

11 May 2016

Mr Michael Rescue
fyi-request-3880-e5c980a5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Rescue

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982, received on 12 April 2016. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment transferred your request to Inland Revenue for reply. You asked:

- 1) *Is the matching criteria used for the Customs/IR Student Loan Alerts Programme (full name, date of birth, and IRD number) also applied to overseas passports or is the matching criteria only applied to New Zealand passports?*
- 2) *In the technical information for this programme a unique identifier of "Tax File Number" is specified, does this refer to an individual's IRD number or to their Australian Tax File Number?*
- 3) *What provisions are in place for individuals that have changed their name and will not be identified by the matching criteria in place for this programme?*

Are the matching criteria applied to overseas or only New Zealand passports?

The matching criteria apply to all student loan borrowers with a student loan balance of \$20 or above. The criteria do not take into account whether a borrower holds a New Zealand or overseas passport.

Does the tax file number refer to an individual's IRD number or to their Australian tax file number?

The tax file number refers to a New Zealand borrower's Inland Revenue number.

Provisions for individuals who have changed their name and will not be identified by the matching criteria

When a person changes their name, it is their responsibility to contact Inland Revenue and advise us of their correct information. If Inland Revenue is not informed of a name change, matches with Customs could potentially continue under an incorrect name. However, Inland Revenue uses other resources, such as debt collection agencies, to track and trace borrowers who cannot be found using existing information exchanges.

This fully covers the information you requested.

Thank you for your request. I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Maurice Lawlor
Business Owner