



02 August 2022



Dear 

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 7 July 2022. You requested the following:

For my Curiosity: how many NZ taxpayers are still using paper forms ? Please tell me or is that a "state secret" ? Do I have to use the Official Information Act to get this data?

Information being released

We have interpreted your request to mean how many people are still using paper forms to file their individual income tax returns. The data provided below is based on the main individual income tax returns (IR3, IR4, IR6 and IR7).

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below. For comparative data, I have included the previous 3 years' filing periods, and the number of electronic returns also received.

Please note that the data for the year ending 31 March 2022 is incomplete and therefore not comparative to the previous years, as not all of the returns have been finalised. Taxpayers with an extension of time are not required to file their 2021-22 income tax return until 31 March 2023.

Returns Filed	Paper returns	Electronically through MyIR	Electronically through third parties	Total
01/04/19 – 31/03/20	82,409	563,773	1,347,038	1,993,220
01/04/20 – 31/03/21	52,913	598,206	1,391,033	2,042,152
01/04/21 – 31/03/22	10,914	367,222	158,039	536,175

Inland Revenue's shift to digital filing

Inland Revenue's services are highly digital and we're working to ensure these services are inclusive and accessible. More customers are filing their returns online on myIR, with the number of myIR users shifting from 2.8 million five years ago to more than 4 million today.

A key part of our transformation is to make it easy for customers to interact with Inland Revenue digitally. This year ending 31 March 2022, 98.7% of returns were filed digitally and 98.2% in the previous tax year. Digital filing provides customers with improved real-time validation of the data submitted to Inland Revenue, with fewer exceptions and better straight-through processing outcomes.

Inland Revenue has created options for financial management software providers to allow their customers to file their returns and manage their finances. Tax agent's practice management software has also been better enabled by a full suite of Application Programming interfaces that support more efficient digital filing.

Publishing of OIA response

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. We consider this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca McStay
**Segment Management Lead – Individuals
Customer and Compliance Services**