



15 May 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2025, requesting information about the Limitation Act 2010 and debt write offs.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- 1. All policy documents, contained in whatever format, relating to the Limitation Act 2010 (and its predecessors) and its application.*

The Ministry does not have a policy on the Limitation Act 2010, except in relation to the policy for claims about abuse in state care which can be found here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/limitation-policy-for-historic-claims-of-abuse-in-state-care.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/limitation-policy-for-historic-claims-of-abuse-in-state-care.pdf).

The Ministry's usual process is to recover any debts through deduction notices, to which the Limitation Act does not apply. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) as the document you have requested does not exist.

- 2. Details of debt written off since 1 January 2011, broken down into date and amount written off.*

Please refer to the table below which shows the amount of debt written off from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2024, by financial year.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>2015/2016</b>	\$17,520,125
<b>2016/2017</b>	\$20,764,378
<b>2017/2018</b>	\$20,017,701
<b>2018/2019</b>	\$21,078,655
<b>2019/2020</b>	\$17,091,264
<b>2020/2021</b>	\$21,430,480
<b>2021/2022</b>	\$21,191,297
<b>2022/2023</b>	\$33,964,180
<b>2023/2024</b>	\$30,507,049

**Notes for Table:**

- The Ministry's financial year commences on 1 July and ends at 30 June.
- This includes debt write off for clients on a current benefit and former clients that owed money to the Ministry.
- The amount of debt written off can change over time depending on the extraction date of the data.
- This data is from official reporting which is extracted as at the end of each financial year.

In regard to your request for information on debt written off prior to financial year 2015/2016, I am unable to provide you with this information as the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Anna Graham  
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