



15 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received 17 January 2023. You requested the following:

If applications for KiwiSaver hardship withdrawals have increased—how is this tracked and how recent are the latest figures? I'm hoping to look at the Dec/Jan period.

If applications for KiwiSaver hardship withdrawals have increased

As you know, KiwiSaver members can apply to withdraw their KiwiSaver savings early due to financial hardship. Hardship withdrawal applications are processed by KiwiSaver scheme providers. Inland Revenue therefore does not have the number of applications, only the number of withdrawal applications that have been accepted. We are therefore unable to answer this part of your request.

This part of your request is refused under 18(g) of the OIA, as Inland Revenue does not hold the information.

How accepted applications for KiwiSaver hardship withdrawals are tracked

KiwiSaver scheme providers advise Inland Revenue of the type of withdrawal and the amount of funds withdrawn.

Accepted KiwiSaver hardship withdrawals for December 2022 and January 2023

Statistics for a particular month are generally unavailable until the following month. The numbers for December 2022 and January 2023 are now available and are shown in the table below.

Calendar month	Number of KiwiSaver withdrawals made due to financial hardship
January 2023	1,310
December 2022	2,090

Please note: the numbers are those provided by scheme providers to Inland Revenue and may not be 100% of fund withdrawals.

KiwiSaver statistics are published on our website, ird.govt.nz, at: [Datasets for KiwiSaver statistics \(ird.govt.nz\)](#)

More information

More information about withdrawing KiwiSaver savings early due to financial hardship is on our website at: [Getting my KiwiSaver savings for significant financial hardship \(ird.govt.nz\)](#)

KiwiSaver members can also apply for a temporary savings suspension if they are experiencing or are likely to experience financial hardship. You can read more at: [Taking a savings break \(ird.govt.nz\)](https://www.ird.govt.nz/taking-a-savings-break)

Rights of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email: 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 at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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 that 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 before it is published.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Robertson
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