

26 MAR 2015

Gilbert Elliott
fyi-request-2545-2649da6d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Elliott

I refer to your email of 4 March 2015, requesting information under the Official Information Act.

Your request and my response follow:

- 1) Please send me information on the number or percentage of offenders who have not yet paid the offender levy.

At the end of the 2014 calendar year, the number of offenders who still owed any amount of money on an offender levy was 39,280. Between the inception of the offender levy on 1 July 2010 to 31 December last year, 234,790 offenders were ordered to pay an offender levy. These numbers were rounded to the nearest ten. As at 31 December last year, 16.7 per cent of those issued with an offender levy still needed to pay it, whether in part or in full.

As context to your request I have provided some extra information on the offender levy for you. The \$50 offender levy came into force on 1 July 2010. It is not a fine, but an automatically-imposed fee that is required by law to be paid by anyone sentenced in the District or High Court. The purpose of the offender levy is to ensure that offenders contribute to addressing the harm that their crimes cause to victims.

The money raised through the offender levy is distributed back to victims in the form of financial assistance grants. In addition, the money also funds several other services for victims such as the safe@home programme, the homicide support service, a sexual violence survivor advocate and sexual violence court victim advisors. The number of grants and services funded by the offender levy has increased over time to 15, which are administered by Victim Support and delivered by Shine, Accident Compensation Corporation and the Ministry of Justice.

I hope this information is of assistance. Thank you for contacting the Ministry of Justice.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon
General Manager Collections
Legal and Operational Services

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