



Te Uniana Whakanama Pirihimana

BLUENOTES

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Issue 96
June 2023

Leading up to the OCR announcement, we saw a range of predictions, from some economists saying it had peaked and wouldn't change and others sure that Budget 2023 and migration would mean an increase of 0.50%. It wasn't just the economists disagreeing either, with the OCR committee having a split decision for the first time!

In the end, RBNZ went with a 0.25% increase, bringing the OCR to 5.50%. They've indicated this may be the last increase for a while, and inflation should be back on target by mid-2024. Even with this sign that things are calming down, there's still a heck of a lot of uncertainty about what the future holds.

We're seeing this uncertainty first hand when chatting with members making financial decisions. Some want to know which term deposit rate they should invest in. Others want advice on the best fixed term and structure for their home loan. The scary part for someone with a \$500,000 home loan currently

UPDATE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Well, May was an eventful month! First, we had the Budget 2023 reveal, followed closely by the latest OCR decision from RBNZ.

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paying \$970 a fortnight (3.00% p.a. fixed rate for 2 years), will change to \$1,447 per fortnight when their 2-year rate goes up to 6.45% p.a. That's a huge increase of almost 50%.

We can't give financial advice, so if that's something you're after, you could see a Financial Adviser. You can find one at <https://financialadvice.nz/find-an-adviser/>, and check if they're licensed as a Financial Advice Provider (or working for one) at <https://fsp-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/>.

We've also added a "Fixed vs Floating" article to our website about your options when structuring your home loan, whether it's a new loan or you're due to come off a fixed rate soon. You can find it here https://www.policecu.org.nz/documents/155/Fixed_vs_Floating.pdf.

With interest rates increasing steadily since October 2021, along with the cost of living, many Kiwis are doing it tough. Debt monitoring bureau Centrix recently noted arrears on payments have increased in the past eight months across all types of loans, including home loans. If you're struggling, getting help as soon as possible is essential. A financial mentor can support you and let you know your options, find out more about this free service at <https://www.moneytalks.co.nz/>. Of course, we're here to help you and encourage you to get in touch if you need, sooner rather than later. Don't leave it till it's too late – the earlier you reach out, the better we can help you.

As always, I am just an email (craig.pomare@policecu.org.nz) or phone call (**027 559 5974**) away if you need me.

Ngā mihi nui,

Craig Pomare
Chief Executive

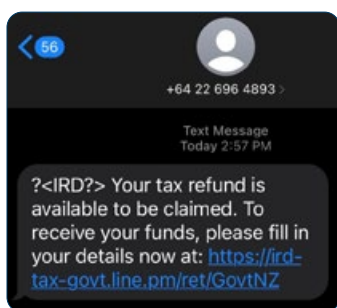
STAYING SAFE FROM SCAMS

There's no end to the fraudsters out there, keen to make off with as much of your money or personal information as possible.

Some are obvious, but others are getting increasingly sophisticated, making it tricky to tell whether they're real. Let's cover some common scams out there right now with tips on how to spot they're fake.

IRD tax refunds

A common tax-related scam (especially at this time of year) uses emails or texts pretending to be IRD advising you're eligible for a tax refund. Some will say you'll receive a specific amount, if they do, it's definitely fake. IRD doesn't include refund sums in their emails - scammers may use a dollar amount to entice you to click their phony link and steal your info and/or your money. Even if there's not an amount included, you should not click the link. Instead, head to the IRD website separately and log in to view any legitimate letters from IRD.



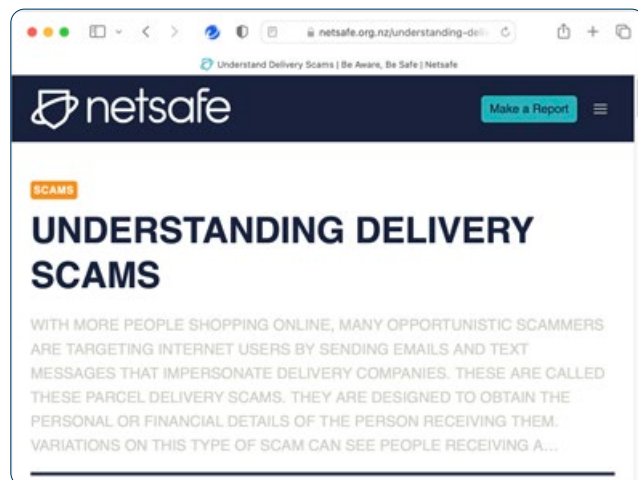
You can view some of the latest tax refund scams related to IRD at: www.ird.govt.nz/managing-my-tax/scams/latest-scams.

Delivery redirections and fees

These scams really picked up during Covid lockdowns and are still going strong. This one involves an email or text message saying it's a delivery company (like DHL or NZ Post) and that they've tried to deliver a parcel to you. The message will encourage you to click a link to select a pick up time from a transit hub or similar. You'll then be asked to pay a small customs fee or redirection fee, but the scammers will take as much money out of your account as possible.

If you're not expecting a parcel, it'll be obvious to you it's a fake message! But suppose you are expecting a package and want to confirm the email or text is legitimate. In that case, you can always go back to check your package's delivery info and status from the confirmation you received when you originally made your order.

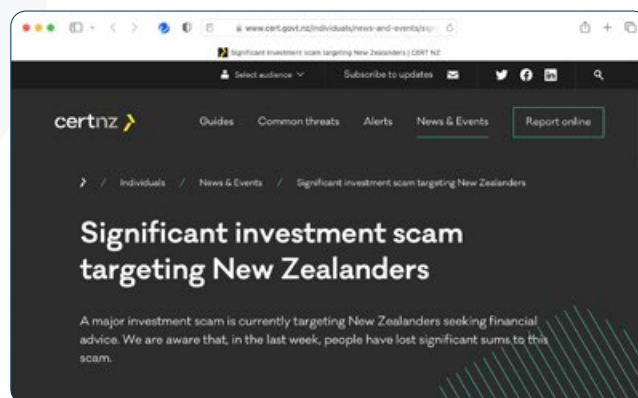
Read more at www.netsafe.org.nz/understanding-delivery-scams/.



Investing Scams

Investing scams have caused significant financial loss for many New Zealanders. The fraud will start with a cold call, email or an online advertisement promising high returns for little risk. Cert NZ shared a warning about these scams earlier this year at www.cert.govt.nz/individuals/news-and-events/significant-investment-scam-targeting-new-zealanders/. These scams can be challenging to spot due to the sophistication of the fraudsters, who use convincing websites and knowledgeable sounding people. Do as much research and checking as possible for these ones. Learn more about how to spot investment scams at <https://netsafe.org.nz/identifying-and-avoiding-investment-scams/> so you can protect your hard earned money.

If you think you've been scammed out of money from your Police Credit Union account, please give us a call as soon as possible on **0800 429 000**.



SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

Lucas Megaw and Abbie Middlemass both received a \$1,000 Police Credit Union Scholarship. They recently shared an update with us. Our Scholarship programme opens in October each year.



Lucas Megaw (2ND from right in photo)

Lucas Megaw received a scholarship in 2022 to finish his Paramedic Medicine degree.

"The \$1,000 scholarship by the Police Credit Union was put towards my studies to become a paramedic. Three years on and many long hours and late nights at university later, I'm currently living in Somerset, UK, after being offered the role of a Paramedic with the South West Ambulance Service Trust.

This has been an opportunity to see parts of the world that I've never been to before whilst being able to do a job that I am extremely fond of. I plan to travel around Europe as I can manage to fit in with shift work.

Big thank you to everyone who made this possible for me".



Abbie Middlemass

Abbie received her scholarship to go on a 10-day sailing adventure aboard the Spirit of Adventure.

"I would just like to say thank you to the Police Credit Union for the \$1000 scholarship that allowed me to go on the Spirit of Adventure. I went on the voyage in April and had the best time. I met so many new people and saw so many cool scenes – things I've never seen before. One of my favourite moments was climbing the masts at Great Barrier Island and seeing the whole ship below us and all the other islands around us. Another part was when we were sailing and saw orcas and dolphins swimming beside the ship. Thank you!"

KICKSTART KIDS' SAVINGS

Open a savings account for a child before they blow out their first birthday candle, and we'll kickstart their savings with \$100!

Open a savings account for a child before they blow out their first birthday candle, and we'll kickstart their savings with \$100!

Is there a child in your whānau who hasn't had their first birthday yet? If you open an Achiever or Bonus Saver account for them before they're 12 months old, we'll make a one-off \$100 deposit into their account.

Just call us on **0800 429 000** or email us on **info@policecu.org.nz** to get the ball rolling!

More of your whānau can join us than ever before so check out **www.policecu.org.nz/about-us/eligibility/** to see who is eligible.



DIRECTOR ELECTION 2023

The Police Credit Union board has 6 elected directors. This year one director position will be contestable.

Directors are elected for a three-year term and retiring directors may be re-elected. This year the retiring director is Amelia Steel, and she intends to stand for re-election.

Nominations

In accordance with Rule 9, the Police Credit Union calls for nominations for one director position.

The nomination form, position description and candidate handbook are available on our website at:

<https://www.policecu.org.nz/about-us/director-election-2023/>

If you have any questions about the process please contact the Returning Officer, Amy Linwood, on **0800 429 000**.

Nominations should be marked confidential and sent to either:

- amy.linwood@policecu.org.nz, or;
- The Returning Officer, Amy Linwood, PO Box 12344, Wellington, 6144

Nominations are due by 4pm on Tuesday 4 July 2023.

INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

As at 1 June 2023

Term Deposits

3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
4.20% p.a.	4.20% p.a.	4.30% p.a.	5.55% p.a.	5.55% p.a.	5.55% p.a.	5.55% p.a.	5.70% p.a.	5.35% p.a.	5.25% p.a.

Interest can be paid out monthly, quarterly or six monthly.

Interest on Term Deposits 12 months or longer can be compounded quarterly, six monthly or annually

On maturity, Term Deposits can be reinvested, paid into your Credit Union account or paid out to an external bank account

Savings

Balance	Bonus Saver	Future Saver	Achiever Saver	Christmas Club
\$1+	4.40% p.a.* Includes bonus interest of 3.15% p.a.	4.40% p.a. Includes bonus interest of 3.15% p.a.	2.65% p.a.	2.65% p.a.

Interest is calculated daily and paid monthly.

* By depositing at least \$20 per calendar month, with no withdrawals in the calendar month, you will earn bonus interest on your total daily balance.

All interest rates are subject to change without notice.



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POLICE HELPING POLICE

Copies of our current Terms and Conditions and Product Disclosure Statement are available from the Police and Families Credit Union. These can be viewed at policecu.org.nz, or by calling **0800 429 000**.

Police Credit Union is not a registered bank