

2 February 2018

Yang Yang
fyi-request-7012-b876b349@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Yang

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), and received on 14 December 2017. You requested the following:

...data about total rental profits, total rental losses and total net rental from the earliest year that has available data to the year of 2017 by territorial authorities (preferred) or regional councils.

Information to be released

An excel spreadsheet document containing data about total rental profits, total rental losses and total net rental from 1998 to 2016 (by region) has been attached to this response. This data is subject to the qualifications set out in this response and in the "notes" table in the attached spreadsheet.

There are strong caveats to regional breakdowns of Inland Revenue tax administrative data because of insufficient coverage in some aspects (for example, non-filers with old addresses and missing addresses). More importantly, tax returns do not individually identify the region where the aggregated net residential rental income or loss is related to. For example, aggregated residential rental income reported from Auckland does not necessarily mean that all the rental activities were located in Auckland.

Please note that taxpayers with residential rental income were identified from a generic search on business activities. This exercise attempted to exclude other rental activity such as commercial property, but since taxpayers often do not provide sufficiently clear descriptive details, an element of commercial or other non-residential rental activity (for example, a boat renting business) may remain.

For natural persons, the net rental income is clearly identifiable from a separate question on tax returns. Company tax returns do not contain this question. Hence for business entities whose main activity is renting, the net business profits are assumed to all come from this activity – even though that may not necessarily be the case.

The regional breakdown provided in this response is based on post codes contained in the address of the filer of relevant tax returns. The regions that are provided are NZ Post's post code regions, rather than territorial authority or regional council boundaries.

Information to be withheld

Your request for data for the 31 March 2017 income year is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the Act. The information is substantially incomplete and is therefore not currently held by Inland Revenue.

Right of review

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to refuse an aspect of your request. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted at PO Box 10152, The Terrace, Wellington, 6143.

Alternatively, you may have the decision reviewed by a 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sandra Watson
Manager, Forecasting and Analysis