

20 April 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), received on 19 March 2020. You requested the following:

- 1. I was unable to find the statistics on how many businesses in NZ are owned by single white males, compared to other genders and ethnic groups.*
- 2. I was unable to find any statistics listing how many sole / main parents do not receive the child support IRD have determined.*
- 3. I was unable to find the data on how many solo parents have been awarded the lowest amount of child support possible (\$80 per month) and what proportion of these the non-custodial parent is a business owner.*

Can you please release these statistics to me and give me a suggested pathway for how (once armed with facts rather than anecdotal evidence) I might go about raising this issue, so it can be considered for review and change to bring equity to this process?

Question 1

Your request for information relating to the number of business in New Zealand that are owned by single white males, compared to other genders and ethnic groups, is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue and is not believed to be held by another government agency.

Question 2

In the month of December 2020, there were 32,000 receiving carers who did not receive their full child support payment as determined by Inland Revenue. This was due to liable parents paying payments late, only making partial payments, or not making any payment.

Additionally, a number of these 32,000 carers were in receipt of a sole parent benefit. Individuals who receive the sole parent benefit will have their payments retained by the Crown to offset the cost of the benefit to the Crown.

Question 3

In the month of December 2020, there were 60,000 receiving carers with an entitlement lower or equal to \$80 per month. Entitlements can be lower than the \$80 a month minimum if a liable parent is exempt from making child support payments. Information on child support exemptions can be found on the Inland Revenue website (ird.govt.nz/child-support/reviews-objections-exemptions/exemptions)

1,080 (2%) of the liable parents whose assessment was calculated as \$80 or less are business owners.

Ref: 21OIA1501

Note: Goods and Services Tax registration was used as a proxy to identify business owners.

The rules for child support payments are set by the Child Support Act 1991 and can only be amended through legislative change. If you would like to raise an issue so it can be considered for review, there is information on the New Zealand Parliament website (parliament.nz/en/get-involved/have-your-say) that can assist you with this process.

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.

Thank you for your request. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gillies
Customer Segment Lead – Families