



04 February 2022



Dear 

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) received on 7 January 2022. You requested the following:

*I would like to know whether the IRD has identified any amount of student loan debt (held by people residing in Aotearoa) that it believes will either never, or likely never, be repaid? If student loan debt meeting this description has been identified, what was the process used to make this determination? Finally, if student loan debt meeting this description has been identified, what is the total amount of debt that meets this classification?*

Inland Revenue has not identified any amount of student loan debt that is never, or likely never to be repaid. The only circumstances where a student loan does not have to be repaid are when a person dies, becomes bankrupt, or where it is proven that a fraud has occurred and a loan does not belong to the customer. Until any one of these events occur, Inland Revenue will continue to pursue collection of the loan balance.

For the 2021 financial year, \$3.9 million was written off due to bankruptcy, \$37.3 million due to the death of the customer and \$0.26 million due to fraud. Loan write offs are published each year in the student loan scheme annual report.

#### **Publishing of OIA response**

Finally, please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. 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



Rebecca McStay  
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**Customer and Compliance Services, Individuals**