

06 MAY 2019

Iris Krzyzosiak  
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Dear Ms Krzyzosiak

**Official Information Act 1982 request**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 5 April 2019 regarding benefit fraud and tax evasion. Your requests and my responses are set out below.

1. *The total number of convictions per annum for benefit fraud, as far back as records permit, broken down by ethnicity and gender.*
2. *The total number of convictions per annum for tax evasion, as far back as records permit, broken down by ethnicity and gender.*
3. *The total number of sentences of imprisonment per annum for benefit fraud, as far back as records permit, broken down by ethnicity and gender.*
4. *The total number of sentences of imprisonment per annum for tax evasion, as far back as records permit, broken down by ethnicity and gender.*

I have interpreted 'per annum' to mean you want the data broken down by calendar year. I have been unable to break down the data by ethnicity as this was not recorded in the majority of cases.

In response to part 1 of your request, please refer to Table 1 attached.

In response to part 2 of your request, please refer to Table 2 attached.

In response to part 3 of your request, please refer to Table 3 attached.

In response to part 4 of your request, please refer to Table 4 attached.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon  
**Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery**

Ref: 74667

**Table 1: Number of benefit fraud charges where a conviction was recorded, by gender, 2004 – 2018**

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	1,417	1,390	1,444	1,763	1,900	1,797	2,212	2,203	3,059	2,659	3,362	2,111	2,036	1,317	644
Male	1,113	1,007	834	915	885	729	675	814	1,145	1,001	1,936	958	838	543	318
Unknown	2	0	14	20	8	0	6	11	25	1	14	3	5	4	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>3,028</b>	<b>4,229</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>965</b>

- This data counts the total number of benefit fraud charges which led to convictions, by charge outcome year
- Separate figures for organisations that received convictions for benefit fraud are not included
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. Offences for benefit fraud are categorised by ANZSOC division 091: 'Obtain benefit by deception'.

**Table 2: Number of tax evasion charges where a conviction was entered, by gender, 2004 – 2018**

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	22	40	82	69	166	110	46	43	127	75	74	220	155	101	85
Male	89	171	435	629	583	880	490	625	494	356	287	260	547	362	383
Unknown	0	0	0	21	97	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>480</b>

- This data counts the total number of tax evasion charges which led to convictions, by charge outcome year
- Separate figures for organisations that received convictions for benefit fraud are not included
- Offences for tax evasion are limited to those with offence codes (9724 (Evading GST) or 9375 (Evades/Attempts Evade Assess/Payment Tax)).

**Table 3: Number of benefit fraud charges where a sentence of imprisonment was imposed, by gender, 2004 – 2018**

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	314	499	375	440	103	180	225	265	213	290	207	139	203	129	98
Male	165	195	124	209	106	145	113	111	105	64	115	65	119	95	49
Unknown	0	0	5	11	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>147</b>

- This data counts the total number of convictions on benefit fraud charges where a sentence of imprisonment was imposed, by charge outcome year
- The Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification (ANZSOC) is used to categorise offences into 16 divisions, within which subdivisions and groups exist. Offences for benefit fraud are categorised by ANZSOC division 091: 'Obtain benefit by deception'.

**Table 4: Number of tax evasion charges where a sentence of imprisonment was imposed, by gender, 2004 – 2018**

Gender	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Female	1	5	0	3	0	0	0	3	20	0	0	0	12	11	0
Male	7	30	204	298	67	273	177	60	135	34	48	56	222	100	54
Unknown	0	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>54</b>

- This data counts the total number of tax evasion charges which led to convictions, by charge outcome year
- Offences for tax evasion are limited to those with offence codes (9724 (Evading GST) or 9375 (Evades/Attempts Evade Assess/Payment Tax)).