



7 November 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 18 October 2024. You requested the following:

- 1. As of 30th June 2024 what is the number of trusts registered with Inland Revenue?*
- 2. As of 30th June 2024 what is the number of trusts required to file an annual income tax return (form IR6)?*
- 3. As of 30th June 2024 what is the number of trusts registered for GST?*
- 4. What was the amount of income tax paid by trusts for the year ended 31st March 2023?*

**Information being refused**

Inland Revenue does not hold information on trusts registered with us as at a specific date in the past. Your request for information relating to trusts as at 30 June 2024 in questions 1, 2 and 3 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**

We are, however, able to identify the number of trusts currently registered with Inland Revenue by calculating the number of trusts that have applied for an Inland Revenue number to date, less the number of trusts recorded in our systems as having ceased.

To source the information currently held by Inland Revenue, as outlined in **Table 1** below, we calculated totals on 22 October 2024. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

**Table 1**

Question	Information	Response
1.	Number of trusts registered with Inland Revenue as at 22 October 2024	391,200
2.	Number of trusts expected to file an annual income tax return	252,200
3.	Number of trusts registered for GST	48,400

Please also note the following additional information relating to the data provided in the Table 1:

**Question 1: Number of trusts registered with Inland Revenue**

Inland Revenue is not a registrar of trusts. The information provided in Item 1 is not intended to reflect the actual number of trusts in New Zealand, 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 number indicated in the table also excludes estates.

**Question 2: Number of trusts expected to file an annual income tax return**

The number of trusts expected to file an income tax return as indicated in Item 2 includes those with an open income tax account and excludes those that have declared that they are non-active (such as earning less than \$1000 of annual income). It does not, however, reflect the actual number of trusts required to file, or who do file annual income tax returns as there is no requirement for a trust to advise Inland Revenue that they have ceased to exist or are no longer active.

**Question 3: Number of trusts registered for GST**

The number of trusts registered for GST as per Item 3 represents that number of trusts with an open GST account in Inland Revenue systems currently, irrespective of whether the trust has filed a GST return with zero or non-zero values.

**Question 4: Income tax paid by trusts**

The amount of income tax paid by trusts for the year ended 31st March 2023 totalled \$4,853 million. This total excludes estates and is calculated as income attributed as trustee income, less expenses and losses claimed, multiplied by the trustee income tax rate of 33 percent. The total has not netted off any taxes paid or withheld as overseas tax, imputation credits, or resident withholding taxes on interest and dividends.

**Right of review**

If you disagree with my decision to refuse an aspect of 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

We intend to publish our response to your request on Inland Revenue's website ([ird.govt.nz](http://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



Sandra Watson

**Policy Lead, Forecasting and Analysis**

