

11 July 2022

Erika Whittome
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Tēnā koe Erika

Thank you for your request of 12 June 2022, to Mahi Haumarū Aotearoa | WorkSafe New Zealand, requesting information regarding infringement notices that have been issued by WorkSafe to businesses that have breached COVID-19 legislation requirements.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), and my reply is below.

1. *The total number of fines issued to date.*
2. *The monetary value of these fines.*

A total of 70 infringement notices related to COVID-19 offences have been issued to date, and the total monetary value is \$442,900.00.

3. *The number of fines that have been successfully collected to date.*
4. *The monetary value that has been successfully collected.*

I can advise that one fine has been collected to date, with the monetary value of \$300.00.

5. *Where the fines have not been collected, the budget spent to date on court appearances and legal costs for these fine collection.*
6. *The budget allocated for this financial year for using the courts to attempt to collect these fines.*

A business has 28 days to pay infringement fees; if payment is not made within 28 days a reminder notice may be issued. Infringement fees that remain unpaid are transferred to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) for collection or further action.

Once transferred to MOJ, WorkSafe does not have any further involvement or any visibility of MOJ's further action including collecting any payments. Therefore, WorkSafe does not have a budget allocated for the collection of unpaid infringements. For this reason, I am refusing question five and six of your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of WorkSafe's decision to refuse information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require any further information, please contact oja@worksafe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Simon Humphries
Head of General Inspectorate