



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

-1 JUL 2013

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Leigh Baillie

[fyi-request-948-c6bb5148@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-948-c6bb5148@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Leigh Baillie

Thank you for your email of 18 June 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*In the last five years what percentage of children uplifted by Child, Youth and Family are returned to their parents, broken down into annual figures?*

The Ministry of Social Development supports community environments where abuse and neglect of children and young people is not tolerated. Child, Youth and Family always works in the best interests of the child or young person and every allegation of abuse is treated seriously.

The removal of a child from their family is a decision that is not taken lightly. As with all the actions taken by Child, Youth and Family, the interests of the child are paramount. If no family member is identified as being able to safely care for the child, then the child will be placed with an approved Child, Youth and Family caregiver. Wherever possible and appropriate, the relationship between the child and their family is maintained and strengthened.

In regards to your request, the Ministry does not centrally collate information on the percentage of children removed by Child, Youth and Family that eventually return to their parents. This information is held on individual case files. In order to provide the information as requested, Ministry staff would have to be diverted from their usual tasks in order to examine individual case files. I am therefore unable to provide this information under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, as it requires substantial manual collation. This information is held at local sites where it is most needed by social workers and is not required to be reported centrally for the safety and wellbeing of children.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful at this time. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Bernadine Mackenzie  
Deputy Chief Executive Child, Youth and Family

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