



21 May 2026

45 Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 495 7200

Bob McCoskrie

bob@familyfirst.org.nz

dia.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Bob

OIA request 25/26 1118 Request for data on changes to gender on New Zealand passports and birth certificates

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 22 April 2026.

You requested –

PASSPORTS

Could you please provide the number of people who have changed their gender on their NZ passport since it became legal in 2012. Please break it into years.

And also into ages

- 18+
- 16-17
- 0-15

Of the 16-17 year olds, how many had consent from a parent/guardian?

Please also provide the number of male to female, female to male, male to other, female to other.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Could you please provide the number of people who have changed their gender on their NZ birth certificate (since 15 June 2023)

Please break it into ages

- 18+
- 16-17
- 0-15

Of the 16-17 year olds, how many had consent from a parent/guardian

Please also provide the number of male to female, female to male, male to other, female to other.

In response to your request, I can provide you with the following information.

Passports

Please refer to table one in Appendix A for a breakdown of the following:

- Table one – Number of Gender Marker Changes on New Zealand Passports from 1 January 2012 to 15 May 2026, by Year

I must advise that under section 4(3)(a) of the Passports Act 1992 an applicant under the age of 16 years requires consent of a parent or guardian for the issue of a passport. Applicants aged 16 years or older are considered adults when applying for a New Zealand passport and do not require consent from a parent or guardian. As this group do not require consent from a parent or guardian to apply for a passport, they do not require consent to change the details in that passport. Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request under section 18(g) of the Act; the information requested is not held by the Department and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by another department or connected more closely with the functions of another department.

Birth Certificates

As of 14 May 2026, I can advise that there have been 2,099 gender marker changes on New Zealand birth records since 15 June 2023. A breakdown by age groups is provided in the table below.

Caveats

- Counts of less than or equal to five have been masked with ≤ 5 to prevent potential identification of individuals.
- One application for the 18+ category has been incorrectly recorded under the 0-15 category. This has not been amended, as doing so would alter the internal reference numbers for all other applications. There may be additional instances of misclassification which could impact these figures.
- As the data is extracted from dynamic systems, there may be small variances when compared with prior or future datasets.

	18+	16-17	0-15
Male to Female	984	49	37
Female to Male	592	107	42
Non-Binary to Female	≤ 5		
Male to Non-Binary		≤ 5	≤ 5
Female to Non-Binary		16	7
Non-Binary Requested	257		

The Department is unable to provide a breakdown by original gender for the request of non-binary individuals aged 18 and over. Doing so would require a manual assessment of each individual record. Therefore, I must refuse this portion of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act; the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

As of 20 May 2026, I can advise that 131 of the 16–17-year-olds had consent from a parent or guardian. For the remaining applicants where parental or guardian consent was not obtained, as required by section 24(1)(c)(ii) of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 2021, a letter of support from a suitably qualified third party was supplied. I am unable to provide the exact number as doing so would reveal the masked figure in the above table.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Department has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on the DIA website. All requestor data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Official-Information-Act-Requests-2>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Julia Taylor

Director Branch Performance
Regulatory and Identity Services