



8 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 30 March 2022. You requested the following:

*Policy information on actions and timeframes of debt collection action taken against LP parent's who do not pay their CS obligations.*

### **Policies for collection of child support debt**

Inland Revenue has no set policy around debt collection of child support, instead focusing on dealing with each case on its own merits.

From November 2020, new liable parents (as well as parents re-entering the system) who are receiving salary and wages will have the child support deducted directly from their pay through their employer. This arrangement will be set up as soon as a child support application is received.

If for any reason we are unable to set deductions from an employer and a liable parent falls into arrears, we attempt to contact them to establish why payment has not been made and to encourage them to pay voluntarily. If we are unable to secure funds through all voluntary channels, we look to enforce payments from liable parents by placing a deduction notice, under section 154 of the Child Support Act 1991 (CSA), on any funds payable to that person. This includes from a bank account in the name of the liable parent.

Should these collection actions be unsuccessful, Inland Revenue may also pursue other legal avenues to secure payment, set out in Part 11 of the CSA. These avenues include, but are not limited to, issuing summons for examination of financial means, applying to the courts for charging orders against property, and warrants to seize property or warrants to arrest.

When considering taking legal action for recovery of child support debt we consider factors such as, but not limited to, payment history, amount of arrears and recent contacts. We then decide if taking legal action will achieve the right outcome for all parties involved, as well as being an efficient use of the Commissioner's resources.

### **Publishing of OIA response**

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. We consider this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Sue Gillies

**Segment Lead, Customer & Compliance Services - Families**