

The Adoption Authority of Ireland

Annual Report 2012



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Membership of the Board - 2012

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Report of
Udarás Uchtála
Adoption Authority of Ireland
for 2012

To: Ms. Frances Fitzgerald, T.D.
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs,
Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

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The Changed Landscape of Adoption

The Adoption Authority of Ireland enjoyed a productive and successful year in 2012.

The Authority welcomed the Children's Referendum in November 2012 as it highlighted the rights and best interests of children, and sought to ensure that the voice of the child is heard in all matters concerning the child. This has particular resonance in adoption where best practice holds the child at the centre of the process, and where the majority of children involved in domestic adoption are of an age and level of maturity where their wishes are given due consideration and they are consulted appropriately about the adoption.

The acknowledgement in the referendum wording of the need for adoption to be an option for some children in long-term foster-care is a welcome move for children and families seeking legal and permanent recognition, enhancement and strengthening of the family attachments that have grown between them through their years of shared family life. Indeed, the effect of the referendum wording will be to permit a larger number of children in long-term foster care to be adopted. It applies to any child, whether born inside or outside marriage. Moreover, the referendum wording envisages that any child (whether marital or non-marital) may be voluntarily placed for adoption.

The Authority is unambiguously committed to domestic adoption and to this end has worked closely with the HSE during the year to place children in need of adoptive homes in Ireland in a timely and child-centred fashion. The referendum wording is likely to make a real and positive difference to the area of adoption and the Authority is currently considering how it will manage the changed landscape in adoption post the referendum.

During 2012, the Authority continued to progress negotiations with a number of jurisdictions in an attempt to conclude administrative arrangements in the area of intercountry adoption. Such arrangements enable the Authority to build the intercountry adoption infrastructure. In particular, such arrangements ensure the smooth and efficient operation of intercountry adoptions and contribute to promoting the best interests and protecting the welfare of children who are the subject of intercountry adoptions. To this end, the Authority concluded an administrative arrangement with Vietnam in September 2012 which has become a model for Vietnam's adoption relations with other countries.

The Authority is aware that there are children in State institutions and foster-care systems in some countries who are in need of loving homes that can be provided by Irish families in compliance with Hague Convention standards. The Authority works within our resources on an annual basis to create and/or maintain relationships with countries where children residing in institutions are in need of international adoption to provide them with the permanency, care, love and structure of a family life. In line with Hague Convention standards, UNICEF policies and International Social Services research, the Authority believes that intercountry adoption is an alternative to institutional care and children's welfare and safety must be protected and safeguarded throughout the process. The concerns raised about illegal and unethical practices

in the intercountry adoption processes in some countries remind us that the Hague Convention standards and regulation methods provide necessary safeguards that protect children. Keeping the child and his/her needs and wishes at the centre of the process is a consistent reminder that while all children have the right to a family, nobody has an entitlement or right to adopt a child.

In 2012, the Authority endeavoured to ensure through efficient use of its website and dissemination of information through the professional social workers involved in the assessment process, that prospective adoptive parents are prepared for the changed profile of adoptable children abroad. The numbers of children being adopted internationally throughout the world have been falling significantly in recent years due to the standards imposed by the Hague Convention and the fact that many countries of origin are putting child protection frameworks in place domestically, aimed at maintaining children within their native country. Children are now often aged more than eighteen months old when available for intercountry adoption, are generally between three and six years old, can have an older or younger sibling, and many have additional health/medical needs. The international trend is that children are being placed on average from about age four years, having spent 44 months in institutional care. The need for familiarity with the child's language is acute. In some respects the current assessment process for intercountry adoption reflects the parenting capacities required for foster-care within Ireland, due to the challenging behaviours of many children. In many cases due to malnutrition and institutionalisation, prospective adoptive parents have to be prepared and able to cope with difficult reactive attachment issues that have long-term effects for the children's welfare.

The Authority welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald, T.D. of her intention to introduce legislation on information and tracing and supports the strongest possible legislation in this area.

The Authority notes ratification of the revised European Convention on the Adoption of Children by a number of member states of the Council of Europe. This instrument was introduced by the Council of Europe in 2008, in an effort to provide a modern framework for the adoption of children. It represents an international consensus on acceptable child adoption, reflecting the different views, legal diversity and common heritage of member states.

We would like to thank the staff and board members of the Authority for their commitment and dedication to the work of the Authority. It is very much appreciated.

We also wish to acknowledge the continued support and assistance of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the staff of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

Mr. Pat Bennet
CEO

Dr. Geoffrey Shannon
Chairman

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1. DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

In 2012, the Adoption Authority of Ireland granted 79 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in respect of applicants wishing to adopt in Ireland. 49 adoption orders were granted in the same year. 33 of these were family adoptions while 16 were non-family adoptions (see Tables 1-2). This was a slight increase on the number of declarations and adoption orders granted in 2011.

This increase was partly due to the reduction of delays in processing existing applications, through ongoing assistance given to the service providers to clarify requirements under the terms of the Adoption Act 2010, as well as new procedures put in place for baby placements to comply with the 1993 Hague Convention.

Birth father Consultation/High Court

Following the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010, a number of applications received by the Authority required the Authority to seek the approval of the High Court to place a baby for adoption, in relation to infant stranger adoptions specifically, and to further seek High Court approval to make an adoption order where

- (a) it was inappropriate to notify a birth father,
- (b) where the identity of the father of a child was unknown or
- (c) where the mother refused to reveal the father's identity

pursuant to Section 30 of the Act. The necessity of seeking High Court approval under the new legislation places considerable delays in processing and finalising adoption applications.

The Domestic Adoption Unit as part of its regulatory functions, continued to monitor and provide support to all service providers associated with domestic adoption with a view to developing a comprehensive, high quality, standardised and integrated national adoption service.

Guidelines for Domestic Adoption

Work on 'Practice Guidelines for Domestic Adoption' continued. The Guidelines will provide social workers, administrators and Health Service Executives / accredited body Managers with a standardised framework for the processing of all domestic adoptions in a uniform and timely manner from local to regional level throughout the country. The guidelines will be published in the first half of 2013.

Issues of note

As noted in previous Annual Reports, natural/birth mothers should not have to adopt their own children in step-parent adoptions and provision should be made to allow them to retain their status as natural parent of the child. It is also the Authority's view that adoption is not always the ideal solution in family and step parent adoptions and that some other legal means (such as shared guardianship) should be considered to establish the rights and responsibilities of adoptive parents, such as a birth/natural mother's husband, without extinguishing the rights and responsibilities of the birth/natural father.

As has been noted by the Authority in submissions for amending legislation in the past, a significant difference is noted in the age of adopters adopting domestically in 2012, in comparison to the age of people adopting intercountry. No domestic adoption of an unknown infant was made to a parent over the age of 43 years. There were a number of long term foster cases and family adoptions finalised in favour of older couples due to the nature of the existing relationship between the applicants and the child. The Authority recommends that such practice continues in the interests of children and in line with international standards.

The Authority also recommends to the Minister that she explore the possibility of introducing amending legislation to allow the Board to process adoption applications in cases where a widow or widower remarries and wishes his/her second spouse to have legal rights and responsibilities in relation to the children of his/her first marriage.

The Authority recommends to the Minister that she explore the possibility of amending the legislation in relation to the requirement for High Court authorisation for an adoption to proceed where the natural/birth father is not consulted. Prior to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010, such matters were the responsibility of the former Adoption Board.

2. INFORMATION AND TRACING

Activity analysis:

In 2012, the Information and Tracing Unit received just over 1,800 written requests by letter and email for information and/or assistance from members of the public, Accredited Bodies, Health Service Executive Regional Adoption Services and other public bodies and handled approx 5,000 telephone enquiries.

There were 50 applications received from adopted persons for the release of their birth certificate during 2012. 17 birth certificates were released, 4 applications were refused and 9 were withdrawn. (Note: Many of the cases considered by the Authority in 2012 would have been in relation to applications made prior to 2012).

National Adoption Contact preference Register

The Unit also processed 542 applications to join the National Adoption Contact Preference Register. 54 “matches” were also recorded in the year. The social work service dealt with 115 new referrals for information, counselling, matches and tracing services in 2012. By the end of 2012 there were 7,224 adopted people and 3,165 natural relatives registered. These have generated approx. 600 “matches” since the register was launched in 2005. The breakdown by age, gender, contact preferences etc. are broadly the same as set out in a review of the operation of the register from 2005 to 2007 which is available at <http://www.aai.gov.ie/index.php/information-a-tracing/information-booklets.html>

Information and Tracing Legislation

The Authority noted the significant progress made by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on the drafting of an ‘Adoption Information and Tracing’ Bill and welcomes her firm commitment to bring this Bill to Government in 2013. The Authority was consulted by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs officials responsible for drafting the Bill during 2012.

The Authority made the Department aware of the outcome of the extensive consultation process undertaken in this regard by the former Adoption Board between 2003 and 2007, with input from Health Service Executive and Accredited Body practitioners along with representatives from support and advocacy groups for adopted people, natural parents and adoptive parents. This process resulted in the publication of a ‘Standardised Framework for the Provision of a National Information & Tracing Service’. The Authority considers that the Framework, which had the approval of all the parties involved in the consultation process, reflects the difficult and complex issues that arise in this regard and provides a sound basis for the drafting of legislation which will enable the provision of a service that respects the needs and rights of all those concerned.

The lack of such legislation continues to cause difficulties in the provision of a service adequate to the needs and aspirations of many thousands of Irish adopted people and their natural relatives.

Issues of note

The Authority holds the view that all people who have been adopted have rights to identifying information. Release of birth certificates when an adult adopted person reaches 18 years must be given serious consideration by the legislature and we recommend to the Minister that she consider this as a matter of priority in the forthcoming legislation.

Over 45,000 adopted people are affected by the lack of current and previous legislation in this area. The Authority believes that the release of identifying information should be a legal right, subject to certain conditions (such as the birth/natural mother being informed prior to the event, and counselling or mediation prior to release of the information), as is the case in other jurisdictions. It is known through international experience and research that access to knowledge of birth family and availability of professional counselling and mediation services in the area of search and reunion are essential post adoption services required for people involved in the lifelong process that is adoption. In the absence of legislation to frame practice, people have resorted to a number of methods to connect with birth families and the use of social media has resulted in immediate contact without the safeguards, such as counselling and time, required to protect all parties' rights in this highly sensitive area.

The Authority requests that the Minister considers that people who believed themselves to be adopted or believed that they placed their children for adoption, such as people affected by illegal birth registrations and de facto adoptions, should be free to avail of post adoption services also, and have a legal right to be given identifying information where this is available.

3. INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

The Authority granted 181 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in 2012 to applicants seeking to adopt abroad. A total of 242 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions in respect of all relevant sections of the Adoption Act 2010.

Country Specific Issues - Hague Convention States

Bulgaria

During 2012, no referrals were received from Bulgaria. It is envisaged that the first of such referrals will commence in early 2013. The long referral times can be attributed to the fact that Irish applicants are among several nationalities hoping to adopt from Bulgaria. Hence, they must take their places on the list of potential intercountry adopters and the early Irish applicants in Bulgaria are now among those being considered for the referral of children.

United States of America

A delegation from the Authority met with the US State Department (US Central Authority under the 1993 Hague Convention) in March 2012. The Authority subsequently presented a draft administrative arrangement to the US State Department setting out the requirements for Irish applicants wishing to adopt from the US.

The requirements for intercountry adoption under US adoption law differ in many aspects from those of Irish domestic adoption law and within the US there are different standards applied in various States in accordance with individual State Laws.

The matters of concern are varied and were outlined in last year's Annual Report.

The task of the Authority has been to devise a process which allows Irish applicants to proceed with adoptions from the USA while maintaining the standards required under Irish Law and the Hague Convention.

During 2012, ARC Adoption Ltd. was accredited to work in the US and it is anticipated that, following the signing of the above agreement ARC will provide mediation services for those wishing to adopt from the US.

Vietnam

In September 2012 Ireland and Vietnam agreed an administrative arrangement allowing intercountry adoption to resume between the two countries.

Helping Hands and ARC Adoption Ltd were accredited by the Authority to work in Vietnam. Authorisation by the Vietnamese authorities for these agencies to work in Vietnam will be sought by the agencies as the next step in the practical operation of facilitating the referral and placement of children from Vietnam into Ireland.

India

A delegation from the Authority travelled to India in 2012 for exploratory talks on how adoptions between Ireland and India might resume under the new online registrations system proposed by CARA, the National Central Authority.

During 2012, a number of pipeline case referrals were received and while this was very welcome, the experience of the Authority in processing these referrals in compliance with the 1993 Hague Convention has been fraught with difficulties. These, it is believed result from *inter alia* a lack of resources among the adoption authorities in India, a lack of understanding of the protocols of Hague Convention among the Recognised Indian Placement Agencies (RIPAs) and a change in policy in the application process which has now been centralised through the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA).

Thailand

Ireland received the referral of 5 children from Thailand in 2012. Thailand also accepted 4 applications from Irish applicants during 2012. A question arises with regard to whether Thai adoptions are 'simple' or 'full' adoptions. Despite lengthy correspondence with the Thai National Central Authority this matter has not been resolved.

The Philippines

Ireland received the referral of one child from the Philippines in 2012.

In September 2012, the Philippine Inter Country Adoption Board (ICAB) indicated that no new applications would be accepted from Irish applicants until the waiting period for children in the Philippines is reduced to 1.5 years. At 21 December 2012 there were 25 Irish applications registered with the ICAB. ICAB stated that 1 placement would be allocated to Ireland for 2012 and 2 placements for 2013.

Country Specific Issues – Non-Hague Convention States

Russian Federation

Since Russia has not ratified the 1993 Hague Convention and as Ireland does not have a bi-lateral agreement in place with Russia, no new Declarations of Eligibility & Suitability (DES) were issued in 2012 for applicants wishing to adopt from Russia.

Applicants who held a Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability prior to Ireland ratifying the Hague Convention were entitled to an extension to these Declarations under Section 63 of the Adoption Act 2010. A number of these prospective adoptive parents are in the process of effecting adoptions or have effected adoptions in Russia.

Ethiopia

Since Ethiopia has not ratified the 1993 Hague Convention and as Ireland does not have a bi-lateral agreement in place with Ethiopia, no new Declarations of Eligibility & Suitability were issued in 2012 for applicants wishing to adopt from Ethiopia.

Applicants who held a Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability prior to Ireland ratifying the Hague Convention were entitled to an extension to these Declarations under Section 63 of the Adoption Act 2010. A number of these prospective adoptive parents are in the process of effecting adoptions or have effected adoptions in Ethiopia.

Issues of note

The Authority recommends to the Minister that she consider the introduction of upper age limits for prospective adoptive parents in the context of what is best for children, the parenting capacities required given the changing profile of children, international standards whereby 42 years is seen as the maximum age gap between adult and child and in view of the length of time prospective adopters wait on lists in different countries before referrals. The latest 2012 figures available at the Authority show that the majority (73.3%) of intercountry adopters are aged between 40-51 years, a number (5.4%) of intercountry adopters are over the age of 50 years and 40.7% of people adopting intercountry are over the age of 45 years.

In the interests of children the Authority recommends to the Minister that she consider making adoption available for the spouse of sole applicant adopters who subsequently marry, because of the complete legal and family security afforded to adopted children within the family based in marriage in Ireland.

The Authority recommends to the Minister that she consider amending the legislation to allow the Authority, without reference to the High Court, to dispense with the consent of the natural/birth parent(s) where children are brought in from Hague Convention states under Guardianship Orders / 'simple' adoptions.

4. STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1	Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2012
Table 2	Adoption Order granted / Accredited Bodies concerned
Table 3	Total number of adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2012, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 4	Total number of adoptions recognised in 2012, where the adoptions were effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 5	Total number of adoptions recognised in 2012, where the adoptions were effected prior to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability from the Adoption Authority of Ireland at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 57(2)(a) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 6	Total number of adoptions recognised in 2012, where the adoptions were effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident abroad. (Section 57(2)(b)(i) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 7	Total number of adoptions recognised between 2008 and 2012, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 8	Total number of adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2012 (All Sections)
Table 9	Total number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Board under the Adoption Act, 1991
Table 10	Total number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Authority of Ireland under the Adoption Act, 2010.
Table 11	Accredited Bodies accredited in 2012

Table 1. Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2012

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	Number of Adoptions	Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births
1953	62,558	1,340	2.14	381	28.40
1954	62,534	1,310	2.09	888	67.80
1955	61,662	1,234	2.00	786	63.70
1956	60,740	1,173	1.93	565	48.20
1957	61,242	1,032	1.69	752	72.90
1958	59,510	976	1.64	592	60.70
1959	60,188	959	1.59	501	52.20
1960	60,735	968	1.59	505	52.20
1961	59,825	975	1.63	547	56.10
1962	61,782	1,111	1.80	699	62.90
1963	63,246	1,157	1.83	840	72.60
1964	64,072	1,292	2.02	1,003	77.60
1965	63,525	1,403	2.21	1,049	74.77
1966	62,215	1,436	2.31	1,178	82.03
1967	61,307	1,540	2.51	1,493	96.95
1968	61,004	1,558	2.55	1,343	86.20
1969	62,912	1,642	2.61	1,225	74.60
1970	64,382	1,709	2.65	1,414	82.74
1971	67,551	1,842	2.73	1,305	70.85
1972	68,527	2,005	2.93	1,291	64.39
1973	68,713	2,167	3.15	1,402	64.70
1974	68,907	2,309	3.35	1,415	61.28
1975	67,178	2,515	3.74	1,443	57.38
1976	67,718	2,545	3.76	1,104	43.38
1977	68,892	2,877	4.18	1,127	39.17
1978	70,299	3,003	4.27	1,223	40.73
1979	72,539	3,337	4.60	988	29.61
1980	74,064	3,723	5.03	1,115	29.95
1981	72,158	3,914	5.42	1,191	30.43
1982	70,843	4,358	6.15	1,191	27.33
1983	67,117	4,552	6.78	1,184	26.01

Table 1. Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2012

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	Number of Adoptions	Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births
1984	64,062	5,116	7.99	1,195	23.36
1985	62,388	5,282	8.47	882	16.70
1986	61,620	5,946	9.65	800	13.45
1987	58,433	6,347	10.86	715	11.27
1988	54,600	6,483	11.87	649	10.01
1989	52,018	6,671	12.82	615	9.22
1990	53,044	7,767	14.64	648	8.34
1991	52,718	8,912	16.91	590	6.62
1992	51,089	9,211	18.03	523	5.68
1993	49,304	9,826	19.93	500	5.09
1994	47,928	9,904	20.66	424	4.28
1995	48,530	10,788	22.23	490	4.54
1996	50,390	12,484	24.77	405	3.24
1997	52,311	13,892	26.56	422	3.04
1998	53,551	15,133	28.26	400	2.64
1999	53,354	16,461	30.85	317	1.93
2000	54,239	17,235	31.78	303	1.76
2001	57,882	18,049	31.18	293	1.62
2002	60,521	18,815	31.09	266	1.41
2003	61,517	19,313	31.39	263	1.36
2004	61,684	19,935	32.32	273	1.37
2005	61,042	19,528	32.00	253	1.30
2006	64,237	21,295	33.15	222	1.04
2007	70,620	23,170	32.81	187	0.81
2008	75,065	24,844	33.09	200	0.80
2009	74,728	24,532	32.82	190	0.77
2010	73,724	24,860	33.72	189	0.76
2011	74,650	25,157	33.70	39	0.15
2012	72,225	25,344	35.09	49	0.19

Sources: Statistical Abstracts, (various years) C.S.O.

Table 2. Adoption Order granted / Accredited Bodies concerned

Health Service Executive	49
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Table 3.

Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, 1991-2010, entered pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act 1991 **and** in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010, for 2011-2012. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption)

No.	Country	No. of Children	% of Total
1	Russia	1582	33.10
2	Romania	786	16.85
3	Vietnam	782	16.77
4	China	385	8.23
5	Ethiopia	275	5.75
6	Guatemala	176	3.77
7	Kazakhstan	149	3.19
8	Belarus	145	3.11
9	Thailand	101	2.11
10	Ukraine	99	2.07
11	Mexico	91	1.94
12	United States of America	55	1.15
13	India	38	0.79
14	Colombia	18	0.38
15	Taiwan	18	0.38
16	Brazil	17	0.36
17	Paraguay	16	0.34
18	Philippines	11	0.23
19	Peru	6	0.13
20	Bulgaria	5	0.11
21	Cambodia	3	0.06
22	Uganda	2	0.04
23	Uzbekistan	2	0.04
24	Chile	1	0.02
25	El Salvador	1	0.02
26	Israel	1	0.02

Table 3.

Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, 1991-2010, entered pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act 1991 and in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010, for 2011-2012. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption)

No.	Country	No. of Children	% of Total
27	Japan	1	0.02
28	Lebanon	1	0.02
29	Bolivia	1	0.02
30	Sri Lanka	1	0.02
31	Venezuela	1	0.02
32	Zambia	1	0.02
33	Kenya	1	0.02
34	Zimbabwe	1	0.02
35	Morocco	1	0.02
36	Bosnia Herzegovina	1	0.02
37	Malawi	1	0.02
38	Libya	1	0.02
39	South Africa	1	0.02
	Total	4778	100

Table 4.

Entries in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010, for 2012 only. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption)

Country	2012
Russia	49
Ethiopia	32
United States of America	19
China	1
India	10
Mexico	1
Taiwan	3
Thailand	2
Total	117

Table 5

Total number of adoptions recognised in 2012, where the adoptions were effected **prior** to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010. (Section 57(2)(a) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Country	2012
Australia	3
Belgium	1
Canada	6
China	11
England	29
Ethiopia	1
France	2
Hong Kong	1
Kenya	2
Republic of Korea	1
Liberia	1
New Zealand	2
Northern Ireland	4
Philippines	1
Romania	1
Singapore	1
South Africa	4
USA	25
Vietnam	1
Zimbabwe	1
Total	98

Table 6.

Total number of adoptions recognised in 2012, where the adoptions were effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident abroad. (Section 57(2)(b)(i) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Belgium	1
China	2
Columbia	1
England	8
India	1
Hong Kong	3
New Jersey, USA	1
New South Wales, Australia	1
Northern Ireland	1
North Carolina, USA	1
Philippines	1
Russia	2
Singapore	2
South Africa	1
Switzerland	1
Ukraine	1
Uzbekistan	1
Total	29

Table 7.

Total number of adoptions recognised between 2007 and 2012, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Belarus	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	3	0	0
China	19	10	9	6	1
Colombia	1	1	0	0	0
Ethiopia	26	21	75	42	32
India	0	0	0	0	10
Kazakhstan	4	7	1	4	0
Mexico	22	16	10	3	1
Peru	0	1	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	0	1	0
Romania	1	0	0	0	0
Russia	117	100	80	124	49
South Africa	1	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	0	2	1	1	3
Thailand	11	6	2	0	2
Ukraine	9	2	2	0	0
United States of America	4	4	7	7	19
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	0	0
Vietnam	182	136	10	0	0
Total	397	307	200	188	117

Table 8.

Total number of adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2012 (All Sections)

Year	
1991	58
1992	305
1993	59
1994	67
1995	90
1996	117
1997	148
1998	260
1999	284
2000	323
2001	285
2002	440
2003	487
2004	486
2005	439
2006	406
2007	436
2008	490
2009	394
2010	288
2011	342
2012	244 < (Total of Tables 4, 5, 6)
Total	6,448

Table 9

Number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Board under the Adoption Act, 1991.

Year	Number of Declarations Granted	Number of Declarations Refused
1991	4	1
1992	40	1
1993	54	6
1994	63	3
1995	109	4
1996	117	5
1997	176	1
1998	206	3
1999	242	1
2000	282	1
2001	391	1
2002	399	1
2003	468	0
2004	461	0
2005	403	3
2006	400	3
2007	452	5
2008	494	1
2009	391	1
2010	423	1
Total	5,575	40

Table 10.

Number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Authority of Ireland from 2010-2012 under the Adoption Act 2010.

Year	Number of Section 40 Declarations Granted	Number of Section 40 Declarations Refused
2010	20	0
2011	205	0
2012	164	2
Total	389	2

Table 11. Accredited Bodies accredited in 2012

Regd. No	Name of Accredited Body	Activities for which Accredited
AB13/2012 12/06/2012	Helping Hands Adoption Facilitation Agency t/a Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency Forge Lodge, Forge Hill, Cork.	Section 4 (a, b, c, d) Philippines (12/6/12) Vietnam (12/6/12)
AB14/2012 11/12/2012	Family Bridge Adoptions Limited 5 Deerhaven Crescent Clonee Dublin 15	Section 4 (a, b, c, d) India (11/12/12) Kazakhstan (11/12/12) Kenya (11/12/12)





