

FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Jim Wells MLA



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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Our Ref: SUB/80/2015

Date: 3 February 2015

Dear Steven

I refer to your written Assembly Question (AQW 40378/11-15) seeking information on (i) the number of applications for adoption from same-sex couples; and (ii) the number of people adopted by same-sex couples, since December 2013.

In collating the information required to answer your question, the HSC Trusts advised me that they had received 13 applications to adopt from same sex couples.

You have now submitted a further written Assembly Question (AQW 41297/11-15), asking whether my Department does not, or cannot, obtain access to the detail of the dates when the 13 applications for adoption from same-sex couples were received. Whilst seeking further information from the Trusts in order to answer your latest question, one Trust has advised that the information it previously provided is incorrect, as three of its applications were double counted.

As a consequence, the number of applications to adopt received from same sex couples should be 10 and not 13 as reflected in AQW 40378/11-15.

I trust that you find this response helpful and I apologise for any inconvenience this has caused to you. I have copied this letter to the Assembly Library Services for their information.

Jim Wells MLA
Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety

REVISED RESPONSE AQW 40378/11-15

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DATE FOR ANSWER: 22 January 2015

ORDINARY WRITTEN No: AQW 40378/11-15

Steven Agnew (North Down): To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of applications for adoption from same-sex couples; and (ii) the number of people adopted by same-sex couples, since December 2013.

Jim Wells

The information requested is not routinely collected and has therefore been provided for the period 27 June 2013 (the date on which the judgement relating to existing adoption law and guidance was handed down by the Court of Appeal) to 31 December 2014. The Health and Social Care Trusts and voluntary adoption agencies in Northern Ireland have reported that, during that period, a total of 10 applications for adoption from same-sex couples have been received.

Of the applications received by HSC Trusts and voluntary adoption agencies to date, none have led to adoption orders being granted by a Northern Ireland court.



Date: 3/2/15

Signed and approved by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety

