

Performance & Optimisation
55 Featherston Street
PO Box 2198
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

12 September 2017

Lisa Marriott
fyi-request-6413-47b523e9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Marriott

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which we received on 15 August 2017. You have requested the following information:

Question one

The total number of student loan debtors (as at 30 June 2016)

Question two

How much of the penalties and interest reported in the annual report (for the year ended 30 June 2016) related to student loans

Question three

How much (if any) of the reported debt under instalment relates to student loans (reported in the annual report for the year ending 30 June 2016)

Question four

What proportion of write-off request for core tax debt (i.e. not student loans or child support) are successful

Question five

Is any of the 'uncollectible debt' reported in the 2105-16 annual report related to tax evasion (that cannot be written off)?

Please find responses to each of these questions below.

Questions one

The total number of student loan debtors as at 30 June 2016 is available in the Student Loan Annual Report released by Ministry of Education each year. An electronic copy of the report is available on the *Education Counts* Government website, www.educationcounts.govt.nz.

The total number of student loan debtors as at 30 June 2016 was 104,730. This comprised 80,622 overseas-based borrowers and 24,108 New Zealand-based borrowers.

While student loan default continues to increase the number of borrowers in default continues to decrease each year.

Question two

Page 123 of the Inland Revenue Annual Report 2016 reports;

- Loan interest on overseas-based borrowers of \$135.4m
- Late payment interest on both New Zealand-based and overseas-based borrower default of \$63.8m.

Question three

Page 134 of the Inland Revenue Annual Report 2016 reports \$996.6m of debt is under instalment arrangement. Of that, \$239.4m relates to student loan default.

Student Loan overall default as at 30 June 2016 was \$1,074.8m.

Question four

I must refuse your request concerning the proportion of successful write off requests under section 18(g) of the Act. Inland Revenue does not hold the information requested.

Question five

Yes.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. The office of the Ombudsman can be contacted at PO Box 10152, The Terrace, Wellington, 6143 or online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Alternatively, you may have the decision reviewed by an Inland Revenue review officer. Choosing the internal right of review does not preclude you from subsequently seeking a review by the Ombudsman should you be dissatisfied with the department's internal review. If an internal review is sought, please write to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140, setting out the details of your complaint.

Thank you again for writing. I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Maurice Lawlor
Business Owner, Student Loans