



10 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 8 July 2025. You requested the following information:

- *The number of trusts (whether NZ resident or foreign) that were formally wound up or ceased to exist, and any trusts that were registered in each of the last three financial years (ending 31 March 2023, 31 March 2024, and 31 March 2025).*
- *If available, a breakdown of these trusts by type (e.g. family trust, charitable trust, trading trust, etc.).*
- *If you can't provide me with the latest financial year just yet, I am happy to wait for that information but would appreciate 2023/2024 as soon as possible.*
- *I would appreciate the data being provided in a machine-readable format, such as Microsoft Excel (XLSX).*

### **Information being refused**

Inland Revenue is not a registrar of trusts and does not hold comprehensive information on the number of trusts being created, wound up, or ceasing to exist in New Zealand. Trusts are only required to apply for an Inland Revenue number if they have taxable income or if they have undertaken a property transaction and they may not advise Inland Revenue when they are wound up. Further, Inland Revenue does not hold information that would enable a breakdown of the type of trusts in the nature of your request. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Inland Revenue and we do not believe that this information is held by another agency.

### **Information being released**

However, I am able to release information on the number of trusts being registered or ceased with Inland Revenue based on the start and cease dates recorded in Inland Revenue systems. I have also broken down where a trust is recorded as a charity within Inland Revenue systems.

As noted above, the information provided in **Table 1** is not intended to reflect the actual number of trusts registering or ceasing in New Zealand in any given year, as trusts are only required to apply for an Inland Revenue number if they have taxable income or if they have undertaken a property transaction. The dates recorded in Inland Revenue systems do not necessarily reflect the date that the trust was actually established or ceased.

The number of trusts newly registered with Inland Revenue is calculated as the number of trusts that have applied for an Inland Revenue number within the twelve months ending 31 March. Similarly, the number of trusts with ceased registrations is calculated based on the cease date recorded in Inland Revenue systems within the twelve months ending 31 March.

Data was extracted from Inland Revenue systems on 9 July 2025. The figures in **Table 1** exclude estates. In both cases, the numbers presented have been rounded to the nearest 10.

**Table 1: Trusts recorded as starting or ceasing, 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2025**

March year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Registering trusts which have a charity indicator	730	690	510
<b>Trusts registering</b>	<b>7,620</b>	<b>6,340</b>	<b>5,830</b>
Ceasing trusts which have a charity indicator	220	230	210*
<b>Trusts ceasing</b>	<b>7,990</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>3,730*</b>

\*These figures are progress totals. One way that trusts notify Inland Revenue that they have ceased is a tick box on the annual income tax return, combined with supporting information to demonstrate that the trust has wound up. Tax returns for the 2024-25 tax year are still being filed.

### 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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

### Publishing of OIA response

We intend to publish our response to your request on Inland Revenue's website ([www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz)) as this information may be of interest to other members of the public. This letter, with your personal details removed, will 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 for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Watson

**Policy Lead, Forecasting & Analysis**