



27 August 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 7 August 2025. You requested the following:

The table below was provisioned by the Chinese API platform Deep Seek in response to the request - How much child support debt written off by New Zealand IRD 2023 + Would you like data on how much is recovered vs. written off annually? Or details on enforcement tools (e.g., passport seizures, wage garnishing)? YES Child Support Debt Recovery vs. Write-Offs (Recent Years) IRD balances aggressive enforcement for collectable debt with write-offs for hopeless cases. Key figures: Year Total Debt Owed (NZ\$) Debt Collected (NZ\$) Debt Written Off (NZ\$) 2023 ~\$2.4 billion ~ \$450 million* \$197.6 million 2022 ~\$2.3 billion ~ \$430 million \$210 million 2021 ~\$2.1 billion \$410 million \$185 million *Approximate figures based on IRD annual reports and parliamentary disclosures. Trend: Around 5-10% of total child support debt is written off annually, while ~20% is actively collected. Do you agree - substantively or otherwise with these figures. In the interest of expediency I will assume the absence of an answer in the negative means you concur with the contents in the table*

Please note that the table you provided translated into a text only format as displayed above. I have reconstructed the data you provided as outlined in the table below and replied based on this reconstruction.

Year	2023	2022	2021
Total debt owed	\$2.4b	\$2.3b	\$2.1b
Debt collected	\$450m	\$430m	\$410m
Debt written off	\$197.6m	\$210m	\$185m

Inland Revenue publishes an annual report each year which contains detailed breakdowns of Inland Revenue's performance. For any given year, the annual report will typically provide the total amount of outstanding child support debt, the total amount of child support debt written off, and the total amount of child support collected on behalf of receiving carers.

The table on the following page provides these figures for your convenience, derived from Inland Revenue's annual reports.

Table 1: Actual child support debt, total collected, and amounts written off as at 30 June per tax year

Year	2023	2022	2021
Total debt owed	\$1.098b	\$1.188b	\$1.366b
Debt collected	\$481m	\$453m	\$467m
Debt written off	\$79m	\$181m	\$998m

Inland Revenue's annual reports from 2017 onward can be found on Inland Revenue's website (www.ird.govt.nz) by searching for "annual report", or via the following link: [Annual Report](#).

In the 2021 annual report, you can find the total amount collected on page 15, and the total outstanding debt and write off amounts on page 39.

In the 2022 annual report, you can find the total amount collected on page 8, and the total outstanding debt and write off amounts on page 81.

In the 2023 annual report, you can find the total amount collected on page 7, the total amount written off on page 32, and the total amount outstanding on page 94.

Statistics on child support customers, cash collection and debt can also be found on Inland Revenue's website here: [Statistics on child support customers, cash collection, and debt](#).

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



Sue Gillies

Customer Segment Leader – Families Customer Segment