

OIA-CE-2024-02661

17 December 2024

fyi-request-29012-59dde220@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe L

Thank you for your email, received on 01 November 2024, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting information on tamariki in care who have reported abuse. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

How many tamariki and rangatahi in the formal care of Oranga Tamariki have reported abuse since 1 January 2023? If any:

- *could this please be broken down into type of abuse and region (e.g., Bottom South, Wellington and Upper South, Central etc.).*
- *could this please be broken down into regions (e.g., Bottom South, Wellington and Upper South, Central etc.).*
- *how many reports of abuse were investigated by Oranga Tamariki? If any:*
- *what were the outcomes (e.g., kaimahi dismissed, kaimahi under strict supervision etc.)?*
- *what are the percentages of abuse found or not found?*

Oranga Tamariki takes harm to children seriously and is dedicated to understanding how and when harm does occur for children in care. Each year we publish an annual Safety of Children in Care report, which provides detailed information about the amount and nature of harm occurring and our work to respond to the safety and needs of children. The latest report was included as Appendix C in the Oranga Tamariki 2023/24 Annual Report which can be found [here](#). Previous reports can be found [here](#).

You have requested data on the outcome of investigations into reports of abuse in care from 1 January 2023 – 01 November 2024. Unfortunately, however, we are unable to provide the information you have requested in the exact way it was phrased.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Please find outlined below data from our most recent monitoring period, which spans the 12 months between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, 507 children in care had one or more investigations into an allegation of harm in care that resulted in a finding of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect). 417 children in care had one or more investigations into an allegation of harm completed during that period that resulted in no finding of abuse. Proportionally, where an investigation occurred in response to alleged harm of a child in care, findings that harm had occurred were made in 55% of cases, and harm was not found to have occurred in 45% of cases.

Reports of concern were made for an additional 364 children in care during this period which are not included in this data. This is because the reported concerns related to situations that did not constitute that child being harmed whilst in care (for example, abuse that occurred before a child entered care or emotional wellbeing concerns not as a direct result of being harmed).

Where harm was found to have occurred, there were a range of people who were alleged to have caused the harm. This can include other young people in the same care environment, approved whānau or non whānau caregivers, parents or other family members, third parties either known or not known to the child or young person or Oranga Tamariki or care provider staff.

Overall, most children are harmed in care by another child or young person in the same care arrangement (226 findings). This harm is predominantly occurring in residences and in group living situations that are provided both by Oranga Tamariki and by our care partners and is predominantly physical in nature.

There were 56 findings of harm by staff in the 2022 year, 69 findings in the 2023 year, and 88 findings this year. This harm occurred predominantly in residential or group home settings. Please note, this reflects the total number of findings harm, not the number of staff with findings, as multiple findings of harm could be attributed to a single staff member.

More detailed information is set out on page 155 of our Annual Report.

Regarding abuse investigations and outcomes for staff, please note that due to the need to ensure individuals cannot be identified, and the confidential nature of employment information, the information requested cannot be provided. Therefore, this part of your request was refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ND', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Nicolette Dickson
Tumu Tauwhiro | Chief Social Worker
Deputy Chief Executive | Professional Practice