

Late-Age Adoptions from Long Term Foster Care

January 2014 – December 2019

17 January 2020

- From January 2014 to December 2019 there were 123 adoptions from Long Term Foster Care (LTFC).
- Of the respective 123 Applications for Adoption Orders, 60 (49%) were made regarding children aged over 16, hereafter referred to as “late age” applications.
- Figure 1 (below) illustrates how these 60 late-age Applications for Adoption Orders are broken down across ages 16 and 17. It is evident that the majority of late age applications are received by the AAI when the child is 17.

Figure 1: Breakdown of late-age LTFC applications

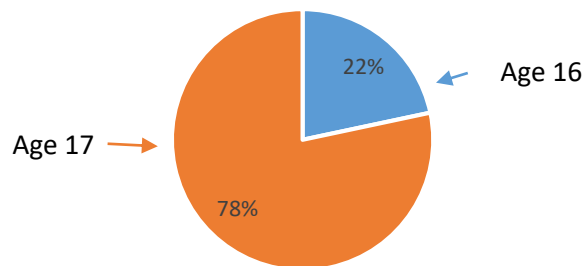


Table 1 (below) gives a more detailed breakdown of these 60 late-age LTFC applications. The numbers in Table 1 are broken down by *year* and *county* from 2014 - 2019.

Table 1: Applications for Adoption Orders from LTFC where child was aged >16:

County	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total	County total as a % of overall total
Dublin	4	3	6	6	7	9	35	58%
Cork	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3%
Kerry	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2%
Limerick	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	8%
Longford	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	7%
Louth	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	5%
Mayo	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3%
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	5%
Waterford	0	0	0	3	1	0	4	7%
Westmeath	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2%
Total:	10	6	7	10	13	14	60	100%

While 10 counties are represented in Table 1, the majority of these late-age adoptions (58% of the total) come from Dublin, followed by Limerick (8%), Waterford and Longford (7% each).

The following regional adoption offices¹ have made no late-age applications from long term foster care to date:

- Laois
- Carlow
- Kilkenny
- Wexford
- Sligo
- Galway
- Donegal

A geographical representation of the overall breakdown of late-age applications by county 2014 – 2019 is displayed in figure 1 on page 3 of this report.

High Court Referrals

A number of the 60 late-age application cases reported in Table 1 required High Court orders. The number of orders per county is noted on Table 2 below and in Figure 2 overleaf. High Court Orders were made in 36 (60%) of the 60 late-age LTFC applications. The sections of the Adoption Act under which each case went to the High Court are reported in Table 2.

Table 2: Applications requiring High Court decisions

County	Sn 30	Sn 54	Total High Court
Cork	0	1	1
Dublin	1	19	20
Kerry	0	1	1
Limerick	0	5	5
Longford	0	2	2
Louth	0	0	0
Mayo	0	1	1
Roscommon	1	1	2
Waterford	0	4	4
Westmeath	0	0	0
Total:	2	34	36

¹ It should be noted that some of these adoption offices also represent adjoining counties.

Figure 2 (below) brings together the data reported in Tables 1 and 2 in illustrative form on a county-by-county basis.

Where *High Court* is mentioned on the map in Figure 2, it refers to the number of cases *out of the reported total for that county* requiring a High Court decision. This number is then shown as a percentage of the county total. For example, the map illustrates that, as per Table 1, 35 late-age LTFC Adoption Orders were applied for in **Dublin** between 2014 and 2019. As per Table 2, twenty of those 35 cases (57%) went to the High Court.

Figure 2: LTFC Adoptions by county

