



**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

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## **News Release**

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### **ADOPTION APPLICATIONS IN SCOTLAND - 2001**

Statistics on the number of adoption and freeing order applications in Scotland for the year 2001 have been published today by the Scottish Executive.

The main points are as follows:

- There were just under 420 adoption applications for which an outcome was reached in 2001. This was slightly higher than in 2000 when there were 405 applications.
- The number of adoptions from overseas accounted for under 2 per cent of all adoptions in 2001, down from 4 per cent in 2000 but broadly similar to previous years.
- 44 per cent of applications were for children aged under five at the time of application, which is the same as in 2000. The average age of children at the time of application has fallen in the last few years and was just under six and a half years old in 2001.
- Applications made through Local Authority adoption agencies increased from 37 per cent in 2000 to 44 per cent in 2001. Applications made without an agency fell from 52 per cent in 2000 to 46 per cent in 2001 while applications made via a voluntary agency fell from 12 per cent to 9 per cent.
- In 2001, over 99 per cent of applications were granted. This follows the trend of recent years when at least 95 per cent of adoption applications have been granted.
- In almost 60 per cent of cases, both adopters were unrelated to the child, while most of the remainder involved the natural mother and step-father.

**A Scottish Executive National Statistics Publication**

- In 2001, 70 percent of adoption applications reached an outcome in under 120 days. Between 1997 and 2001 the number of cases reaching an outcome in under 60 days had risen from 20 per cent to 30 per cent and the number taking over 180 days had fallen from 22 per cent to 13 per cent.
- The number of applications for the making of freeing orders had fallen slightly from 116 in 2000 to 111 in 2001. The percentage of freeing orders granted had also fallen from 97 per cent in 2000 to 91 per cent in 2001.

#### TABLES (also available on the website)

Table 1	Adoption applications by gender, 1997 to 2001
Table 2	Adoption applications by age group, 1997 to 2001
Table 3	Adoption applications by agency used, 1997 to 2001
Table 4	Adoption applications by outcome, 1997 to 2001
Table 5	Adoption applications by relationship of adopters, 2001
Table 6	Number of days between adoption application and outcome, 1997-2001
Table 7	Applications for freeing orders by outcome, 1997 to 2001

#### NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

1. Adoption applications are made to Sheriff Courts. The prospective adopters may or may not be related to the child concerned, and their application may be made through the local authority or via a voluntary agency. If they are related to the child they may also apply without using an agency. The application can have various outcomes - it may be withdrawn before the court hearing, it may be granted, it may be refused or the court may make a provisional or alternative order.

2. 'Freeing for adoption' was first introduced in the Children Act 1975. When a child is 'freed', birth parents lose their responsibilities for the child and are not involved in any subsequent adoption proceedings.

3. The 49 Sheriff Courts in Scotland supply the Scottish Executive with data on adoption applications and applications for freeing orders. The data provided do not identify individual children.

4. There is no bulletin publication for these figures. Supporting tables are, however, available on request. This News Release and the supporting tables are available on the Scottish Executive web site ([www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)).

5. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that

they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

6. Public enquiries (non-media) about the information contained in this News Release should be addressed to Angus MacDonald, Scottish Executive Education Department, Area 1-A, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ (telephone 0131 244 3745 or e-mail [Angus.MacDonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Angus.MacDonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

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**Table 1: Number of adoption applications by gender, 1997 to 2001**

Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Gender		Total	Of which, brought in from Overseas
	Boys	Girls		
1997	222	221	443	3
1998	216	260	476	11
1999	236	216	452	5
2000	206	199	405	17
2001	215	203	418	8

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 2: Number of adoption applications by age at time of application, 1997 to 2001**

Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Age-group						Total no. of children	Average age of child
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-11 years	12-17 years	18 years and over	Not known		
1997	33	120	222	68	-	-	443	7 years 1 month
1998	22	129	259	64	-	2	476	7 years 3 months
1999	47	121	208	76	-	-	452	6 years 11 months
2000	35	142	166	61	1	-	405	6 years 7 months
2001	26	160	179	51	2	-	418	6 years 5 months

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 3: Number of adoption applications by type of agency used, 1997 to 2001**

Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Local Authority	Voluntary agency		Total
		No agency	No details provided	
1997	198	27	209	443
1998	146	26	291	476
1999	162	42	248	452
2000	149	47	209	405
2001	185	38	191	418

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 4: Number of adoption applications by outcome of application, 1997 to 2001**

Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Granted	Withdrawn	Refused	Other/not known	Total
1998	458	12	3	3	476
1999	438	9	-	5	452
2000	399	3	2	1	405
2001	414	2	2	-	418

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 5: Number of adoption applications by relationship of adopters, 2001 <sup>(1)</sup>**

	Male Adopter						Total
	Natural father	Step-father	Other male relative	No relation	No male adopter	Unknown	
<b>Female Adopter</b>							
Natural mother	-	147	-	-	-	0	147
Step-mother	8	-	-	-	-	0	8
Other female relative	-	-	17	-	1	0	18
No relation	-	-	-	241	-	0	241
No female adopter	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
<b>Total</b>	8	147	17	241	1	4	418

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 6: Number of days between adoption application and outcome, 1997-2001**

Year (1)	Under 60 Days	Between 60 & 119 Days	Between 120 & 179 Days	180 Days and over	Unknown	Total (Number)
	Percentage					
1997	19.6	37.0	21.5	22.1	0.0	443
1998	24.2	47.3	15.5	13.0	0.0	476
1999	32.3	36.7	15.9	13.9	1.1	452
2000	34.1	37.8	12.1	16.0	0.0	405
2001	30.4	39.7	16.5	13.2	0.2	418

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred

**Table 7: Number of applications for the making of freeing orders by outcome, 1997 to 2001**

Year <sup>(1)</sup>	Granted	Refused	Withdrawn	Total
1998	89	-	-	89
1999	81	3	2	86
2000	113	-	3	116
2001	101	3	7	111

(1) Year in which outcome of application occurred