

## **MORE THAN 17,000 ADOPTED PERSONS AND BIRTH PARENTS SEEKING TO MAKE CONTACT UNDER NEW BIRTH INFORMATION AND TRACING ACT**

- 17,730 people have registered contact preferences since enactment of landmark legislation
- Breakdown of the location of those who have joined the CPR in the past year provided

A total of 17,730 adopted persons, birth parents, and other relatives have now registered with the Adoption Authority of Ireland to state their preferences about making contact with birth relatives.

Latest figures show that 3,270 people have joined the new Contact Preference Register (CPR), which was established on July 1 2022 as part of the enactment of the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022. The CPR replaces the old National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR), on which 14,460 people were registered.

The Birth Information and Tracing Act provides legal entitlement, where available, to full and unrestricted access to birth certificates, birth, early life, care, and medical information for any person who was adopted, boarded out, had their birth illegally registered, or who otherwise has questions in relation to their origins. The new law also creates a statutory tracing service for those affected by adoption who are seeking to make contact with birth relatives.

Services under the Birth Information and Tracing Act are provided free of charge.

Persons wishing to make contact, to request privacy, or to seek or share information with a birth relative, can register their preferences via an application to the CPR, which is operated by the Adoption Authority of Ireland.

Of the 3,270 applications submitted to the CPR since July 1 2022, 2,814 are from adopted persons, 458 are from birth parents and other relatives, and 13 are illegal birth registration applicants. Of the applications, 2,858 have come from Ireland, 213 from the UK, 96 from the USA, and 103 from people in other countries around the world.

Dublin is the county with the most applicants, followed by Cork, and then Kildare. The county with the fewest applicants is Leitrim. (NB: Please see appendix with breakdown of applicants by county).

Since the opening of the CPR there have been 240 matches and the Adoption Authority has facilitated 86 family reunifications.

Adoption Authority Interim CEO Colm O'Leary said: "There has been an incredible response to the public information campaign around this landmark legislation. To have more than 3,200 people register their preferences on the new Contact Preference Register in the first year shows how important and much anticipated these new services are for adopted persons, their birth parents, siblings and relatives.

"Including the preferences of those on the old National Adoption Contact Preference Register that have been migrated, there are now more than 17,000 people on the new CPR and we are better placed than ever to help facilitate contact and reunions between family members who wish it."

"Anyone who wants to register or update their contact preferences can do so at any time by visiting [www.birthinfo.ie](http://www.birthinfo.ie) and filling out an online application form."

\*Free counselling services for birth parents or relevant persons affected are now available. Applications can be made by contacting Tusla at 0818 44 55 00 or by emailing [BITCounselling@tusla.ie](mailto:BITCounselling@tusla.ie)

– Ends –

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### **About the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022**

The Birth Information and Tracing Act, 2022 ensures, for the first time, that ‘a relevant person’ (adopted person, person who was, or suspects they were, boarded out, nursed out or resident in a Mother and Baby Home or County Home, and persons whose birth was illegally registered, or they suspect their birth was illegally registered) can now apply for their birth certificate, birth, early life, care, and medical information. Any items left for the relevant person such as letters, photographs and mementoes can also be applied for.

This act allow adopted people and others will be able to have records that show their name at birth, birthplace, and date, as well as their parents’ names, dates of birth and other details. Any records related to their health including details of vaccinations will also be provided.

- People affected by the issues under the legislation are invited to register their contact preference or complete a new application to update an existing contact preference, on the new Contact Preference Register.

-The tracing service can be used by relevant persons – parents, adoptive parents, birth relatives, other genetic relatives, or those who were carers in relation to a relevant person – to enable contact or the sharing or requesting of contemporaneous information.

- Where the relevant person has died, their son or daughter will have the same right to information that relates to their parent, if the relevant person’s parents (i.e. the applicant’s grandparents) are also deceased. A next of kin can also apply for access if the relevant person died while resident as a child in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution.

- In cases where a mother chooses to have no contact, this will not prevent her identity from being shared, but her right and wish not to be contacted will be communicated.

- In cases where a mother chooses to have no contact, this will not stop adopted persons meeting or engaging with other family members, such as siblings or half siblings.

- A preference for no contact only gives the Authority the remit to communicate the preference and inform relevant persons of their parents wish for privacy. It does not prohibit other actions under the Act.

**County Breakdown of those who have joined the CPR in 2022.**

Adopted Persons		Relatives		Total
County	No.	County	No.	Total
Carlow	30	Carlow	2	32
Cavan	19	Cavan	4	23
Clare	39	Clare	8	47
Cork	372	Cork	55	427
Donegal	35	Donegal	6	41
Dublin	856	Dublin	101	957
Galway	77	Galway	29	106
Kerry	64	Kerry	11	75
Kildare	129	Kildare	26	155
Kilkenny	37	Kilkenny	6	43
Laois	31	Laois	7	38
Leitrim	6	Leitrim	5	11
Limerick	75	Limerick	16	91
Longford	15	Longford	3	18
Louth	79	Louth	3	82
Mayo	42	Mayo	16	58
Meath	128	Meath	14	142
Monaghan	22	Monaghan	7	29
Offaly	29	Offaly	6	35
Roscommon	17	Roscommon	8	25
Sligo	31	Sligo	4	35
Tipperary	53	Tipperary	13	66
Waterford	61	Waterford	13	74
Westmeath	34	Westmeath	4	38
Wexford	74	Wexford	10	84
Wicklow	115	Wicklow	11	126
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>2470</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>2858</b>

**Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales**

Adopted Persons		Relatives		Total
Antrim	4	Antrim	1	5
Armagh	2	Armagh	0	2
Derry	4	Derry	1	5
Down	4	Down	1	5
Fermanagh	2	Fermanagh	2	4
Tyrone	3	Tyrone	2	5
<b>N. Ireland</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>N.Ireland</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>

Adopted Persons		Relatives		Total
England	133	England	32	165
Scotland	14	Scotland	1	15
Wales	5	Wales	2	7
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>187</b>

### Rest of World

Adopted Persons		Relatives		Total
Andorra	1	Andorra	0	1
Australia	30	Australia	7	37
Austria	1	Austria	0	1
Belgium	1	Belgium	0	1
Canada	7	Canada	1	8
Czechia	1	Czechia	0	1
Denmark	1	Denmark	0	1
France	8	France	0	8
Germany	9	Germany	2	11
Iceland	0	Iceland	1	1
Italy	1	Italy	0	1
Japan	1	Japan	0	1
Jersey	1	Jersey	0	1
Netherlands	7	Netherlands	0	7
New Zealand	6	New Zealand	0	6
Philippines	1	Philippines	0	1
San Marino	1	San Marino	0	1
Singapore	1	Singapore	0	1
Spain	7	Spain	0	7
Sweden	3	Sweden	1	4
Switzerland	1	Switzerland	0	1
Thailand	0	Thailand	1	1
United Arab Emirates	0	United Arab Emirates	1	1
United States	82	United States	14	96
<b>Rest of World</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>Rest of World</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>199</b>

### ADOPTION AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

The Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI) is the central authority for adoption in Ireland. Established under the Adoption Act 2010, the Authority operates as an independent body under the aegis of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). The Authority's functions include those of an operational, judicial, and quasi-judicial nature in relation to the adoption process as provided for under the Act, but also relating to the Authority's designation as the Central Authority for the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. In addition, the Authority has registration and regulatory functions for all adoption related matters in Ireland.