



5 December 2025

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 11 November 2025. You requested the following:

I request the following information for each of the last 10 financial years:

1. *The total amount of PAYE tax written off due to company liquidations.*
2. *The total amount of GST written off due to company liquidations.*
3. *The total tax debt written off due to all insolvency processes (including bankruptcy, liquidation, and receivership).*

Inland Revenue does what it can to help solvent companies keep trading using education, marketing, and customer engagement, but also recognises that the wider economy, especially other businesses, need companies that are not viable to be wound up.

While Inland Revenue has to make hard decisions at times to secure overdue payments, liquidations will continue to be our option of last resort.

Liquidation activity has increased in the past 18 months. The most common reason for Inland Revenue initiating a liquidation is because customers do not respond to attempts to contact them, or initiate contact with us.

Information provided

The write-off values provided are for transactions processed within the financial year ending 30 June of the year specified, rather than filing periods within that year. The information is gathered from our system using the write-off reason, a field where staff members manually indicate why an amount has been written-off. Please note that reversals and transactional adjustments can occur which may change the amount of the write-offs over time.

Items 1

Table 1 on the next page provides the amount of PAYE written off due to company liquidations for the year ended 30 June 2021 to the year ended 30 June 2025.

For the PAYE portion of your request, all write-offs relating to employer activities have been included. This includes write-offs for PAYE, KiwiSaver employer and employee contributions, student loan deductions, child support deductions and superannuation contributions tax.

Table 1: PAYE written off due to company liquidations

Financial year	Employer Activities
2020/2021	\$52.1m
2021/2022	\$48.1m
2022/2023	\$62.9m
2023/2024	\$64.7m
2024/2025	\$133.0m

Item 2

Table 2 below provides the amount of GST written off due to company liquidations for the year ended 30 June 2018 to the year ended 30 June 2025.

Table 2: GST written off due to company liquidations

Financial year	GST
2017/2018	\$62.8m
2018/2019	\$59.1m
2019/2020	\$69.3m
2020/2021	\$74.9m
2021/2022	\$74.5m
2022/2023	\$69.7m
2023/2024	\$95.1m
2024/2025	\$147.2m

Item 3

Table 3 on the next page provides tax debt written off due to insolvency processes for the year ended 30 June 2021 to the year ended 30 June 2025. Insolvency write-offs include amounts written off due to the company being struck from the companies register.

In addition to tax, the tax and entitlements column includes write-offs relating to Working for Families tax credits, FamilyBoost, and COVID support payments.

Non-tax includes write-offs from student loans and small business cashflow loans.

Table 3: Total write-offs due to insolvency

Financial year	Tax and entitlements	Non-tax
2020/2021	\$275.9m	\$4.1m
2021/2022	\$220.5m	\$3.6m
2022/2023	\$185.0m	\$7.7m
2023/2024	\$308.4m	\$15.5m
2024/2025	\$331.6m	\$23.0m

Information withheld or refused

As part of Inland Revenue's business transformation programme, all customer information was moved to a new system between 2017 and 2021.

Write-off data for older periods is held in Inland Revenue's heritage system, to which there is very limited access. This includes GST write-offs prior to the 2017/2018 financial year, and all other account types prior to the 2020/2021 financial year. These records are unable to be verified without investing significant time and resources. For this reason, Inland Revenue can only supply write-off information where full financial year information is held in our new system.

As reconciling records between Inland Revenue's heritage system and new system would require extensive manual effort, the part of your request seeking GST write-off information prior to the 2017/2018 financial year, and other account write-offs prior to the 2020/2021 financial year is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation.

In making my decision, I considered if narrowing the request or extending the timeframe would enable us to answer your request. However, in this case, neither of these options would enable us to grant you the information requested.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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



Tony Morris
Customer Segment Leader, Significant Enterprises

