



13 May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 11 April 2025. You requested the following:

- 1. Could I request any briefings or reports on the predicted impact of the increases in interest rates that came in on April 1 on student loan repayments for those overseas?*
- 2. Could I also have any updates to the figures included in this release: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/media-releases/2024/focus-on-overseas-student-loan-and-child-support-debt> - in relation to student loans...particularly the numbers now owing or liable for interest payments and increases that may have flowed on from surging departure rates.*
- 3. I would also be interested in any update figures regarding people stopped at the border and what sort of amounts are owned by the top student loan debtors.*

On 17 April 2025, we transferred part 1 of your request for briefings or reports on the predicted impact of the increase in interest rates on student loan repayments for overseas-based borrowers (OBB) to the Ministry of Education under section 14(b)(ii) of the OIA.

Information being released

Part 2: OBB debt statistics

The OBB customer statistics in the media release referenced in part 2 of your request covers the period from September 2023 to September 2024. From 1 July 2024 to 31 March 2025, the number of OBBs has increased by 3,313, from 111,034 to 114,347. The number of OBB customers with a student loan in default has increased by 8,876.

11,822 student loan borrowers have active arrangements covering \$46.2m worth of outstanding student loan balances. Of these, 6,886 are OBBs and their arrangements account for \$34.3m, or 74.4%, of the amount under arrangement.

4,607 OBBs have paid off their loans since July 2024.

Part 3: Top 20 student loan debt amount and arrests at the border

As at 31 March 2025, the amount owing for the top 20 student loan debtors is \$4.094m.

Table 1 on the following page provides a breakdown by calendar year of border arrests related to student loan debt.

Table 1: Number of border arrests related to student loan debt by calendar year

Calendar year	Number of arrests
2016	3
2017	1
2018	2
2019	2
2020	2
2021	0
2022	1
2023	0
2024	0
2025	1

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



Jane Elley

Customer Segment Leader - Individuals