



3 July 2025

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your requests made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 1 June 2025. You requested the following:

I am seeking information on the number of overseas-based student loan debtors who have had the following action taken against them by IRD

- 1) Have been informed they face arrest at the border if they return to New Zealand*
- 2) The number of individuals that IRD has applied to the district court to have arrested and have subsequently been arrested by police.*

Please itemise these numbers by financial year, for the last 15 financial years from 2011/12 to the current period of 2025/26.

Inland Revenue began recording information on the total number of individuals confirmed to have been notified they face potential arrest at the border due to unpaid student loans in a format that allows for retrieval on 1 July 2024. Information prior to this date is available only within individual customer accounts which does not allow for easy extraction or reporting. Therefore, your request for the number of individuals notified prior to that date is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

In making my decision, I considered if narrowing the timeframe of request or extending the timeframe for response would enable Inland Revenue to answer your request in full. However, in this case, neither of these options would enable Inland Revenue to provide the information requested.

In the past 12 months, 98 individuals have been notified they face potential arrest at the border due to unpaid student loans.

The following table provides a breakdown by financial year of the number of arrest warrants due to unpaid student loans that resulted in an arrest at the border.

Financial Year	Warrants granted and executed
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0

2016	1
2017	2
2018	1
2019	2
2020	4
2021	0
2022	0
2023	1
2024	0
2025	1

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, 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.

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



Kelly Paterson
Project Manager, Individuals