



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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HMRC TAX COLLECTED ON HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS

Thank you for your request of 17th of August 2023 to the National Audit Office. You requested updated figures from 2015 onwards on Income Tax (£bn) paid by high-net-worth individuals (defined as individuals with a net worth of more than £20 million). Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

This information was used by the National Audit Office as part of the November 2016 report titled 'HMRC's approach to collecting tax from high-net-worth individuals'. This report can be viewed here [HMRC's approach to collecting tax from high net worth individuals - National Audit Office \(NAO\) report](#). The data requested was collected by the NAO as part of this specific work study and this is not something we routinely collect.

Having reviewed our audit records, I can confirm that we do not hold the specific requested information within the scope of your request.

You may however be interested to note that HMRC now defines individuals as 'wealthy' if they have incomes of £200,000 or more, or assets equal to or above £2 million in any of the last 3 years. There are approximately 800,000 wealthy customers. More detail on how HMRC collects tax from wealthy people is available here [Overview of how HMRC collects the right tax from wealthy individuals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The following public datasets may also be of interest:

- [Table 2.4 Shares of total Income Tax liability - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) includes the proportion of income tax paid for the top 1% of incomes.
- Table 3.10 of HMRC's tax gap publication sets out the amount of tax liabilities which are theoretically due from wealthy taxpayers but not paid. This can be viewed here [Measuring tax gap online tables 2023.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

You may also wish to contact HMRC, who might be able to help you with the information you seek, details of how to contact them can be found here: [Publication scheme - HM Revenue & Customs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

For your reference, your specific request has been reproduced in **Annex A**. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request.

I am sorry we haven't been able help answer your request but hope the information above is useful to you.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information about: 'HMRC's tax collected from high-net-worth individuals'

I would like to request assistance with an update to figures previously reported by the National Audit Office.

As part of the November 2016 report below titled 'HMRC's approach to collecting tax from high-net-worth individuals', figures were reported on Income Tax (£bn) paid by high net worth individuals (defined as individuals with a net worth of more than £20 million).

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HMRCs-approach-to-collecting-tax-from-high-net-worth-individuals.pdf>

See Graph in Figure 4 on page 14. This data shows that income tax paid by these individuals fell from £4.4 billion in 2009-10 to £3.5 billion in 2014-15. I would like to understand how this value has changed in the years since this report was published. Please can you provide me with all available yearly values for Income Tax paid by individuals with net worth of £20 million or more since 2014-15, in effect, completing the blanks in the table below, or, if this data is already publicly available I would appreciate if you could point me towards its location.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Income tax paid by high-net-worth individuals (£bn)	4.4	2.8	3.0	2.6	3.9	3.5								

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP.

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints. Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at [Contact us | ICO](#) or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.