

Changes are coming to the way we handle foreign cheques.



Effective 16 November 2020 we're making changes to the way we handle the deposit of foreign cheques and bank drafts into Westpac accounts.

We will only handle foreign cheques where the deposit is over NZ\$500. We will send the cheque for collection to the overseas bank, which can take up to four weeks (or longer for certain jurisdictions) for the overseas bank to clear the funds and for Westpac to process the deposit into your account.

Funds will not be available to you until the cleared funds have been received by Westpac. Funds will be deposited to your account less the overseas bank and Westpac handling fees by either:

- Converting to NZD using the **Receive an International Payment FX Rate** and crediting your account on the date Westpac receives the cleared funds.
- Depositing to your foreign currency account in the currency received.

Westpac will only handle foreign cheques and bank drafts on a collection basis for amounts above NZ\$500 equivalent.

In the event of the foreign cheque or bank draft being dishonoured there will be overseas and Westpac handling fees payable by you – these will be debited from your account.

Westpac is not responsible for any foreign cheque or bank draft that could be lost or destroyed when being sent by post to the overseas bank.

Please refer to our fee brochure for the applicable fees.

Why are things changing?

As foreign cheque use declines, we have also seen an increase in the number of fraudulent transaction attempts using foreign cheques or bank drafts.

This change in the way we handle foreign cheques means that Westpac will only apply the funds of a foreign cheque or bank draft to our customer's account once the overseas bank has cleared the funds. This will reduce the risks associated with dishonoured or fraudulent transactions.

What other options are available?

There are alternative payment methods available both overseas and in New Zealand to facilitate cross border payments. Some of these solutions are:

Telegraphic Transfers – quick and efficient means of transferring funds via the banking network. Please note that Westpac does not charge a fee for handling inward telegraphic transfers below NZ\$100.

Prepaid Cards – these are available through banks or various issuers.

What's next?

This new process will be effective from 16 November 2020. Now's a great time to get in touch with anyone sending you foreign cheques to discuss alternate payment methods. If you have any questions, please pop in to your local Westpac branch.