



15 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 17 May 2022. You requested the following (numbered for ease of response):

1. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many child support customers who are primary carers identify as women?*
2. *Between 2018 - 2022, how many child support customers who are primary carers, are on the sole parent benefit?*
3. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many child support customers who are primary carers and on the sole parent benefit, identify as women?*
4. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many customers who are primary carers and on the sole parent benefit, identify as Maori women?*
5. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many female sole parent support beneficiaries who are primary carers, were passed on their child support payments, and what was that amount?*
6. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many Maori women sole parent beneficiaries who are primary carers, were passed on their child support payments and what was that amount?*
7. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many children are living with primary carers who identify as women in receipt of the sole parent benefit?*
8. *Between 2018 – 2022, how many children are living with primary carers who identify as Maori women in receipt of the sole parent support benefit?*
9. *Between 2018 – 2022, how much child support has Inland Revenue retained to cover the costs of the sole parent benefit? Please provide a clear break down for each year – 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (ongoing).*

Questions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8

Inland Revenue does not record ethnicity data, nor data on the gender that people identify as. As such, I have decided to refuse your request for questions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 under section 18(e) of the OIA, as this information does not exist.

I will respond to your other questions below.

Question 2

Table 1 on the next page outlines how many child support customers who are primary carers (receiving carers) and are in receipt of the Sole Parent Support benefit (SPS) between 2018 and 2022.

The 2022-year data for is year-to-date up to 30 April 2022.

Table 1

Financial year (1 July -30 June)	Number of receiving carers	Number of beneficiaries
2018	143,706	61,031
2019	140,771	58,985
2020	136,648	56,752
2021	131,927	54,958
2022	126,604	56,198
Total	679,656	287,924

Question 5

Table 2 outlines the number of female receiving carers who are in receipt of the SPS and were passed on some of their child support payments, and the amount passed on.

Please note that in answering this question, we have inferred gender based on the title held by the receiving carers. Unless the individual has updated their title, this does not reflect which gender the customer *identifies* as, and is based on the identification documents used to apply for an IRD number. Often this is the gender assigned at birth as per their birth certificate.

In some cases, the title held is not sufficient to determine the gender of the individual (i.e. Dr, reverend etc) which means the data below cannot reflect the total numbers of female receiving carers.

As part of Budget 2022, the Government has announced from July 2023 child support payments will be passed on to sole parent beneficiaries. For more information please see <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/budget-lifts-14000-children-out-poverty> and <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/news/2022/passing-on-child-support-payments-to-sole-parents>.

Table 2

Financial year (1 July -30 June)	Female beneficiaries who were passed on some of their entitlement	Amount of child support passed on
2018	5,518	\$4,402,256
2019	5,230	\$4,609,854
2020	5,390	\$5,263,543
2021	3,874	\$4,369,648
2022	6,450	\$3,556,433
Total	26,462	\$22,201,734

Question 9

Table 3 on the next page outlines the amount of child support that has been retained to cover the cost of the social welfare benefits. Please note that this includes amounts retained for the unsupported child's benefit as we are unable to separate the amounts retained by benefit type.

Table 3

Financial year (1 July -30 June)	Amount of Child support retained
2018	\$186m
2019	\$181m
2020	\$152m
2021	\$186m
2022	\$120m
Grand total	\$825m

Right of review

If you disagree with my decisions on your OIA request, You can ask an Inland Revenue 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 to be of public interest and 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.

Yours sincerely



Sue Gillies
Customer Segment Leader, Families