

The Adoption Board  
Annual Report  
2007

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## **Membership of the Board - 2007**

Judge Jim O'Sullivan, Chairman \*

Orlaith Traynor, Deputy Chairperson

Geoffrey Shannon

Margaret Dromey

Assumpta Hogan

Siobhan Keogh

Tony Lynam-Loane

Dr. Valerie O'Brien

Fachtna Whittle

Chief Executive Officer: John Collins

Director of Social Work: Barbara Kane-Round

Director of Services: Conor Kerlin

Registrar: Kiernan Gildea

Principal Social Worker: Patricia Smyth

*\* Mr Geoffrey Shannon was appointed Chairman of the Adoption Board in September 2007 following the retirement of Judge Jim O'Sullivan.*

**Report of An Bord Uchtála  
(The Adoption Board) for 2007**

**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 very pleased to present the 2007 Annual Report of An Bord Uchtála, the Adoption Board.

I was appointed Chairman of the Board by the Government in September 2007, following the retirement of Judge Jim O'Sullivan. I wish to express the Board's appreciation of Judge O'Sullivan's leadership during his tenure. The Board wishes him all the best in his well earned retirement.

The last year has been a challenging and productive year for the Board. It is one that has seen some considerable change and planning for the future. During 2007, the Board sought to implement in full the objectives set out in the Board's Corporate Plan 2004-2007. In this regard, the Board made significant progress in dealing with the issue of access to birth records, with a review of the National Adoption Contact Preference Register which was launched in November 2007. In October 2007, the first home grown research, commissioned by the Board and completed by Trinity College Dublin, was published. A major conference was organised in February 2008 to consider the outcomes from this research.

The proposed ratification of the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption will present many challenges and opportunities for the Board and the intercountry adoption community in the future. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board, and with the wider adoption services and support groups, in implementing this international instrument which seeks to guarantee that intercountry adoption takes place in the best interests of the child and with respect for his or her fundamental rights.

There are other challenges in the areas of domestic adoption and information and tracing which the Board will continue to address through new and imaginative initiatives. In particular, the Board is conscious of the duties placed on it, as a public body, by Articles 6 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and is actively addressing the implications of these provisions through new and enhanced procedures.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the staff for their professionalism and commitment during 2007 and I look forward to working with them in the future. The continued support of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and the staff of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs is also greatly appreciated.

Finally, it must be stated that it is essential that the adoption process is, and is seen to be, a child-centred one which meets the needs of the individual child being adopted. Moreover, adoption based on the best interests of the child, is beneficial to both the child and the adoptive parents. The Board will continue to work with all the stakeholders towards this end.

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**Geoffrey Shannon**  
**Chairman**

## **CEO's Review of 2007**

2007 was a year in which the Adoption Board continued to develop and improve its services while facing a number of significant challenges. There was a particular effort made this year to develop our role as a centre of excellence and standards. The focus was on promoting adoption as a child centred process and improving supports for our adult clients using the information and tracing services.

The Board continues to prepare for its enhanced role as the national central authority under the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. 2007 saw the publication of the first major study of the outcomes of intercountry adoption for the children involved. The study provides invaluable information to support the development by the Board, HSE and adoption agencies of better targeted services and supports (see section 2.5 below).

The continuing challenge to achieve transparent and ethical ICA surfaced in mid-2007 when the Board suspended the issuing of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in relation to Guatemala because of concerns about how adoptions are carried out there (see section 2.2 below).

Later in the year, the emergence of complex legal issues required the temporary suspension of the issuing of Declarations in relation to adoptions from Ethiopia (see section 2.2 below).

These events serve to emphasise the need for Ireland to ratify the Hague Convention. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has indicated his intention to publish legislation to ratify the Hague Convention which will provide a more effective framework for the carrying out of intercountry adoptions.

The Board also has a programme of continual improvement under way. In 2007 there was a special focus on ensuring that procedures for Board hearings met with the standards required by the UN Convention of Human Rights, which Ireland ratified in 2003. Enhanced procedures were introduced (see section 2.4 below).

While the annual number of domestic adoption applications remained stable, the processing of these applications is becoming increasingly complex. Emerging trends in 2007, which the Board is addressing, are the increasing number of non-Irish applicants seeking to adopt and applications which arise from surrogacy. The important requirement to consult with natural fathers has taken on an added importance since the ratification of the UNHRC (see section 1.3 below).

The Board remains fully committed to responding to the needs of adopted adults and natural mothers. 2007 saw the publication by the Board of its review of the first two years of operation of the National Adoption Contact Preference Register. The Register is now established as a major resource for these groups, which empowers them (see section 3.3 below).

The first Standardised Framework for the Provision of a National Information and Tracing Service was launched late in 2007. The Framework, which is currently being piloted, sets out the standards required for a quality service which is standardised across the country. The development of the Framework involved the successful cooperation of service providers and support groups working together with the Board (see section 3.5 below).

As CEO, I reserve my greatest thanks and appreciation for the staff of the Adoption Board. Their dedication and expertise are the foundations upon which the Board has continued to build progress.

Finally, 2007 saw the retirement of Judge Jim O'Sullivan from the Chairmanship of the Board. The staff of the Board wish to place on record their appreciation of his leadership during the last five years of change and challenge. His wit and wisdom were greatly appreciated. The staff wish him and his wife, Pauline, happiness in his retirement.

We look forward to working with our new Chairman, Mr Geoffrey Shannon.

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**John Collins**  
**CEO**

## Retirement of Chairman



Judge Jim O'Sullivan retired as Chairman of the Board on 6th September 2007. He was appointed Chairman on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1999 and served in his capacity as Chairman for eight years.

As Chairman, he steered the Adoption Board throughout the first phase of its current modernisation programme. During his tenure there were many important developments, which directly benefited Adoption Board clients. The most significant of these developments were:

- The opening of Vietnam to intercountry adoption and the registration of Ireland's first adoption mediation agency, operating in Vietnam, offering important support to applicants through the adoption process;
- The first major study of the outcome of intercountry adoption in Ireland was commissioned by the Board, and has served to support improvements in the intercountry adoption process;
- The average time taken by the Board to process an application for a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability was reduced from sixteen to six weeks;
- An information and tracing unit was established by the Board to provide a dedicated service to people adopted in Ireland since 1952 seeking information about their adoption;
- Ireland's first State provided National Adoption Contact Preference Register was established;

- Work was begun on the development of a National Framework for Domestic Adoption.

The Board and staff of the Adoption Board wish Judge Jim O’Sullivan a happy retirement.

### **Appointment of new Chairman**



Mr Geoffrey Shannon was appointed Chairman of the Adoption Board on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 following the retirement of Judge Jim O’Sullivan. Mr Shannon is a solicitor and senior lecturer in family and child law at the Law Society of Ireland.

In June 2006, Mr Shannon was appointed by the Government to the independent position of Special Rapporteur for Child Protection. He has also been appointed by the Economic and Social Research Institute as the child law expert to their Longitudinal Study of Children, which is the most ambitious project of its kind ever to have been commissioned in Ireland.

He has been selected by the European Expert Organising Committee as the Irish expert member of the *Commission on European Family Law*.

## **PART ONE Developments in 2007**

### **1 Domestic Adoption**

#### **1.1 Trends in Domestic Adoption**

The Board made 187 Irish adoption orders in 2007 compared to 222 adoption orders in 2006, a decrease of 35 on the previous year. (See Table DA2) The number of applications received in 2007 was 303 (See Table DA1). This represents an increase of 30 on the previous year's total of 273.

The Board also made 13 Irish adoption orders in 2007 in respect of overseas children who were placed for adoption overseas, 8 of whom were from Guatemala, 2 from the Philippines, 2 from India and 1 from Morocco (See Table ICA9).

The Board made 6 Irish adoption orders during 2007 which required the consent of the High Court under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988.

#### **1.2 Family Adoptions**

The Board received 229 family adoption applications in 2007 compared to 218 such applications in 2006 (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.

#### **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 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 is made by the natural mother and her husband). This 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 but none availed of the opportunity to be heard by the Board

In 2007 no natural fathers were heard by the Adoption Board in respect of applications for Domestic Adoption orders relating to their children (this compares to six in 2006, three in 2005, five in 2004, four in 2003, six in 2002 and five in 2001).

The Adoption Board notified 83 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 16 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 2007, the Board made six adoption orders pursuant to an order of the High Court under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988.

In 2007 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

## **2. Intercountry Adoption**

### **2.1 Activity Analysis**

The Board issued 452 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in 2007 to applicants seeking to adopt abroad, compared to 400 in 2006. There is a discernible shift in applicant's choice of country towards Russia and Vietnam and away from China. 436 entries were made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2007.

### **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 Irish 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 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](http://www.adoptionboard.ie).



## **Guatemala**

In July 2007, the Board suspended adoptions from Guatemala. The Board took this action because:

- Guatemala does not have a functioning Central Authority.
- does not have a structure to investigate extended family placement or domestic adoption;
- 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;
- does not prohibit improper payments and does not regulate permissible fees in the adoption process;
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007. Applications accepted before 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007 were able to proceed.

## **Mexico/State of Florida**

In August, 2007 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 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, which 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 2007, the Board was advised by the China Centre of Adoption Affairs (CCAA) of new assessment criteria which came into operation in May 2007. The new criteria, which are available on the Adoption Board website ([www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)) include:

- 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 has 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](http://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 option effected by an adoption order (in 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 guardian
- (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 2007 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 –

- Republic of the Fiji Islands
- Republic of Uzbekistan
- The Kingdom of Cambodia (three types of adoption – only one type is compatible)
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Portuguese Republic
- Republic of Namibia
- Commonwealth of the Bahamas

## 2.4 Adoption Board Hearings

During 2007, 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 is to ensure that Board procedures conformed to the requirements of Section 6 of the UN Convention on Human Rights. Enhanced arrangements for hearings were subsequently introduced as follows:

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 HSE/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 report and the applicant's Affidavit can be addressed. This is to ensure fair procedure.

## **2.5 Intercountry Adoption Study**

In June 2007 the first major Irish study of Intercountry adoption was published. The study was commissioned by the Adoption Board and carried out by the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College.

The aims of the study were:

- 1 To identify, explore and evaluate the pre-placement (including preparation and assessment) and placement experiences and needs of children across a range of ages and countries of birth who have been adopted into the Republic of Ireland.
- 2 To identify, explore and evaluate the post-placement the post placement experiences and needs of children across a range of ages and countries of birth who have been adopted into the Republic of Ireland.
- 3 To identify the factors relating to pre-placement, placement and post-placement procedures and practices which contribute to successful intercountry adoption outcomes and to make recommendations along those lines.

During the two-year study, the TCD study team interviewed and assessed 180 children aged between two and 17 years old, randomly selected to be representative of the total population of children who have been adopted from abroad. Interviews took place with the children's adoptive parents on a wide range of issues including their pre-adoption and post-adoption experiences, their experience of parenting and their views on pre and post adoption support services. Further detailed interviews were conducted with young adopted adults, representatives of support groups and social workers.

The children were, on average, 17 months old when adopted, 80% had spent some time in institutional care and they came from 15 different countries. Given the conditions in which they had typically spent their earliest months or years, the study found that most children had made an extraordinary recovery. Their intellectual level was comparable with that of Irish-born children and most were functioning well emotionally and socially. A minority of children (25-30%) had ongoing problems but in only a small number of cases the problems were very severe.

While the study highlights that in general the majority of children adopted into Ireland are doing well, the findings show there is a lack of support for the particular needs of these children, some of whom are still struggling with the consequences of early neglect and institutional care. Parents and professionals, including social work managers, practitioners and support groups identified the urgent need for more awareness and specialised help for the needs of this group of children, such as a comprehensive national post-placement service.

Copies of the study are available from the Adoption Board or from the Children's Research Centre and the study is also on the websites of both organisations ([www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre](http://www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre))

### **3. Information and Tracing Services**

#### **3.1 Activity Analysis**

The Board received 73 applications for the release of original birth certificates. The procedure for the release of birth certificates reflect the judgement of the Supreme Court in the 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 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 ([www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)).

In 2007, 52% of applications for birth certificates were successful. 4% were refused. 41% are awaiting a report to the Board from the placement agency setting out the natural mother's views on the release of the certificate. 3% were withdrawn or discontinued.

#### **3.2 General Enquiries**

Overall the Board received 821 information and tracing enquiries in 2007 compared to 748 in 2006. A detailed breakdown of this figure can be found in Table IT1.

#### **3.3 National Adoption Contact Reference Register**

There were 649 new applications to join the register in 2007. This brings the total number of people on the Register to 6755 by the end of 2007. In 2007, there were 57 matches made on the Register between adopted people and their birth/natural relatives. This brings the total number of matches on the Register to 297 by the end of 2007.

#### **3.4 National Adoption Contact Preference Register Review**

The Adoption Board completed a review of the first two years of the operation of the Contact Preference Register and published the review in November.

In undertaking the review, the Board consulted with the adoption service providers and adoption support groups who were represented on the National Adoption Information and Tracing Service Advisory Group, to draw on their experience of the operation of the Register. The review was launched by Mr Brendan Smith, T.D. Minister for Children. In launching the published review the Minister said:

'I welcome the fact that the Register, the first adoption contact preference register to be regulated, funded and operated by the State, is now an established and permanent feature of adoption services in Ireland'.

The Minister thanked the practitioner and stakeholder groups who had assisted in the establishment of the Register, including the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies, the Adoptive Parent's Association of Ireland, Adoption Ireland, the Natural Parents' Network of Ireland, Barnardos, and the Health Service Executive.

### **Key Findings**

- A total of 6,270 applications were received in the first two years of operation of the Register (April, 2005 to March, 2007). Almost 500 of these applications have resulted in a match. A more detailed analysis of the applications received by the Adoption Board is at Table IT2.
- The general response to the operation of the NACPR (the first adoption contact register service regulated, funded and operated by the State) has been very positive and welcoming.
- The Register gives adopted people and their natural families an opportunity to confidentially state their preferences on the extent and type of Contact they wish to have. It has also given them a real sense of ownership over the process.
- In particular the Register has given natural fathers and other natural relatives of the adopted person a recognition that many felt they did not previously have.
- The Register has saved much time and effort on the often difficult task of ascertaining the current location, circumstances, and contact details of adopted persons and their natural relatives.
- The Register is now recognised to be an established and permanent feature of adoption services in Ireland.

### **Issues remaining to be addressed**

The review identifies a number of key issues that will need to be addressed in the next phase of development of the Register:

- Certain categories of persons, including older natural mothers, have been more reluctant to register. It is proposed to address this matter in the next phase of development of the Register by targeting such groups in future publicity campaigns.
- Certain concerns were raised about notification of matches by telephone. This was addressed by the Adoption Board in June, 2006 when the Board amended its acknowledgement letter to encourage applicants to contact the Board if any part of the process did not suit their particular circumstances. In the nine month period to end March 2007, the Adoption Board received no such request.
- The operation of the Register has revealed some concerns regarding a lack of uniformity in the provision of information and tracing services generally. These concerns are not as a direct result of the operation of the Register itself.

The report is available from the Adoption Board and is on the Board's website. [www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie)

### **3.5 Launch of Standard Framework for the provision of a National Information and Tracing Service**

The Adoption Board launched the first “Standardised Framework for the provision of a National Adoption Information and Tracing Service” in November, 2007. The Framework was launched by Mr Brendan Smith, T.D., Minister for Children.

The Framework is designed to assist in the development and delivery of a standardised, quality, and timely service to all clients. The Minister recognised the range of information and tracing services that had been provided up to now by the Adoption Board, HSE adoption units, and the Registered Adoption Agencies across the country, often in difficult circumstances. The Framework was also welcomed by the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies, the umbrella body incorporating all adoption agencies in the Republic of Ireland.

The Framework sets standards and provides guidance and advice for information and tracing service providers nationally and looks to support the provision of a uniform, quality and timely information and tracing service throughout the country.

Preparation of this Framework was initiated by the Adoption Board, with the assistance of the Department of Health and Children, the HSE, the Registered Adoption Agencies, the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies and the adoption support and stakeholder groups. The Board wishes to thank all involved for the considerable time and effort contributed.

The Standardised Framework, which also includes additional practice guidance for professionally qualified social workers, will be piloted across information and tracing services nationally during 2008, after which it will be reviewed to assess the operation of the guidelines, the experience of service providers in delivering the service in that period, and feedback from stakeholder groups and persons availing of the service during the pilot phase.

The review will identify any resource issues which need to be addressed, taking into account the annual £1 million in on-going, additional; funding that has been invested in the service from 2004 onwards. There will also be a number of information and training days held at the Adoption Board in the future to support the national implementation of the Framework.



## **PART TWO Statistical Tables**

### **1. Domestic Adoption**

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DA 5	Structure of Adoptive Families
DA 6	Age of Child at Date Adoption Order was made
DA 7	Length of time between Date of Placement and Date Adoption Order was made
DA 8	Age of Child at Placement for Adoption
DA 9	Information on Natural Fathers
DA 10	Age of Adopters at Date of Adoption Order
DA 11	Age of Natural Mother at Date of Birth of Child
DA 12	Analysis of Placements 1996 – 2007
DA 13	Birth and Adoption Trends in Ireland 1964-2007

DA 1  
 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS, 2007

NON-FAMILY APPLICATIONS	<u>Total</u>	
<b>APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN PLACED BY:</b>		
<b>Registered Adoption Societies (adoption placements)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Registered Adoption Societies (foster placements)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>HSE (adoption placements)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>HSE (foster placements)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Birth mother (within the State)*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Persons (including the birth mother) or authorities outside the state</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9%</b>
 Total non-family applications	 <b>74</b>	 <b>24%</b>
 <b>*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.</b>		
 FAMILY APPLICATIONS		
<b><u>APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM:</u></b>		
<b>Birth mother and her husband</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Birth mother alone</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Birth father alone</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Birth father and his wife</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Grandparents</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Other relatives</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2%</b>
 Total Family Applications	 <b>229</b>	 <b>76%</b>
 TOTAL APPLICATIONS	 <b>303</b>	 <b>100%</b>

<b>DA 2 IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS MADE, 2007</b>		
	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Orders made in respect of boys</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Orders made in respect of girls</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b><i>NON-FAMILY ADOPTIONS</i></b>		
<b>ORDERS MADE IN RESPECT OF CHILDREN PLACED BY:-</b>		
<b>Registered Adoption Societies (adoption placements)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Registered Adoption Societies (foster placements)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Health Boards (adoption placements)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Health Boards (long-term foster placements)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Irish private placements</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Children placed by persons or authorities outside State</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total non-family adoptions</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b><i>FAMILY ADOPTIONS</i></b>		
<b>Birth mother and her husband</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Birth mother alone</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Birth father and his wife</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Birth father alone</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Grandparents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Other relatives</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total family adoptions</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100%</b>

**DA 3 Domestic Adoption Orders Made in Respect of each Health Service Executive Areas in 2007**

<b><u>Health Service Executive Area</u></b>	<b>Family Adoptions</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Non-Family Adoptions</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Census 2002 % of</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Midland</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Mid-Western</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>North-Eastern</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>North-Western</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>South-Eastern</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Southern</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Western</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

<b><u>Society</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Cunamh	4
PACT	1
St Louise AS	0
CLANN	2
St Catherine's Adoption Society	0
St.Mura's Adoption Society	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

<b><u>Health Service Executive</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Eastern	4
Midland	0
Mid-Western	3
North-Eastern	2
North-Western	2
South-Eastern	0
Southern	6
Western	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

**DA 5 Structure of Adoptive Families in 2007****STRUCTURE OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

	<b>Family Adoptions</b>		<b>Non-Family Adoptions</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
No other children	<b>27</b>	19%	<b>20</b>	47%	<b>47</b>
Natural children only	<b>108</b>	75%	<b>6</b>	14%	<b>114</b>
Adopted children only	<b>4</b>	3%	<b>9</b>	21%	<b>13</b>
Natural and adopted children	<b>4</b>	3%	<b>4</b>	9%	<b>8</b>
Natural Children & Foster children	<b>0</b>	0%	<b>2</b>	5%	<b>2</b>
Foster & Adopted Children	<b>1</b>	1%	<b>0</b>	0%	<b>1</b>
Natural, Foster & Adopted Children	<b>0</b>	0%	<b>1</b>	2%	<b>1</b>
Foster Children only	<b>0</b>	0%	<b>1</b>	2%	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	100%	<b>43</b>	100%	<b>187</b>

**DA 6 Age of Child at Date Adoption Order was Made in 2007**

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		Total
<b>Under 1 Year</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Between 1 and 2 years</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Between 2 and 3 years</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Between 3 and 4 years</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Between 4 and 5 years</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Between 5 and 10 years</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Between 10 and 15 years</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Between 15 and 18 years</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>187</b>

**DA 7 Length Of Time Between Date of Placement for Adoption and Date Adoption Order was Made in 2007**

	<b>Less than 2 mths</b>	<b>2-6 mths.</b>	<b>6-10 mths.</b>	<b>10-14 mths.</b>	<b>14- 18mths.</b>	<b>18- 24mths.</b>	<b>Over 2 yrs.</b>	<b>Over 5 Yrs.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cunamh	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	5
PACT	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
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	0	0
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Service Executives	0	0	5	3	2	3	3	7	23
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	2	8
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>
	<i>0%</i>	<i>2%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>100%</i>



**DA 8 AGE OF CHILD AT PLACEMENT FOR ADOPTION IN 2007 (Non-Family Adoptions)**

	<b>Less than 2 mts.</b>	<b>2-6 mths.</b>	<b>6-9 mths.</b>	<b>9-12 mths.</b>	<b>12-18 mts.</b>	<b>18-24 mths.</b>	<b>2-5 yrs.</b>	<b>over 5 yrs.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cunamh	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	5
PACT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
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	0	0
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Service Executives	7	4	6	3	1	1	0	1	23
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	13
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### DA 9 INFORMATION ON BIRTH FATHERS IN 2007

	<b>No Identifying Information</b>	<b>Identity Known but not Notified of Application*</b>	<b>Notified but did not Request or did not Attend Hearing</b>	<b>Consulted by Agency / Board</b>	<b>Heard by Board</b>	<b>Took Proceedings **</b>	<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cunamh	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
PACT	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
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	0	0	0	0
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Service Executives	15	0	4	5	0	0	1	25
Private Adoption Placements (Irish)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Adoption Placements (outside State )	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Family Adoptions	29	9	83	11	0	1	11	144
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>187</b>
	<i>32%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>100%</i>

\*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 2007**

	<b>18-30 YEARS</b>	<b>30-35 YEARS</b>	<b>35-40 YEARS</b>	<b>40-45 YEARS</b>	<b>Over45</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cunamh	0	2	1	5	2	10
PACT	0	0	0	1	1	2
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	0	0	0
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	1	1	2
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Service Executives	0	2	21	10	12	45
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	1	5	10	10	26
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Adoptions	37	115	72	18	7	249
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>334</b>
	<i>11%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>100%</i>

**DA 11 AGE OF NATURAL MOTHER AT DATE OF BIRTH OF CHILD IN 2007 (Non-Family Adoptions)**

	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>16- 18</b>	<b>18- 21</b>	<b>21- 25</b>	<b>25- 30</b>	<b>Over 30</b>	<b>Not known</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cunamh	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	5
PACT	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
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	0	0	0	0
St.Louise Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
St.Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Health Boards	0	0	4	7	5	5	0	21
Private Adoption Placements (Irish)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Adoption Placements (outside State)	0	0	3	3	1	3	4	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>
	<i>0%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>100%</i>

**DA 12 Analysis of placements 1996 – 2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Number of Applications Received	431	368	367	400	332	329	298	286	300	273	303
Number of Orders Made	422	400	317	303	293	266	263	273	253	222	187
<b>Orders made in respect of children placed by:</b>											
<b>Adoption Societies</b>	95	68	53	46	32	45	23	26	10	17	7
<b>Health Boards / Health Service Executive</b>	41	31	37	31	49	31	45	42	34	36	23
<b>Natural Mothers &amp; Others</b>	36	37	30	19	16	23	24	20	18	16	13
<b>Orders made in respect of family adoptions</b>	250	264	197	207	196	167	171	185	191*	153	144

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

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Non-Marital Births</b>	<b>% of Total Births</b>	<b>No. of Adoptions</b>	<b>Adoptions as a % of Non-Marital Births</b>
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

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

## 2. Intercountry Adoption

ICA 1	Total number of entries in the register of Foreign Adoptions,1991-2007, 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 2007 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 2007 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 2001- 2007 pursuant to section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991.
ICA 5	Entries into the Register of Foreign Adoptions 1991 – 2007 pursuant to section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991. (Resident in the State and in possession of a declaration of eligibility and suitability to adopt abroad)
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 2007
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 2007
ICA 9	Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1952 for the year 2007
ICA 10	Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1988 for the year 2007
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 2007.



## ICA 1

Total number of entries in the register of Foreign Adoptions, 1991-2007,  
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	1112	31.16
Romania	785	22.00
China	340	9.53
Vietnam	454	12.72
Guatemala	176	4.93
Belarus	145	4.06
Kazakhstan	133	3.73
Ukraine	86	2.41
Thailand	80	2.24
Ethiopia	79	2.21
India	28	0.78
Mexico	39	1.09
Brazil	17	0.48
Colombia	16	0.45
Paraguay	16	0.45
Philippines	10	0.28
Taiwan	11	0.31
Texas, USA	9	0.25
Peru	5	0.14
Bulgaria	5	0.14
Uganda	2	0.06
Chile	1	0.03
El Salvador	1	0.03
Israel	1	0.03
Japan	1	0.03
Lebanon	1	0.03
Massachusetts, USA	1	0.03
Bolivia	1	0.03
Sri Lanka	1	0.03
Venezuela	1	0.03
Zambia	1	0.03
Kenya	1	0.03
Zimbabwe	1	0.03
Morocco	1	0.03
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1	0.03
Malawi	1	0.03
Libya	1	0.03
Uzbekistan	1	0.03
Florida	4	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>3569</b>	<b>100</b>

\*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 2007 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)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2007</b>
China	1
England	13
South Africa	2
Ethiopia	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>

**ICA 3**

**Number of persons whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in 2007 pursuant to section 4 of the Adoption Act, 1991. (Adoptions effected abroad where adopter(s) were ordinarily resident)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2007</b>
Alberta, Canada	1
British Columbia	3
England	7
Hong Kong	2
Maryland	1
Massachusetts, USA	3
Nevada, USA	1
New Hampshire	1
New York	2
New Zealand	1
NSW, Australia	1
Ontario, Canada	1
Quebec, Canada	1
Pennsylvania	1
Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	1
Saskatchewan	1
Scotland	1
South Africa	1
Texas	2
Wales	1
Washington	1
Zimbabwe	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

**ICA 4**  
**Number of persons adopted into Ireland whose adoptions have been entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions from 2003 to 2007 pursuant to section 5 of the Adoption Act, 1991.**

<b>Country</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Belarus	39	56	2	0	1
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0	1	0	0	0
Brazil	0	1	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0
China	56	60	52	33	31
Colombia	1	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	7	16	13	14	17
Florida, USA	0	0	0	2	2
Kazakhstan	17	9	16	15	6
Malawi	0	1	0	0	0
Mexico	3	3	9	4	8
Romania	8	2	0	1	0
Russia	139	189	131	143	160
Taiwan	1	1	1	1	1
Texas	1	0	2	0	3
Thailand	16	8	2	6	9
Ukraine	14	12	27	11	8
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	1
Vietnam	39	16	92	68	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>377</b>

**ICA 5**  
**Entries into the Register of Foreign Adoptions 1991 – 2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Adoptions effected Overseas and entered into the Register of Foreign Adoptions (All Sections)</b>
<b>1991</b>	58
<b>1992</b>	305
<b>1993</b>	59
<b>1994</b>	67
<b>1995</b>	90
<b>1996</b>	117
<b>1997</b>	148
<b>1998</b>	260
<b>1999</b>	284
<b>2000</b>	323
<b>2001</b>	285
<b>2002</b>	440
<b>2003</b>	487
<b>2004</b>	486
<b>2005</b>	439
<b>2006</b>	406
<b>2007</b>	436
<b>Total</b>	<b>4690</b>

**ICA 6**  
**Number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused**  
**by the Adoption Board under the Adoption Act, 1991**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Declarations Granted</b>	<b>Number of Declarations Refused</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,267</b>	<b>39</b>

**ICA 7**  
**Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability and Extensions granted by the  
Adoption Board by County in 2007**

County	Approval to adopt one child	Approval to adopt one child / two siblings	Total declarations granted	Extensions granted	Total declarations granted and extensions granted
Carlow	7	-	7	4	11
Cavan	4	1	5	2	7
Clare	11	-	11	4	15
Cork	79	-	79	34	113
Donegal	13	1	14	8	22
Dublin	104	4	108	43	151
Galway	27	-	27	4	31
Kerry	16	1	17	2	19
Kildare	17	-	17	3	20
Kilkenny	14	1	15	1	16
Laois	10	-	10	1	11
Leitrim	2	2	4	-	4
Limerick	15	-	15	13	28
Longford	2	-	2	1	3
Louth	5	3	8	5	13
Mayo	8	-	8	4	12
Meath	17	1	18	9	27
Monaghan	4	1	5	1	6
Offaly	3	-	3	1	4
Roscommon	3	-	3	2	5
Sligo	4	6	10	3	13
Tipperary	11	-	11	13	24
Waterford	7	3	10	8	18
Westmeath	7	-	7	6	13
Wexford	21	1	22	10	32
Wicklow	16	-	16	4	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>638</b>

<b>ICA 8</b>			
<b>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 2007</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belarus	1	0	1
China	4	27	31
Ethiopia	10	7	17
Florida, USA	1	1	2
Kazakhstan	3	3	6
Mexico	5	3	8
Russia	87	73	160
Taiwan	1	0	1
Texas	1	2	3
Thailand	3	6	9
Ukraine	4	4	8
Uzbekistan	0	1	1
Vietnam	22	108	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>377</b>

<b>ICA 9</b>			
<b>Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1952 for the year 2007</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Guatemala	4	6	10
India	0	3	3
Philippines	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>

<b>ICA 10</b>			
<b>Sex of children whose adoptions have been processed under the Adoption Act, 1988 for the year 2007</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**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 2007.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Sole Applicants who had adoptions entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions under the Adoption Act, 1991</b>	<b>Number of Sole Applicants whose applications were processed under the Adoption Act, 1952</b>	<b>Number of Sole Applicants whose applications were processed under the Adoption Act, 1988</b>
<b>1991</b>	0	0	0
<b>1992</b>	7	0	0
<b>1993</b>	2	0	2
<b>1994</b>	1	0	0
<b>1995</b>	0	0	0
<b>1996</b>	0	0	0
<b>1997</b>	0	0	0
<b>1998</b>	2	0	0
<b>1999</b>	2	0	0
<b>2000</b>	7	0	0
<b>2001</b>	1	0	0
<b>2002</b>	7	0	0
<b>2003</b>	15	0	1
<b>2004</b>	22	1	0
<b>2005</b>	18	0	0
<b>2006</b>	24	0	0
<b>2007</b>	18	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>



### 3. Information and Tracing

IT 1	Written Adoption Information and Tracing Enquiries, 2007
IT 2	NACPR Registrations and Matches
IT 3	Written Information & Tracing Enquiries received by the Adoption Board in 2007 where the relevant HSE/ Adoption Tracing Agency is known

**IT 1 Written Adoption Information and Tracing Enquiries, 2007**

<b>Information &amp; Tracing Statistics</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Applications for Release of Birth Certificate</i>		
Approved	38	52%
Refused	3	4%
Awaiting report from Placement Agency	30	41%
Withdrawn or Discontinued	2	3%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>7%</b>
<i>Enquiries by Adoptees for Contact with Natural Parent</i>		
General tracing enquiry	28	15%
Referred to Placement Agency for an active trace	35	19%
Request for information from file	43	24%
Request for medical information	19	10%
Adoptee tracing sibling	6	3%
Request to update information on file	9	5%
Other	43	24%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>17%</b>
<i>Enquiries by Natural Family for Contact with Adoptee</i>		
Natural Mother tracing Adopted Person	38	54%
Natural Father tracing Adopted Person	9	13%
Sibling/ Half Sibling tracing Adopted Person	13	18%
Relative of Natural Mother/ Father tracing Adopted Person	11	15%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>7%</b>
<i>Enquiries where applicant was not adopted under Irish Law</i>		
Enquiries received	77	100%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>7%</b>
<i>Enquiries by Agencies</i>		
Practice Issues	9	5%
Information From File	112	62%
Referred to Other Agency	11	6%
Sibling's trace	31	17%
Other	18	10%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>18%</b>
<i>Tracing enquiries sent to adoptioninfo e-mail</i>		
Tracing enquiries sent by e-mail	233	100%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>23%</b>

<i>Search at the General Register Office</i>		
Search at the General Register Office	212	100%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>21%</b>
<i>Complaints received by the Board</i>		
Complaints received	3	100%
<b>Total of all general enquiries</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total General Enquiries received by I &amp; T in 2007</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Percentage figures are rounded*

**IT 2 NACPR Registrations and Matches**

National Adoption Contact Preference Register	2005	2006	2007	Total	%
No. of Adoptees registering	3601	750	430	4781	71%
No. of Relatives registering	1459	296	219	1974	29%
<b>Total NACPR applications</b>	<b>5060</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>6755</b>	<b>100%</b>

NACPR Matches	2005	2006	2007	Total
No. of matches generated	100	140	57	297

*NACPR launched on 30th March 2005*

*Percentage figures are rounded*

**IT 3 Written Information & Tracing received by the Adoption Board in 2007 where the relevant HSE/ Adoption Tracing Agency is known**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>The Adoption Board</i>		
St. Therese's Adoption Society	3	14%
Private Placement	14	67%
Family Adoptions	4	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5%</b>
<i>Health Service Executive</i>		
Health Service Executive Dublin North East	68	33%
Health Service Executive West	35	17%
Health Service Executive Dublin Mid Leinster	2	1%
Health Service Executive South	103	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>44%</b>
<i>Other Agencies</i>		
Barnardos	4	2%
Cúnamh	81	33%
National Maternity Hospital	2	1%
PACT	7	3%
RGAS	43	18%
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	23	10%
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	10	4%
St. Brigid's Adoption Society	9	4%
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	3	1%
St. Patrick's Guild	52	21%
St. Mura's Adoption Society	8	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Total Enquiries by Tracing Agency</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>100%</b>

*These written enquiries are also incorporated in Table 25  
Percentage figures are rounded*