



15 August 2022



Dear 

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 18 July 2022. Your request is for data relating to the Taitoko (Levin) area at two points in time; prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020) and present day.

Overall picture

1. Total amount of debt owed
2. Total number of people that owe money
3. Average amount that is owed
4. Median amount that is owed
5. Of those with debt to government over \$500 how many had been receiving assistance from Work and Income for: 1) less than one of the last 6 years or 2) more than one of the last 6 years?

Ethnicity

6. Total amount of debt broken down by ethnicity
7. Total number of people that owe money broken down by ethnicity

Age

8. Total amount of debt broken down by age groups
9. Total number of people that owe money broken down by age

Children in household

10. What number of the total number of people that owe debt to IRD have children in their household?
11. How much of the total debt to IRD is owed by households that have children?
12. Breakdown of the total debt by households with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more than 7 children.
13. Breakdown of total number of people that owe money by households with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more than 7 children.

**Inland Revenue's approach to compliance**

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue (IR) is tasked with protecting the integrity of the tax system and collecting the highest net revenue over time.

Our approach to compliance is multi-layered and based on our commitment to making it as easy as possible for customers to get it right from the start, and hard for them to get it wrong.

We know most individuals and businesses want to do the right thing, and we want them to understand that if they get in touch with us when they are struggling, they will get the help they need. We also want the vast majority of New Zealanders who are making the

effort to meet their tax obligations to know that we will identify the few who aren't and take action.

IR works with customers who anticipate they will not be able to make their payments by the due date to understand their financial situation and to help them resolve their debt. This could be by setting up instalment arrangements or determining if they qualify for financial relief. Relief options include extra time to pay through an instalment arrangement, extra time to file returns, and where appropriate, writing off tax, penalties or interest.

Specific web pages to help customers understand what is available to them if they are impacted by COVID-19 events or have a debt, are available on our website ([ird.govt.nz](http://ird.govt.nz)).

### Information to be released

Due to changes in IR's reporting systems, I am unable to provide the requested high-level data as at February 2020, however I can provide as at 30 April 2020.

The changes in our reporting systems also do not allow me to break down child support debt to the Taitoko area as at 30 April 2020. As such, I have provided two sets of data as at 30 June 2022; one excluding child support debt and one including child support debt.

The data provided is a point in time view, based on the age of the customer and location information held at 3 August 2022. The data does not include customers who have moved into the Taitoko area and have not updated their address with IR, and conversely may include those who have moved out of Taitoko and not updated their address.

### Overall picture

Below is a table of debt owed to IR by Taitoko residents. Please note, the term 'debt' is used when the amount owing to IR is not paid by the due date.

	30 April 2020	30 June 2022	30 June 2022 (Including child support)
Total amount of debt (\$)	5,280,191	7,874,576	11,775,969
Total number of debtors	1,626	1,626	1,963
Average amount (\$)	3,247	4,843	5,999
Median amount (\$)	337	782	1,045

The table below is the number of customers with over \$500 of debt owed to IR, receiving assistance from Work and Income.

Time period receiving assistance from Work and Income	30 April 2020	30 June 2022	30 June 2022 (Including child support)
12 months or less during the last six years	92	88	122
More than 12 months during the last six years	232	296	450

### Ethnicity

IR does not record ethnicity data. As such, I have decided to refuse your request for ethnicity data (for any period) under section 18(e) of the OIA, as this information does not exist.

**Age of customers**

Below are tables of the debt broken down by age groups. Where date of birth information is not available or invalid, it is marked as "unknown" in the table. Due to low number of unknown customers in the 30 June 2022 tables, we have included these in the over 75 categories.

30 April 2020 (excluding child support debt)

Age Group	No. of Customers	Average Debt Balance (\$)	Total Outstanding Debt (\$)
< 26	53	611	32,397
26 - 35	321	2,485	797,552
36 - 45	397	4,838	1,920,691
46 - 55	379	3,785	1,434,447
56 - 65	275	2,946	810,276
66 - 75	148	1,825	270,097
> 75	45	171	7,679
Unknown	8	882	7,052

30 June 2022 (excluding child support debt)

Age Group	No. of Customers	Average Debt Balance (\$)	Total Outstanding Debt (\$)
< 26	90	1,800	161,995
26 - 35	354	3,672	1,299,955
36 - 45	377	7,097	2,675,472
46 - 55	370	6,012	2,224,606
56 - 65	248	4,324	1,072,331
66 - 75	137	3,025	414,427
> 75	50	516	25,789

30 June 2022 (including child support debt)

Age Group	No. of Customers	Average Debt Balance (\$)	Total Outstanding Debt (\$)
< 26	109	1,619	176,505
26 - 35	468	3,718	1,739,861
36 - 45	473	7,796	3,687,638
46 - 55	445	8,314	3,699,742
56 - 65	278	7,047	1,959,155
66 - 75	140	3,481	487,280
> 75	50	516	25,789

**Children in household**

IR does not record children in household data. Other agencies may have this but will not be able to cross reference to IR's data. As such, I have decided to refuse your request for children in household data (for any period) under section 18(e) of the OIA, as this information does not exist.

**Right of review**

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an IR review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of IR at: [CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz](mailto:CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz).

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

If you choose to have an internal review, you can still ask the Ombudsman for a review.

**Publishing of OIA response**

Please note that IR 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. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca McStay  
Segment Management Lead  
**Customer and Compliance Services, Individuals**