



28 July 2022

Ella

By email: [fyi-request-19831-ad5ef5fe@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-19831-ad5ef5fe@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Ella

### **Official information request regarding library fines**

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 5 July 2022:

*“I am interested in the total value of Victoria University of Wellington library fines between the years of 2019-2021.*

*Specifically, I would like to know:*

- The total value of all library fines for late, overdue and damaged books for between the years of 2019-2021 (inclusive), including a breakdown of the value of fines per year.*
- The value of fines for overdue books in 2021.*
- The number of library fine waivers granted by the library for the years of 2020 and 2021.*
- Whether there is any policy of fine forgiveness in place upon the return of lost or overdue books.”*

### **The total value of all library fines for late, overdue and damaged books for between the years of 2019-2021 (inclusive), including a breakdown of the value of fines per year.**

University Library management systems automatically identify potential fines/fees although the majority of these are not subsequently charged to the borrower. Information regarding outstanding fines and fees that have been charged to borrowers but have not been paid cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(f) of the Act.

The figures in the table below contain details of payments received for both fines and fees. Identifying and calculating only fines that have been paid by borrowers would require substantial collation and research. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(f) of the Act.

Year	Fines and fees
2021	\$5,101.43
2020	\$5,291.04
2019	\$8,536.91

**The value of fines for overdue books in 2021.**

Overdue fines for standard loan items were removed in 2018. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

**The number of library fine waivers granted by the library for the years of 2020 and 2021.**

As per above, University Library management systems automatically identify potential fines/fees although the majority of these are not subsequently charged to the borrower. Specific information regarding fines that were levied and subsequently waived cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. Therefore this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with s18(f) of the Act.

**Whether there is any policy of fine forgiveness in place upon the return of lost or overdue books.”**

Library fines are part of the Library’s borrowing conditions, available at: <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/library/how-to-use-the-library/borrow-request-and-interloan-items/borrowing>. As per above, overdue fines for standard loan items were removed in 2018.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty  
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy  
Legal Services  
**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**