

The Adoption
Authority of Ireland

Annual Report
2014

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Membership of the Board - 2014

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Report of
Údarás Uchtála
Adoption Authority of Ireland
for 2014

To: Dr James Reilly T.D.

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs,
Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

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Foreword

The Adoption Authority of Ireland (“AAI”) enjoyed a productive year in 2014, including the appointment of a new CEO.

Adoption is one care option for children and it provides identity and permanence within a family structure. Adoption is not the answer in every situation but where a child is in foster care without a realistic hope of returning home, adoption can allow the child a secure family that has legal permanence.

The adoption of children from long-term foster care offers some children a second chance to enjoy the stability of a caring and loving family in line with Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Twenty-three adoption orders were granted to children from foster care during 2014.

In the aftermath of the Children’s Rights Referendum, the Authority hosted a conference in November 2014 to consider the issues of permanence and openness for children who are available for adoption from foster care. It was one of a series of stakeholder information meetings on adoption organised during 2014 by the AAI as part of its communications strategy.

The Authority welcomed the publication of the General Scheme of the Children and Family Relationships Bill 2014. This legislation, once enacted, will be the most important change in family law in a generation. It places the best interests of the child at the centre of all decisions on custody, guardianship and adoption. The legislation will provide different pathways to parentage and will have significant implications for adoption practice.

For stepparents, the new legislation will offer guardianship as an alternative child care option to adoption. It will enable a wider range of unmarried fathers to become guardians of their child automatically. In this regard, the legislation will impose more onerous requirements on the Authority in respect of birth father consultation.

Sole applicants, regardless of sexual orientation, have been in a position to be assessed for adoption for over two decades. The Children and Family Relationships legislation will extend the right to an assessment for adoption to cohabiting couples who have lived together for 3 years, and to civil partners. The best interests of the child has been, and will continue to be, the overarching requirement in determining whether a married couple, a cohabiting couple, civil partners or a sole applicant are suitable to adopt.

The Children and Family Relationships legislation adopts a comprehensive human rights-based approach to children’s rights and, when fully commenced, will remove several roadblocks within the legal system that stand in the way of children having the best possible family life.

The Authority is looking forward to the publication of Information and Tracing legislation during 2015. Such legislation is long awaited by the various stakeholders and is necessary to comply with our international obligations.

The AAI has operated a voluntary adoption contact register since 2005. In excess of 11,000 are registered on the adoption contact register and since 2005 the Authority has facilitated matches from the register for 670 people.

The Authority strongly encourages birth/natural parents in particular to register, as to date statistically more adopted people (7,500) than birth/natural relatives are registered (3,400).

In April 2014, the Authority hosted a seminar on Developments in Intercountry Adoption. The seminar was addressed by two international experts in the area: Laura Martinez-Mora who is head of the intercountry adoption unit at the Hague Conference on Private International Law and Nigel Cantwell who is an international consultant on child protection policy and the author of Unicef's The Best Interests of the Child in Intercountry Adoption.

The seminar provided prospective adoptive parents and other stakeholders with an understanding of the challenges and the changing landscape of intercountry adoption.

The Authority continues to highlight the rights and best interests of children, and seeks to ensure that the voice of the child is heard in all adoption matters. In domestic adoption from long-term foster care, most children are of an age and level of maturity where they are consulted about the proposed adoption.

The AAI hopes that any new legislation will provide for the principles of openness and transparency reflected in Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

We also wish to acknowledge the continued support and assistance of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr James Reilly and the staff of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Dr Geoffrey Shannon
Chairman

Ms Patricia Carey
CEO

Significant Governance Initiatives in 2014

Preparation for Financial Independence

The Authority will be financially independent with effect from 1st January 2015. Prior to this, the Department of Health (DOH) operated the financial function on behalf of the Authority. In preparation for financial independence a finance officer was appointed in September, 2014 and a dedicated finance section was created within the Corporate Services and Accreditation Unit. The Authority will in January receive its first instalment of exchequer funds, directly from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), into a dedicated AAI bank account and in monthly instalments thereafter in accordance with the pre-determined budget agreed between the Authority and DCYA. All expenditure, with the exception of pay roll, will be discharged by the finance section of the Authority from January, 2015. Pay roll continues to be discharged by the Department of Health on a shared services basis.

Establishment of Audit & Risk Committee

In May 2014, in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, the Authority established an Audit and Risk Committee to oversee the internal audit function of the Authority. The Risk and Audit Committee on establishment commissioned a risk assessment of all significant areas of business risk, (strategic, operational, financial, reputational & governance), which has resulted in the adoption of the Authority's comprehensive risk register in October 2014. The Risk and Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of the Authority and as such the chairperson of the Committee reports its workings to the members of the Board. The Committee has a minimum of four scheduled meetings per annum. The members of the Risk & Audit Committee are as follows:

- Ms Helen Collins (Chairperson)
- Mr Aidan Browne
- Ms Claire Byrne
- Dr Geoffrey Shannon

Planning for commencement of full inspection regime

The AAI operates a system of Interim Review reporting by Accredited Bodies, to ensure compliance with the Adoption Act 2010 and the Regulations governing accredited bodies. Throughout 2014 the adoption service providers that are accredited by the AAI completed the Interim Review Reports, and supplied the necessary supporting documentation in relation to governance, finance and practice

matters. The Board inspected this documentation relating to specific accredited bodies on a monthly basis.

The executive staff also inspected each assessment report in an internal system of review of national practice. The publication of the Domestic Adoption Guidelines for adoption social workers, in May 2014, informed this internal review system in relation to applications for adoption within Ireland. The Board monitored the quality of this inspection system on a monthly basis through review of reports for both domestic and intercountry adoption applications.

To progress a scheme whereby full inspections can be carried out in 2015, visits by executive staff to two accredited bodies took place. A number of information and training meetings also took place between executive staff and organisations that regulate other services. In December 2014, an accredited body agreed to participate in a pilot scheme in early 2015.

Corporate Plan 2012-2015

The Authority is required, under Section 108 of the Adoption Act, 2010, to prepare and submit a Corporate Plan. A Corporate Plan is intended to:

- highlight the strategic focus of the organisation
- provide a collective view to ensure ownership and delivery
- build staff engagement and commitment
- provide a challenging appraisal of existing activities and a prioritisation of strategic choices
- include a realistic assessment of available resources vis-à-vis desired objectives
- outline coherently core areas and associated functions of the organisation

High Level Goals

The 2012-2015 Corporate Plan identified four key goals for the Authority and a number of specific objectives to capture the focus of its efforts over the period of the Plan

- **Goal 1:** To undertake and promote objective decision-making in adoption services in accordance with national and international law and evidence-based best practice.
- **Goal 2:** To build capacity for excellence in adoption services both internally and externally.
- **Goal 3:** To support, monitor, investigate and, where necessary, to secure quality standards in adoption services.

- **Goal 4:** To provide a comprehensive information, research and communications framework to support the development of adoption policy, service delivery and continuous quality improvement.

Business Plan 2014

In support of the 2012-2015 Corporate Plan, the Authority publishes an annual Business Plan. The following goals of the 2014 Business Plan were successfully discharged over the 12 month cycle of the plan:

- Field visits to Haiti, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand (Goal 1);
- Significant progress was achieved towards the Authority becoming financially independent on 1 January 2015, including the establishment of a dedicated finance unit within corporate services and the appointment of a finance officer (Goal 2);
- Significant progress towards establishing a separate HR function from 1 January 2015 was achieved, including the direct recruitment by the Authority of new staff to replace civil servants returning to their parent departments (Goal 2);
- A Risk and Audit Committee was establishing, as a sub-committee of the Board of the Authority, in May 2014 comprising 2 members of the Authority and 2 external appointees (Goal 2);
- A comprehensive scoping exercise was carried out toward the preparation of a specification for an information security and IT review in 2015 (Goal 2);
- Domestic Adoption Standardised Framework was published (Goal 4);
- Consultation & project planning was completed for a Pilot Inspection Regime of accredited bodies as required under Statutory Instrument 524 (Accredited Bodies Regulations 2010) to be implemented in early 2015 (Goal 3);
- The Authority engaged with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) for 'plain English' in consultation and document review, of all forms and routine correspondence issued by the Authority, toward achieving the highest standard in written communication with its stakeholders (Goal 4) ;
- The Authority published on its website quarterly statistics on all key operations in accordance with the business plan (Goal 4);
- The project plan to update the National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR) and the pilot scheme to initiate the project were finalised and a start date in early 2015 agreed (Goal 4).

Comment

The corporate plan is the organization development strategy over a five year period and its implementation is dependent upon the alignment of its objectives with the annual business plan. This alignment was successfully achieved in 2014. Furthermore, the Authority is satisfied with the overall progress to date in corporate plan implementation, in particular in the 2014 business plan cycle, where significant aligned goals were implemented. However, a number of matters remain outstanding their achievement outside the remit of the Authority (e.g. awaiting legislation etc).

The Authority, established in November 2010, is entering a mature phase in its development at the end of the first four years of its five year corporate strategy. In recognition of the Authority's evolution, the drafting of the Authority's second Corporate Plan will commence upon the appointment of a new Authority in late 2015.

DOMESTIC ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability

121 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted in 2014. The average time taken between application to the Authority for a Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability and granting of the Declaration was 4.4 weeks, a big improvement on last year's average which was 17.5 weeks. In most cases Declarations were granted within 3 weeks of receipt of the application.

The improvement in the time frame for the processing of Declarations is due to a number of factors including

- the introduction of improved application forms
- the provision of a comprehensive set of guidelines and template forms to adoption social workers
- training provided by social workers and staff of the Domestic Adoption Unit to adoption social workers on the administrative and legal requirements

All applications for Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability, and for adoption orders, were reviewed by the social work team during 2014. There were 102 domestic applications and 106 intercountry applications reviewed in 2014.

Standards and guidelines produced by the Authority for use by the various stakeholders are informed by the trends compiled from these reviews. They are also informed by best practice nationally and internationally; and by the Adoption Act 2010; statutory regulations' Hague Convention standards in adoption; and international research such as that of the International Social Services.

Adoption Orders

112 Adoption orders were granted in 2014. The majority, 74, were made in stepfamily adoptions. There was an increase in the number of adoption orders made in respect of children who had been in long term foster care - 23 in 2014 from 17 in 2013. The balance (15) was made up of a combination of adoptions within the extended family and adoptions of infants placed for adoption in Ireland.

Applications to the High Court

Under the Adoption Act 2010, the Authority is obliged to obtain a High Court order before certain adoptions can proceed.

The Authority must make an application to the High Court seeking to dispense with birthfather in the following instances –

- where the Authority does not know the identity of a birth father, or
- where the Authority has been unable to locate the birth father in order to notify and consult him in relation to the placement of his child for adoption, or to an application for the adoption of his child.

In 2014, 5 applications were made to the High Court under Section 18 of the Act to allow a child to be placed for adoption without consultation with the birth father. The 5 applications were granted.

In 2014, 12 applications were made to the High Court under Section 30 of the Act to allow an adoption application to proceed without consultation with the birth father. 8 applications were granted and the remaining 4 cases were awaiting hearing dates in the High Court at year's end.

To allow the Authority to make an adoption order, the Child and Family Agency (or in certain instances, the applicants), must make an application to the High Court in the following instances –

- where parental consents are not forthcoming and/or
- where it can be demonstrated that the parent(s) have failed in their duty to their child, and
- adoption is deemed to be in the child's best interests,

In 2014, 10 applications were made to the High Court under Sections 53/54 of the Act. 7 applications were granted in 2014 and the remaining 3 were awaiting hearing dates in the High Court at year's end.

INFORMATION and TRACING

Activity Analysis

In 2014, the Authority received 38 applications from adopted persons for the release of their birth certificate.

23 birth certificates were released and 2 applications were refused. Applications for release of these were received in previous years. Of the 23 birth certificates released some were in respect of applications made prior to 2014. Both of the applications which were refused were in respect of applications received before 2014.

National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR)

In 2014, 787 new applicants were added to the National Adoption Contact Preference Register. In 95 cases the Authority identified a match between the new applicants and family members who had joined the Register previously.

The Authority's Social Work Team dealt with 124 new referrals for information, counselling and tracing services in 2014. With regard to the National Adoption Contact Preference Register, social workers contacted people in 88 matches, including 28 sibling matches.

The Authority held a seminar in April 2014 to clarify and promote the Authority's information and tracing service.

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Activity Analysis

Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability

The Authority granted 106 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability in 2014 to applicants seeking to adopt abroad and extended 65 existing Declarations by one year.

Register of Intercountry Adoptions

A total of 104 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions in respect of all relevant sections of the Adoption Act 2010. Of these, 34 entries were in respect of adoptions into Ireland carried out under the terms and conditions the 1993 Hague Convention.

Matching of children: Social workers work with administrative staff and a Medical Advisor, to advise on the matching of children's needs with the abilities of prospective Irish parents. In 2014, 41 children were referred into Ireland from other countries. All referrals of children for adoption are reviewed by the Authority's multi-disciplinary team (which comprises of the Principal Social Worker, The Medical Advisor and the Manager of the Intercountry Adoption Unit)

In countries where Ireland did not have an accredited agency in operation, for example the Philippines, Thailand and the UK, social work staff from the AAI contacted the prospective parents to discuss their ability to meet the specific children's needs.

Country Specific Issues - Hague Convention States

Bulgaria: In 2014, 21 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in Bulgaria; 6 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 4 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

Accredited Bodies: Arc Adoption Limited (2011) and Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency (2014).

China: In 2014, 1 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability was granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in China; 1 Agreement to Place was granted

(Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and zero entry was made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

A Chinese delegation, from Guangdong Province, visited the Authority in June 2014.

Accredited Bodies: Arc Adoption Limited (2011) and Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency (2014).

Haiti: In 2014, 1 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability was granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in Haiti; zero Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and zero entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

The Chairman of the Authority and the Authority's Director of Operations and Corporate Services travelled to Haiti in April 2014. They met with representatives of the National Central Authority - Institut di Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches (IBESR); of UNICEF; of a number of embassies and a number of Irish charities and child care institutions. IBESR indicated that they would allow 12 adoptions per year to Ireland.

Accredited Body: Arc Adoption Limited (2014)

India: In 2014, 4 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in India; zero Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 3 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

Accredited Body: Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency (2014)

Philippines: During 2014, 4 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in the Philippines; 5 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention). Under current arrangements, Filipino children are subsequently adopted in Ireland. The Chairman of the Authority and the Authority's CEO visited the Philippines in December 2014 to review adoptions between the two countries.

Accredited Body: Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency (2012)

Thailand: In 2014, 4 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in Thailand; 3 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 6 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

The Chairman of the Authority and the Authority's CEO visited Thailand in December 2014 to review adoptions between the two countries.

United States of America: During 2014, 57 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in the U.S.A.; 7 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 5 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

Accredited Body: Arc Adoption Limited (2011)

Vietnam: In 2014, 10 Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability were granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in Vietnam; 16 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 4 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

The Chairman of the Authority, the Authority's CEO and Director of Operations and Corporate Services visited Vietnam in December 2014 to review the Bilateral Arrangement between the two countries.

Accredited Bodies: Arc Adoption Limited (2012) and Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency (2012).

United Kingdom: In 2014, 1 Declaration of Eligibility and Suitability was granted to prospective adoptive parents proposing to adopt in the U.K.; 2 Agreements to Place were granted (Article 17 of the Hague Convention) and 2 entries were made in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions.

The National Central Authority (NCA) for England (the coordinating body for the four NCA's in the UK) has indicated that, generally speaking, children are not available for intercountry adoption from the UK. Exceptions may be made where a child is habitually resident in the UK but has relatives in Ireland.

Colombia, Kenya, Lithuania, Peru, Poland, and South Africa: Helping Hands Adoption Mediation Agency was accredited in December 2014 to facilitate adoptions from these countries. HHAMA will now proceed to make contact with the appropriate national central authorities to see what arrangements need to be put in place to facilitate adoptions from these countries.

Kazakhstan: Efforts continued to instigate discussions on the possibility of a bilateral arrangement between Ireland and Kazakhstan. The Authority met with Mr. Yerland Utegenov, Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in September 2014.

ACCREDITATION

Activity Analysis

The maintenance of a 'Register of Accredited Bodies' by the Authority is provided for under Section 126 of the Adoption Act 2010. By 2014 there were 14 Accredited Bodies registered on the 'Register of Accredited Bodies'.

There was one notification of future discontinuation of service provision from St. Patrick's Guild, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1	Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2014
Table 2	Domestic Adoption Orders granted 2014 / Accredited Bodies concerned
Table 3	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2014, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 4	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised in 2014, where the adoptions were effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 5	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised in 2014, where the adoptions were effected prior to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability from the Adoption Authority of Ireland at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 57(2)(a) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 6	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised in 2014, where the adoptions were effected after the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident abroad. (Section 57(2)(b)(i) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 7	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised between 2010 and 2014, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).
Table 8	Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2014 (All Sections)
Table 9	Total number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the (former) Adoption Board under the Adoption Act, 1991 for intercountry adoptions.
Table 10	Total number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability granted and refused by the Adoption Authority of Ireland under the Adoption Act, 2010 for intercountry adoptions.

Table 1. Birth and Domestic Adoption Trends in Ireland 1953-2014

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. of Adoptions
1953	62,558	1,340	2.14	381
1954	62,534	1,310	2.09	888
1955	61,662	1,234	2.00	786
1956	60,740	1,173	1.93	565
1957	61,242	1,032	1.69	752
1958	59,510	976	1.64	592
1959	60,188	959	1.59	501
1960	60,735	968	1.59	505
1961	59,825	975	1.63	547
1962	61,782	1,111	1.80	699
1963	63,246	1,157	1.83	840
1964	64,072	1,292	2.02	1,003
1965	63,525	1,403	2.21	1,049
1966	62,215	1,436	2.31	1,178
1967	61,307	1,540	2.51	1,493
1968	61,004	1,558	2.55	1,343
1969	62,912	1,642	2.61	1,225
1970	64,382	1,709	2.65	1,414
1971	67,551	1,842	2.73	1,305
1972	68,527	2,005	2.93	1,291
1973	68,713	2,167	3.15	1,402
1974	68,907	2,309	3.35	1,415
1975	67,178	2,515	3.74	1,443
1976	67,718	2,545	3.76	1,104
1977	68,892	2,877	4.18	1,127
1978	70,299	3,003	4.27	1,223
1979	72,539	3,337	4.60	988
1980	74,064	3,723	5.03	1,115
1981	72,158	3,914	5.42	1,191
1982	70,843	4,358	6.15	1,191
1983	67,117	4,552	6.78	1,184
1984	64,062	5,116	7.99	1,195
1985	62,388	5,282	8.47	882
1986	61,620	5,946	9.65	800
1987	58,433	6,347	10.86	715
1988	54,600	6,483	11.87	649
1989	52,018	6,671	12.82	615
1990	53,044	7,767	14.64	648
1991	52,718	8,912	16.91	590
1992	51,089	9,211	18.03	523
1993	49,304	9,826	19.93	500
1994	47,928	9,904	20.66	424
1995	48,530	10,788	22.23	490
1996	50,390	12,484	24.77	405
1997	52,311	13,892	26.56	422
1998	53,551	15,133	28.26	400
1999	53,354	16,461	30.85	317
2000	54,239	17,235	31.78	303
2001	57,882	18,049	31.18	293
2002	60,521	18,815	31.09	266
2003	61,517	19,313	31.39	263
2004	61,684	19,935	32.32	273
2005	61,042	19,528	32.00	253
2006	64,237	21,295	33.15	222

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	No. of Adoptions
2007	70,620	23,170	32.81	187
2008	75,065	24,844	33.09	200
2009	74,728	24,532	32.82	190
2010	73,724	24,860	33.72	189
2011	74,650	25,157	33.70	39
2012	72,225	25,344	35.10	49
2013	68,930	24,393	35.40	116
2014	67,462	24,514	36.30	112
TOTAL				44,270

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

Table 2. Domestic Adoption Order granted / Accredited Bodies concerned

Health Service Executive / Child & Family Agency / Tusla	All
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Table 3.

Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions, 1991-2010, entered pursuant to Section 5 of the Adoption Act 1991 **and** in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, 2010-2014 pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the intercountry adoption)

No	Country	No of Children	
1	Russia	1603	
2	Romania	786	
3	Vietnam	786	
4	China	389	
5	Ethiopia	301	
6	Guatemala	176	
7	Kazakhstan	149	
8	Belarus	145	
9	Thailand	112	
10	Ukraine	99	
11	Mexico	96	
12	United States of America	67	
13	India	51	
14	Colombia	19	
15	Taiwan	19	
16	Brazil	17	
17	Paraguay	16	
18	Philippines	11	
19	Bulgaria	10	
20	Peru	6	
21	Cambodia	3	
22	Uganda	2	
23	Uzbekistan	2	
24	United Kingdom	2	
25	El Salvador	2	
26	Chile	1	

27	Israel	1	
28	Japan	1	
29	Lebanon	1	
30	Bolivia	1	
31	Sri Lanka	1	
32	Venezuela	1	
33	Zambia	1	
34	Kenya	1	
35	Zimbabwe	1	
36	Morocco	1	
37	Bosnia Herzegovina	1	
38	Malawi	1	
39	Libya	1	
40	South Africa	1	
	Total	4,884	

Table 4

Entries in the Register of Intercountry Adoptions, pursuant to Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010, for 2014 only. (Applicants habitually resident in Ireland holding a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the intercountry adoption)

Country	2014
Bulgaria	4
China	1
India	3
Mexico	5
Russia	4
Thailand	6
United States of America	5
United Kingdom	2
Vietnam	4
Total	34

Table 5

Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised in 2014, where the adoptions were effected any time **prior** to the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010. (Section 57(2)(a) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Country	2014
Australia	3
Bermuda	1
Cambodia	2
Canada	1
China	3
Greece	1
South Africa	1
United Kingdom	12
Poland	2
Thailand	2
United States of America	12
Total	40

Table 6
 Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised in 2014, where the adoptions were effected **after** the enactment of the Adoption Act 2010 and where the adopters were habitually resident abroad. (Section 57(2)(b)(i) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Brazil	1
Canada	1
Cyprus	1
Ecuador	1
Hong Kong	8
India	1
Israel	1
Kenya	1
New Zealand	1
Thailand	1
United Kingdom	4
United States of America	6
Singapore	2
South Africa	3
Total	32

Table 7

Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised between 2010 and 2014, where the adopters were habitually resident in Ireland and held a valid Declaration of Eligibility & Suitability at the time of effecting the adoption). (Section 5, Adoption Act 1991 and Section 57(2)(b)(ii) of the Adoption Act 2010 refers).

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bulgaria	0	0	0	1	4
Cambodia	3	0	0	0	0
China	9	6	1	3	1
Colombia	0	0	0	1	0
El Salvador	0	0	0	1	0
Ethiopia	75	42	32	26	0
India	0	0	10	10	3
Kazakhstan	1	4	0	0	0
Mexico	10	3	1	0	5
Philippines	0	1	0	0	0
Russia	80	124	49	17	4
Taiwan	1	1	3	1	0
Thailand	2	0	2	5	6
Ukraine	2	0	0	0	0
United States of America	7	7	19	7	5
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	2
Vietnam	10	0	0	0	4
Total	200	188	117	72	34

Table 8
Total number of intercountry adoptions recognised between 1991 and 2014 (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
2009	394
2010	288
2011	342
2012	244
2013	145
2014	104
Total	6,697

Table 9

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

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

Table 10

Number of Declarations of Eligibility and Suitability (Intercountry) granted and refused by the Adoption Authority of Ireland from 2010-2014 under the Adoption Act 2010 in respect of intercountry adoptions.

Year	Number of Section 40 Declarations Granted	Number of Section 40 Declarations Refused
2010	20	0
2011	205	0
2012	164	2
2013	266	1
2014	106	4
Total	761	