationship Property and Miscellaneous. Substantive applications exclude applications made under the Family Court Rules, registrations under the Joint Family Homes Act and section 9 requests for Counselling under the Family Proceedings Act.

Data was extracted on 13 March 2018 from a live system; figures for earlier years may have been updated from those previously published.