

Lisa Marriott
fyi-request-6412-a636e85c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Marriott

Thank you for your email dated 15 August 2017, requesting information on fines enforcement. Your request has been referred to me for a response and is being administered under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. All figures are for the 2015-16 financial year.

Before answering your questions, I would like to provide some background information on the enforcement of unpaid fines. When an infringement notice is lodged with the District Court, or the Court imposes a fine and/or reparation, the Court will, in the first instance, seek payment in full and then set sustainable repayment arrangements where possible.

If the person does not pay in full or adhere to a payment arrangement, enforcement of overdue fines is commenced and can include clamping vehicles, seizing and selling assets, ordering compulsory deductions from a person's income or bank account, issuing warrants to arrest, suspending drivers' licences and preventing a person's international travel. A fee of \$102 is added when the court takes enforcement action.

There is more information on our website: www.justice.govt.nz/fines/about-fines/fines-enforcement.

How many deduction notices were served to financial institutions or employers to assist with collection of outstanding debts?

During the 2015-16 financial year, 24,280 deduction notices were issued to financial institutions. There were 31,989 attachment orders issued to employers and 30,672 attachment orders issued to the Ministry of Social Development.

The value of any property seized in relation to outstanding debts?

Data that the ministry holds does not include the total value of property seized in relation to outstanding debts. This part of your request is therefore declined, pursuant to Section 2(6) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

When a warrant to seize property is executed, seized property is held by the court until sold. The value of the property is determined by the resale value. However, the court often releases seized property prior to resale, as a result of successful third party claims or customers paying all or part of the outstanding fines.

How many individuals had their driver's licences suspended when they had outstanding debt?

During the 2015-16 financial year, 109 driver's licences were suspended as a result of non-payment of fines.

How many individuals were prevented from international travel due to outstanding debt?

There were 199 intercepts on either departure or arrival from airports in the 2015-16 financial year. However, the data presented here only determines if a customer was stopped. It does not take into account cases where customers were intercepted but allowed to continue travelling after paying in full or negotiating payment arrangements with the court.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to seek a review by the Ombudsman about the decision to refuse parts of your request.

I trust that this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely



Bryre Patchell
Group Manager, National Service Delivery
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