

18 JUL 2017

Lisa Mariott
fyi-request-6169-3a294ab@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Mariott

Thank you for your email dated 9 July 2017, regarding information on fines and reparation write-offs. Your request has been referred to me for a response and is being administered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Background

When a fine is imposed registrars will, in the first instance, seek payment in full or negotiate sustainable payment arrangements where possible. If these are unsuccessful, the registrar may take measures to enforce overdue amounts which can include clamping vehicles, seizing and selling property, making compulsory deductions from a person's income or bank account, suspending drivers' licences and preventing a person's international travel.

In some circumstances, the remittal of the fine is considered the most appropriate action. Examples include if a person dies, a company is put into liquidation, or when a registrar decides to remit small outstanding balances. In other circumstances where enforcement action has been unsuccessful or further action is not considered appropriate, fines may be remitted by a judge and an alternative sentence imposed, such as imprisonment, home detention, community detention or community work.

In addition, registrars have discretion to remit court costs and enforcement fees in order to encourage people to pay the original fines. Remitting these can be a successful strategy to encourage payment of the core fines.

Remittals

There was a total of \$28,976,746 that was remitted in the 2015-2016 financial year. This total consists of \$27,554,692 in fines remittals and \$1,422,054 in reparation remittals.

Thank you for writing. I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Bryre Patchell
Group Manager, National Service Delivery
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