

AGENTS ANSWERS

Inland Revenue's tax agents' update

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REMINDERS

28 March: GST returns and payments are due for the taxable period ending February.

31 March: Final date for ratio option provisional tax applications. Student loan repayments are also due for overseas-based borrowers.

3 April: 2017 income tax returns are due. This would usually be 31 March but has been extended due to it falling on Easter Saturday. Please do not leave filing until the final due date.

7 April: Income tax, Working for Families, and student loan payments for the 2014/15 tax year are due for those with an extension of time (EOT).

Note: If a due date falls on a weekend, public holiday or provincial anniversary day, 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 agents.answers@ird.govt.nz

Refunds for assessed aged credits

We're currently in the process of refunding some assessed aged credits that have been held in the system.

We've reviewed our refund processes on all refunds over four years old which we previously understood to be time-barred and unable to be paid to our customers. Some credits are now able to be refunded.

We began refunding credits from 13 December 2017. This will continue over the coming months.

The most common reason refunds became aged was because of incorrect customer contact and bank account details.

If your client is eligible for a refund they will receive the original credit plus interest from the date the refund would originally have been issued. This is provided that the refund relates to a tax year after 31 March 1997 (1997 tax year) and is over \$100. We could not pay interest on credits prior to the 1998 year. Check the interest rates here.

If your client has a debt with us, the credit will be deducted off the debt unless otherwise agreed.

Find out more about the new option for provisional tax

Are you ready to help your clients get set up to use AIM – the new option for managing provisional tax through accounting software?

There are lots of ways to find out more about AIM.

You can check out the information on our website. You can also listen to a free webinar on:

- an introduction to AIM, or
- how the tax adjustments will work in AIM.

Or you can register for our free webinar on 12 March on tips for setting your clients up in AIM so they're ready to submit their first statement of activity.

Do you need to submit a CRS disclosure?

Since 1 July 2017 financial institutions have been asking customers to self-certify their country of tax residence to comply with new tax legislation about the Common Reporting Standard (CRS).

The CRS is a global framework for the collection, reporting, and exchange of financial account information about people and entities investing outside of their tax residence jurisdiction.

In **April 2018** financial institutions will start reporting this information to us. This will be an annual obligation.

If you or your clients need to submit a CRS disclosure to us for the year ending 31 March 2018, check out the **CRS registration and reporting webpage** for information on how to do that.

We also recommend you:

- check out our **guidance and support materials**
- sign up to watch our recent free **AEOI Overview 'back to basics' webinar**
- make a request to receive regular updates by emailing us at **global.aeoi@ird.govt.nz**
- read more about the changes to how you register and report all **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) obligations** using myIR from April 2018.

Some of our services will be unavailable

In order to implement changes that are coming as part of our business transformation programme, some of our services will be temporarily unavailable for a few days in April 2018.

Between the **morning** of Thursday 12 April and the morning of Tuesday 17 April, you won't be able to:

- access up-to-date client information, or
- submit an Employer Monthly Schedule (EMS) electronically.

And between the **afternoon** of Thursday 12 April and the morning of Tuesday 17 April, you won't be able to:

- access myIR Secure Online Services, or
- contact us through our contact centres.

Any unsaved secure mail messages and any draft returns within myIR will be deleted as part of this process, so make sure you check these before 12 April.

Quick tips

From the 17 April 2018 all reassessments in START will only have 30 days to make payment. Previously this was 60 days.

Please remember that when you change a client's details online you don't need to send paper correspondence for the change as well. We've received some requests to change addresses via paper correspondence that have already been changed online.

When sending correspondence via E-File or Secure Mail, please ensure you select the correct tax type. We often receive electronic correspondence where 'INC' has been incorrectly selected instead of 'FAM'.

