



24 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 26 April 2022. You requested the following:

Can you please provide the breakdown of personal tax revenue received for both Maori and other ethnic groups combined, and if this information is not available, can you please explain why it is not available

Your request for the breakdown of personal tax revenue by ethnicity is refused under 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Inland Revenue (IR), and we do not believe it is held by any other agency.

Under the Acts IR administers, and the consideration of wider principles of government data collection and privacy, we collect data which is necessary to fulfil our role. The Commissioner is only permitted to collect information that is necessary or relevant for the purposes of administering the tax system. The current position is that ethnicity is not considered necessary or relevant for the purposes of administering tax or social policy. It is therefore not collected or able to be collected under the current interpretation.

There are some exceptions but they are specifically provisioned in law, such as Paid Parental Leave (PPL) which is collected on behalf of Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE), and not used by IR. The information collected on behalf of MBIE is a voluntary survey type question so there is no requirement to provide it.

Te Whata is a data platform resource produced for, and by Maori in conjunction with Stats NZ, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and others which may be of use to you, available at <https://tewhata.io/>. It may also be possible for you to use the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) to provide the breakdown you are looking for. This is a large research database and holds microdata about people and households. If you do wish to consider applying to use the IDI, helpful information can be found at this website <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/apply-to-use-microdata-for-research/>

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 by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Finally, please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely

Miriana Stanley
Group Lead- Information Sharing