



11 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), transferred to Inland Revenue from the office of the Minister of Revenue on 7 March 2024. You requested the following:

- 1/ Please confirm where the dividing line is on wealth, do 300 of the wealthiest in our country own more than the bottom 2 1/2 million?*
- 2/ Please confirm how much the top group pay in tax.*
- 3/ Please confirm how much the bottom group pay in tax.*

I have interpreted your request as asking for information for the most recent completed tax year which ended on 31 March 2023.

Inland Revenue does not regularly collect information on the wealth of individuals. As such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.

However, I am able share the below information that may help answer some of your queries.

For the High Wealth Individuals Project (the Project) Inland Revenue gathered information on the wealth of the participating families. All data that can be made publicly available has been published on Inland Revenue's website (ird.govt.nz).

Question 1

Chapter 15 of the Project's report provides the mean net-worth of the cohort surveyed (311 families) for the project. The Project's report is available on Inland Revenue's website (ird.govt.nz) by searching for [High-wealth individuals research project](#). Information on Household net worth statistics for the year ended June 2021 is published by Statistics NZ (stats.govt.nz).

Question 2

As part of the Project's report, Inland Revenue published an [Online document library](#) on its website (ird.govt.nz) which includes data sheets which show that in 2021 the surveyed families participating in the project paid \$778,757,000 in tax, of which \$226,468,000 was personal income tax, with the remainder paid via entities or other tax types.

Question 3

Inland Revenue regularly publishes information on distributional information on total personal income tax available on its website (ird.govt.nz). You can find this information by searching for [Taxable income distribution of individuals](#).

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

We intend to publish our response to your request on Inland Revenue's website (www.ird.govt.nz) as this information may be of interest to other members of the public. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the OIA's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of officials.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Felicity Barker
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