

The Adoption
Authority of Ireland

Annual Report
2013

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Membership of the Board - 2013

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Report of
Udarás Uchtála
Adoption Authority of Ireland
for 2013

To: Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D.
Minister for Children and Youth Affairs,
Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

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Foreword

The Adoption Authority of Ireland enjoyed a productive year in 2013.

In April 2013, the Authority was delighted to welcome a large number of our European colleagues to Dublin for the 18th Informal Meeting of European Central Authorities for Intercountry Adoption. The meeting was opened by the former Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ms. Frances Fitzgerald TD, who heard first-hand the experiences of our European neighbours in intercountry adoption.

A highlight of the year was the approval of a Bi-Lateral Arrangement on intercountry adoption with the United States of America in May 2013. The Arrangement provides for the processing of intercountry adoptions under the Hague Convention but with additional safeguards surrounding the consent of the birth/natural parents.

The Authority was pleased to welcome to Ireland delegates from the Russian Federation (on a possible Bi-Lateral Agreement between Ireland and the Russian Federation) and from the Chinese Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA) and Bridge of Love Adoption Service (BLAS). Officials from the Indian and Ukrainian embassies also visited the Authority during the course of the year.

The Adoption (Amendment) Act 2013 was passed by the Oireachtas in December 2013. The Act provided for certain applicants proposing to adopt from the Russian Federation to have one further year to complete the adoption process. It is estimated that over forty applicants could avail of the extension.

The Authority welcomed the publication of the General Scheme of the Children and Family Relationships Bill 2014 which represents an important milestone on the road to the recognition of children as rights holders. It will enable step-parents to seek guardianship which is an important reform in that it offers an additional option to a non-biological parent seeking parental responsibility. The Children and Family Relationships Bill 2014 adopts a comprehensive human rights based approach to children's human rights and, when enacted, will remove several roadblocks within the legal system that stand in the way of children having the best possible family life.

The Authority is looking forward to the publication of information and tracing legislation during 2014. Such legislation is necessary to comply with our international obligations. For example, Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, which was ratified by Ireland on December 21, 1992, without reservation, requires the State to "respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity (including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law), without unlawful interference", while Art. 8 recognises the right of every child to know and be cared for by his or her parents. Both provisions, when read together, have been held to require Member States to provide adopted children with information on their birth.

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 Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Mr. Kiernan Gildea
Acting CEO

Dr. Geoffrey Shannon

DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

Adoption Orders

116 Adoption orders were granted in 2013, a significant increase on the 49 made in 2012. Of the orders granted, the majority (86) were made in stepfamily adoptions; only one case was a birth father adopting with his wife.

Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability

161 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted in 2014. The average time taken between application for Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability and granting of the Declaration was 17.5 weeks. In most cases Declarations were granted within 4 weeks of receipt of the application, others took much longer due to a number of factors including:

- incomplete or incorrect application forms;
- requirement for supplementary medical reports;
- waiting time for Garda and/or foreign police clearance.

Applications to the High Court

Under the Adoption Act 2010, the Authority is obliged to obtain a High Court order before an adoption application can proceed.

Where the Authority does not know the identity of a birth father or has been unable to locate the birth father in order to notify and consult him in relation to the placement of his child for adoption or an application for the adoption of his child, the Authority must make an application to the High Court seeking to dispense with such consultation.

In 2013, four applications were made to the High Court under Section 18 of the Act to allow a child to be placed for adoption without consultation with the birth father. The four applications were granted.

23 applications were made under Section 30 of the Act to allow an adoption application to proceed without consultation with the birth father. 12 orders were made, 11 cases were awaiting hearing dates in the High Court at year's end.

In other situations where parental consents are not forthcoming and/or where it can be demonstrated that the parent(s) have failed in their duty to their child, and adoption is deemed to be in the child's best interests, an application must be made to the High

Court by the Child and Family agency and/or applicants seeking an order to allow the Authority to make the adoption order. In 2013, 9 such applications were made to the High Court under Sections 53/54 of the Act. 6 orders were made and 3 were awaiting hearing dates at year's end.

Guidelines for Domestic Adoption:

'Practice Guidelines for Domestic Adoption' were finalised in 2013, and will be published in early 2014. Following publication, training in relation to the Guidelines will be provided to social workers, administrators and managers involved in the processing of all domestic adoptions. The training and information will provide continued support to develop consistent and standardised practice nationally.

Issues of note:

The AAI continues to highlight the rights and best interests of children, and seeks to ensure that the voice of the child is heard in all adoption matters concerning the child. In domestic adoption from long term foster care or stepfamily situations, most children are of an age and level of maturity where their wishes are given due consideration and they are consulted appropriately about their proposed adoption. As in previous years, a number of issues requiring legislative attention have been brought to the attention of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs by the AAI, during 2013 including:

- the option of 'open adoption' to ensure that where children want contact, their rights to relationships with birth/natural parents are legally upheld.
- a legal means other than adoption could be explored in stepfamily and extended family situations to establish the rights and responsibilities of adoptive parents, such as a birth/natural mother's husband without changing the status of the child's mother to that of adoptive parent, and to prevent the birth/natural father's loss of rights and responsibilities in relation to the child.

INFORMATION and TRACING

Activity Analysis

In 2013 the Information and Tracing Unit received 1,480 written requests by letter and email for information and/or assistance from members of the public, accredited agencies, Health Service Executive/Child and Family Adoption Services and other public bodies handled approximately 5,000 telephone enquiries.

There were 43 applications for the release of the birth certificate received from adopted persons. In the same year, 18 birth certificates were released and 15 applications were refused.

The Unit also processed 721 applications to join the National Adoption Contact Preference Register, which resulted in 71 “matches”. By year’s end there were approximately 7,500 adopted people and 3,400 natural relatives registered. This has resulted in 670 matches to date. The breakdown by age, gender, contact preferences etc. are typically 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>

National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR)

As the Register is voluntary, its success depends on the number of adopted persons and birth relatives choosing to register their wishes in relation to contact. Any enquirers to the Authority or Health Service Executive/Child and Family Agency adoption services and accredited adoption service providers are routinely informed about the existence of this register and are strongly encouraged to join. The Authority would appeal to any other persons or organisations with an interest in this area to do the same.

The release of the motion picture ‘Philomena’ in late 2013 created intense media and public interest in the area of adoption information and tracing and again highlighted the lack of legislation and resources resulting in long delays that have been experienced by adopted persons and their birth/natural relatives in the provision of services. It is of note that were the National Adoption Contact preference Register in existence at the time, the mother and son whose lives the film Philomena is based on, would have been in a position to have contact with each other. It is hoped that the introduction of the forthcoming Information and Tracing Bill which will contain provisions for placing the NACPR on a statutory footing will re-publicise the existence of the Register and encourage all those eligible (especially older birth parents) to join.

Information and Tracing Legislation

The Adoption Board (now the Adoption Authority of Ireland) called for the introduction of legislation in this area as early as 1983. While the difficulties of drafting legislation in such a complex and sensitive area are acknowledged, the lack of a statutory basis continues to cause difficulties in the provision of an Adoption Information and Tracing Service which meets the needs of thousands of adopted people and their birth/natural relatives.

The Authority continues to advise and assist the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in this area where legislation is necessary to frame practice and allow access to knowledge of birth/natural relatives. Access to professional counselling and mediation services are necessary also to reduce use of social media or untrained counsellors which can result in immediate contact without the time and safeguards required to protect the rights of all involved.

The Authority repeats its views that:

- people who have been adopted have rights to identifying information
- people who believe themselves to have been adopted have rights to information where this is available
- birth/natural mothers can be informed prior to the release of identifying information
- counselling/mediation services should be provided to assist individuals with their needs in the search, information and contact/reunion process

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

The Authority granted 266 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in 2013 to applicants seeking to adopt abroad and extended 94 existing Declarations by one year.

A total of 141 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

ARC Adoption Agency facilitated a number of adoptions from Bulgaria through 2013. While the numbers of children referred to Irish couples to date has been small, it is envisaged that this should increase as a result of Irish applicants making their way towards the top of the Intercountry Adoption Waiting list in Bulgaria.

India

India is currently not accepting applications from Irish applicants in respect of normal category children. It has indicated its intention to accept applications from applicants wishing to adopt special needs children. The Authority received applications from two Accredited Bodies interested in providing facilitation services for applicants wishing to adopt from India.

Kazakhstan

Following accreditation by the Authority, Family Bridge Adoptions Ltd., applied for accreditation in Kazakhstan. However, their application for accreditation was denied by the Kazakhstani authorities. An Accredited Body, currently based in the USA has indicated that it may be willing to establish an autonomous body in Ireland.

Philippines

Ireland received 6 referrals of children from the Philippines in 2013.

In September 2012, the Philippine Inter Country Adoption Board (ICAB) indicated that no more applications would be accepted from Irish applicants until the current waiting period for children in the Philippines is reduced from 5 years to 1.5 years. At 21 December 2012 there were 25 Irish applications registered with the ICAB.

ICAB stated that 2 placements would be made in 2013.

Additionally, they stated that:

'The maximum age of children generally available for intercountry adoption has been reduced from 8 years to 6 years.

Children over 6 years of age may be available for adoption and shall be considered as 'special needs children'.

The moratorium from accepting applications requesting a child between 0-24 months has been lifted.'

The Authority was in contact with the ICAB and made representations to seek to improve the allocation of children to Irish applicants. It would appear from the number of children referred to Irish applicants for adoption during 2013 that the representations were successful.

United States of America

Representatives of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs, led by Minister Frances Fitzgerald, and representatives of the Adoption Authority of Ireland led by Dr Geoffrey Shannon, Chairman of the Authority met with the US Department of State in Washington USA in September 2013 to give effect to the Administrative Arrangement on adoption which were agreed between the two countries. The terms of this Arrangement which sets out the requirements for Irish applicants wishing to adopt from the US may be found on the AAI's website at www.aai.gov.ie

Country Specific Issues – Non-Hague Convention States

Russian Federation

As Russia has not ratified the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and as Ireland does not have a bi-lateral agreement in place with Russia, no Declarations of Eligibility & Suitability (DES) were issued in 2013 for applicants wishing to adopt from Russia.

However, as applicants who were already in receipt of valid DES's prior to Ireland ratifying the Hague Convention were entitled to extensions to these DES's under Section 63 of the Adoption Act 2010, a number of these applicants sought to effect adoptions in Russia in 2013.

Russia amended its adoption legislation in mid-2013 and one of the measures enacted mandated that children eligible for adoption would remain on the Russian Domestic adoption list longer than had been required. This resulted in a small number of Irish applicants who were hoping to complete adoptions in Russia being disappointed as a result of referrals or possible referrals of children not becoming available for intercountry adoption as hoped.

Subsequently, the Government enacted the 2013 Adoption (Amendment) Act on 20 December 2013 which provided for the granting of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability to Adopt to those applicants who on 31 October 2013 held a valid DES and who had not yet effected an adoption and who intended to seek to complete an adoption in Russia. These Declarations were granted for one year and those eligible for such Declarations numbered 23.

Ethiopia

As Ethiopia has not ratified the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Intercountry Adoption and as Ireland does not have a bi-lateral agreement in place with Ethiopia, no Declarations of Eligibility & Suitability (DES) were issued in 2013 for applicants wishing to adopt from Ethiopia.

As applicants who were already in receipt of valid DES's prior to Ireland ratifying the Hague Convention were entitled to extensions to these DES's under Section 63 of the Adoption Act 2010, a number of these applicants effected adoptions in Ethiopia in 2013.

Registrations of the adoptions effected under the above provision totalled 26 in 2013.

These Section 63 extensions have now expired and Ethiopia is no longer a valid country of choice for Irish applicants.

18th. Informal Meeting of European Central Authorities for Intercountry Adoption, 24 April 2013

The Authority hosted the above event on 18-19 April 2013. Fifty-five delegates attended from Andorra, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Representatives from the Hague Permanent Bureau and UNICEF also attended.

Items on the agenda included –

- Adopting children with special needs, siblings and older age (Italy)
- Adoption by same-sex couples (Netherlands)
- Medical issues in intercountry adoption (Ireland)
- Adopting children from foster care (Northern Ireland)
- The Voice of the Child (Mrs. Justice Catherine McGuinness)
- Difficulties which arise when persons habitually resident in one country adopt children from their native country (Norway/Poland)

Trends identified throughout Europe –

- Children available for adoption are getting older
- The majority of children available for adoption will be regarded as ‘special needs’
- The number of children available for adoption is decreasing
- Due to the decreasing numbers of intercountry adoptions, the viability of many European Accredited Bodies is in doubt
- Preparation for prospective adoptive parents will have to take account of the new reality.
- Prospective adoptive parents and adoption service providers must manage their expectations of intercountry adoption in line with the current realities

Issues of note:

There are approximately 650 valid declarations for intercountry adoption in Ireland and there are decreased numbers of infants adoptable worldwide. There were less than 20 Hague-compliant referrals of children to Ireland in 2013 and not all prospective adoptive parents want to adopt older children with needs. There are therefore a significant number of Irish families with declarations that are unlikely to result in the adoption of a child.

In view of the changing profile of children for adoption worldwide, the need for prospective adoptive parents to be ‘in good health and of an age’ to parent children with needs through to adulthood, is important. Guidelines for practitioners in assessment of prospective adoptive parents were issued during 2013, in relation to medical issues. These guidelines cannot be used as pre-determining factors in assessment. The guidelines outline the need to address significant specific medical issues as early as possible in assessment, if such issues are likely to directly impact on the capacity of the applicants to adopt and rear a child to adulthood. This avoids delays and/or disappointment later in the process. New medical forms devised by the Authority’s Medical Advisor were put into effect at the end of 2013 and together with the guidelines should ensure that unnecessary delays will not be encountered by prospective adoptive parents later in the process.

The Authority remains aware that intercountry adoption is an alternative to institutional care for children, and that children’s welfare and safety must be protected and safeguarded throughout the process. The numbers of adoptable infants has decreased worldwide. Children are being placed on average from about age four years, and have spent most of their lives in institutional care. The need for prospective adoptive parents to be familiar with the child’s language is acute. The information courses undertaken by prospective adoptive parents with the Health Service

Executive/Child and Family Agency throughout 2013 have reflected the changing profile of children and the additional needs of older children and sibling groups. Due to the challenges faced by children with additional needs and the difficulties faced by prospective adoptive parents in effecting adoptions in foreign countries, the use of accredited agencies in facilitating intercountry adoption on behalf of families and in line with the Hague Convention, is considered best practice by the Authority. To this end, ARC Adoption Ltd., continued throughout 2013 to facilitate adoptions from Bulgaria, and Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency began the process of facilitating adoptions from Vietnam in late 2013.

ACCREDITATION

Activity Analysis

The maintenance of a 'Register of Accredited Bodies' by the Authority is provided for under Section 126 of the Adoption Act 2010. By 2013 there were 14 Accredited Bodies registered on the 'Register of Accredited Bodies'.

There was one notification of future discontinuation of service provision from St. Patrick's Guild, Merrion Road, Dublin 4. St. Patrick's Guild shall continue in operation 2014 providing for a phased closure of services.

ADOPTION AUTHORITY OF IRELAND SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE ADOPTION ACT 2010

Registration of ICAs, Sections 57 and 63

The Adoption Bill 2009 proceeded on the basis that only adoptions which were compliant with the 1993 Hague Convention or a Bilateral Agreement would be entitled to recognition and to be entered on the Register of Intercountry Adoptions following the coming into effect of the Act. The provisions of s.57, s.63 and s.90 of the Bill as originally introduced were consistent with this approach. However the amendment to s.63 (2) as originally introduced which has resulted in the provisions of s.63 (2) as now enacted is ambiguous.

The essence of this difficulty is as follows. There is no provision in the 2010 Act which provides for the recognition, and subsequent registration, of an intercountry adoption effected after the establishment day in:

- (1) a non-Hague Convention country, or
- (2) a Hague Convention country where the adoption could not have been effected in accordance with the procedural requirements of the Convention because the application had commenced prior to the entry into force of the Hague Convention between Ireland and the State of the adoption.

Instead, the 2010 Act provides that in any case other than an adoption effected by persons habitually resident in the State of the adoption, a certificate is required that the adoption was effected in accordance with the Hague Convention or a Bilateral Agreement. Such a certificate would not be available where the adoption took place in a non-Hague Convention country or where the procedural requirements of the Convention were not complied with.

Therefore, with regard to intercountry adoptions falling within these two situations or categories, the transitional provisions contained in s.63 of the 2010 Act constitute somewhat of a legislative “cul de sac”. While s.63 (2) (a) allows such adoptions to proceed under the 2010 Act as set out in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii), the Act as currently drafted does not appear to provide clearly for the recognition, and subsequent registration, of such adoptions.

It is not proposed by the Authority that the amendment should permit blanket registrations of pending pre-2010 Act inter-country adoptions. The Authority should still be able to refuse to register any such adoptions which do not comply with the relevant legislative provisions of the foreign state. The ultimate aim of any amendment should therefore be to allow the Authority to register inter-country adoptions commenced before the 2010 Act where there is compliance with foreign state provisions, if not with the technical letter of the Convention Requirements.

Removal of applicant's automatic right to assessment

Remove the automatic legal right to assessment afforded to adopters since the Adoption Act 1991 and define the guidelines to be used when offering the assessment service on a discretionary basis. Automatic right to assessment currently causes a waste of HSE/CFA and AAI resources where applicants are being assessed for young children only, which is particularly wasteful in the context of reducing numbers, older ages and special needs of children available for adoption; and in an environment where the demand for children far outweighs the legal availability of children.

In addition, if an age limit as suggested below were incorporated considerable resources could be saved.

The right to assessment implies a right of applicants to parent a child, whereas it is the child's right to family life that is emphasised in the Hague Convention and within legislation, as nobody has a right to be a parent.

Recognition of certain adoptions

Consideration to be given to the issue of recognition of intercountry adoptions in non-traditional family units e.g. same sex / co-habiting couples / civil partners / reconstituted families.

Requirement for a S40 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability in S53/54 cases

Provide that a S40 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability is required in S53/54 cases.

Age limit of prospective adoptive parents

Place an age limit differential of 42 years between the adopting parent and the child to be adopted. The Equal Status Act (Section 5(2)(j)) specifically allows for the age of applicants to be taken into account as a determining factor for assessing people as prospective adoptive parents.

Rights of the child

The rights of the child in adoption are paramount – address issues such as, delays in placement which may adversely affect attachment of child specifically by removing the need for High Court authorisations under Sec 18 and 30 in relation to birth fathers; remove the need for High Court cases for children of marriage to be deemed eligible for adoption if in long-term foster care; clarify the section on children over 7 years old to incorporate the post referendum position; allow for the adoption of 18-21 year olds

on their own application; remove the need to be viewed as an adopted child of his/her natural mother in stepfamily cases.

Rights of birth mothers

Reiterate and clarify her inalienable rights and responsibilities in relation to her children; her right to choose adoption; her right to open adoption; and her right to have her child adopted by strangers or relatives or by her husband in stepfamily cases without losing her own status as natural mother of the child; should her choice be for her husband to adopt or to share her guardianship, this should be facilitated.

Rights of birth fathers

As mentioned above, remove the need to take cases to the High Court under Section 18s and 30s and revert to the previous system i.e. decisions are made by the Board of the Authority without the necessity of High Court authorisation which causes undue delays, particularly in baby placements, and unnecessary legal expense.

There should be no need for a Section 30 High Court process in a Section 53/54 case. The Adoption Act would be more progressive if it allowed clearly for consent of birth fathers; and in cases where all efforts to locate the birth father are unsuccessful the Authority could dispense with his consent; provide for cases where the birth father is in agreement with the adoption but wants contact.

Open Adoption

Irish adoption law is behind practice by not including this. It is of utmost importance in all types of adoption to legally allow for the rights of all children and parents to have on-going contact with each other, by allowing the legal attachment of conditions to the adoption order

National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR)

Amend the Adoption Act 2010 while awaiting the Information & Tracing Act – the proposed Act should give the Authority a legal foundation for maintaining this Register; the Authority should be given a clear basis upon which it may release original birth certificates as part of progressive legislation and in line with human rights legislation

Tenure of Declarations of Eligibility & Suitability

Declarations should be issued for two year in the best interests of children. Renew through affidavit for the first extension and through updated assessment once during the five year period. Maximum of five years duration.

Habitual residence of applicants

Define 'habitual residence' as per the recent Supreme Court judgement in the case of AS v. CS [2010] 1 IR370. e.g. that the move to the habitual residence was for an appreciable period of time and with a settled intention.

The following factors to be considered-

- Duration (for example, physical presence in the State for a reasonable period of time);
- Regularity;
- Conditions and reasons for the stay in the territory of the State in respect of which habitual residence is claimed;
- The social connections with that Member State (for example, a dwelling within the territory of the State in respect of which habitual residence is claimed); and
- The circumstances of fact specific to each individual case.

Board of the Authority

Membership: Currently, under Section 98 of the Act, the Deputy Chair is not an 'ordinary' member of the Authority. They are listed separately with the Chairman. Therefore when it comes to forming a quorum of the Board under Section 100, the Deputy cannot be considered an 'ordinary' member for the purposes of forming the quorum even when the Chair is present (e.g. a meeting of the Chair, the Deputy Chair and an ordinary member (Social Work) is not quorate).

Broaden the criteria for Board members to additionally include a financial person and a lay person.

Fees for services

Add to the Act that fees can be charged for certain services, by the HSE/CFA or the AAI

Sanctions

Provide for sanctions on anyone who effects an adoption outside the State knowing it to be unsafe.

Provide sanctions for those seeking registration of the adoption outside of the time limits outlined in S82 and S90(4).

Section 68/69 Consents

Section 68 provides for the granting of an adoption order where a child has been transferred to the State from the child's state of origin in accordance with A17 of the Hague Convention but where no adoption has taken place (e.g. where the prospective adoptive parents were granted guardianship).

However, where the consent of a **birth parent** is necessary and has not been given, the High Court is required to make an order under Section 31(3)(b) or Section 54.

This consent threshold is at odds with Section 26 (consent to adoption orders), where consents can be accepted from the **child's mother or guardian or other persons having charge of or control over the child**.

It is proposed that the wording of Section 26(1) be incorporated into Section 68(2)(b) so as to broaden the scope of consents acceptable without recourse to the High Court. This would allow the Authority to accept the consent of an orphanage official or a State welfare official where the child's parents cannot be traced.

The same amendment to be applied to Section 69(2)(b) which provides for the conversion of a simple adoption to a full adoption.

Amendments to SI No. 524 of 2010

Consideration to be given to delegation of Accredited Body solvency matters, in line with practice of good corporate governance of separating the funding function from that of regulation.

Amendments to SI No. 611 of 2011

SI No. 611 of 2011 (Adoption Act 2010 (Abridged Certificate) Regulations 2011) to be amended so as not to list the names of the adoptive parents as 'Father' and 'Mother' on an abridged certificate entitled 'Birth Certificate' and which makes no reference to the Adoption Act 2010.

Position should revert to that prior to the publication of the SI that on an abridged certificate entitled 'Birth Certificate', reference would be made to the Adoption Act 2010 and no parents would be listed.

On an 'ordinary' extract from the Adopted Children's Register (which makes reference to the Adoption Act 2010), the titles Adopter #1 and Adopter#2 be amended to 'Father' and 'Mother'.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1	Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2013
Table 2	Adoption Order granted / Accredited Bodies concerned
Table 3	Total number of adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2013, 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 2013, 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 2013, 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 2013, 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 2009 and 2013, 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 2013 (All Sections)
Table 9	Total number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the (former) 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 2013

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

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. 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
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

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. of Adoptions	Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births
2011	74,650	25,157	33.70	39	0.15
2012	72,225	25,344	35.10	49	0.19
2013	68,930	24,393	35.40	116	0.47
TOTAL				44,158	

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

Table 2. Adoption Order granted / Accredited Bodies concerned

Health Service Executive / Child & Family Agency	116
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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. (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	1599	32.97
2	Romania	786	16.21
3	Vietnam	782	16.12
4	China	388	8.00
5	Ethiopia	301	6.21
6	Guatemala	176	3.63
7	Kazakhstan	149	3.07
8	Belarus	145	2.99
9	Thailand	106	2.19
10	Ukraine	99	2.04
11	Mexico	91	1.88
12	United States of America	62	1.28
13	India	48	0.99
14	Colombia	19	0.39
15	Taiwan	19	0.39
16	Brazil	17	0.35
17	Paraguay	16	0.33

18	Philippines	11	0.23
19	Peru	6	0.12
20	Bulgaria	6	0.12
21	Cambodia	3	0.06
22	Uganda	2	0.04
23	Uzbekistan	2	0.04
24	Chile	1	0.02
25	El Salvador	2	0.04
26	Israel	1	0.02
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	4850	100

Table 4

Entries in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010, for 2013 only. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption)

Country	2013
Russia	17
Ethiopia	26
United States of America	7
China	3
India	10
Bulgaria	1
Taiwan	1
Thailand	5
Colombia	1
El Salvador	1
Total	72

Table 5

Total number of adoptions recognised in 2013, 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	2013
Australia	2
Belgium	2
Canada	1
China	7
Germany	3
Malaysia	1
Russia	6
South Africa	6
Uganda	1
United Kingdom	12
New Zealand	1
Philippines	1
United States of America	14
Total	57

Table 6

Total number of adoptions recognised in 2013, 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).

Ethiopia	1
China	1
Germany	1
United Kingdom	5
Thailand	1
United States of America	4
Philippines	1
Russia	1
Singapore	1
Total	16

Table 7

Total number of adoptions recognised between 2009 and 2013, 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	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	1
Cambodia	0	3	0	0	0
China	10	9	6	1	3
Colombia	1	0	0	0	1
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	1
Ethiopia	21	75	42	32	26
India	0	0	0	10	10
Kazakhstan	7	1	4	0	0
Mexico	16	10	3	1	0
Peru	1	0	0	0	0
Philippines	0	0	1	0	0
Russia	100	80	124	49	17
Taiwan	2	1	1	3	1
Thailand	6	2	0	2	5
Ukraine	2	2	0	0	0
United States of America	4	7	7	19	7
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	136	10	0	0	0
Total	307	200	188	117	72

Table 8
Total number of adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2013 (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
2013	145
Total	6,593

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
2013	266	1
Total	655	3

Table 11. Accredited Bodies accredited in 2013

Regd. No	Name of Accredited Body	Activities for which Accredited
None		