

Important message for tax agents

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Moving on from cheques

Cheque usage continues to decline every year. Last year cheques only accounted for 5% of payments to Inland Revenue and some people who used cheques also used other payment methods.

From 1 March 2020, Inland Revenue will no longer be accepting cheques if customers have an alternative payment option available. This includes post-dated cheques (cheques dated after 1 March 2020).

Around 90% of the cheques we receive come from clients of tax agents. If you or your clients use cheques you will be instrumental in the transition to alternative payment methods. There's plenty of time before next March for people to explore their options and find a convenient and secure way that works for them.

There are many different ways to pay – electronically or in person.

Ways to pay

Here's a summary of payment options:

- **myIR:** You can pay by direct debit and make debit card and credit card payments securely through myIR online services. Visit our website (ird.govt.nz) and login or register for myIR.
- **Online banking:** You may be able to make payments using online banking. Contact your bank for more information.
- **Credit or debit card via our website:** Use your credit or debit card to make online payments through our website. Visit ird.govt.nz/pay.
- **In person at Westpac:** Pay by EFTPOS or cash at a Westpac branch or Smart ATM.
- **Money transfer:** If you are overseas you can pay us using a money transfer service. Search for "make a payment" on our website for more information.

Charges may apply for some payment options.

We are soon going to start contacting cheque payers (and their tax agents) to let them know about this change and alternative ways to pay.

In the meantime, if you would like more information visit our website at ird.govt.nz/pay.

Yours sincerely

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