



2 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 5 May 2023. You requested:

I request the following information relating to the Income Equalisation Scheme:

- 1) *The number of in-progress applications for an early refund of deposit from the scheme as at 5 May 2023?*
- 2) *The number of applications for an early refund of deposit from the scheme which were received between January 2022 to 30 April 2023, by month.*
- 3) *The average time taken to assess and advise the outcome of for all requests of an early refund of deposits in January, February, March and April 2023*
- 4) *The number of applications for an early refund of deposits from the scheme which were received as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle, if this information is captured, and how many of these have been approved?*
- 5) *How many staff work on processing the applications around this scheme, by headcount and FTE as at 5 May 2023.*

Questions 1, 3 and 4: The number of in-progress applications for an early refund of deposit from the scheme at 5 May 2023; the average time taken to assess and advise the outcome for all requests for an early refund of deposits from January to April 2023; the number of applications and how many have been approved for an early refund from the scheme received as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle

Specifying the status of income equalisation deposit refund requests, including how many have been approved, the length of time taken to process each request, and the reason for each request, would require considerable manual effort.

This part of your request is therefore refused under 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. In making my decision, I considered if narrowing the request or extending the timeframe would enable us to answer your request. However, in this case, neither of those options would enable us to grant your request.

Question 2: The number of applications for an early refund of deposit from the scheme received from January 2022 to 30 April 2023

As stated above, we are unable to provide the number of requests for an early refund. However, we can provide the number of all refund requests received from January 2022 to 30 April 2023. This information is in the table below.

Month	Number of all refund requests received
Jan-22	27
Feb-22	48

Month	Number of all refund requests received
Mar-22	88
Apr-22	176
May-22	138
Jun-22	77
Jul-22	260
Aug-22	140
Sep-22	48
Oct-22	51
Nov-22	83
Dec-22	98
Jan-23	50
Feb-23	100
Mar-23	160
Apr-23	306
Total	1850

Question 5: The number of staff processing the applications for the income equalisation scheme by headcount and FTE as at 5 May 2023

The number of staff working on applications for the income equalisation scheme fluctuates depending on demand. However, as at 5 May 2023, we currently have 4 people (3.8 full-time equivalent staff) undertaking this work.

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 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 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 that this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details, and any information that would identify you, will be removed before this response is published.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Crawshaw
Group Lead, Individuals