

# Report of An Bord Uchtála

(The Adoption Board)

1990





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1990



BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH:  
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR.

Le ceannach díreach ón  
OIFIG DHÍOLTA FOILSEACHÁN RIALTAIS, TEACH SUN ALLIANCE,  
SRÁID THEACH LAIGHEAN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2,  
nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

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# Report of An Bord Uchtála

(The Adoption Board)

1990

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REPORT OF AN BORD  
UCHTÁLA (THE ADOPTION BOARD)

FOR THE YEAR 1989  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 10(1) OF THE  
ADOPTION ACT 1989

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1990

VIRGINIA ROCHFORD, *B.C.L.*,  
*Solicitor, Chairman.*

12th December 1990.

HERBERT R. McWILLIAM,  
*former Judge of the High Court, Deputy Chairman.*

DOROTHY R. BROWNE.

VIVIENNE DARLING, *M.A.*

BRIAN DOOLAN.

HUGH MOHAN, *B.L.*

NORA NOWLAN, *B.A. (mod).*

Registrar: \*BERNARD CAREY.

\*BRIAN HOWARD.

Medical Adviser: CONOR BURKE,  
*M.D., F.R.C.P.I., M.R.C.P. (UK), F.C.C.P., Consultant Physician.*

\*Mr Carey transferred to the Department of Health on 12th November 1990. Mr Howard was appointed Registrar with effect from that date.

The members wish to record their appreciation of Mr Carey's services to the Board and his contribution to adoption work over many years.

The processing of applications for the adoption of children (being within the scope of the Adoption Act 1988) again accounted for a considerable portion of the Board's work. Last year the Board received 12 new applications.

The Board made 17 adoptions, 4 being of foster parents under the Adoption Act, 1988. Nine of the adoptions were for children born within marriage.

In 1990 the High Court made orders under the Adoption Act, 1988 approving the adoption of seven children. The Board duly made adoption orders for the children concerned. Five of the children were born within marriage, one was born within marriage and one was born outside marriage.



## **Report of An Bord Uchtála (The Adoption Board) for 1990**

13th December, 1991

To: Mrs Mary O'Rourke, T.D.,  
Minister for Health.

### **Board Meetings**

The Board has the honour to present its thirty-eighth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1990.

The Board received 660 applications for adoption orders in 1990.

Applications for children being adopted within their natural family increased from 257 in 1989 to 294 in 1990. These cases accounted for 45% of the applications received.

The number of applications for the adoption of children placed by the health boards and the registered adoption societies continues to decline. The Board received 319 such applications in 1990 compared with 378 in the previous year.

The Board received a substantial number of queries concerning foreign adoptions, particularly in relation to the adoption of Romanian children. The upsurge in interest in the adoption of children from abroad, particularly Romania, is reflected in the number of applications received by the Board for Irish adoption orders for such children (36). Twenty-seven of the applications were for Romanian children and nine were for children from Brazil, Colombia, Peru, India and the Lebanon.

The Board made 648 adoption orders in 1990 compared with 615 in 1989. Family adoptions accounted for 268 orders, of which 232 orders were made in favour of the child's natural mother and her husband.

The processing of applications for the adoption of children coming within the scope of the Adoption Act 1988 again accounted for a considerable portion of the Board's work. Last year the Board received 13 new applications.

The Board made 17 declarations in favour of foster parents under the Adoption Act, 1988. Nine of the declarations were for children born within marriage.

In 1990 the High Court made orders under the Adoption Act, 1988 authorising the adoption of seven children. The Board duly made adoption orders for the children concerned. Five of the children were foundlings, one was born within marriage and one was born outside marriage.

The Board is pleased to record that in each case which has come before the High Court since the Adoption Act, 1988 came into operation, the application was sponsored by the relevant health board on behalf of the proposed adopters.

Further information on applications dealt with under the Adoption Act, 1988 is given on page 8 of this report.

The Board's 1989 Report noted the growth in tracing enquiries. The Board considers the setting up of a National Contact Register as now necessary in view of the continued increase in tracing enquiries, both from adopted persons and natural mothers.

Since the Adoption Act, 1952, came into operation on 1st January, 1953, a total of 37,244 adoption orders have been made up to 31st December, 1990.

The following statistical summary covers the year 1990:

	Number
1. Applications for adoption orders received by the Board .....	*660
2. Adoption orders made .....	*648
3. Interim orders made .....	0
4. Adoption orders made in respect of boys .....	323
5. Adoption orders made in respect of girls .....	325
6. Adoption orders made in respect of children born within marriage .....	1
7. Adoption orders made in respect of extra-marital children .....	19
8. Adoption orders made in respect of legitimated children in accordance with the Adoption Act, 1964 .....	0
9. Adoption orders made in respect of orphans .....	2
10. Adoption orders made in favour of widows .....	2
11. Adoption orders made in favour of widowers .....	0
12. Adoption orders made in favour of couples where one or both partners had a previous marriage dissolved .....	4
13. Adoption orders made in cases where the Board dispensed with the consent of the natural mother pursuant to an order of the High Court under section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1974 .....	3
14. Adoption orders made pursuant to an order of the High Court under section 3(1) of the Adoption Act, 1988 .....	7
15. Adoption orders made in cases where the Board dispensed with the consent of a natural parent or guardian in accordance with section 14(2) of the Adoption Act, 1952 .....	3
16. Adoption orders refused .....	2
17. Declarations made by the Board under section 2(1) of the Adoption Act, 1988 .....	17
18. Cases in which the Board adjourned a decision on the application .....	**21
19. Applications for adoption orders withdrawn or not proceeded with .....	**55



20. Children reclaimed by the natural mother .....	2
21. Children removed from applicants by the placing agency .....	1
22. Children returned to placing agency by the applicants .....	1

NOTE: \*The difference between the number of applications received and the number of adoption orders made and applications otherwise disposed of is explained by the carry-over of cases from previous years.

\*\*The high number of applications adjourned or withdrawn arises from a general review of applications outstanding.

## Board Meetings

The Board held meetings on 55 days in 1990.

The business at these meetings included:

- (a) consideration of applications for adoption orders;
- (b) hearing of applications for adoption orders;
- (c) general policy matters;
- (d) meetings with representatives of three adoption agencies;
- (e) a meeting with officials of the Department of Health;
- (f) a meeting with representatives of a group of organisations in the field of adoption pressing for the establishment of a national contact register to facilitate tracing enquiries;
- (g) meetings with the Irish Romanian Adoptive Parents Group and an official of the Romanian Ministry of Justice;
- (h) a meeting with Dr. J.H. Walsh, National AIDS Co-ordinator;
- (i) special hearings under the Adoption Act 1988, particulars of which are given on page 6 of this report;
- (j) special interviews with applicants, applicants' legal advisers, natural mothers, persons having information as to eligibility of children for adoption, persons pursuant to section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1976, and persons authorised to act on behalf of the Board under section 4(1) of that Act. Twenty-eight persons in all were interviewed. This figure does not include the persons heard by the Board under the Adoption Act 1988.

The following is an analysis of the meetings held:

Location	No. of Meetings
Dublin	45
Cork	5
Limerick	2
Waterford	2
Clonmel	1

### **Adoption Act 1988**

Thirteen of the applications for adoption orders received during 1990 came within the scope of the Adoption Act 1988. Five other applications received in previous years were also processed under that Act.

Two applications which were being processed under the Adoption Act 1988 were otherwise dealt with in the light of new evidence as to each child's eligibility. Another application was not proceeded with. These three applications were received prior to 1990.

In 1990 the Board made seventeen declarations in favour of applicants under section 2 of the Act. Nine of the declarations were for children born within marriage, four were for alleged extra-marital children, two were for foundlings and two were for children born outside marriage (including one child whose parents subsequently married each other).

The High Court made seven orders under section 3 of the Act last year. In the case of one order the application to the Court was unsuccessfully contested. The Board made adoption orders for all the children concerned. Five of the children were foundlings, one was born within marriage and one was born outside marriage.

The Board heard the Eastern Health Board on nine applications, the Southern Health Board on three applications, the Mid-Western Health Board and the South Eastern Health Board on two applications each, and the North Eastern Health Board and the North Western Health Board on one application each.

The Board heard the applicants in seventeen cases and consulted the child in eleven of these.

The Board heard five natural fathers and three natural mothers on applications under the 1988 Act.

### Non-Relative Adoptions

Adoption orders made in respect of children placed by:

	Number	%
— registered adoption societies.....	292	45.06%
— health boards.....	68	10.49%
— the natural mother.....	20	3.09%
	<u>380</u>	<u>58.64%</u>

### Family Adoptions

	Number	%
Natural mother and her husband.....	232	35.80%
Natural mother alone.....	2	0.31%
Natural father and his wife.....	0	—
Natural father alone.....	0	—
Grandparents (including two widows).....	18	2.78%
Other relatives.....	16	2.47%
	<u>268</u>	<u>41.36%</u>

### Analysis of Family Adoptions 1981-1990

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
No. of orders made in respect of family adoptions	147 12.3%	221 18.6%	173 14.6%	297 24.9%	212 24.0%	216 27.0%	190 26.6%	217 33.44%	226 36.7%	268 41.4%
No. of orders made in favour of:										
— natural mothers and their husbands	90 7.5%	128 10.8%	103 8.7%	225 18.9%	156 17.7%	162 20.25%	159 22.3%	178 27.43%	188 30.57%	232 35.8%
— other relatives	57 4.8%	93 7.8%	70 5.9%	72 6.0%	56 6.3%	54 6.75%	31 4.3%	39 6.01%	38 6.17%	36 5.56%

NOTE: For the purposes of this table "other relatives" includes: the natural father, grandparents, brother, sister, uncle, aunt of the child.

## Analysis of Orders made in favour of Applicants Resident in each Health Board Area

	Relatives	Non-Relatives	Total	Census 1986 Percentage of total population resident in each area
Eastern Health Board	116 (17.9%)	126 (19.4%)	242 (37.3%)	35%
Midland Health Board	10 (1.5%)	15 (2.3%)	25 (3.8%)	6%
Mid-Western Health Board	19 (2.9%)	37 (5.7%)	56 (8.6%)	9%
North Eastern Health Board	16 (2.5%)	48 (7.4%)	64 (9.9%)	8%
North Western Health Board	8 (1.2%)	12 (1.9%)	20 (3.1%)	6%
South Eastern Health Board	38 (5.9%)	42 (6.5%)	80 (12.4%)	11%
Southern Health Board	49 (7.6%)	68 (10.5%)	117 (18.1%)	15%
Western Health Board	12 (1.9%)	32 (4.9%)	44 (6.8%)	10%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>268 (41.4%)</b>	<b>380 (58.6%)</b>	<b>648 (100%)</b>	<b>100%</b>

The following are the names and addresses of the registered adoption societies concerned in the adoption orders made during 1989 and 1990 together with the number of orders in which each society was concerned.

<b>Dublin</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland, 30 South Anne Street, Dublin 2 .....	47	36
PACT, Support and Counselling Service for Single Parents, Protestant Adoption Society (Registered), 71 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6 .....	8	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society), 1A Cathedral Street, Dublin 1 .....	17	16
St. Brigid's Orphanage, Holy Faith Convent, The Coombe, Dublin 8 .....	39	38
*St. Louise Adoption Society, 1st Floor, Park House, North Circular Road, Dublin 7 .....	32	21
St. Patrick's Guild, 82 Haddington Road, Dublin 4 .....	29	20
<b>Cork</b>		
Sacred Heart Convent, Blackrock, Cork .....	22	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society, Cork and Ross Family Centre, 34 Paul Street, Cork .....	23	14

Other Areas	1989	1990
<b>**Limerick Catholic Adoption Society,</b> Unit 3, St Camillus Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick .....	23	28
Challenge, Registered Adoption Society and Counselling Service for Single and Adoptive Parents, Waterford Road, Kilkenny .....	10	15
St. Attracta's Adoption Society, St. Mary's, Sligo .....	8	11
St. Catherine's Adoption Society, Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis, Co. Clare .....	13	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society, St. Michael's, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath .....	6	9
St. John's Adoption Society, 3 George's Street, Waterford .....	0	3
<b>*St. Kevin's Adoption Society,</b> St. Joseph's Hospital, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford .....	9	14
<b>**St. Mary's Adoption Society,</b> 20 Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry .....	6	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society, The Pastoral Centre, Monastery Avenue, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal .....	16	8
<b>**St. Nicholas' Adoption Society,</b> Western Health Board, Community Care Services, Newcastle Road, Galway .....	17	10
	<u>325</u>	<u>292</u>

\*These societies are operated entirely by staff of the Eastern Health Board and South Eastern Health Board, respectively.

\*\*These societies are run in association with the local health board.

The Board received an application from St. Clare's Adoption Society to have its registration cancelled and this application is being processed.

No application for the registration of an adoption society was received during the year under review.

## Orders made in respect of Health Board Placements

	1989	1990
Eastern Health Board .....	3	8
Midland Health Board .....	4	4
Mid-Western Health Board .....	3	2
North Eastern Health Board .....	8	20
North Western Health Board .....	2	1
South Eastern Health Board .....	0	2
Southern Health Board .....	16	23
Western Health Board .....	5	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	41	68

NOTE: These figures do not include the adoption orders made in respect of children placed by registered adoption societies which are operated by or in association with a health board.

## Classification of Adopters according to their Socio-Economic Group

	1989	1990
Farmers, Farmers' Relatives and Farm Managers .....	52	52
Other Agricultural Occupations and Fishermen .....	3	5
Higher Professional .....	53	84
Lower Professional .....	54	47
Self-Employed (employing others) and Managers .....	73	69
Salaried Employees .....	22	20
Intermediate Non-Manual Workers .....	92	81
Other Non-Manual Workers .....	48	57
Skilled Manual Workers .....	136	159
Semi-Skilled Manual Workers .....	28	27
Unskilled Manual Workers .....	40	36
Home Duties .....	14	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	615	648

NOTE: Those who were unemployed on the date that the order was made were classified by their previous occupations. Where both applicants were gainfully employed outside the home, the classification is in accordance with the occupation of the husband.

### Age of Child at Date of Adoption Order

	Relatives	Non-Relatives	Total
Under one year	1	230	231
Between 1 and 2 years	9	97	106
Between 2 and 3 years	9	16	25
Between 3 and 4 years	25	7	32
Between 4 and 5 years	27	4	31
Between 5 and 10 years	140	11	151
Between 10 and 15 years	48	7	55
Between 15 and 21 years	9	8	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	268	380	648

### Year of Birth of Children

	Relatives	Non-Relatives	Total
1970	0	1	1
1971	0	2	2
1972	2	2	4
1973	1	3	4
1974	5	1	6
1975	3	0	3
1976	10	1	11
1977	8	0	8
1978	14	3	17
1979	11	2	13
1980	15	1	16
1981	30	4	34
1982	23	2	25
1983	28	2	30
1984	31	1	32
1985	28	6	34
1986	29	5	34
1987	15	9	24
1988	11	40	51
1989	4	247	251
1990	0	48	48
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	268	380	648

NOTE: This table relates to the year of birth not the year of application.



### Community Care Area of Birth of Children

Area		Number
Dun Laoghaire	(Area 1)	9
Dublin South East	(Area 2)	138
Dublin South Central	(Area 3)	69
Dublin South West	(Area 4)	1
Dublin West	(Area 5)	0
Dublin North West	(Area 6)	71
Dublin North Central	(Area 7)	2
Dublin North	(Area 8)	2
Kildare	(Area 9)	0
Wicklow	(Area 10)	0
Carlow/Kilkenny	(Area 11)	10
Tipperary (S.R.)	(Area 12)	12
Waterford	(Area 13)	18
Wexford	(Area 14)	15
Cork North Lee	(Area 15)	0
Cork South Lee	(Area 16)	94
North Cork	(Area 17)	3
West Cork	(Area 18)	0
Kerry	(Area 19)	8
Limerick	(Area 20)	40
Tipperary (N.R.)	(Area 21)	3
Clare	(Area 22)	1
Galway	(Area 23)	36
Mayo	(Area 24)	8
Roscommon	(Area 25)	1
Donegal	(Area 26)	12
Sligo/Leitrim	(Area 27)	8
Cavan/Monaghan	(Area 28)	8
Louth	(Area 29)	18
Meath	(Area 30)	0
Laois/Offaly	(Area 31)	6
Longford/Westmeath	(Area 32)	5
Born outside the State		45
Total		<u>643</u>

NOTE: This table does not include an analysis of the orders made in respect of the 5 foundlings.

### Structure of Adoptive Families

	Relatives	Non-Relatives	Total
No other children	57	196	253
Natural children only	196	39	235
Adopted children only	5	135	140
Natural and adopted children	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>
	268	380	648

**Length of Time between Date of Initial Contact by Natural Mother with Agency and Date of Child's Birth**

Agency	Before Birth			After Birth				Totals
	Under 3 mths	Between 3-6 mths	Over 6 mths	Under 2 mths	Between 2-5 mths	Between 5-8 mths	Over 8 mths	
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	16	14	5	1	0	0	0	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	16	0	0	10	0	0	2	28
Challenge Adoption Society	5	3	2	3	0	0	2	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	9	2	2	3	0	0	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	11	7	2	3	0	0	2	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	4	6	1	1	0	2	0	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	24	4	1	8	1	0	0	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	8	0	1	4	0	0	0	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	4	0	2	3	0	0	0	9
St. John's Adoption Society	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	3	5	5	1	0	0	0	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	7	4	2	6	2	0	0	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	4	0	1	1	0	0	1	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	5	1	0	4	0	0	0	10
St. Patrick's Guild	9	4	1	5	0	1	0	20
Health Boards	22	8	3	21	1	2	4	61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>353</b>

NOTE: This table does not include an analysis of the 7 adoption orders made under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988.

### Age of Natural Mother at Date of Birth of Child

Agency	Under 16 years	Between 16-18 years	Between 18-21 years	Between 21-25 years	Between 25-30 years	Over 30 years	Totals
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	1	6	13	12	3	1	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	0	3	14	6	1	4	28
Challenge	1	1	6	4	2	1	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	0	1	1	1	0	1	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	1	1	7	6	1	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	2	2	4	6	5	6	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	1	1	5	5	1	1	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	0	2	5	2	2	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	3	3	14	12	5	1	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	0	5	3	5	0	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	0	0	3	4	1	1	9
St. John's Adoption Society	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	1	0	6	1	3	3	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	1	7	7	1	5	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	0	1	1	4	0	1	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	0	1	2	2	0	3	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	0	1	3	4	0	2	10
St. Patrick's Guild	0	1	6	9	2	2	20
Health Boards	5	4	11	18	8	17	63
Private Adoption Placements	3	2	7	3	2	3	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>375</b>

NOTE: This table does not include an analysis of either the 268 adoption orders made in respect of family adoptions or the 5 adoption orders made in respect of foundlings.

### Age of Child at Placement for Adoption

Agency	Under	Between	Between	Between	Between	Between	Between	Over	Totals
	2 mths	2-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	12-18 mths	18-24 mths	2-5 years	5 years	
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	13	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	13	11	0	4	0	0	0	0	28
Challenge Adoption Society	1	11	2	0	0	0	1	0	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	8	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	8	15	1	0	0	0	0	1	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	2	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	11	26	0	1	0	0	0	0	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
St. John's Adoption Society	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	4	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	3	15	2	1	0	0	0	0	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
St. Patrick's Guild	10	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	20
Health Boards	20	24	6	2	4	1	4	0	61
Private Adoption Placements	12	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>373</b>

NOTE: This table does not include an analysis of the 268 adoption orders made in respect of family adoptions or the 7 adoption orders made under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1968. With regard to those children who were more than twelve months of age at placement, the reasons for the delay included: medical reasons; doubts as to the child's eligibility for adoption; the absence of a written agreement by the natural mother to the child's placement for adoption; the child being cared for initially by his natural mother and the breakdown of a previous adoption placement involving the child.

**Length of Time between Date of Adoption Placement and Date of Application for Order**

Agency	Under 2 mths	Between 2-6 mths	Between 6-10 mths	Between 10-14 mths	Between 14-18 mths	Between 18-24 mths	Over 2 years	Total
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	34	2	0	0	0	0	0	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	25	0	2	0	0	0	1	28
Challenge Adoption Society	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
St. John's Adoption Society	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	10
St. Patrick's Guild	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
Health Boards	47	1	0	1	0	1	11	61
Private Adoption Placements	14	4	1	0	1	0	0	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>373</b>

NOTE: This table does not include an analysis of the 268 adoption orders made in respect of family adoptions or the 7 adoption orders made under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988.

**Length of Time between Date of Application for Adoption Order and Date of Making of Order**

Agency	Under 6 mths	Between 6-12 mths	Between 12-18 mths	Between 18-24 mths	Over 2 years	Totals
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	13	23	0	0	0	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	4	21	2	1	0	28
Challenge Adoption Society	1	9	2	2	1	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	0	3	0	1	0	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	1	14	1	0	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	3	16	2	1	3	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	5	8	1	0	0	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	3	8	0	0	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	4	27	7	0	0	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	10	2	0	1	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	0	7	1	0	1	9
St. John's Adoption Society	0	3	0	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	7	7	0	0	0	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	4	13	2	1	1	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	2	3	1	0	1	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	1	7	0	0	0	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	0	10	0	0	0	10
St. Patrick's Guild	2	16	2	0	0	20
Health Boards	10	39	9	0	10	68
Private Adoption Placements	1	3	9	1	6	20
Family Adoptions	15	77	82	52	42	268
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>648</b>

### Information on Natural Father

Agency	No identifying information on natural father	Name known	Name known and presented himself to agency	Name known and married	Name known, married and presented himself to agency	Totals
Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland	3	28	2	2	1	36
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	2	19	3	4	0	28
Challenge Adoption Society	3	9	1	1	1	15
PACT (Protestant Adoption Society)	2	2	0	0	0	4
R.G.A.S. (Rotunda Girls Aid Society)	1	11	4	0	0	16
Sacred Heart Convent	4	20	1	0	0	25
St. Anne's Adoption Society	2	10	1	1	0	14
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	1	8	1	1	0	11
St. Brigid's Orphanage	7	23	5	3	0	38
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	3	7	2	1	0	13
St. Clare's Adoption Society	3	6	0	0	0	9
St. John's Adoption Society	2	1	0	0	0	3
St. Kevin's Adoption Society	2	9	1	2	0	14
St. Louise Adoption Society	2	12	5	2	0	21
St. Mary's Adoption Society	3	2	1	1	0	7
St. Mura's Adoption Society	1	6	0	1	0	8
St. Nicholas' Adoption Society	4	4	0	2	0	10
St. Patrick's Guild	3	14	0	3	0	20
Health Boards	20	39	1	6	2	68
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>360</b>

### Analysis of Applications 1990

#### Non-Relatives

Applications received in respect of children placed by:

	Number	%	
— registered adoption societies	254	38.48%	} 55.45%
— health boards	65	9.85%	
— the natural mother	11	1.67%	
— persons (including the natural mother) or authorities outside the State	36	5.45%	

#### Family Adoptions

Applications received from:

— the natural mother and her husband	243	36.82%	} 44.55%
— the natural mother alone	4	0.61%	
— the natural father alone	1	0.15%	
— the natural father and his wife	1	0.15%	
— grandparents	26	3.94%	
— other relatives (including one aunt adopting as a sole applicant)	19	2.88%	
	660	100.00%	



## Number of Adoption Applications and Orders 1953-1990

Year	Applications Received	Adoption Orders Made
1953	1,520	381
1954	1,150	888
1955	987	786
1956	467	565
1957	685	752
1958	558	592
1959	601	501
1960	620	505
1961	730	547
1962	757	699
1963	902	840
1964	1,062	1,003
1965	1,360	1,049
1966	1,257	1,178
1967	1,298	1,493
1968	1,395	1,343
1969	1,463	1,225
1970	1,333	1,414
1971	1,258	1,305
1972	1,334	1,291
1973	1,501	1,402
1974	1,690	1,415
1975	1,426	1,443
1976	1,277	1,104
1977	1,296	1,127
1978	1,228	1,223
1979	1,234	988
1980	1,354	1,115
1981	1,189	1,191
1982	1,254	1,191
1983	1,115	1,184
1984	956	1,195
1985	883	882
1986	831	800
1987	721	715
1988	714	649
1989	657	615
1990	660	648

ADULTERY REGISTER

Number of Applications and Orders Made

Number of Applications and Orders Made

### Analysis of Placements 1981-1990

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
No. of applications received	1,189	1,254	1,115	956	883	831	721	714	657	660
No. of adoption orders made	1,191	1,191	1,184	1,195	882	800	715	649	615	648
No. of orders made in respect of children placed by:										
— adoption societies	951 79.9%	879 73.8%	921 77.8%	793 66.3%	588 66.7%	515 64.4%	455 63.6%	358 55.2%	325 52.9%	292 45.0%
— health boards	80 6.7%	80 6.7%	75 6.3%	85 7.1%	54 6.1%	53 6.6%	54 7.6%	49 7.6%	41 6.7%	68 10.5%
— the natural mother and others (including authorities outside the State)	13 1.1%	11 0.9%	15 1.3%	20 1.7%	28 3.2%	16 2.0%	16 2.2%	25 3.8%	23 3.7%	20 3.1%
No. of orders made in respect of family adoptions	147 12.3%	221 18.6%	173 14.6%	297 24.9%	212 24.0%	216 27.0%	190 26.6%	217 33.4%	226 36.7%	268 41.4%

Given under the Official Seal of the Board

VIRGINIA ROCHFORD  
*Chairman*



