

15 May 2023

B. White
fyi-request-22051-b786fe13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 103158

Tēnā koe Mr White

Official Information Act request: Fine information

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2023 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), in which you requested:

- 1 - Does the Ministry have a flag in it's databases for when the Ministry has been informed that an address is no longer current?*
- 2 - Does the Ministry have policies and/or procedures relating to how what it does when it receives "Return to sender - not at this address" mail (or similar)? If so please supply copies of these policies and/or procedures.*
- 3 - Does the Ministry have policies and/or procedures relating to how what it does when it receives other information regarding addresses not being valid (phone call, email etc.)? If so please supply copies of these policies and/or procedures.*
- 4 - If the Ministry does record information noted in 1 above, please supply a breakdown of fines under administration - aggregating: count of individuals and \$ value by:
 - a) address status (marked as non-current vs not)*
 - b) dollar size of fines outstanding by that individual in sensible groupings (less than \$50, \$50-\$100, \$100-\$500 etc.).**
- 5 - Can you please also provide details of the count of letters sent in each of the last 3 financial years to addresses that the Ministry had received notice that it is no longer valid at the time of sending.*
- 6 - Please also provide an estimate of the cost of the above (again by financial year)'*

Your request has been referred to me for response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Group Manager for National Service Delivery, and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act)

In response to your first question, where the Ministry is advised that an address is no longer current, the address will be flagged as invalid so that further letters are not sent. The Ministry actively works to locate and contact people who owe fines and/or reparation, through data matching agreements with third party agencies and organisations. On occasion, the status of invalid may be overwritten. This could be due to information received through data matching or the address with the prosecuting authority not being updated, resulting in notices of fine still being sent to the invalidated address.

If you would like to know more, please contact the fines enquiry team by phone: 0800 434 637, or email fines.enquiry@justice.govt.nz.

In response to questions 2 and 3, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as this is considered judicial information. The courts are specifically excluded from the Act under section 2(6)(a).

In response to question 4a and 4b, please refer to Tables 1 and 2 at the bottom of this document. We have interpreted the timeframe of your request as the past three financial years. Please note, that each financial year is based on the total outstanding balance as of 30 June of each year. Profiles and fines can be counted more than once if they still have an amount owing as of this date.

Questions 5 and 6 are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist. The Ministry does not hold information on mailing costs for different categories of mail.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Tracey Baguley
Group Manager, National Service Delivery

Table 1: Number of current and not current addresses by financial year

2019/2020 FY		2020/2021 FY		2021/2022 FY	
Total # Profiles	Address Status	Total number of Profiles	Address Status	Total number of Profiles	Address Status
222,805	Current	223,063	Current	255,679	Current
272,150	Not Current	269,214	Not Current	267,254	Not Current

Table 2: Breakdown of fines groupings by financial year

2019/2020 FY		2020/2021 FY		2021/2022 FY	
Amount Group	Total number of Fines	Amount Group	Total number of Fines	Amount Group	Total number of Fines
\$0-\$50	146,696	\$0-\$50	136,880	\$0-\$50	140,963
\$50-\$100	256,681	\$50-\$100	237,287	\$50-\$100	274,981
\$100-\$500	1,761,105	\$100-\$500	1,683,742	\$100-\$500	1,646,642
\$500-\$1,000	101,933	\$500-\$1,000	96,815	\$500-\$1,000	88,438
\$1,000-\$5,000	23,433	\$1,000-\$5,000	22,411	\$1,000-\$5,000	20,935
\$5,000 +	7,708	\$5,000 +	7,546	\$5,000 +	7,135