

3 April 2017

Robert McKenzie
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Dear Mr McKenzie

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 7 March 2017. Please find responses to each of your questions below.

1. Please provide me with the number of people that have been stopped from leaving NZ due to outstanding student loan arrears.

Three people have been arrested at the border because of student loan default. This is reserved for the most non-compliant borrowers who are in default and have failed to engage with Inland Revenue in respect of their arrears. Borrowers will often enter into discussions with Inland Revenue and make payments before an arrest warrant is granted.

2. Have there been any more since the third arrest that haven't been reported by the media?

No.

3. Has the IRD had a favorable outcome collecting revenue following the three arrests?

While we are seeing an increase in repayments towards Student Loan default, we are unable to attribute this solely to the three arrests made. Inland Revenue undertakes a variety of activities to encourage compliance, including:

- tracking and tracing of overseas-based borrowers
- information sharing between Inland Revenue and the Department of Internal Affairs e.g. receiving contact information of overseas-based borrowers who apply for a New Zealand passport
- data matching with New Zealand Customs e.g. receiving arrival and departure information of borrowers in serious default
- marketing and communications targeting overseas-based student loan borrowers
- data matching with the Australian Taxation Office of New Zealand student loan borrowers against the database of Australian taxpayers.

These activities will all have contributed to the increase in repayments towards student loan default.

Thank you again for your request. I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Maurice Lawlor

Business Owner, Service Delivery