

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Anderson-James, Charlotte  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 September 2023 4:40 pm  
**To:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Subject:** FW: Request for info on initiatives of interest to He Rourou  
**Attachments:** OSD He Rourou group Terms of Reference - June 2023 FINAL.pdf

Kia ora Ellen,

For Adoption Law Reform could you please include:

Timing and type of input required: Provided this law reform project proceeds in the next parliamentary term, we will require OSD input into the impacts of law reform proposals in the family court within the next 12 months.

Ngā mihi,

**Charlotte Anderson-James**  
Senior Advisor | Family Law Policy | Policy Group  
DDI:+64 4 466 0618 | Ext: 40618  
[charlotte.anderson-james@justice.govt.nz](mailto:charlotte.anderson-james@justice.govt.nz)

Out of scope

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 September 2023 5:34 pm  
**To:** Sims, Ben  
**Cc:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi  
**Subject:** FW: Request for info on initiatives of interest to He Rourou  
**Attachments:** OSD He Rourou group Terms of Reference - June 2023 FINAL.pdf

Ahiahī mārie Ben,

Please see below for Family Law's current projects which we expect will require input from OSD over the next 12-24 months.

Policy Project	Description	OSD Input
Adoption Law Reform	The Government is reviewing our adoption laws to create a new system that protects the rights, best interests, and welfare of children, and upholds our international human rights obligations.	Provided this law reform project proceeds in the next parliamentary term, we will require OSD input into the impacts of law reform proposals in the family court within the next 12 months.

Out of scope

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Thursday, 11 January 2024 9:08 am  
**To:** McDermott, Patrick  
**Subject:** RE: Family Court Programme - Milestone date updates

Mōrena Paddy,

Adoption **Out of scope** remain TBC. **Out of scope**

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

**Ellen Stewart (she/her)**

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice

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**From:** McDermott, Patrick <Patrick.McDermott@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 January 2024 2:26 pm  
**To:** Brinkler, Glen <Glen.Brinkler@justice.govt.nz>; Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>; Pang, David <David.Pang@justice.govt.nz>; D'Cruz, Verona <Verona.D'Cruz@justice.govt.nz>; Tasker, Sophie <Sophie.Tasker@justice.govt.nz>; Field, Kelsey <Kelsey.Field@justice.govt.nz>; Tossman, Ben <Ben.Tossman@justice.govt.nz>; Evans, Chris <Chris.Evans@justice.govt.nz>; Chand, Amy <Amy.Chand@justice.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Ravindra, Aisiri <Aisiri.Ravindra@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Family Court Programme - Milestone date updates

Kia ora everyone and Happy New Year,

Can you please provide your milestone dates as at the start of January please on the following link. As per usual practice can you provide an explanation in the comments if the date creates a RAG of Amber or Red.

**Out of scope**

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 January 2024 4:34 pm  
**To:** DL-PG-CJSP-FAMILY LAW TEAM  
**Subject:** Justice Delegations for Hon McKee  
**Attachments:** Justice Delegations Hon Nicole McKee.pdf

Kia ora!

Please see the attached letter containing Minister McKee's delegations. Relevant to us is that she has been delegated Adoption **Out of scope**, as well as the JSSAB.

Minister McKee was not part of the work programme discussion with Minister Goldsmith yesterday, so there will need to be a conversation with her on the timing of projects/Bills, as part of the ongoing broader work programme discussions.

Please let me know if any questions.

Ngā mihi, nā  
Naomi.

Naomi Stephen-Smith  
Manager | Family Law Policy | Policy Group Desk phone 04 466 0998 | **s9(2)(a)**  
Aitken Street | Wellington

Justice Centre | 19

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 February 2024 11:41 am  
**To:** McDermott, Patrick  
**Subject:** RE: Family Court Programme - milestones for the February monthly report

Kia ora Paddy,

Dates for Adoption remain TBC.

Out of scope

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

**Ellen Stewart (she/her)**

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice

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**From:** McDermott, Patrick <Patrick.McDermott@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 February 2024 6:17 am  
**To:** Brinkler, Glen <Glen.Brinkler@justice.govt.nz>; Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>; Pang, David <David.Pang@justice.govt.nz>; D'Cruz, Verona <Verona.D'Cruz@justice.govt.nz>; Tasker, Sophie <Sophie.Tasker@justice.govt.nz>; Tossman, Ben <Ben.Tossman@justice.govt.nz>; Evans, Chris <Chris.Evans@justice.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Edwards, Victoria <Victoria.Edwards@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Family Court Programme - milestones for the February monthly report

My Apologies everyone. Here is the link

[Family Court Programme Milestones - January 2024- with RAG Formula FINAL for February report.xlsx](#)

Ngā mihi,

Paddy

Kia ora everyone,

Can you please update your milestones as at 1/2/2024 **Out of scope**

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Anderson-James, Charlotte  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 March 2024 9:02 am  
**To:** Caulfield, Julia  
**Cc:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Subject:** MFAT/OT meeting

Mōrena Julia,

Just wanted to give you some guidance on messaging about the pause on adoption work if it comes up directly in today's meeting.

The message that has already been conveyed to OT is:

- Work programme decisions have meant that the adoption reform project is going to be paused again for a few months.
- We are preparing a background briefing for the Associate Minister of Justice.

It is fine to share this with MFAT (if OT has not already informed them) however please emphasise that this information is not publicly available and should not be shared outside agencies at this stage.

Ngā mihi,

Charlotte

**Charlotte Anderson-James**

Senior Advisor | Family Law Policy | Policy Group  
Ministry of Justice | Tāhū o te Ture  
DDI:+64 4 466 0618 | Ext: 40618  
[charlotte.anderson-james@justice.govt.nz](mailto:charlotte.anderson-james@justice.govt.nz)

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2024 3:36 pm  
**To:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Subject:** RE: Review: Disability Action Plan updates

Hi Ellen,

Given this is for July-December 2023, and we were still on track at that point, can you please adjust to “on track”, and reflect that we were working towards a briefing at that point? So it may be very similar to your last one?

Ngā mihi, nā  
Naomi.

### Naomi Stephen-Smith

Manager | Family Law Policy | Policy Group  
Desk phone 04 466 0998 | **s9(2)(a)**  
Justice Centre | 19 Aitken Street | Wellington

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 March 2024 3:15 pm  
**To:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi <Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Review: Disability Action Plan updates

Kia ora Naomi,

Please see attached the updated adoption law reform section of the Disability Action Plan for your review.

I've had a brief chat to Charlotte about this and we both agree that 'off track with minimal risks/issues' is the most accurate description of the project, however, I can change this to 'on track' if you're more comfortable with that.

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

### Ellen Stewart (she/her)

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice  
Phone: +64 4 524 9226

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi <[Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 March 2024 10:36 am  
**To:** Stewart, Ellen <[Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz)>; Ravindra, Aisiri <[Aisiri.Ravindra@justice.govt.nz](mailto:Aisiri.Ravindra@justice.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Action required: Disability Action Plan Jul - Dec 2023

Kia ora Ellen,

Can you please update the adoption information in the link below – I expect just the last box will need updating around status/next steps? This is a public document, and given we haven't made any public announcements yet about timing, you'll need to wind back the wording slightly around timing without

saying it's an outright pause. **Out of scope**

Ngā mihi, nā  
Naomi.

**Naomi Stephen-Smith**

Manager | Family Law Policy | Policy Group

Desk phone 04 466 0998 | **s9(2)(a)**

Justice Centre | 19 Aitken Street | Wellington

**Out of scope**

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## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 April 2024 4:34 pm  
**To:** Kerpen, Ursula  
**Cc:** Rendell, Julia; Stephen-Smith, Naomi  
**Subject:** RE: UPR speaking notes for Minister

Kia ora Ursula,

Unfortunately, we can't be any more specific. Work on adoption law reform is subject to future work programme discussions with Ministers Goldsmith and McKee.

Our preferred wording would be as follows:

New Zealand has been undertaking a review of adoption legislation. The aim of the review has been to create a new system protects the rights, best interests, and welfare of children, and upholds New Zealand's international human rights obligations. The Ministry of Justice has been using feedback from public engagement in 2021 and 2022 to refine adoption policy proposals.

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

**Ellen Stewart (she/her)**  
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
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Out of scope

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Out of scope

On adoption, I was wondering if we could say a little more, please – on expected introduction timing and the objective. On the latter, could we repeat this highlighted from the UPR report:

New Zealand is reviewing its adoption laws to create a modern system that protects the rights, best interests and welfare of children, and upholds international human rights obligations. Feedback from public engagement in 2021 and 2022 is being used to refine adoption policy proposals.

Thanks!

Ursula

Current wording in speaking notes:

## **Adoption and Family Law Reforms**

### *Adoption*

- The Ministry of Justice is currently finalising policy proposals to amend the Adoption legislation following the second round of public consultation in 2022.

Out of scope

**Ursula Kerpen**

Senior Policy Advisor | Civil Law and Human Rights

s9(2)(a)

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 May 2024 4:29 pm  
**To:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Subject:** RE: Review: Policy Reports for FC Programme Steering Group

Kia ora,

I made one change to adoption – so as not to over-promise on timelines.

Ngā mihi, nā  
Naomi.

### Naomi Stephen-Smith

Manager | Family Law Policy | Policy Group  
Desk phone 04 466 0998 | [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
Justice Centre | 19 Aitken Street | Wellington

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 May 2024 4:24 pm  
**To:** Stephen-Smith, Naomi <Naomi.Stephen-Smith@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Review: Policy Reports for FC Programme Steering Group

Kia ora Naomi,

Please see attached for your review. The adoption report is unchanged from last month, **Out of scope**

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

### Ellen Stewart (she/her)

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice  
Phone: +64 4 524 9226

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 May 2024 10:43 am  
**To:** McDermott, Patrick  
**Subject:** RE: Family Court Programme - Milestone updates for May

Kia ora Paddy,

All dates for Adoption remain TBC.

Out of scope

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

**Ellen Stewart (she/her)**  
Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice  
Phone: +64 4 524 9226

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**From:** McDermott, Patrick <Patrick.McDermott@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 May 2024 8:09 am  
**To:** Brinkler, Glen <Glen.Brinkler@justice.govt.nz>; Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>; Briggs-Jones, Dylan <Dylan.Briggs-Jones@justice.govt.nz>; D'Cruz, Verona <Verona.D'Cruz@justice.govt.nz>; Tasker, Sophie <Sophie.Tasker@justice.govt.nz>; Edwards, Victoria <Victoria.Edwards@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Family Court Programme - Milestone updates for May

And here is the link - [Family Court Programme Milestones - April 2024 - with RAG Formula FINAL for May report.xlsx](#) 😊

Kia ora everyone,

Can you please update your milestone dates in column F on the linked spreadsheet please. If the result of your date entry results in a RAG that is Amber or Red can you please add a comment in column H. Can you let me know when you have done this please.

Out of scope

## Stewart, Ellen

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**From:** Stewart, Ellen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024 11:27 am  
**To:** Knight, Maddie  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation: ministerial briefing on trafficking in persons [REDACTED]

Kia ora Maddie,

The work on adoption reform is currently paused due to competing work programme priorities, so the wording here is a little fiddley. We *have* been reviewing adoption legislation but are not currently “in the process” of doing so, and it’s not clear when this work will be able to recommence. Given these circumstances, I believe “due to review” would be appropriate.

Out of scope

Ngā mihi nui, nā  
Ellen

**Ellen Stewart (she/her)**

Kaitohutohu Kaupapa - Policy Advisor | Family Law  
Courts and Justice Services | Policy Group  
Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice  
Phone: +64 4 524 9226

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**From:** Knight, Maddie <Maddie.Knight@justice.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024 11:16 am  
**To:** Stewart, Ellen <Ellen.Stewart@justice.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation: ministerial briefing on trafficking in persons [REDACTED]

Kia ora Ellen,

I hope you’re well! I understand you’re looking at this briefing for the adoption content. At para 8 of the annex, the para says that Justice is “in the process of” reviewing legislation. In terms of the first bullet point below it (which I’m looking at), we aren’t expected to pick up that work until next year so we might propose the para changes to say “due to review” or “expects to review” or something like that. But, that then affects the adoption work at the second bullet?

Basically, what I’m trying to check, very inarticulately, is whether adoption work can be considered “in process” or would “due to review” be more fitting?

The other option is to say “Justice is due to, or is in the process of” or something to that effect, to get across that one project is current, and the other is in the near future.

Out of scope

Ngā mihi,  
Maddie

Maddie Knight (she/her)