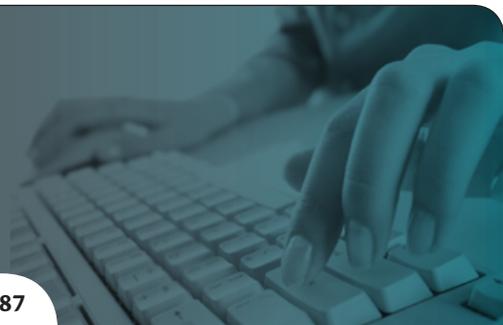


AGENTS ANSWERS

Inland Revenue's tax agents' update



Issue No 227 • September 2019 • IR787



REMINDERS

By 9 September 2019 you should have filed 40% of your clients' returns unless you've negotiated personal filing dates.

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

Use-of-money interest (UOMI) rate change

From 29 August 2019 the UOMI rates on underpayments and overpayments of tax changed.

The new rates are:

- underpayment rate: 8.35% (previously 8.22%)
- overpayment rate: 0.81% (previously 1.02%)

Refund redirects and utilising disbursement accounts

As part of our Release 3 Business Transformation changes, we have introduced a new process for redirecting refunds to your clients.

Find out more on our website: ird.govt.nz/solutions "Changes to myIR", "Refund directs and utilising disbursement accounts".

Provisional tax – new questions we've been asked (QWBA)

We have recently published 2 new QWBAs on provisional tax.

QB 19/03: Provisional tax - impact on employees who receive one-off amounts of income without tax deducted considers the impact of the provisional tax rules on employees who receive one-off amounts of income without tax deducted.

QB 19/04: Income tax - provisional tax and use of money interest implications for a person in their first year of business concerns provisional tax and use-of-money interest implications for a person in their first year of business. It considers when a person should pay tax in their first year of business to prevent use-of-money interest charges.

Find out more at: ird.govt.nz (search keywords: QB 19/03, QB 19/04).

Crypto-assets – new public ruling

BR Pub 19/03 – Income tax - employer issued crypto-assets provided to an employee has been issued.

This Ruling follows on from two Public Rulings that were issued recently: BR Pub 19/01: Income tax – salary and wages paid in crypto-assets and BR Pub 19/02: Income tax – bonuses paid in crypto-assets. It considers how FBT applies where cryptocurrency issued by an employer is provided to an employee.

Find it on our website ird.govt.nz (search keywords: BR Pub 19/03).

Student loans and KiwiSaver content rewritten for our website

The next phase of transforming our website focussed on student loans and KiwiSaver. This is now published and we encourage you to take a look and provide feedback.

This work builds on our child support, Working for Families and income tax content changes, tested on a beta site in late 2018 and early 2019.

We're also testing other features including:

- a product page, where we group all product-related content together. We're piloting this with our student loans and KiwiSaver content
- left-hand navigation to make it easier to navigate through the content
- a key information panel, so customers can see summary information at a glance
- availability of paper forms on appropriate task pages in the 'Other ways to do this' drop down.

Check out the new content at ird.govt.nz/student-loans and ird.govt.nz/kiwisaver

We're acting on your feedback

We've received a range of feedback from customers, both positive and negative, since the new website when live in April. Tax agents specifically told us:

- detail was missing
- there were some gaps in content
- it was not always easy to navigate or search for content.

We've listened to this feedback and we're working to:

- provide more content where needed
- improve search functionality
- improve the site navigation.

We'll continue to look at these areas for improvement.

We're also planning to deliver a new tax technical website in the coming months. We'll let you know when a beta site is available to view.

New approach to beta testing content on the main website

In the past, we tested beta content on a separate site, with signposting from our main website. We're now beta testing content within our main website, in the appropriate structure. These pages will be marked as 'New'. You'll also continue to have access to the content on our old 'classic' site during the beta phase.

We need feedback on our beta content so we know if we're hitting the mark with the level of detail and ease of use. You can provide feedback using the feedback button, which shows on each page of the website. From the end of the month, there will also be a link in the yellow beta banner.



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