



10 April 2025

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 19 March 2025. You requested the following information for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024:

1. *By year, can you please provide me with the total number of businesses and value of all tax losses carried forward*
2. *and for how many years those losses have been carried forward by year (within time parameters set above).*

Example. I have had a tax loss for almost 20 years but can only use this by running another profitable business. How many people / businesses are in the same situation, year on year.

Information being released

The total number of businesses with company losses carried forward and the amount of these losses by year is provided in **Table 1**. This data was extracted from Inland Revenue's systems on 26 March 2025 and covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024.

We have interpreted "businesses" to refer to taxpayers that are structured as a company, and filed an IR4 company tax return, not including other entities such as trusts, partnerships or the self-employed.

Please note that tax returns for the 2023-24 tax year ending 31 March 2024 are still being processed, and the figures provided are a progress total. Tax figures have been rounded to the nearest \$1 million, and counts of entities have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Table 1 – Number of corporate taxpayers with company losses carried forward and amount of company losses carried forward by Year, 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2024

Filing Period	Number of companies taxpayers carrying forward a loss	Amount of company losses carried forward (\$m)
31/03/2021	152,100	49,789
31/03/2022	148,900	54,081
31/03/2023	149,700	54,167

Filing Period	Number of companies taxpayers carrying forward a loss	Amount of company losses carried forward (\$m)
31/03/2024 (progress total)	119,200	27,848

Information being refused

Your request for information on the duration for which company losses have been carried forward by year would require substantial analysis and manual effort to be created. This is because Inland Revenue systems do not track when the losses were first incurred, and the amounts change year on year. Therefore, I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision to refuse an aspect of 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.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Watson

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