

Subject: Request for information on number of single male adoptions in Scotland since 2005.

FOI reference: FOI/202000019792

Date received: 9 March 2020

Date responded: 6 April 2020

Information requested:

Details on number of single males who were named on an adoption certificate on their own (not as a couple) but single male adoptions since the law change in 2005 and when these took place

NRS Response:

Some of the information you have requested is available from Vital Events Reference Table 2.03, Adoptions by type of adoption and by type of adopter(s), 1999 – 2018, published annually on the National Records of Scotland website:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/general-publications/vital-events-reference-tables/2018/section-2-adoptions-and-re-registrations>

This table contains counts of the number of adoptions by sole males.

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, we do not have to provide information if it is already reasonably accessible. If, however, if the internet cannot be accessed to obtain this information from the website listed, then please contact us again and we will send a paper copy. Please note that in line with advice from the UK and Scottish Government and to delay the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) we have taken the decision to close buildings and restrict non-critical services. Until the situation changes we will not be able to provide a paper copy. In the meantime we will be publishing regular updates on our websites about the availability of our services.

The vast majority of adoptions by sole males are step-parents adopting the children of their spouse or partner. However, from our adoption data we can provide the number of adoptions by sole males where the child was of no relation to them. These numbers are shown below:

Year	Number of adoptions by a sole male, of a child not related to them
1999	3
2000	1

2001	2
2002	1
2003	4
2004	1
2005	4
2006	6
2007	5
2008	2
2009	8
2010	1
2011	3
2012	3
2013	4
2014	2
2015	12
2016	4
2017	4
2018	3

Since the introduction of the Adoption of Children Act 1926 and the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act 1930 there has been provision within the law for adoption by single men.

Current adoption law in Scotland is set out in the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 and [section 30](#) sets out eligibility for adoption by one person.

We do not have information on sexual orientation of adopters. This is a formal notice under section 17(1) of FOISA that National Records of Scotland does not have some of the information requested.