



9 October 2024

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 23 September 2024. You requested the following:

"...while I appreciate that the unclaimed money register is publicly accessible, I wondered if it would be possible to obtain a excel data grab of a search of any organisation and trust entries on the NZ IRD unclaimed money list that contains the following terms: Horowhenua, Levin, Foxton, Shannon, Ohau, Tokomaru, Opiki, Waitarere, Waikawa. I would like to write a piece in our local paper and on local community facebook pages encouraging organsiations to check the register and claim any money that may have inadvertently gone astray. Please feel free to provide any proactive messaging that IRD would prefer included in any story."

Information publicly available

While we appreciate the intent of your information request (to make the information available to potential claimants) the information is already publicly available. Therefore Your request for the unclaimed money database, is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available on Inland Revenue's website: [Search for and claim unclaimed money \(ird.govt.nz\)](https://www.ird.govt.nz)

Inland Revenue is unable to determine records based on location or other types of identifiers as the information we hold is limited to that provided to us by the unclaimed money holder. This means, we would not be able to provide you any information beyond what is publicly available on the website.

Unclaimed money is money left untouched by its owner in organisations like banks, or with a person such as a solicitor. The length of time that passes before it becomes unclaimed money is generally 5 years. In certain cases it can be less than 5 years.

After the organisation, or person has been unsuccessful in trying to find the owner, most unclaimed money is transferred to us, the Public Trust or Treasury.

We administer unclaimed money that comes under the Unclaimed Money Act 1971. Some examples are:

- deposits in banks and financial institutions

- money in solicitors' trust accounts
- unpaid wages and employee benefits (including unpaid holiday pay)
- proceeds of life insurance policies.

You can claim your unclaimed money either in MyIR, through our website, or by writing to us.

For individuals, you can claim your unclaimed money directly in MyIR by selecting 'i want to...' and selecting 'apply for unclaimed money'. Applying via MyIR means we know who you are, you do not have to supply identifying details. You just need to give us additional information about the connection you have with the money, making this part of the process quicker.

For organisations, trust or estates you can claim for unclaimed money by searching our database, selecting the appropriate record and completing your details to claim.

We aim to process most claims within 10-12 weeks of receiving them. During periods of high demand, we may take longer than this.

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 (ird.govt.nz) as this information may be of interest to other members of the public. This letter, with your personal details removed, may 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 again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Crawshaw

Group Lead – Customer and Compliance Services - Individuals