



30 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), transferred to Inland Revenue on 14 August 2023. You requested the following:

*May I please request any current information on the geographical breakdown of tax revenue by population centre for the 2022/23 financial year...*

It is problematic to describe total tax collections on a regional basis because tax administration data provides a poor fit for measurement of regional activity. One of the biggest reasons for this is that tax liability can be grouped together in ways that can bear little relationship to the location of activity, such as through corporate grouping, consolidated accounts, or head offices handling nationwide activity. Tax can be withheld by third parties such as employers, banks, or KiwiSaver providers who aren't necessarily in the same region as the underlying taxpayer. Credits for tax already paid can then cascade through to different taxpayers, for example imputation credits attached to dividends.

To some extent, personal income tax (tax on taxable income) can be presented by the region of the individual taxpayer and is provided in the table below. This table is derived using postcode information held by Inland Revenue. Please note however that taxpayer locations can change frequently, and the locations held by Inland Revenue may not be up to date. There are also some limitations in using administrative postcode information to infer the region that income is derived (and tax paid) as not all of a taxpayer's activity is necessarily located within the postcode used to report personal income tax. For example, where a person lives in one region, works in another and invests in a third. Moreover, postcode zones do not map precisely to regions or territories. Where postcodes cross regional boundaries, taxpayers using that postcode were randomly allocated to one of the two neighbouring regions. Taxpayers with no New Zealand postcode have been allocated to the "unknown" category, which will also include non-resident taxpayers. The data is for the 2021-22 income tax year as comprehensive information for 2022-23 is not yet available reflecting that many taxpayers are yet to file their 2022-23 tax returns.

The OIA enables people to request information from agencies such as Inland Revenue. However, the OIA only applies to information that is already held by Inland Revenue, and there is no obligation to create information in order to respond to a request. The analysis required to create your requested information across all tax types would be substantial, and analysis of each tax type by region would not give an accurate picture of regional tax contribution. Therefore, I have decided to refuse the remainder of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Inland Revenue.

Region	Number of individuals*	Taxable income (\$m)	Income tax (\$m)
<b>Auckland</b>	1,611,000	80,888.1	18,459.5
<b>Bay of Plenty</b>	327,000	14,110.3	2,957.3
<b>Canterbury</b>	623,000	29,023.0	6,186.3
<b>Gisborne</b>	50,000	1,900.5	382.5
<b>Hawkes Bay</b>	178,000	7,329.8	1,503.9

Region	Number of individuals*	Taxable income (\$m)	Income tax (\$m)
<b>Manawatu - Wanganui</b>	231,000	9,602.6	1,941.0
<b>Marlborough</b>	47,000	2,063.4	416.9
<b>Nelson</b>	59,000	2,584.0	536.3
<b>Northland</b>	170,000	6,840.1	1,372.4
<b>Otago</b>	200,000	9,175.4	1,943.0
<b>Southland</b>	101,000	4,372.2	902.5
<b>Taranaki</b>	119,000	5,249.4	1,103.3
<b>Tasman</b>	48,000	2,016.2	415.1
<b>Unknown</b>	95,000	1,744.1	366.9
<b>Waikato</b>	426,000	19,255.2	4,063.0
<b>Wellington</b>	505,000	27,024.6	6,216.1
<b>West Coast</b>	30,000	1,186.9	234.7
<b>Total</b>	4,820,000	224,365.8	49,000.7

\*Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

### Right of Review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue 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 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.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Watson  
**Policy Lead, Forecasting and Analytics**