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## Applications for access to historical adoption records, twelve months to 31 March 2007, England

### INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the number of applications made to local authorities for access to historical adoption records (applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002), for the six month periods ending 30 September 2006 and 31 March 2007 and the twelve month period ending 31 March 2007.

Almost all the applications were in respect of adoptions which took place between 1926 and 12 November 1975 under regulation 5(2), section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. This information was collected to enable Ministers to make a judgement about when it would be appropriate to revoke regulation 5(2) and permit intermediary agencies to routinely receive applications in respect of adoptions on or after 12 November 1975.

This is **not** a National Statistics publication.

Data were successfully submitted by 148 of the 150 local authorities in England for the first six months of the collection ending 30 September 2006 under the Adoption Access (AA1) return and by all 150 local authorities in the second part of the collection for the six months ending 31 March 2007 under the Adoption Access (AA2) return. This was a one-off data collection designed to run during 2006-07 only.

### KEY POINTS

*Number of new applications during six months to 30 September 2006 and 31 March 2007 (Tables A and B)*

- The first six months of the collection ending 30 September 2006 saw 1,800 new applications, which was slightly less than the 2,000 new applications that were received in the second half of the collection for the six months to 31 March 2007.

*Number of new applications during twelve months to 31 March 2007 (Table C)*

- There were 3,700 new applications made to English local authorities for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, in the year ending 31 March 2007. 66 per cent (2,500) of these applications were by the adopted adult wishing to contact their birth relatives. 34 per cent (1,300) of new applications were by an adult birth relative wishing to contact the adopted adult.

*Number of new applications during twelve months to 31 March 2007 (Table 1)*

- A fifth (32) of local authorities did not receive any new applications during the year ending 31 March 2007. The South East was the region with the most new applications with 630 and the North East with the fewest (130). The region which had the greatest proportion of new applications being made by the adopted adult was the North East with 75 per cent, while Yorkshire and The Humber received the highest proportion of new applications being made by the adult birth relative with 43 per cent.

- The East of England and London received the most new applications filed by the adopted adult with 420 and the South East received the greatest number of new applications made by the adult birth relative (240).

*Number of open applications at 30 September 2006 and 31 March 2007 (Tables A and B)*

- There were 2,700 open applications at 31 March 2007 compared to 2,000 open applications at 30 September 2006. The number of open applications from both the adopted adult and the adult birth relative also increased between the two time periods, from 1,200 to 1,700 and from 750 to 1,000 respectively.
- 63 per cent (1,700) of the open applications at 31 March 2007 were by the adopted adult wishing to contact their birth relatives. 37 per cent (1,000) of open applications at 31 March 2007 were by an adult birth relative wishing to contact the adopted adult.

*Number of open applications at 31 March 2007 (Table 2)*

- Just over a quarter (42) of local authorities did not have any open applications at 31 March 2007. The South East was the region with the most open applications with 710 and the North East with the fewest (50).

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

The following section provides some background on why the information was collected.

Section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, and the Adoption Information and Intermediary Services (Pre-Commencement Adoptions) Regulations 2005 provide a framework within which intermediary agencies (registered adoption support agencies and adoption agencies) may operate an intermediary service to provide for contact between adopted adults and their adult birth relatives. The Government anticipates that the demand for intermediary services is likely to be high. There have been around 890,000 legal adoptions since 1926 and there is a potentially large amount of previously unmet need for these services.

The regulations require intermediary agencies to give priority to applications in respect of any adoption which took place between 1926 and 11 November 1975. Applications in respect of adoptions between 12 November 1975 and 29 December 2005 may only be accepted where the intermediary agency has spare capacity or where the intermediary is satisfied that the circumstances are sufficiently exceptional as to warrant doing so. Cases of genuine urgency will almost always be those where the applicant is very elderly or terminally ill. These arrangements are intended to help registered adoption support agencies, adoption agencies, the Registrar General and the courts to manage the demand from applicants for this new service.

Accurate information on applications made is needed to enable Ministers to make a judgement about when it would be appropriate to revoke regulation 5(2) and permit intermediary agencies to routinely receive applications in respect of adoptions on or after 12 November 1975. The purpose of the Adoption Access data collection is to capture information on the number of applications so that Ministers can make an informed decision about when to amend the regulations.

The following definitions were used during the data collection:

- 'open' means applications that are live at the end day of the period - this includes both new applications made in the 6 months as well as applications made in the previous 6 months if they are still live at that point. This will illustrate the level of burden on local authorities.

- 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over
- 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The following frequently asked questions were provided with the guidance notes for the Adoption Access return and have been included here to provide some further background information.

### **1. What is an intermediary service?**

An intermediary service is provided for the purposes of assisting adopted adults and their birth relatives in obtaining the information they need for the purpose of tracing a relative and establishing contact with them. An adopted person aged 18 or over, who was adopted prior to 30 December 2005, has the right to request an intermediary service to trace and facilitate contact with a birth relative. An adult birth relative of an adopted person has the corresponding right where they wish to trace and establish contact with an adopted adult.

### **2. What if a person just wants information and not contact with a relative?**

The 2002 Act and the supporting regulations distinguish between the provision of an intermediary service and an adoption agency's function of disclosing information to adopted adults about their adoption, their family history and early life. Therefore, where an adopted person applies to the adoption agency for access to information but does not wish to pursue contact with a relative, this will not constitute the provision of intermediary service. The adoption agency continues to have discretion under the Adoption Agencies Regulations 1983 to disclose the information it considers appropriate to an adopted person. Where the adopted person subsequently returns to the agency seeking contact with a birth relative this will constitute an intermediary service for the purposes of section 98 of the 2002 Act.

### **3. Who may provide intermediary services?**

The regulations stipulate that an intermediary service may be provided by an adoption support agency or an adoption agency (a local authority or voluntary adoption agency). An ASA will need to be registered under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act to provide these services. An adoption may choose to provide an intermediary service, although there is no statutory requirement for it to do so.

### **4. Can an intermediary agency routinely accept applications in respect of adoptions on or after 12 November 1975?**

No. Regulation 5(2) provides that an intermediary agency may only accept applications in respect of adoptions on or after 12 November 1975 where it has the spare capacity to do so or where it considers the circumstances to be exceptional. Cases of genuine urgency will almost always be those where the applicant is very elderly or terminally ill. Where demand is much lower than anticipated, intermediary agencies that have spare capacity may routinely accept applications in respect of cases on or after 12 November 1975.

**5. Does an adoption agency providing information to an intermediary agency constitute an application for the purposes of this data collection?**

No. Where the intermediary agency is not the appropriate adoption agency<sup>1</sup>, it is first required to ascertain if an adoption agency was involved in the adoption and, if so, take steps to contact that adoption agency. It must then seek its views on the application and any proposed contact between applicant and subject. It may then seek information from the adoption agency to assist with tracing the subject of the application and provision of counselling etc. Where the adoption agency simply provides information to the intermediary agency this does not constitute an intermediary service.

**ROUNDING AND SUPPRESSION OF VERY SMALL NUMBERS**

To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, the following rules have been used regarding rounding of numbers and suppression of very small numbers.

**National Tables A - C**

For this reason, all **numbers** which appear in the national summary Tables (Tables A to C) have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a hyphen (-). Where any number is shown as zero (0) the original figure submitted was also zero.

**Local Authority Tables 1 - 2**

At local authority level (tables 1 - 2) the England total **numbers** at the head of each table have been rounded either to the nearest 100 or 10, following the rule outlined above. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

All other numbers at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published tables by a hyphen. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was also zero.

**Suppression of other numbers**

It has also been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item provided its value is strictly less than 20.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 65(1) of the 2002 Act. The appropriate adoption agency will be the agency which placed the child for adoption or, if different, the agency which holds the relevant records in relation to that adoption. It may also be the local authority to which notice of intention to adopt was given.

## **TABLES**

### **National**

Table A: All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the six months ending 30 September 2006

Table B: All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the six months ending 31 March 2007

Table C: All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007

### **Local Authority**

Table 1: All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007

Table 2: All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which were open at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007

**Table A - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the six months ending 30 September 2006<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>5</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>6</sup>	All applicants
All new applications made during the six month period ending 30 September 2006	1,200	600	1,800
All open applications as at the end of the six month period ending 30 September 2006 <sup>7</sup>	1,200	750	2,000

1. Data has been derived from the Adoption Access phase one (AA1) return which ran from 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006.
2. Includes, with highest priority, all those applications made in respect of adoptions that took place before 12 November 1975, however applications made on or after this date may also be included.
3. The AA1 return covering the six months ending 30 September 2006 was completed successfully by 148 of the 150 local authorities with the exceptions being West Sussex and Wolverhampton.
4. Applications for the provision of services from voluntary/registered adoption agencies have been assessed via a separate consultation exercise and have been excluded from this return.
5. An 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over.
6. A 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.
7. 'Open' means applications that are 'live' at the end day of each period - this includes both new applications made in the 6 months as well as applications made in the previous 6 months if they are still live at that point.

**Table B - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the six months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>5</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>6</sup>	All applicants
All new applications made during the six month period ending 31 March 2007	1,300	660	2,000
All open applications as at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007 <sup>7</sup>	1,700	1,000	2,700

1. Data has been derived from the Adoption Access phase two (AA2) return which ran from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007.
2. Includes, with highest priority, all those applications made in respect of adoptions that took place before 12 November 1975, however applications made on or after this date may also be included.
3. The AA2 return covering the six months ending 31 March 2007 was completed successfully by all 150 local authorities.
4. Applications for the provision of services from voluntary/registered adoption agencies have been assessed via a separate consultation exercise and have been excluded from this return.
5. An 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over.
6. A 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.
7. 'Open' means applications that are 'live' at the end day of each period - this includes both new applications made in the 6 months as well as applications made in the previous 6 months if they are still live at that point.

**Table C - All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
All new applications made during the twelve month period ending 31 March 2007	2,500	1,300	3,700

1. Data has been combined from the Adoption Access phase one (AA1) return which ran from 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 and the Adoption Access phase two (AA2) return which ran from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007.
2. Includes, with highest priority, all those applications made in respect of adoptions that took place before 12 November 1975, however applications made on or after this date may also be included.
3. The AA1 return covering the six months ending 30 September 2006 was completed successfully by 148 of the 150 local authorities with the exceptions being West Sussex and Wolverhampton.
4. The AA2 return covering the six months ending 31 March 2007 was completed successfully by all 150 local authorities.
5. Applications for the provision of services from voluntary/registered adoption agencies have been assessed via a separate consultation exercise and have been excluded from this return.
6. An 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over.
7. A 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.

**Table 1 - All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>England</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>3,700</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>130</b>
Darlington	10	-	10
Durham	-	0	5
Gateshead	10	-	15
Hartlepool	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	-	-	-
Newcastle Upon Tyne	0	0	0
North Tyneside	15	10	20
Northumberland	25	-	30
Redcar and Cleveland	0	-	-
South Tyneside	0	0	0
Stockton-On-Tees	0	0	0
Sunderland	25	10	35
<b>North West</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>380</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0
Blackpool	-	0	-
Bolton	0	-	-
Bury	15	35	50
Cheshire	75	25	100
Cumbria	10	15	25
Halton	-	0	-
Knowsley	15	10	30
Lancashire	35	-	35
Liverpool	0	0	0
Manchester	20	30	50
Oldham	-	0	-
Rochdale	10	-	10
Salford	-	0	-
Sefton	0	0	0
St Helens	10	0	10
Stockport	-	-	-
Tameside	0	0	0
Trafford	5	-	10
Warrington	20	15	30
Wigan	5	-	10
Wirral	0	0	0
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>350</b>
Barnsley	-	0	-
Bradford	10	-	15
Calderdale	-	10	15
Doncaster	10	5	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	15	5	20
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	40	40	80
Kirklees	25	-	30
Leeds	35	40	75
North East Lincolnshire	-	-	-
North Lincolnshire	10	-	15
North Yorkshire	10	15	30
Rotherham	0	0	0
Sheffield	20	-	25
Wakefield	10	5	15
York	5	10	15

**Table 1 - All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>440</b>
Derby	30	20	50
Derbyshire	45	25	70
Leicester	10	-	-
Leicestershire	20	-	25
Lincolnshire	65	25	90
Northamptonshire	80	30	110
Nottingham	25	20	40
Nottinghamshire	-	45	50
Rutland	-	0	-
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>350</b>
Birmingham	0	0	0
Coventry	-	-	-
Dudley	10	5	15
Herefordshire	0	0	0
Sandwell	25	15	40
Shropshire	0	0	0
Solihull	-	0	-
Staffordshire	110	45	155
Stoke-On-Trent	20	10	25
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0
Walsall	10	-	15
Warwickshire	40	-	40
Wolverhampton <sup>3</sup>	15	10	20
Worcestershire	25	10	35
<b>East of England</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>580</b>
Bedfordshire	-	-	15
Cambridgeshire	135	25	160
Essex	60	25	85
Hertfordshire	10	15	25
Luton	0	0	0
Norfolk	130	30	160
Peterborough	35	15	50
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0
Suffolk	50	35	80
Thurrock	-	-	10
<b>London</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>610</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>190</b>
Camden	5	-	10
City Of London	0	0	0
Hackney	10	-	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	-	10	15
Haringey	-	-	-
Islington	-	10	15
Kensington and Chelsea	-	-	10
Lambeth	-	-	-
Lewisham	-	-	5
Newham	25	15	40
Southwark	15	10	25
Tower Hamlets	35	15	50
Wandsworth	0	0	0
Westminster	0	0	0

**Table 1 - All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>420</b>
Barking and Dagenham	25	-	25
Barnet	20	10	30
Bexley	-	-	-
Brent	-	10	15
Bromley	20	0	20
Croydon	20	10	30
Ealing	20	10	30
Enfield	10	-	15
Greenwich	40	15	55
Harrow	10	-	10
Havering	10	15	25
Hillingdon	-	10	15
Hounslow	-	-	5
Kingston Upon Thames	-	-	-
Merton	25	10	35
Redbridge	10	-	15
Richmond Upon Thames	10	-	10
Sutton	20	-	25
Waltham Forest	50	5	55
<b>South East</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>630</b>
Bracknell Forest	10	15	25
Brighton and Hove	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	-	10	10
East Sussex	0	0	0
Hampshire	-	10	15
Isle Of Wight	0	0	0
Kent	135	125	260
Medway Towns	-	0	-
Milton Keynes	30	10	35
Oxfordshire	40	25	60
Portsmouth	0	0	0
Reading	10	-	15
Slough	-	-	-
Southampton	0	0	0
Surrey	25	10	40
West Berkshire	15	-	15
West Sussex <sup>3</sup>	90	25	110
Windsor and Maidenhead	20	5	25
Wokingham	10	-	10

**Table 1 - All new applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 during the twelve months ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>South West</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>260</b>
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0
Bournemouth	-	-	-
Bristol, City of	0	0	0
Cornwall	40	15	55
Devon	80	5	85
Dorset	35	15	50
Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	-	-
Plymouth	-	-	10
Poole	10	5	20
Somerset	20	15	35
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Swindon	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0

1. Data has been combined from the Adoption Access phase one (AA1) return which ran from 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2006 and the Adoption Access phase two (AA2) return which ran from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007.
2. Includes, with highest priority, all those applications made in respect of adoptions that took place before 12 November 1975, however applications made on or after this date may also be included.
3. The AA1 return covering the six months ending 30 September 2006 was completed successfully by 148 of the 150 local authorities with the exceptions being West Sussex and Wolverhampton.
4. The AA2 return covering the six months ending 31 March 2007 was completed successfully by all 150 local authorities.
5. Applications for the provision of services from voluntary/registered adoption agencies have been assessed via a separate consultation exercise and have been excluded from this return.
6. An 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over.
7. A 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.

**Table 2 - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which were open at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>England</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>
Darlington	-	-	-
Durham	5	0	5
Gateshead	0	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	-	0	-
Newcastle Upon Tyne	0	0	0
North Tyneside	15	-	20
Northumberland	5	-	10
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0
Stockton-On-Tees	0	0	0
Sunderland	10	0	10
<b>North West</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>280</b>
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	0
Bolton	0	0	0
Bury	10	15	25
Cheshire	30	10	40
Cumbria	25	15	35
Halton	0	0	0
Knowsley	-	-	-
Lancashire	30	-	35
Liverpool	0	0	0
Manchester	35	50	85
Oldham	-	0	-
Rochdale	-	0	-
Salford	0	0	0
Sefton	0	0	0
St Helens	10	0	10
Stockport	-	-	-
Tameside	0	0	0
Trafford	0	0	0
Warrington	15	10	25
Wigan	-	5	10
Wirral	0	0	0
<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>150</b>
Barnsley	0	0	0
Bradford	-	-	-
Calderdale	-	-	5
Doncaster	10	5	15
East Riding of Yorkshire	10	-	15
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	15	20	35
Kirklees	10	-	10
Leeds	-	0	-
North East Lincolnshire	-	-	5
North Lincolnshire	-	-	-
North Yorkshire	10	15	25
Rotherham	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	-	-
Wakefield	5	-	10
York	5	10	15

**Table 2 - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which were open at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>380</b>
Derby	30	10	35
Derbyshire	10	-	15
Leicester	5	-	-
Leicestershire	10	-	15
Lincolnshire	75	50	120
Northamptonshire	90	45	135
Nottingham	10	15	25
Nottinghamshire	-	25	30
Rutland	-	0	-
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>190</b>
Birmingham	0	0	0
Coventry	-	0	-
Dudley	0	0	0
Herefordshire	0	0	0
Sandwell	25	15	40
Shropshire	0	0	0
Solihull	0	0	0
Staffordshire	25	10	35
Stoke-On-Trent	-	-	-
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	0
Walsall	10	-	15
Warwickshire	15	0	15
Wolverhampton	15	10	25
Worcestershire	30	10	40
<b>East of England</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>490</b>
Bedfordshire	-	-	10
Cambridgeshire	55	10	65
Essex	60	30	90
Hertfordshire	-	10	15
Luton	0	0	0
Norfolk	55	25	80
Peterborough	20	20	45
Southend-on-Sea	-	5	10
Suffolk	100	60	160
Thurrock	15	-	15
<b>London</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>70</b>
Camden	5	-	10
City Of London	0	0	0
Hackney	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	-	-	5
Haringey	-	0	-
Islington	0	-	-
Kensington and Chelsea	-	-	10
Lambeth	-	-	-
Lewisham	-	-	5
Newham	10	-	15
Southwark	-	-	-
Tower Hamlets	-	-	10
Wandsworth	0	0	0
Westminster	0	0	0

**Table 2 - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which were open at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>220</b>
Barking and Dagenham	-	0	-
Barnet	-	-	5
Bexley	-	-	10
Brent	-	10	10
Bromley	20	-	20
Croydon	5	25	30
Ealing	5	-	10
Enfield	15	5	20
Greenwich	15	5	20
Harrow	-	0	-
Havering	0	-	-
Hillingdon	-	10	10
Hounslow	-	5	10
Kingston Upon Thames	-	-	-
Merton	5	-	10
Redbridge	-	-	5
Richmond Upon Thames	5	-	10
Sutton	15	0	15
Waltham Forest	15	-	15
<b>South East</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>710</b>
Bracknell Forest	5	-	10
Brighton and Hove	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	-	10	10
East Sussex	0	0	0
Hampshire	-	5	10
Isle Of Wight	0	0	0
Kent	50	170	215
Medway Towns	15	0	15
Milton Keynes	65	30	100
Oxfordshire	25	20	40
Portsmouth	0	0	0
Reading	45	-	50
Slough	-	-	5
Southampton	0	0	0
Surrey	25	10	35
West Berkshire	10	-	10
West Sussex	120	30	145
Windsor and Maidenhead	25	-	30
Wokingham	30	-	35

**Table 2 - All applications for the provision of intermediary services under section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which were open at the end of the six month period ending 31 March 2007<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

England	numbers		
	Applicant is an adopted adult <sup>6</sup>	Applicant is an adult birth relative <sup>7</sup>	All applicants
<b>South West</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>160</b>
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0
Bournemouth	-	-	-
Bristol, City of	0	0	0
Cornwall	-	-	-
Devon	50	-	55
Dorset	35	10	45
Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0
North Somerset	0	-	-
Plymouth	-	0	-
Poole	10	-	15
Somerset	10	15	30
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Swindon	0	0	0
Torbay	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0

1. Data has been derived from the Adoption Access phase two (AA2) return which ran from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007.
2. Includes, with highest priority, all those applications made in respect of adoptions that took place before 12 November 1975, however applications made on or after this date may also be included.
3. The AA2 return covering the six months ending 31 March 2007 was completed successfully by all 150 local authorities.
4. Applications for the provision of services from voluntary/registered adoption agencies have been assessed via a separate consultation exercise and have been excluded from this return.
5. 'Open' means applications that are 'live' at the end day of each period - this includes both new applications made in the 6 months as well as applications made in the previous 6 months if they are still live at that point.
6. An 'adult' is anyone aged 18 or over.
7. A 'relative' means any person who (but for the adoption) would be related to the adoptee by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.

**ANNEX: Legislation - Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 98**

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/20020038.htm#aofs>

**Pre-commencement adoptions: information**

**Regulations: The Adoption Information and Intermediary Services (Pre-Commencement Adoptions) Regulations 2005**

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20050890.htm>

- (1) Regulations under section 9 may make provision for the purpose of:
  - (a) assisting persons adopted before the appointed day who have attained the age of 18 to obtain information in relation to their adoption, and
  - (b) facilitating contact between such persons and their relatives.
- (2) For that purpose the regulations may confer functions on:
  - (a) registered adoption support agencies,
  - (b) the Registrar General,
  - (c) adoption agencies.
- (3) For that purpose the regulations may:
  - (a) authorise or require any person mentioned in subsection (2) to disclose information,
  - (b) authorise or require the disclosure of information contained in records kept under section 8 of the Public Records Act 1958 (c. 51) (court records),and may impose conditions on the disclosure of information, including conditions restricting its further disclosure.
- (4) The regulations may authorise the charging of prescribed fees by any person mentioned in subsection (2) or in respect of the disclosure of information under subsection (3) (b).
- (5) An authorisation or requirement to disclose information by virtue of subsection (3) (a) has effect in spite of any restriction on the disclosure of information in Chapter 5.
- (6) The making of regulations by virtue of subsections (2) to (4) which relate to the Registrar General requires the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- (7) In this section:
  - "appointed day" means the day appointed for the commencement of sections 56 to 65,
  - "registered adoption support agency" means an adoption support agency in respect of which a person is registered under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000 (c. 14),
  - "relative", in relation to an adopted person, means any person who (but for his adoption) would be related to him by blood (including half-blood) or marriage.

## **Further enquiries**

Further enquiries concerning the statistics contained in this report should be addressed to:

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