



16 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 16 February 2023. You requested the following:

1. *Total General Approvals submitted for financial tax years 2020, 2021, and 2022.*
2. *Total General Approvals approved to date for financial tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022.*
3. *Days taken from date of submission to date of confirmation letter for approval financial tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022. This can be broken down in ranges less than 30 days, 31-60 days, 61-90 days, 91-120 days, 120-180 days, 181 days and over.*
4. *Total Supplementary Returns submitted for financial tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022.*
5. *Total Supplementary Returns approved to date for financial tax years 2020, 2021, 2022*
6. *Days taken from date of submission to date of payment made for financial tax years 2020, 2021 and 2022. This can be broken down into ranges less than 30 days, 31-60 days, 61-90 days, 91-120 days, 120-180 days, 181 days and over.*

For completeness, we note that we would like to get a sense of the amount of time it takes from when a business applies for the RDTI to when the cash is received by the business.

On 16 February 2023 you clarified that you would like information for the financial year.

The information you have requested is outlined in the tables in the attached Appendix.

With the R&D tax incentive regime being introduced in 2020, there was insufficient time for customers to file a general approval separate to their supplementary return for this year. As general approval was incorporated into the 2020 supplementary return, we do not hold a record of the number of general approvals submitted for this year. Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

Your request, in question 3, for the number of days taken from a submission of general approval to the date a letter of confirmation of approval was sent for each year is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as this information is not held by Inland Revenue, and we do not believe it is held by another agency. However, the table on the following page outlines the number of days taken to process general approvals across all years as at 13 March 2023.

| Number of days | % processed |
|----------------|-------------|
| 37 days | 20% |
| 55 days | 30% |
| 78 days | 40% |
| 110 days | 50% |
| 153 days | 60% |
| 174 days | 70% |
| 224 days | 80% |
| 387 days | 90% |

Questions

If you have any questions about your request, a subject matter expert is available to discuss this matter further with you.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Kiely
Group Lead, Significant Enterprises

Appendix

Question 1 and 2: general approvals submitted and approved

| Financial Year | General approvals submitted | General approvals approved |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2021 | 1,639 | 1,431 |
| 2022 | 1,589 | 1,421 |

Question 4 and 5: supplementary returns submitted and approved

| Financial year | Supplementary returns submitted | Supplementary returns approved |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2020 | 647 | 531 |
| 2021 | 604 | 494 |
| 2022 | 459 | 234 |

Question 6: Days taken from submission of supplementary return to payment being made

| FY | >30 | 31-60 | 61-90 | 91-120 | 121-180 | 181+ | Total |
|-------------|-----|-------|-------|--------|---------|------|------------|
| 2020 | 5 | 37 | 62 | 85 | 163 | 179 | 531 |
| 2021 | 110 | 142 | 95 | 51 | 72 | 24 | 494 |
| 2022 | 71 | 89 | 45 | 16 | 11 | 2 | 234 |

- General Approval for the financial year is based upon the received date for the General Approval.
- An approval can be for a period across multiple years.
- Total supplementary returns includes returns in progress, approved and declined.
- Date range calculation is based on working days from the date the income tax return was received, to the date it was processed.