



25 July 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 20 June 2022. You requested the following:

1. *How many individuals paid child support in 2021?*
2. *How many were male?*
3. *Of these, how many were non-custodial parents?*
4. *How many had 50/50 care of their children?*
5. *What is the current minimum amount a non-custodial parent can be assessed to pay, and how many males are assessed at this level?*
6. *What are the ages and ethnicities of the non-custodial males?*
7. *How many children are non-custodial males supporting?*
8. *How many non-custodial males have child support debt?*
9. *How many non-custodial males are paying child support to more than one custodial parent/caregiver?*
10. *What is the maximum number of custodial parent/caregivers any one non-custodial male is paying?*
11. *Number of liable parents who have some shared care (not 50%).*

On 27 June 2022, you clarified your use of the time period "2021" in question 1 as the calendar year 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

You also clarified your use of the term "non-custodial parents" in question 3 refers to a "liable parent whose proportion of care is 0%".

Thirdly, you clarified your use of the term "supporting" in question 7 to mean children that a liable parent pays child support for. You confirmed this does not include dependent children.

Following clarification of the above terminology, and the addition of question 11, the timeframe for responding to your request was reset as per section 15(1AA) of the OIA.

Question 1

The total number of parents in the 2021 calendar year who were assessed to pay child support was 128,466.

144,873 individuals made at least one payment towards their child support of \$1 or more.

This number is higher than the total number of parents assessed, as individuals included in this figure may have made payments to either ongoing child support assessment or arrears, or both.

Question 2

Inland Revenue does not specifically collect gender information. For the purposes of this request, I have used the following titles to infer gender as male: Mr, Master, Lord, Reverend Father and Sir. The total number of people with the above titles that were assessed to pay child support for at least one day during the 2021 calendar year was 101,026.

Question 3

Inland Revenue does not collect care level information in cases where a parent has less than 28% care of their child/ren. Care at or below this level is not considered when calculating a child support assessment and is considered to be 0%. The number of males who were assessed to pay child support in the 2021 calendar that had 0% care of their children was 89,644.

Question 4

I have interpreted this question as referring to males who had 50% care of at least one of their children that they pay child support for. The number of males assessed to pay child support who had exactly 50% care of at least one of their children in the 2021 calendar year was 3,817. Individuals whose proportion of care was either just below or above 50% are not included in this calculation.

Question 5

If a liable parent's assessed amount goes below our minimum rate of child support, they'll pay the minimum rate instead. If they're paying child support for more than one child and assessed to pay the minimum amount, the liable parent's payment will be divided between all of the children.

The current minimum rate of child support for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is \$1,024.00 annually. This equates to approximately \$85.30 per month. For the purposes of this request, I have calculated the number of males with 0% care and whose assessment is between \$85.00 and \$86.00 per month. As at 5 July 2022, there are 34,001 males assessed to pay between \$85.00 and \$86.00 per month.

Question 6

Inland Revenue does not hold ethnicity information. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue, and I do not believe it is held by another agency.

The following table shows the number of males that had 0% care of their child/ren in the 2021 calendar year, grouped by age.

Where Inland Revenue does not hold a date of birth on record, the age group is categorised as Unknown.

Age group	Count
15-20	161
20-25	3439
25-30	10713
30-35	16748
35-40	16531
40-45	14375
45-50	12135
50-55	8831
55-60	4246
60-65	1702
65-70	511
70-75	175
75-80	54

80-85	12
85-90	3
Unknown	8
Grand total	89,644

Question 7

The below table shows the total number of male liable parents that have 0% care of their child/ren, grouped by the number of children they pay child support for, as at 5 July 2022.

Children	Total
1	43919
2	21677
3	8206
4	2707
5	908
6	248
7	66
8	18
9	7
10	1
Grand Total	77757

Question 8

As at 5 July 2022, 49,414 male liable parents that have 0% care of their children have child support debt.

Questions 9 & 10

As at 5 July 2022, 9,389 male liable parents who have 0% care of their children are paying child support to more than one receiving carer, the highest being 6.

Question 11

Inland Revenue does not collect care level information in cases where a parent has less than 28% care of their child/ren. Care at or below this level is not considered when calculating a child support assessment and is considered to be 0%.

In the 2021 calendar year, 6,682 male liable parents had between 28% and 49% care of at least one of their children.

Additionally, it is possible for a liable parent to have more than 50% care of their child. In the 2021 calendar year, 703 male liable parents had more than 50% care of at least one of their children.

Right of Review

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

If you choose to have an internal review, you can still ask the Ombudsman for a review.

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. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gillies
Customer Segment Leader