The Adoption Board
Annual Report
2008

Publication information

ISBN info

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Report of An Bord Uchtála

(The Adoption Board) for 2008

To: Mr. Barry Andrews, T.D.

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs,

Department of Health & Children.

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Chairman's Remarks

I am particularly pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2008, marking the completion of my first full year as Chairman of the Adoption Board.

In 2008, the Adoption Board once again undertook and completed a demanding programme of service delivery across the full remit of services, as the narratives and statistics contained within the pages of this Report attest.

In January 2009, the Adoption Bill was published. The Board welcomed the publication of the Bill which, when enacted, will ratify the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. In its preamble, the 1993 Hague Convention provides "that intercountry adoptions may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her state of origin". The 1993 Hague Convention sets out basic principles and guidelines on the implementation of the 1993 Hague Convention.

The ratification by Ireland of the Hague Convention will be the most important single development within Irish adoption since the statutory framework for intercountry adoption was introduced by the Adoption Act of 1991. The 1993 Hague Convention first and foremost places the best interests of the child at the centre of adoption. It provides for a system of cooperation to help ensure that the rights of children are protected, and to safeguard against abuses associated with improper financial gain, undue pressures on biological parents or intervention by incompetent authorities. The Convention also recognises that a child is best served within a safe and permanent family, and where this is not possible within the child's State of origin, intercountry adoption may provide the advantage of such a permanent family solution.

Convention adoptions can only occur where a child is deemed adoptable in the State of origin, and where the prospective adoptive parents have been assessed and deemed eligible and suitable to adopt within the receiving State.

Intercountry adoption carries inherent risks wherever it is carried out. The Hague Convention provides us with the best available framework for managing those risks, while recognising and enabling the important opportunities provided to some children through this activity.

In anticipation of the new legislation, and reflecting the ever changing and evolving legal and social environment around adoption practice, the Board has continued to develop and to progress a number of independent internal administrative initiatives.

During the course of 2008, the Board developed new guidelines for the notification of natural fathers in the area of domestic adoption. This important body of work has been informed by the evolving European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence.

The new Board guidelines which have been in operation for the past 18 months have been drafted having regard to the importance of natural and constitutional justice and the right to respect for private and family life.

The notification of natural fathers in the area of domestic adoption has also now been the subject of an important High Court judgment.

In deciding not to notify a natural father, O'Neill J. held that the Adoption Board was not entitled to rely on the uncorroborated claims by a mother of fears for her safety. The learned judge held that allegations of violence made by one parent against the other must "be corroborated or supported by reliable independent evidence."

Referring to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, O'Neill J. held if "family life" existed between the child and its natural father, "a very high threshold must be reached to demonstrate that those ties have been extinguished by subsequent events."

O'Neill J. rejected the contention that notification of the natural father was mandatory in every case where an adoption order is sought. Significantly, he held that the Board has a discretion to withhold notification even where the "family life" threshold has been reached. That said, the learned judge cautioned that such discretion could be exercised only in extreme and exceptional circumstances.

The judgment provides very helpful guidance to the Board and broadly reflects the new guidelines approved by the Board in 2008.

Once again this year, on my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow Board members, I would like to thank all the staff members at the Adoption Board for their continued hard work, commitment and professional dedication over the course of 2008.

I must also acknowledge the continued support and assistance of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Barry Andrews, TD and the staff of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

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Geoffrey Shannon
Chairman

CEO's Review of 2008

The year 2008 saw the Adoption Board continue to progress its work in an environment of anticipation as the new adoption legislation was being finalised by the Office of the Minister for Children. The legislation, published in January 2009 as the Adoption Bill 2009, will repeal all of the present Adoption Acts and provide one single comprehensive statute around adoption.

The Board was conscious throughout 2008 of the need to continue to prepare for the major transformation which will be occasioned by the legislation when the role of the Adoption Board will transfer to the Adoption Authority of Ireland.

The Authority will be the Irish national 'Central Authority' under the Hague Convention. The new legislation will mark the ratification by Ireland of the Hague Convention, which the legislation will transpose into Irish law.

Intercountry adoption remains a major focus for the Adoption Board and our most demanding area of activity. The number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability issued by the Board for the purposes of effecting an adoption abroad now stands at some 500 per annum. There are a comparable number of applications each year for entry of a foreign adoption into the statutory Register of Foreign Adoptions.

This Annual Report notes a number of important changes and modifications that transpired in 2008 as regards individual countries. The suspension of the granting of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in respect of adoptions within Ethiopia was lifted and particular advices and guidance notes were given to applicants who were interested in adopting there. Conversely, the suspension as regards Guatamala remained in place and the Guatamalan authorities subsequently took an independent decision in September 2008 to halt intercountry adoptions in general.

Advisory notices were issued to intending adopters as regards Mexico and the US State of Florida in relation to the possibility of difficulties arising, subsequent to foreign adoptions undertaken there, on application for an entry to the Register of Foreign Adoptions.

The Peoples Republic of China introduced revised criteria, with effect from May 2008, as to the adopters permitted to undertake intercountry adoptions within China.

The broader social and legal environment within which the Adoption Acts fall to be interpreted continues to evolve, not least in the light of Article 6 and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, respectively concerned with the right to fair process and the right to family life. The Convention was incorporated into Irish law in 2003. During the course of 2008, the Board revised its administrative procedures around hearings in cases where applicants for a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability, who had already received a negative assessment from their local HSE adoption service or from an assessing adoption agency, wished to be heard before the Adoption Board. As a result, revised and enhanced arrangements were formally put in place, as described at paragraph 2.4

This process of critical internal review of procedure and process will continue across all service activities.

The various issues around intercountry adoption should not deflect attention from the fact that Irish domestic adoption has continued as an important and constant component of the Board's work. There has been no diminution in the volumes of domestic adoption activity given the ongoing demand for these services. Step-parent adoption is the major constituent (67%) of the workload of the Domestic Adoption Unit. Here in particular, an evolution of legal opinion around the legal rights of natural fathers has made the work of the DAU much more complex and demanding since the Adoption Act 1998 as we seek to achieve an optimal practical realisation of the statutory right of the natural father to be consulted and to be heard on an adoption application relating to his child. This is an area of administration where jurisprudence still continues to develop, as indeed has been most recently evidenced by an important High Court judgement arising from Judicial Review.

Finally, I wish to turn to the area of adoption information and tracing, an important service for users. The levels of demand here should serve to remind us that a modern and enlightened adoption service does not end with completion of a legal adoption process. It is an intrinsic and immutable characteristic of adoption that many adopted people, on reaching adulthood, will enquire into their origins and will seek to trace their natural parents and other relatives, who may well be seeking to trace them.

At the end of 2008, nearly 8,000 people had registered on the National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR). New applicants continue to present each year in the hope of being matched to a relative by the Register, established in 2005.

Generally, the absence of a modern legislative basis for the national information and tracing service is an obstacle to the further development of the service.

The modernisation programme at the Board continues. Our archive of some 48,000 domestic adoption files was indexed into an electronic database in 2008. The database has proved to be of immense practical benefit for the Board's staff in providing an efficient information and tracing service.

I would like to thank the staff of the Adoption Board for their continued commitment and for the high standard of their work

John Collins
Chief Executive Officer

PART ONE Developments in 2008

1 Domestic Adoption

1.1 Trends in Domestic Adoption

The Board made 200 Irish adoption orders in 2008 compared to 187 adoption orders in 2007, an increase of 13 on the previous year (See Table DA2). The number of applications received in 2008 was 273 (See Table DA1). This represents a decrease of 30 on the previous year's total of 303.

The Board also made 25 Irish adoption orders in 2008 in respect of overseas children who were placed for adoption overseas, 17 of whom were from Guatemala, 2 from India, 5 from Paraguay and one from the Philippines (See Table ICA9).

The Board made 6 Irish adoption orders during 2008 which required the consent of the High Court under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988 (See paragraph 1.4 below).

1.2 Family Adoptions

The Board received 224 family adoption applications in 2008 compared to 229 such applications in 2007 (See Table DA1). Most family adoption applications are made in step-parent situations where a natural mother has a child outside of marriage and she subsequently marries a man who is not the natural father of the child. The natural mother and her husband apply jointly to adopt the child into their marriage. In such circumstances, the natural mother gives up her sole legal rights and responsibilities in respect of her child and both she and her husband take on joint legal rights and responsibilities in respect of the child.

As noted in previous Annual Reports, it remains the Board's view that the procedure outlined above is not always ideal in step-parent situations. The Board considers that some other legal means should be devised to establish the rights and responsibilities of a natural mother's husband without extinguishing the rights and responsibilities of the natural father.

A recently published Law Reform Commission Consultation Paper (ref: LRC CPSS-2009) " Legal Aspects of Family Relationships" has reviewed this area in the course of its work and has made some provisional recommendation- Chapter 4 of that Consultation Paper refers.

1.3 Natural Fathers

The 1998 Adoption Act sets out the rights of the natural father and the Board's obligations in this regard. Natural fathers have a statutory right to be consulted on the adoption application and to be given the opportunity to make their views on the application known. The Board's social work service is responsible for undertaking the assessment once an adoption application has been made (in most cases, this application is made by the natural mother and her husband). This social work service is also available to the natural father as part of ascertaining his views in relation to the adoption application.

Frequently, most of the natural fathers' enquiries are related to procedural and legal matters and are not indicative of opposition to the adoption order. The option of a full Board hearing is available to all natural fathers when notified of the adoption application. Approximately 25% of natural fathers availed of the opportunity to meet with the Boards social workers in 2008. In 2008, six natural fathers availed of the opportunity to be heard by the Board in respect of applications for Domestic Adoption orders relating to their children (this compares to zero in 2007, six in 2006, three in 2005, five in 2004, four in 2003 and six in 2002).

The Adoption Board notified 101 natural fathers of an application for an adoption order in respect of their child who either did not request or failed to attend a hearing with the Board. A further 7 natural fathers were consulted by an Adoption Agency / HSE Adoption Service (See Table DA9).

1.4 Adoption Act, 1988

The Adoption Act, 1988, provides for the adoption of children of marriage, abandoned children, children whose eligibility for adoption cannot be established, and children in long-term foster care where there has been no placement of the child for adoption at the time of reception into care of the child. In such cases, the Board processes the application to a point where it cannot proceed any further and then adjourns the application pending a directive from the High Court. The application is then heard in the High Court and the High Court may direct the Board to make an adoption order in respect of the child in each case. Where the natural mother's consent is forthcoming and there is no question regarding the child's eligibility for adoption, such applications can be processed under the Adoption Act, 1952 without recourse to the High Court.

During 2008, the Board made six adoption orders pursuant to an order of the High Court under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988.

In 2008, the Board made three declarations under the Adoption Act, 1988 and adjourned each of these applications pending the decision of the High Court in each case

1.5 Domestic Adoption Standards

The Domestic Adoption Standards were revised and updated during 2008 .However, in light of the then pending publication of the Adoption Bill 2009, a decision was taken to place the promulgation of the new standards on hold so that the guidelines would be consistent with the terms of the new legislation. The social work team, the staff of the Domestic Adoption unit and Board's management completed work on the interim Birth Father guidelines so as to ensure there were protocols and guidelines in place for the notification of, and appropriate consultation with, birth fathers in all domestic adoption cases to a standard compliant with the requirements of Article 6 and Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

2. Intercountry Adoption

2.1 Activity Analysis

The Board issued 494 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in 2008 to applicants seeking to adopt abroad, compared to 452 in 2007 (Table ICA 6). There is a discernible shift in applicants' choice of country towards Russia and Vietnam and away from China. A total of 490 entries were made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2008 (Table ICA 5) in respect of all relevant Sections of the Adoption Act 1991.

2.2 Country Specific Issues

Ethiopia

In October 2007, the Board decided, as a precautionary measure, to suspend the granting of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in respect of Ethiopia. This action was taken in order to protect the adoption process when a number of important legal issues about the compatibility of domestic Irish adoption law and Ethiopian adoption law were revealed as part of the Board's routine examination of the adoption laws of various jurisdictions. Following the receipt of new legal advice for Ethiopia and receipt of the 20th Ethiopian Adoption Law, the Board lifted the suspension in January 2008. During this period, the Board's action was judicially reviewed in the High Court. The High Court found in favour of the Adoption Board.

The Board issued advice to applicants seeking to adopt in Ethiopia and advised that the final Ethiopian court adoption order should include:

1. The child's birth name (both Given Name and Family Name)
2. The child's date of birth
3. The child's gender
4. The name of the adoptive parents
5. The new name of the child (if appropriate)

It should be noted that the Board cannot accept these details being given in the 'Contract of Adoption' which is drawn up between an orphanage official and the adoptive parents. Further information can be found in the Board's web site at www.adoptionboard.ie.

Guatemala

In July 2008, the Board suspended adoptions from Guatemala. The Board took this action because:

- Guatemala does not have a functioning Central Authority.
- Guatemala does not have a structure to investigate extended family placement or domestic adoption;
- Guatemala does not have competent public authorities handling the determination that the child is eligible for an intercountry adoption and ensuring that birth parents are counselled;
- Guatemala does not prohibit improper payments and does not regulate permissible fees in the adoption process;
- Guatemala does not have a system to accredit adoption service providers.

This temporary suspension will remain in place pending the outcome of efforts currently being taken by the Guatemalan authorities with the support of the Hague Convention to bring their practices and procedures up to international standards. No new applications to adopt from Guatemala were accepted after 15th August 2008. Applications accepted before 15th August 2008 were able to proceed.

Mexico/State of Florida

In August, 2008 the Board issued an advisory statement in relation to adoptions from Mexico and the US State of Florida. An Bord Uchtala advised those seeking to adopt from these areas of the following:

- That no child should be placed with applicants prior to the Adoption Board granting those applicants a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability to adopt under Section (1)(iii)(11) of the Adoption Act, 1991.
- That a child must not be placed for adoption until it has attained the age of six weeks and not earlier than three months before the date of the application for adoption.
- That no payments should be made by an applicant until the child is placed for adoption.
- That adopter(s) should not make any payments which would contravene Section 42 of the Adoption Act, 1952 which states:

(1) "An adopter, parent or guardian of a child shall not receive or agree to receive any payment or other reward in consideration of the adoption of the child under this Act.

(2) No person shall make or give or agree to make or give any payment or reward the receipt of which is prohibited by subsection (1).

(3) (a) A person who makes arrangements for the adoption of a child shall not receive, make or give any payment or other reward in consideration of the making of the arrangements or agree to do so.

(b) This subsection does not apply to:

(i) payments made for the maintenance of the child

(ii) solicitors remuneration for professional services."

Intercountry adoptions which are in breach of these statutory provisions may not be eligible for an entry in the Register of Foreign Adoptions. In such cases, the applicant(s) may have to apply to the High Court for a direction to have the adoption entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, which direction the High Court may or may not grant. This may involve considerable expense on the part of the applicants. Failure to have a child's adoption entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions will result in the child not being recognised as an Irish citizen with all the attendant consequences. It should be noted that these requirements apply to all foreign adoptions.

China

In January 2008, the Board was advised by the China Centre of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) of new Chinese assessment criteria which came into operation in May 2008. These new criteria are available on the Adoption Board website (www.adoptionboard.ie) and include the following requirements :-

I The adopters are a couple of one male and one female with a stable marital relationship.

II Both the husband and wife have reached the age of 30 years and are under 50.

III Both the husband and wife are fully healthy physically and mentally, and do not have a number of specific listed conditions.

IV Either the husband or wife holds a stable occupation.

V Both husband and wife have received education of or above the level of senior high school, or vocational skills training of the same level.

A full list of the new criteria can be found on the Board's website www.adoptionboard.ie

2.3 Review of foreign jurisdictions adoption laws

In order to qualify for an entry in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, a foreign adoption must comply with the definition of a "foreign" adoption as stated in Section 1 of the Adoption Act 1991 (as amended). There are five conditions to be satisfied:-

(i) the adoption must have the consent of every person whose consent to the adoption is, under the law of the place where the adoption was effected, required to be obtained or dispensed with.
(ii) the adoption must have substantially the same legal effect as respects the guardianship of the child in the place where it was effected as an Irish domestic adoption effected by an adoption order within Ireland.
(iii) the law of the place where the adoption was effected must require an enquiry to be carried out, as far as is practicable, into the adopters, the child and the parents or guardians of the child.
(iv) the adoption was effected for the purpose of promoting the interests and welfare of the child.
(v) the adopters have not received, made or given or caused to be made or given any payment or other reward (other than any payment reasonably and properly made in connection with the making of the arrangements for the adoption) in consideration of the adoption and have not agreed to do so.

During 2008, the Board examined the adoption laws of the following countries and found that the adoptions carried out in accordance with the laws of those countries are compatible with the definition of a 'foreign' adoption as stated in Section 1 of the Adoption Act 1991 (as amended) and may qualify for an entry in the Register of Foreign Adoptions –

- Botswana
- Croatia (2 conditions: adopters must be resident in Croatia for 1 year after adoption, and adoption to be carried out in accordance with 1952 Croatian Adoption Act)
- Niger (Plenary Adoption only)
- USA – State of Alabama
- USA- State of Rhode Island

2.4 Adoption Board Hearings

During 2008, the Board reviewed its procedures for Board Hearings where applicants for a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability have received a negative recommendation from the HSE/Adoption Agency. The purpose of the review was to ensure that Board procedures conform to the requirements of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Enhanced arrangements for hearings were subsequently introduced as described below.

Where there is a negative recommendation from the HSE/Agency, the Adoption Board writes to the applicants advising them that they have a number of options in relation to how their application is processed by the Board:

1) they may indicate in writing that they wish to withdraw their application to adopt; or
2) they may submit a statement, by way of Affidavit, in support of their application, before the Board makes its decision; or
3) they may confirm, in writing, that they are satisfied to have a decision made by the Board on the basis of the HSE/Agency report and recommendations; or
4) they may advise the Board that they wish to avail of a hearing, in which case they **must** submit a statement by way of Affidavit.

The applicants will have already received a copy of their home study report from the HSE/Adoption Agency and will be aware of the basis of the negative recommendation by the HSE/Adoption Agency.

All parties to the hearing receive copies of all the above documentation prior to the hearing. At the hearing, only matters in the HSE/Adoption Agency report and the applicant's Affidavit can be addressed. This is to ensure fair procedure.

2.5 Inter Country Adoption Study

On the 12th of February 2008, the Minister for Children Brendan Smith T.D. opened the Conference on the Irish Study of Intercountry Adoption Outcomes (2007) in an international context. The conference featured a number of international experts in the field of Intercountry Adoption .The event was organised jointly by the Trinity College Dublin Children's Research Centre. The implications for research, policy and practise were all highlighted including the matter of legislative changes. The one day conference was well attended by professionals involved with all aspects of adoption.

Preparatory work was undertaken in relation to commissioning the next phase of the Intercountry Adoption studies. Due to the Department of Health and Children's need for the savings initiative, and the moratorium on consultancy expenditure, this project has been delayed until funding becomes available. It is hoped that the project may be considered for funding next year. However, in the meantime, the original Study continues to receive much international attention and the feedback to

the Adoption Board is that the study is being used widely as a resource with all stakeholders

2.6 Preparation for ratification of the Hague Convention

The Board and the senior management held a two day workshop on preparation for Hague. The workshop enjoyed the significant benefit of the participation of the Chief Executive of the national adoption authority in Norway who shared and advised about the Norwegian experience of operating under the Hague Convention.

3. Information and Tracing Services

3.1 Activity Analysis

The Board received 90 applications for the release of original birth certificates. The procedure for the release of birth certificates reflects the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of IOT vs B. In summary, the Supreme Court recognised a person's unenumerated constitutional right to know the identity of his/her natural mother, but the Supreme Court held that this had to be balanced against the natural mother's right to privacy. The Supreme Court found that neither set of rights was absolute. The Adoption Board seeks a report from the Adoption Society involved on the views of the parties to the adoption and makes a balanced decision based on the evidence before it. Details of how to apply for a birth certificate are included on the Board's website at www.adoptionboard.ie

As of the end of 2008, some 31% of applications for birth certificates had been successful, 2% were refused and 64% are awaiting a report to the Board from the adoption agency setting out the natural mother's views on the release of the birth certificate. Some 2% of applications were withdrawn or otherwise discontinued.

3.2 General Enquiries

Overall, the Board received 1,269 information and tracing enquiries in 2008 compared to 821 in 2007. A detailed breakdown of this figure can be found in Table IT1.

3.3 National Adoption Contact Preference Register

There were 872 new applications to join the register in 2008. This brings the overall cumulative total number of people on the Register to 7,627 by the end of 2008. In 2008, there were 77 matches made on the Register between adopted people and their birth/natural relatives. This brings the total number of matches on the Register up to 374 by the end of 2008.

3.4 Indexing and Scanning of the Adoption Board's files

The file indexing phase of the important IT project commenced in March 2008 and was successfully completed in November 2008.

The existing manual card index was extremely rudimentary and made the task of file retrieval very difficult and time consuming. The new electronic index contains nineteen separate information fields including the child's date of birth, the child's full birth and adoptive names, the names and address of the adoptive parents, along with the full names, addresses and ages of the natural parents (where available). The index can be searched under each individual information field or by using a combination of fields. Each file was also given an individual barcode which is also recorded on the index.

The new index has already made a very significant difference to the work of the Information and Tracing Unit. Routine enquiries can now be processed with great

efficiency. Even difficult searches that would previously have taken many hours of work may now be accomplished in a matter of a few minutes.

Following on from this very successful file indexing project, a Request for Tender was issued for the scanning phase of the project in October 2008. The successful tenderer began work in early 2009 with a completion target date around end of September 2009.

The file index is designed to link users directly into the scanned images of the documentation held on the relevant individual file.

When the scanning phase is completed, it will be possible for staff members to immediately find and access the contents of any adoption file on their desktop computer.

3.5 Standardised Framework for a National Information and Tracing Service

The Adoption Board, in partnership with the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies (CIAA) undertook a scoping exercise on the needs of practitioners implementing the Standardised Framework for a National Information and Tracing Service. The needs analysis was undertaken by the Council at a series of information and tracing workshop in February 2008. The Adoption Board established a small working group to respond to the training analyses and to assist in developing a programme for a two day national training event in June 2008.

This event consisted of a series of workshops on key themes emerging from the needs analyses .The morning workshops focused on the search process itself in relation to the establishment of the National Protocols. All of the workshops were co-led with C.I.A.A. Staff and social workers from the Adoption Board. Following the training day, it was agreed that the protocols were to be piloted until September 2009 and will then be reviewed. The training was well attended with high participant turn out and feedback was sought following the training days. This feedback was analysed to identify those aspects of the training that had worked well and to highlight future training needs in relation to the Standardised Framework. The training days also served to facilitate groups of service providers in being able to share in learning of how different agencies may respond to particular dilemmas and challenges. The overarching aim of the training days was to assist in developing standardised uniform responses so that there is an equity developed across information and tracing services. Feedback from the days will assist with setting the agenda for formulation of a framework to review the protocols in the autumn/winter of 2009.

4 Other matters

4.1 Research strategy

The social work service has contributed significantly to the current legislative proposals for the establishment of the new Adoption Authority of Ireland. It is envisaged that the role of the Adoption Authority will encompass the commissioning of research informed both by the need for evidence based practice and by a service commitment to ensuring optimum service outcomes which are child entered and evidence based across all the areas of adoption including particularly information and tracing services. There is a

recognised need for the development of best practice in the newly emerging role of information and tracing services for adult adoptees who were adopted internationally.

4.2 Staff development.

A special one day event was facilitated so that all staff members at the Adoption Board could freely discuss and explore issues around the future development of the Board as it transitions into the new Adoption Authority of Ireland.

PART TWO Statistical Tables

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DA 1
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS, 2008

NON-FAMILY APPLICATIONS	Total	
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN PLACED BY:		
Registered Adoption Societies (adoption placements)	**8**	***3%***
Registered Adoption Societies (foster placements)	**2**	***1%***
HSE (adoption placements)	**8**	***3%***
HSE (foster placements)	**14**	***5%***
Birth mother (within the State)*	**1**	***0%***
Persons (including the birth mother) or authorities outside the state	**16**	***6%***
Total non-family applications	**49**	***18%***

***Private adoption placements within the State were prohibited under the terms of the Adoption Act,1998. The placements referred to here took place before that Act became law.**

FAMILY APPLICATIONS		
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM:		
Birth mother and her husband	**217**	***79%***
Birth mother alone	**0**	***0%***
Birth father alone	**1**	***0%***
Birth father and his wife	**1**	***0%***
Grandparents	**1**	***0%***
Other relatives	**4**	***1%***
Total Family Applications	**224**	***82%***
TOTAL APPLICATIONS	**273**	***100%***

DA 2 IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS MADE, 2008		
	Total	
Orders made in respect of boys	**82**	***41%***
Orders made in respect of girls	**118**	***59%***
Total	**200**	***100%***
NON-FAMILY ADOPTIONS		
ORDERS MADE IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN PLACED BY:-		
Registered Adoption Societies (adoption placements)	**13**	***7%***
Registered Adoption Societies (foster placements)	**0**	***0%***
Health Boards (adoption placements)	**12**	***6%***
Health Boards (long-term foster placements)	**16**	***8%***
Irish private placements	**1**	***1%***
Children placed by persons or authorities outside State	**25**	***13%***
Total non-family adoptions	**67**	***34%***
FAMILY ADOPTIONS		
Birth mother and her husband	**128**	***64%***
Birth mother alone	**1**	***1%***
Birth father and his wife	**2**	***1%***
Birth father alone	**0**	***0%***
Grandparents	**0**	***1%***
Other relatives	**2**	***1%***
Total family adoptions	**133**	***67%***
TOTAL	**200**	***100%***

DA 3 Domestic Adoption Orders Made in Respect of each Health Service Executive Areas in 2008							
Health Service Executive Area	**Family Adoptions**	**%**	**Non-Family Adoptions**	**%**	**Total**	**%**	**Census 2006 % of National Population**
Eastern	**42**	***32%***	**22**	***33%***	**64**	***32%***	**35%**
Midland	**8**	***6%***	**3**	***4%***	**11**	***6%***	**6%**
Mid-Western	**12**	***9%***	**2**	***3%***	**14**	***7%***	**9%**
North-Eastern	**20**	***15%***	**6**	***9%***	**26**	***13%***	**8%**
North-Western	**10**	***8%***	**2**	***3%***	**12**	***6%***	**6%**
South-Eastern	**15**	***11%***	**8**	***12%***	**23**	***12%***	**11%**
Southern	**20**	***15%***	**14**	***21%***	**34**	***17%***	**15%**
Western	**6**	***5%***	**10**	***15%***	**16**	***8%***	**10%**
TOTAL	**133**	***100%***	**67**	***100%***	**200**	***100%***	**100%**

DA 4 - Adoption Orders made in respect of Placements by each Adoption Society & HSE Area

Society		**2008**
Cunamh		7
PACT		3
St Louise Adoption Society		0
St Anne's Adoption Society		0
CLANN		1
St Catherine's Adoption Society		0
St.Mura's Adoption Society		2
Total		**13**

Health Service Executive		**2008**
Eastern		7
Midland		5
Mid-Western		0
North-Eastern		0
North-Western		0
South-Eastern		4
Southern		10
Western		2
Total		**28**

DA 5 Structure of Adoptive Families in 2008

STRUCTURE OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		TOTAL
No other children	**58**	44%	**25**	37%	**83**
Natural children only	**67**	50%	**12**	18%	**79**
Adopted children only	**1**	1%	**19**	28%	**20**
Natural and adopted children	**3**	2%	**5**	7%	**8**
Natural Children & Foster children	**3**	2%	**3**	4%	**6**
Foster & Adopted Children	**0**	0%	**2**	3%	**2**
Natural, Foster & Adopted Children	**0**	0%	**1**	1%	**1**
Foster Children only	**1**	1%	**0**	0%	**1**
Total	**133**	100%	**67**	100%	**200**

DA 6 Age of Child at Date Adoption Order was Made in 2008

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		Total
Under 1 Year		*0%*	3	*4%*	3
Between 1 and 2 years	0	*0%*	21	*31%*	21
Between 2 and 3 years	1	*1%*	14	*21%*	15
Between 3 and 4 years	1	*1%*	8	*12%*	9
Between 4 and 5 years	2	*2%*	4	*6%*	6
Between 5 and 10 years	37	*28%*	2	*3%*	39
Between 10 and 15 years	62	*47%*	10	*15%*	72
Between 15 and 18 years	30	*23%*	5	*7%*	35
Between 18 and 21 years	0	*0%*	0	*0%*	0
TOTAL	133	*100%*	67	*100%*	200

DA 7 Length Of Time Between Date of Placement for Adoption and Date Adoption Order was Made in 2008

	Less than 2 mths	2-6 mths.	6-10 mths.	10-14 mths.	14-18mths.	18-24mths.	Over 2 yrs.	Over 5 Yrs.	Total
Cunamh	**0**	**0**	**1**	**6**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**7**
PACT	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**
St.Anne's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
CLANN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
St.Louise Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St.Mura's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Health Service Executive	**0**	**0**	**4**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**10**	**28**
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	**0**	**1**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**25**
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**
TOTAL	**0**	**1**	**9**	**25**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**14**	**67**
	0%	***0%***	***13%***	***37%***	***10%***	***9%***	***9%***	***21%***	***100%***

DA 8 AGE OF CHILD AT PLACEMENT FOR ADOPTION IN 2008 (Non-Family Adoptions)

	Less than 2 mts.	2-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	12-18 mts.	18-24 mths.	2-5 yrs.	over 5 yrs.	Total
Cunamh	**0**	**2**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**
PACT	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**
St.Anne's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St.Catherine's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
CLANN	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
St.Louise Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St.Mura's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Health Service Executive	**5**	**3**	**2**	**8**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**28**
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	**0**	**2**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**25**
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
TOTAL	**7**	**8**	**10**	**21**	**5**	**5**	**7**	**4**	**67**
	10%	***12%***	***23%***	***12%***	***9%***	***7%***	***12%***	***5%***	***100%***

DA 9 INFORMATION ON BIRTH FATHERS IN 2008

	No Identifying Information	Identity Known but not Notified of Application*	Notified but did not Request or did not Attend Hearing	Consulted by Agency / Board	Heard by Board	Took Proceedings **	Deceased	Total
Cunamh	**4**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**7**
PACT	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**
St.Anne's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St.Catherine's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
CLANN	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
St.Louise Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
St.Mura's Adoption Society	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**
Health Service Executives	**14**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**28**
Private Adoption Placements (Irish)	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	**15**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**25**
Family Adoptions	**22**	**10**	**87**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**7**	**133**
TOTAL	**57**	**23**	**98**	**4**	**6**	**3**	**9**	**200**
	28.5%	*11.5%*	*49%*	*2%*	*3%*	*1.5%*	*4.5%*	*100%*

*This figure includes cases where the fathers' identities were known but were untraceable for notification purposes.

**This figure refers to fathers who took proceedings in respect of the child subsequent to being notified of the adoption application or being heard by the board

DA 10 AGE OF ADOPTERS AT DATE OF ADOPTION ORDER IN 2008

	18-30 YEARS	30-35 YEARS	35-40 YEARS	40-45 YEARS	Over45	Total
Cunamh	0	2	5	7	0	14
PACT	0	0	0	4	2	6
St.Anne's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLANN	0	0	0	2	0	2
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	4	0	0	4
Health Service Executive	2	5	13	13	23	56
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	1	10	24	14	49
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	0	0	0	0	2	2
Family Adoptions	32	120	73	28	12	265
TOTAL	34	128	105	78	53	398
	9%	*32%*	*26%*	*20%*	*13%*	*100%*

DA 11 AGE OF NATURAL MOTHER AT DATE OF BIRTH OF CHILD (Non-Family Adoptions)2008

	Under 16	16-18	18-21	21-25	25-30	Over 30	Not known	Total
Cunamh	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	6
PACT	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
St.Anne's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLANN	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	0	0	5	4	8	7	3	27
Private Adoption Placements (Irish)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	1	4	8	6	3	5	27
TOTAL	1	1	10	18	16	13	8	67
	1%	*0%*	*15%*	*27%*	*24%*	*19%*	*12%*	*100%*

DA 12 Analysis of placements 1997 – 2008

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Applications Received	368	367	400	332	329	298	286	300	273	303	273
Number of Orders Made	400	317	303	293	266	263	273	253	222	187	200
Orders made in respect of children placed by:											
Adoption Societies	68	53	46	32	45	23	26	10	17	7	13
Health Boards / Health Service Executive	31	37	31	49	31	45	42	34	36	23	28
Natural Mothers & Others	37	30	19	16	23	24	20	18	16	13	26
Orders made in respect of family adoptions	264	197	207	196	167	171	185	191*	153	144	133

*This was recorded in error as 225 in the 2005 Annual Report

DA13 Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2008

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. of Adoptions	Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births
1953	62558	1340	2.14	381	28.40
1954	62534	1310	2.09	888	67.80
1955	61662	1234	2.00	786	63.70
1956	60740	1173	1.93	565	48.20
1957	61242	1032	1.69	752	72.90
1958	59510	976	1.64	592	60.70
1959	60188	959	1.59	501	52.20
1960	60735	968	1.59	505	52.20
1961	59825	975	1.63	547	56.10
1962	61782	1111	1.80	699	62.90
1963	63246	1157	1.83	840	72.60
1964	64072	1292	2.02	1003	77.60
1965	63525	1403	2.21	1049	74.77
1966	62215	1436	2.31	1178	82.03
1967	61307	1540	2.51	1493	96.95
1968	61004	1558	2.55	1343	86.20
1969	62912	1642	2.61	1225	74.60
1970	64382	1709	2.65	1414	82.74
1971	67551	1842	2.73	1305	70.85
1972	68527	2005	2.93	1291	64.39
1973	68713	2167	3.15	1402	64.70
1974	68907	2309	3.35	1415	61.28
1975	67178	2515	3.74	1443	57.38
1976	67718	2545	3.76	1104	43.38
1977	68892	2877	4.18	1127	39.17
1978	70299	3003	4.27	1223	40.73
1979	72539	3337	4.60	988	29.61
1980	74064	3723	5.03	1115	29.95
1981	72158	3914	5.42	1191	30.43
1982	70843	4358	6.15	1191	27.33
1983	67117	4552	6.78	1184	26.01
1984	64062	5116	7.99	1195	23.36
1985	62388	5282	8.47	882	16.70
1986	61620	5946	9.65	800	13.45
1987	58433	6347	10.86	715	11.27
1988	54600	6483	11.87	649	10.01
1989	52018	6671	12.82	615	9.22
1990	53044	7767	14.64	648	8.34
1991	52718	8912	16.91	590	6.62
1992	51089	9211	18.03	523	5.68
1993	49304	9826	19.93	500	5.09
1994	47928	9904	20.66	424	4.28
1995	48530	10788	22.23	490	4.54

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. of Adoptions	Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births
1996	50390	12484	24.77	405	3.24
1997	52311	13892	26.56	422	3.04
1998	53551	15133	28.26	400	2.64
1999	53354	16461	30.85	317	1.93
2000	54239	17235	31.78	303	1.76
2001	57882	18049	31.18	293	1.62
2002	60521	18815	31.09	266	1.41
2003	61517	19313	31.39	263	1.36
2004	61684	19935	32.32	273	1.37
2005	61042	19528	32.00	253	1.30
2006	64237	21295	33.15	222	1.04
2007	70620	23170	32.81	187	0.81
2008	75065	24844	33.09	200	0.80

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

2. Intercountry Adoption

ICA 1	Total number of entries in the register of Foreign Adoptions,1991-2008, entered pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act 1991(Applicants Ordinarily Resident in Ireland)
ICA 2	Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2008 pursuant to section 2 of the Adoption Act, 1991
ICA 3	Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2008 pursuant to section 4 of the Adoption Act, 1991.
ICA 4	Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions from 2004-2008 pursuant to section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991.
ICA 5	Entries into the Register of Foreign Adoptions 1991 – 2008 (All Sections)
ICA 6	Number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Board under the Adoption Act, 1991
ICA 7	Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability and Extensions granted by the Adoption Board by County in 2008
ICA 8	Sex of child, by country of origin, in respect of entries made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991 for the year 2008
ICA 9	Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1952 for the year 2008
ICA 10	Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1988 for the year 2008
ICA 11	Number of Sole Applicants who adopted children from abroad whose adoptions were (a) recognised under the Adoption Act, 1991 and (b) processed under the Adoption Acts, 1952 and 1988 for the years 1991 to 2008.

ICA 1
Total number of entries in the register of Foreign Adoptions,1991-2008, entered pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act 1991(Applicants holding a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability)

Country	No of Children	% of Total
Russia	1229	30.98
Romania	786	19.81
Vietnam	636	16.03
China	359	9.05
Guatemala	176	4.43
Belarus	145	3.65
Kazakhstan	137	3.45
Ethiopia	105	2.64
Ukraine	95	2.39
Thailand	91	2.29
Mexico	61	1.53
India	28	0.70
Brazil	17	0.48
Colombia	17	0.42
Paraguay	16	0.40
Philippines	10	0.25
Taiwan	11	0.27
Texas, USA	10	0.25
Florida, USA	7	0.17
Peru	5	0.12
Bulgaria	5	0.12
Uganda	2	0.05
Chile	1	0.02
El Salvador	1	0.02
Israel	1	0.02
Japan	1	0.02
Lebanon	1	0.02
Massachusetts, USA	1	0.02
Bolivia	1	0.02
Sri Lanka	1	0.02
Venezuela	1	0.02
Zambia	1	0.02
Kenya	1	0.02
Zimbabwe	1	0.02
Morocco	1	0.02
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	0.02
Malawi	1	0.02
Libya	1	0.02
Uzbekistan	1	0.02
South Africa	1	0.02
Total	**3966**	**100**

*Please note that there is no legal requirement for adoptive parents to apply to have an entry made in the register of foreign adoptions.

ICA 2

Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2008 pursuant to Section 2 of the Adoption Act, 1991. (Adoptions effected in a country where the adopter(s) were domiciled at the time of the Adoption)

Country	2008
British Columbia, Canada	2
China	2
England	22
Israel	2
Northern Ireland	2
Scotland	2
South Africa	2
Wales	4
Total	**38**

ICA 3

Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2008 pursuant to Section 4 of the Adoption Act, 1991. (Adoptions effected abroad where adopter(s) were ordinarily resident)

Country	2008
Arkansas, USA	1
Botswana	2
California, USA	4
China	2
Cyprus	1
Ecuador	1
England	14
Florida, USA	1
Germany	1
Hong Kong	2
Jersey	1
Liberia	1
Malta	1
Massachusetts, USA	2
Michigan, USA	1
Nevada, USA	1
New York	8
Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada	1
Northern Ireland	1
Ontario, Canada	1
Pennsylvania	1
Queensland, Australia	1
Rhode Island, USA	1

Rhodesia	1
Russia	1
Scotland	1
South Africa	8
Wales	1
Zimbabwe	2
Total	**64**

ICA 4
Number of persons adopted into Ireland whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions from 2004 to 2008 pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991.

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Belarus	56	2	0	1	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0
China	60	52	33	31	19
Colombia	0	0	0	0	1
Ethiopia	16	13	14	17	26
Florida, USA	0	0	2	2	3
Kazakhstan	9	16	15	6	4
Malawi	1	0	0	0	0
Mexico	3	9	4	8	22
Romania	2	0	1	0	1
Russia	189	131	143	160	117
South Africa	0	0	0	0	1
Taiwan	1	1	1	1	0
Texas	0	2	0	3	1
Thailand	8	2	6	9	11
Ukraine	12	27	11	6	9
Vietnam	16	92	68	130	182
Total	**375**	**338**	**298**	**374**	**397**

ICA 5 Entries into the Register of Foreign Adoptions 1991 – 2008	
Year	**Number of Adoptions effected Overseas and entered into the Register of Foreign Adoptions (All Sections)**
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
Total	**5180**

ICA 6
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
Total	**4761**	**40**

ICA 7
Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability and Extensions granted by the Adoption Board by County in 2008

County	Total declarations granted	Extensions granted	Total declarations granted and extensions granted
Carlow	8	3	11
Cavan	7	2	9
Clare	20	4	24
Cork	72	30	102
Donegal	20	3	23
Dublin	126	40	166
Galway	17	16	33
Kerry	17	10	27
Kildare	24	9	33
Kilkenny	11	7	18
Laois	10	5	15
Leitrim	3	1	4
Limerick	20	6	26
Longford	1	2	3
Louth	7	1	8
Mayo	9	7	16
Meath	25	9	34
Monaghan	5	3	8
Offaly	3	1	4
Roscommon	-	1	1
Sligo	4	3	7
Tipperary	22	5	27
Waterford	18	4	22
Westmeath	12	3	15
Wexford	11	12	23
Wicklow	22	7	29
Totals	**494**	**194**	**688**

ICA 8 Sex of child, by country of origin, in respect of entries made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991 for the year 2008			
Country	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Total**
China	2	17	19
Colombia	-	1	1
Ethiopia	8	16	24
Florida, USA	1	2	3
Kazakhstan	4	-	4
Mexico	10	12	22
New York,USA	-	1	1
Romania	1	-	1
Russia	72	46	118
South Africa	-	1	1
Texas	1	-	1
Thailand	2	9	11
Ukraine	7	2	9
Vietnam	37	145	182
Total	**145**	**252**	**397**

ICA 9 Children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1952 for the year 2008			
Country	**Male**	**Female**	**No**
Guatemala	9	8	**17**
Paraguay	1	4	**5**
India	0	2	**2**
Philippines	1	0	**1**
Total	**11**	**14**	**25**

ICA 10 Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1988 for the year 2008			
Country	**Boys**	**Girls**	**Total**
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**

ICA 11
Number of Sole Applicants who adopted children from abroad whose adoptions were (a) recognised under the Adoption Act, 1991 and (b) processed under the Adoption Acts, 1952 and 1988 for the years 1991 to 2008.

Year	Number of Sole Applicants who had adoptions entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions under the Adoption Act, 1991	Number of Sole Applicants whose applications were processed under the Adoption Act, 1952	Number of Sole Applicants whose applications were processed under the Adoption Act, 1988
1991	0	0	0
1992	7	0	0
1993	2	0	2
1994	1	0	0
1995	0	0	0
1996	0	0	0
1997	0	0	0
1998	2	0	0
1999	2	0	0
2000	7	0	0
2001	1	0	0
2002	7	0	0
2003	15	0	1
2004	22	1	0
2005	18	0	0
2006	24	0	0
2007	18	0	0
2008	30	0	0
Total	**156**	**1**	**3**

3. Information and Tracing

IT 1	Written Adoption Information and Tracing Enquiries, 2008
IT 2	NACPR Registrations and Matches

IT1 Written Adoption Information and Tracing Enquiries, 2008

Information & Tracing Statistics	2008	%
Applications for Release of Birth Certificate		
Approved	28	31%
Refused	2	2%
Awaiting report from Placement Agency	58	64%
Withdrawn or Discontinued	2	2%
Total	**90**	**7%**
Enquiries by Adoptees for Contact with Natural Parent		
General tracing enquiry	28	22%
Referred to Placement Agency for an active trace	39	31%
Request for information from file	11	9%
Request for medical information	12	10%
Adoptee tracing sibling	6	5%
Request to update information on file	21	17%
Other	9	7%
Total	**126**	**10%**
Enquiries by Natural Family for Contact with Adoptee		
Request for information from file	9	14%
Natural Mother tracing Adopted Person	14	22%
Natural Father tracing Adopted Person	4	6%
Sibling/ Half Sibling tracing Adopted Person	12	19%
Relative of Natural Mother/ Father tracing Adopted Person	15	23%
Other	10	16%
Total	**64**	**5%**
Enquiries where applicant was not adopted under Irish Law		
Enquiries received	56	100%
Total	**56**	**4%**
Enquiries by Agencies		
Practice Issues	10	5%
Information From File	109	52%
Agency details request	29	14%
Sibling's trace	38	18%
Other	23	11%
Total	**209**	**17%**

Tracing enquiries sent to adoptioninfo e-mail		
Tracing enquiries sent by e-mail	343	100%
Total	**343**	**27%**
Search at the General Register Office		
Search at the General Register Office	380	100%
Total	**380**	**30%**
Complaints received by the Board		
Complaints received	1	100%
Total	**1**	**0%**
Total General Enquiries received by I & T in 2008	**1269**	**100%**

Percentage figures are rounded

IT2 NACPR Registrations and Matches

National Adoption Contact Preference Register	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total	%
No. of Adoptees registering	3601	750	430	539	**5320**	70%
No. of Relatives registering	1459	296	219	333	**2307**	30%
Total NACPR applications	**5060**	**1046**	**649**	**872**	**7627**	**100%**

NACPR Matches	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
No. of matches generated	100	140	57	77	**374**

NACPR launched on 30th March 2005
Percentage figures are rounded