

# BUSINESS TAX UPDATE

Inland Revenue's tax news for businesses



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## REMINDERS

We have several calendars you can use to plan ahead to help you meet your obligations. Remember that if a due date falls on a weekend and public holiday, we can receive your return and payment on the next working day without a penalty being applied.

If you have any suggestions for topics you'd like covered in this newsletter, Email [BusinessTax.Update@ird.govt.nz](mailto:BusinessTax.Update@ird.govt.nz)

## Taking a break over the holiday period?

You can submit your January paydays in advance. Advanced filing is available from 11 December 2019.

### If you're not filing early

If you file electronically you'll need to submit **Employment Information** for paydays between 25 December and 15 January inclusive, on or before 17 January 2020.

Paper filers should submit **Employment Information** for paydays between 25 December and 15 January inclusive, on or before 29 January 2020.

You can find out more about payday filing at [ird.govt.nz/payday-filing](http://ird.govt.nz/payday-filing)

## Payment due dates for PAYE and ESCT

### Monthly employers

- November payments are due by 20 December
- December payments are due by 20 January 2020.

### Twice monthly (large) employers

Payment for pay dates from 16 to 31 December 2019 are due by 15 January 2020.

## Our hours over the holiday season

It's almost the end of another year. From all of us at Inland Revenue we wish you, your staff and family a happy holiday break. Business Tax Update will be back in February.

If you're working over the holiday break, the 0800 phone line closes from 2pm Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will reopen 8am Monday 6 January 2020.

All of our Front of House counters close at 2pm on Tuesday 24 December. We'll be back to our normal hours from Monday 6 January 2020.

## Mandatory barcodes for customers paying over the counter at Westpac

You can choose to pay your taxes over the counter (OTC) at a Westpac branch/smartATM even if you don't bank with Westpac. Currently OTC payments make up less than 1% of all payments.

From 1 July 2020, all OTC payments at Westpac must be accompanied by a barcode identifying the customer, tax type and period. The barcode is a more reliable way of passing details to Westpac and will prevent payment going to the wrong place in the account, or potentially even the wrong person's account.

We're adding barcodes to notifications where we're requesting you to make a payment, but if you forget to bring your barcode, you can generate one and either print it off or show it to Westpac staff on your phone.

There is a barcode generator on our website [ird.govt.nz/barcode](http://ird.govt.nz/barcode) for you to create your own barcode.

### How we're communicating to customers

You can learn about this change at [ird.govt.nz/payments](http://ird.govt.nz/payments)

There are also flyers at Westpac branches.

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## Moving away from cheques

From 1 March 2020 we will stop accepting payment by cheque, including cheques dated after 1 March 2020.

### Have your say on our standard practice statement

In preparation for this change we have drafted changes to our *Standard Practice Statement ED0221: Tax payments – when received in time*.

You can have your say on the proposed change by going to our website [ird.govt.nz/public-consultation](http://ird.govt.nz/public-consultation) and downloading ED0221.

The consultation period closes on 13 December 2019.

### Income equalisation

Currently income equalisation (IE) requires payment by cheque. As part of our next release IE will be included as part of the dedicated tax payment function provided by most banks. After that you will no longer be able to make payments by cheque. Until this occurs IE customers will need to continue paying by cheque as there is no alternative solution.

