

24 August 2021

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), received on 30 July 2021. You requested:

*How often does IRD fire employees for accessing individuals private tax details?  
Please provide a biannual breakdown for the past three years.*

The Tax Administration Act 1994 sets out specific obligations on Inland Revenue staff to uphold the integrity of the tax system and to maintain the secrecy of revenue information. These legal obligations are communicated to all staff, particularly those who have access to systems that contain taxpayer information. Access to these systems is limited to staff who need access to carry out their roles and any access to that information must be for an authorised business reason. Inland Revenue has visibility of the information accessed by each staff member, and actively monitors employee activity within the systems that contain that information.

When access to taxpayer information without an authorised business reason is detected, the staff member involved is placed under an employment investigation. This process is managed by Inland Revenue's Integrity unit.

The table below sets out on the number of Inland Revenue staff who were dismissed following an incident where taxpayer information was inappropriately accessed. The data covers the period from August 2018 to July 2021.

	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2018</b>	-	-	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>2019</b>	0	1	2	0	<b>3</b>
<b>2020</b>	1	2	6	0	<b>9</b>
<b>2021</b>	1	8	2	-	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>

The table above does not cover cases where contractors were found to have accessed taxpayer information inappropriately. It also does not cover cases where an employee resigned prior to a preliminary decision to dismiss being finalised. This occurred three times from August 2018 to July 2021.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chris Linton  
**Domain Lead, Integrity**