

Customer and Compliance Services Ratonga Kiritaki me te Tautukunga

AIA Building 5-7 Byron Avenue PO Box 33150 Takapuna Auckland 0622

18 October 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 12 September 2022. You requested the following:

- a) the total amount of tax debt;
- b) the amount of tax debt relating to taxpayers returning total taxable income of \$40,000 or less;
- c) the average amount of tax debt per taxpayer in (b);
- *d)* the amount of tax debt relating to taxpayers returning taxable income of \$10,000 or less and the same information for each succeeding \$10,000 of taxable income i.e. total taxable income of \$10,001-20,000, \$20,001-30,000 and upwards;
- e) the amount of tax debt broken down by region;
- *f) the amount of tax debt relating to taxpayers without an agent;*
- *g*) *the amount of tax debt which is the subject of arrangements;*
- *h)* For the purposes of this request, tax debt is overdue tax debt as defined in Inland Revenue's Annual Reports. This information is requested for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 tax years.

Clarification of your request

On 19 September, you were advised that we have interpreted your use of the term "tax debt" to include all tax types excluding debt related to child support, student loans and COVID-19 products. We considered your request to seek information relating to tax debt for individuals only. You were also advised that we are unable to provide the information you have requested for income years ending prior to 31 March 2020 as the information does not exist in the format that you have requested. You clarified your request to the following:

For individuals and limited companies with income up to \$40,000:

- 1. Tax debt balances and averages categorised by income level for the 2020 and 2021 tax years in \$10,000 increments up to \$40,000, and \$40,000+.
- 2. Tax debt balances broken down by region
- 3. Current tax agent status of those with tax debt
- 4. Whether there is a current debt arrangement in place for those with tax debt.

Inland Revenue's approach to compliance

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue is tasked with protecting the integrity of the tax system and collecting the highest net revenue over time.

Our approach to compliance is multi-layered and based on our commitment to making it as easy as possible for customers to get it right from the start, and hard for them to get it wrong.

We know most individuals and businesses want to do the right thing, and we want them to understand that if they get in touch with us when they are struggling, they will get the help they need. We also want the vast majority of New Zealanders who are making the effort to meet their tax obligations to know that we will identify the few who aren't and take action.

Inland Revenue works with customers who anticipate they will not be able to make their payments by the due date to understand their financial situation and to help them resolve their debt. This could be by setting up instalment arrangements or determining if they qualify for financial relief. Relief options include extra time to pay through an instalment arrangement, extra time to file returns, and where appropriate, writing off tax, penalties or interest.

Specific web pages to help customers understand what is available to them if they are impacted by COVID-19 events or have a debt, are available on our website (ird.govt.nz).

Information being released

The information you have requested is detailed in the tables in the Appendix. We have provided income tax debt information only, as we believe this is a fair and comparable way to provide the information based on your request for information by income band.

Information regarding data being provided

Individual customers have filed either an IR3 or received an Automatic Income Tax Assessment for each respective tax year, and companies have filed an IR4. The data does not include customers with default assessments or late filing penalties if the return is not present.

Debt and arrangement metrics are as at six months after the last major due date for the corresponding tax year (i.e., for the 2020 tax year, the debt, arrangement and agent information was taken as at 30 September 2021, and 2021 tax year was at 30 September 2022).

Data for regions with single digit numbers is considered sensitive revenue information. These regions are merged into the "Unknown/other" group. As such, this information is withheld under section 18(c)(i) of the OIA, as making the requested information available would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment, namely Inland Revenue's confidentiality obligation in section 18 of the TAA. Disclosure of this information does not fall within any of the exceptions to the confidentiality obligation listed in sections 18D to 18J of the TAA.

Total tax debt

If you are interested in information on total tax debt, this can be found in Inland Revenue's Annual Report, here: <u>https://www.ird.govt.nz/about-us/publications/annual-corporate-reports/annual-report.</u> The 2022 Annual Report is due to be published in November 2022.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decisions on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decisions. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: <u>CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz</u>.

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: <u>info@ombudsman.parliament.nz</u>.

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 is of public interest so 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. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Richard Philp Customer Segment Leader, Micro Business Customer Segment

Appendix

Total income tax debt by agent status for individuals for the 2020 tax year (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) as at 30 September 2021

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent			
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance	
a. 0-10k	4,543	\$807,615	\$178	4,416	\$2,449,828	\$555	
b. 10-20k	4,022	\$2,949,057	\$733	3,377	\$1,549,609	\$459	
c. 20-30k	4,676	\$5,787, <mark>4</mark> 54	\$1,238	5,180	\$2,797,146	\$540	
d. 30-40k	4,198	\$8,636,580	\$2,057	3,527	\$2,928,991	\$830	
e. over 40k	25,057	\$131,492,958	\$5,248	20,962	\$27,642,253	\$1,319	
Total	42,496	\$149,673,665	\$3,522	37,462	\$37,367,827	\$997	

Income tax debt under arrangement by tax agent status and income band for individuals for the 2020 tax year as at 30 September 2021

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance		
a. 0-10k	316	\$134,142	<mark>\$4</mark> 25	202	\$85,462	\$423		
b. 10-20k	910	\$918,314	\$1,009	452	\$352,927	\$781		
c. 20-30k	1,191	\$1,940,503	\$1,629	720	\$695,198	\$966		
d. 30-40k	1,299	\$3,115,823	\$2,399	593	\$746,900	\$1,260		
e. over 40k	7,566	\$45,208,051	\$5,975	6,085	\$7,972,101	\$1,310		
Total	11,282	\$51,316,833	\$4 ,549	8,052	\$9,852,588	\$1,224		

Income Band	a.	0-10k	b. 1	10-20k	c. 2	20-30k	d. 3	30-40k	e. o	ver 40k	۱	otal
Region	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Total # Customers	Total Income Tax Debt Balance								
Auckland	3,441	\$2,385,356	2,670	\$1,711,387	3,169	\$3,141,678	2,613	\$4,272,750	17,287	\$68,142,998	29,180	\$79,654,168
Bay of Plenty	482	\$65,640	438	\$238,535	725	\$543,631	601	\$849,193	2,883	\$10,102,067	5,129	\$11,799,066
Canterbury	915	\$152,908	857	\$4 43, 4 55	1,143	\$1,060,035	853	\$1,313,836	5,175	\$17,654,959	8,943	\$20,625,193
Gisborne	57	\$12,007	73	\$28,973	130	\$72,308	100	\$76,180	469	\$859,137	829	\$1,048,604
Hawkes Bay	260	\$40,735	292	\$394,106	415	\$272,193	320	\$44 1,831	1,842	\$5,462,968	3,129	\$6,611,833
Manawatu-Wanganui	301	\$42,968	331	\$162,030	512	\$379,059	352	\$425,834	1,817	\$5,398,387	3,313	\$6,408,278
Marlborough	62	\$6,706	71	\$38,387	101	\$111,878	76	\$116,711	354	\$1,034,806	664	\$1,308,489
Northland	345	\$42,844	404	\$217,581	525	\$392,482	352	\$515,630	1,701	\$4,727,581	3,327	\$5,896,118
Otago	307	\$42,435	275	\$137,662	373	\$307,321	305	\$482,614	1,968	\$6,258,451	3,228	\$7,228,483
Southland	103	\$16,102	94	\$54,306	147	\$97,082	140	\$167,690	796	\$1,833,498	1,280	\$2,168,678
Taranaki	177	\$24,491	163	\$95,661	234	\$201,563	160	\$260,789	1,043	\$3,296,977	1,777	\$3,879,482
Tasman	160	\$23,460	143	\$88,174	173	\$119,906	150	\$221,288	743	\$1,981,514	1,369	\$2,434,341
Waikato	777	\$104,966	729	\$387,040	1,144	\$943,802	853	\$1,270,104	4,785	\$15,520,619	8,288	\$18,226,531
Wellington	599	\$106,106	579	\$ 347,192	778	\$649,084	633	\$869,168	4,106	\$13,333,852	6,695	\$15,305,402
West Coast	56	\$7,113	75	\$31,286	83	\$78,671	56	\$90,617	305	\$694,594	575	\$902,281
Unknown/Other ¹	917	\$183,606	205	\$122,892	204	\$213,907	161	\$191,338	745	\$2,832,803	2,232	\$3,544,546
Total	8,959	\$3,257,443	7,399	\$4,498,667	9,856	\$8,584,600	7,725	\$11,565,571	46,019	\$159,135,212	79,958	\$187,041,492

Tax debt by region for individuals for the 2020 tax year as at 30 September 2021

¹ Includes invalid addresses, overseas-based individuals or areas where population is too small to provide information

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance		
a. 0-10k	1,762	\$727,659	\$413	1,092	\$375,926	\$344		
b. 10-20k	3,370	\$3,752,622	\$1,114	3,065	\$2,030,102	\$662		
c. 20-30k	4,578	\$7,346,135	\$1,605	7,006	\$4,621,024	\$660		
d. 30-40k	4,490	\$11,028,741	\$2,456	4,427	\$4,489,371	\$1,014		
e. over 40k	25,944	\$175,134,525	\$6,750	22,582	\$35,229,553	\$1,560		
Total	40,144 \$197,989,682		\$4,932	38,172	\$46,745,976	\$1,225		

Total income tax debt by agent status for individuals for the 2021 tax year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021) as at 30 September 2022

Income tax debt under arrangement by tax agent status and income band for individuals for the 2021 tax year as at 30 September 2022

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance		
a. 0-10k	198	\$96,586	\$488	139	\$54,416	\$391		
b. 10-20k	890	\$932,232	\$1,047	591	\$486,844	\$824		
c. 20-30k	1,412	\$2,312,700	\$1,638	1,071	\$1,063,470	\$ 993		
d. 30-40k	1,658	\$3,854,932	\$2,325	918	\$1,064,933	\$ 1,160		
e. over 40k	9,474	\$57,373,610	\$6,056	7,125	\$10,139,413	\$1,423		
Total	13,632	\$64,570,060	\$4,737	9,844	\$12,809,076	\$1,301		

Income Band	a.	0-10k	b. 1	10-20k	c. 2	20-30k	d. 3	30-40k	e. o	ver 40k	1	otal
Region	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Total # Customers	Total Income Tax Debt Balance								
Auckland	1,150	\$445,125	2,366	\$2,302,027	3,899	\$4,448,295	2,927	\$5,497,418	18,091	\$88,976,402	28,433	\$101,669,266
Bay of Plenty	125	\$53,080	409	\$339,707	875	\$796,094	704	\$1,080,073	3,216	\$14,695,629	5,329	\$16,964,584
Canterbury	304	\$121,838	715	\$622,767	1,219	\$1,322,029	920	\$1,585,779	5,420	\$22,237,145	8,578	\$25,889,558
Gisborne	24	\$7,453	50	\$36,291	180	\$105,217	117	\$147,766	556	\$1,396,152	927	\$1,692,880
Hawkes Bay	96	\$36,058	268	\$204,565	559	\$416,909	439	\$603,873	2,037	\$7,612,647	3,399	\$8,874,053
Manawatu-Wanganui	96	\$45,627	253	\$196,084	631	\$552,384	452	\$692,080	2,084	\$7,347,917	3,516	\$8,834,093
Marlborough	18	\$5,075	48	\$31,877	100	\$144,745	80	\$146,311	411	\$1,408,939	657	\$1,736,948
Northland	103	\$43,282	322	\$256,683	573	\$524,667	447	\$772,328	1,808	\$6,652,725	3,253	\$8,249,685
Otago	108	\$41,797	275	\$262,429	432	\$459,175	356	\$684,780	1,881	\$7,299,726	3,052	\$8,747,906
Southland	31	\$9,074	89	\$73,060	152	\$142,152	152	\$236,945	843	\$2,695,844	1,267	\$3,157,075
Taranaki	64	\$18,988	151	\$135,440	279	\$280,496	231	\$441,144	963	\$3,932,853	1,688	\$4,808,921
Tasman	63	\$24,319	125	\$107,034	227	\$259,394	165	\$330,587	823	\$3,328,181	1,403	\$4,049,517
Waikato	235	\$93,796	642	\$548,582	1,236	\$1,172,375	1,012	\$1,688,000	5,215	\$21,071,219	8,340	\$24,573,972
Wellington	198	\$70,002	492	\$423,519	920	\$1,049,944	704	\$1,213,626	4,112	\$16,915,049	6,426	\$19,672,139
West Coast	23	\$8,706	60	\$58,522	82	\$85,069	63	\$120,329	327	\$972,176	555	\$1,244,802
Unknown/Other ²	253	\$95,093	170	\$ 184,137	220	\$208,214	148	\$277,073	739	\$3,821,473	1,530	\$4,585,989
Total	2,891	\$1,119,314	6,435	\$5,782,724	11,584	\$11,967,159	8,917	\$15,518,112	48,526	\$210,364,079	78,353	\$244,751,388

Income tax debt by region for individuals for the 2021 tax year as at 30 September 2022

² Includes invalid addresses, overseas-based individuals or areas where population is too small to provide information

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance		
a. 0-10k	8,911	\$5,157,669	\$579	2,589	\$882,417	\$341		
b. 10k-20k	983	\$2,914,737	\$2,965	124	\$349,499	\$2,819		
c. 20k-30k	339	\$1,598,200	<mark>\$</mark> 4,714	73	\$403,250	\$5,524		
d. 30k-40k	289	\$1,872,813	\$6,480	26	\$146,507	\$5,635		
e. over 40k	1,496	\$28,927,392	\$19,336	135	\$5,983,895	\$44,325		
Total	12,018	\$40,470,811	\$3,368	2,947	\$7,765,567	\$2,635		

Total income tax debt by agent status for companies for the 2020 tax year (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) as at 30 September 2021

Income tax debt under arrangement for companies for the 2020 tax year (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) as at 30 September 2021

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance		
a. 0-10k	382	\$620,277	\$1,624	118	\$107,234	\$909		
b. 10k-20k	263	\$668,882	\$2,543	38	\$96,157	\$2,530		
c. 20k-30k	80	\$343,980	\$4,300	16	\$74,700	\$4,669		
d. 30k-40k	80	\$469,678	\$5,871	11	\$47,832	\$4,348		
e. over 40k	502	\$9,418,448	\$18,762	30	\$314,928	\$10,498		
Total	1,307	\$11,521,266	\$8,815	213	\$640,852	\$3,009		

Income Band	a. 0-	-10k	b. 10	-20k	c. 20	-30k	d. 30	-40k	e. ove	er 40k	То	tal
Region	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Total # Customers	Total Income Tax Debt Balance								
Auckland	5,063	\$2,930,428	433	\$1,264,785	173	\$948,766	136	\$840,599	713	\$15,531,955	6,518	\$21,516,533
Bay of Plenty	623	\$168,342	57	\$197,552	16	\$93,281	20	\$251,080	83	\$1,385,266	799	\$2,095,520
Canterbury	1,319	\$783,215	129	\$405,396	33	\$170,167	29	\$182,554	180	\$3,121,816	1,690	\$4,663,149
Hawkes Bay	350	\$123,502	42	\$125,458	12	\$69,439	16	\$105,021	44	\$797,394	464	\$1,220,814
Marlborough	78	\$20,074	14	\$46,269	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	92	\$66,344
Northland	366	\$91,903	46	\$129,369	19	\$64,525	0	\$0	44	\$558,976	475	\$844,773
Taranaki	160	\$29,207	26	\$82,596	0	\$0	0	\$0	30	\$390,482	216	\$502,285
Tasman	212	\$139,553	21	\$48,760	10	\$24,540	0	\$0	27	\$412,487	270	\$625,341
Waikato	976	\$442,872	117	\$338,781	49	\$184,308	35	\$166,660	145	\$2,857,073	1,322	\$3,989,694
Wellington	988	\$314,176	87	\$241,094	36	\$173,595	27	\$192,494	138	\$2,720,272	1,276	\$3,641,631
West Coast	51	\$39,834	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	14	\$198,161	65	\$237,996
Unknown/Other ³	1,314	\$956,980	135	\$384,176	64	\$272,828	52	\$280,912	213	\$6,937,405	1,778	\$8,832,300
Grand Total	11,500	\$6,040,086	1,107	\$3,264,236	412	\$2,001,450	315	\$2,019,320	1,631	\$34,911,287	14,965	\$48,236,379

Income tax debt by region for companies for the 2020 tax year as at 30 September 2021

³ Includes invalid addresses, overseas-based companies or areas where population is too small to provide information

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Debt Balance		
a. 0-10k	3,503	\$2,966,382	\$847	1,013	\$524,998	\$518		
b. 10k-20k	1,026	\$3,376,483	\$3,291	133	\$443, <mark>4</mark> 98	\$3,335		
c. 20k-30k	335	\$1,758,316	\$5,249	55	\$313,199	\$5,695		
d. 30k-40k	301	\$1,974,168	\$ 6,559	36	\$295,754	\$8,215		
e. over 40k	2,058	\$62,002,193	\$30,127	116	\$3,506,248	\$30,226		
Total	7,223	\$72,077,542	\$9,979	1,353	\$5,083,696	\$3,757		

Total income tax debt by agent status for companies for the 2021 tax year (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021) as at 30 September 2022

Income tax debt under arrangement by tax agent status and income band for companies for the 2021 tax year as at 30 September 2022

		Tax Agent		No Tax Agent				
Income Band	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Average Arrangement Balance		
a. 0-10k	297	\$244,157	\$822	46	\$34,029	\$740		
b. 10k-20k	325	\$915,860	\$2,818	31	\$93,681	\$3,022		
c. 20k-30k	121	\$519,785	\$4,296	11	\$43,869	\$3,988		
d. 30k- <mark>4</mark> 0k	111	\$632,774	\$5,701	4	\$20,351	\$5,088		
e. over 40k	870	\$25,303,732	\$29,085	28	\$597,985	\$21,357		
Total	1,724	\$27,616,308	\$16,019	120	\$789,915	\$6,583		

Income Band	a. 0	-10k	b. 10)-20k	c. 20	-30k	d. 30	-40k	e. ove	er 40k	То	tal
Region	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	# Customers	Income Tax Debt Balance	Total # Customers	Total Income Tax Debt Balance
Auckland	1,982	\$1,495,237	451	\$1,453,561	153	\$811,512	145	\$1,000,980	956	\$36,787,578	3,687	\$41,548,867
Bay of Plenty	255	\$99,667	63	\$227,831	23	\$129,667	17	\$126,771	110	\$2,618,678	468	\$3,202,614
Canterbury	501	\$962,396	119	\$331,623	39	\$190,910	32	\$214,123	237	\$5,365,495	928	\$7,064,548
Gisborne	18	\$11,962	11	\$41,801	0	\$0	0	\$0	13	\$445,826	42	\$499,590
Hawkes Bay	146	\$81,649	35	\$104,726	14	\$74,905	14	\$96,121	69	\$2,110,645	278	\$2,468,047
Manawatu-Wanganui	136	\$55,482	48	\$154,702	14	\$69,494	12	\$68,990	73	\$1,606,568	283	\$1,955,236
Marlborough	35	\$20,442	12	\$48,260	0	\$0	0	\$0	12	\$407,884	59	\$476,586
Northland	133	\$52,309	57	\$188,456	11	\$58,461	0	\$0	78	\$1,859,024	279	\$2,158,249
Otago	160	\$59,481	53	\$188,414	14	\$72,269	0	\$0	61	\$1,204,662	288	\$1,524,826
Southland	45	\$28,347	14	\$43,727	0	\$0	12	\$69,229	28	\$463,464	99	\$604,767
Taranaki	74	\$22,758	25	\$101,530	0	\$0	0	\$0	46	\$649,830	145	\$774,118
Tasman	79	\$29,403	27	\$86,975	10	\$59,663	0	\$0	36	\$593,250	152	\$769,291
Waikato	427	\$355,011	124	\$446,986	36	\$228,037	42	\$269,643	224	\$5,399,515	853	\$6,699,192
Wellington	417	\$197,523	102	\$350,171	45	\$219,251	23	\$151,934	173	\$4,451,760	760	\$5,370,638
Unknown/Other ⁴	108	\$19,714	18	\$51,218	31	\$157,345	40	\$272,131	58	\$1,544,261	255	\$2,044,669
Grand Total	4,516	\$3,491,380	1,159	\$3,819,981	390	\$2,071,515	337	\$2,269,922	2,174	\$65,508,441	8,576	\$77,161,238

Income tax debt by region for companies for the 2021 tax year as at 30 September 2022

⁴ Includes invalid addresses, overseas-based companies or areas where population is too small to provide information