



Interest we charge

Find out about the interest we charge on outstanding, underpaid and incorrect reports of tax amounts.

Calculate and report ATO interest

How to adjust pre-fill amounts, or manually calculate and report ATO interest when preparing your tax return.

General interest charge

General interest charge (GIC) is applied to unpaid tax liabilities and is worked out daily on a compounding basis.

Shortfall interest charge

Shortfall interest charge may apply if your tax return is amended and your tax liability increases.

QC 67988

Calculate and report ATO interest

How to adjust pre-fill amounts, or manually calculate and report ATO interest when preparing your tax return.

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On this page

Why we charge or impose interest

Changes to the deductibility of interest

Pre-fill interest data

Reporting ATO interest

Calculating ATO interest

Manually calculating ATO interest

Why we charge or impose interest

We charge or impose interest in specific situations, including:

- late payment of taxes and penalties
- an increase in your tax liability as a result of an amendment to your assessment
- an increase in other tax liabilities, such as goods and services tax (GST) or pay as you go (PAYG) amounts.

If we charge you interest, or pay you interest, you report the amounts in your tax return.

- You can claim a deduction for some types of interest we charge you.
- You must declare some types of interest paid or remitted by the Commissioner as assessable income.

We pre-fill interest information in your tax return.

For more information, see [Interest charged by the ATO](#).

Changes to the deductibility of interest

You can no longer claim a deduction for **general interest charge (GIC)** or **shortfall interest charge (SIC)** incurred on or after 1 July 2025.

For GIC and SIC that can no longer be claimed as a deduction, any GIC or SIC that is later remitted does not need to be included as assessable income.

Pre-fill interest data

The amount of interest you have been charged is pre-filled in your tax return, if you lodge online using myTax. The ATO interest pre-fill data is information we provide to help you to work out the amount of ATO interest that is assessable or deductible.

Ensure you verify the accuracy of the pre-filled data by checking it against your account on ATO online services before lodging your tax return.

If your pre-fill data is not accurate, you will need to manually calculate your interest.

If you're a tax agent, don't use the *Year to date interest summary report* to complete the tax return as there are recurring data issues.

Reporting ATO interest

We provide ATO interest data to individual taxpayers for the 2014 and later income years.

We also give this data to tax agents through the *Pre-filling report* and the practitioner lodgment service. We display a message in the *Pre-filling report* to advise if a client has ATO interest for 2013 and earlier income years.

From 2021, pre-fill interest data will now be sourced from all client accounts held by the individual taxpayers in the main accounting system, including the income tax account and integrated client account.

We report the following interest types:

- General interest charge (GIC)
- Shortfall interest charge (SIC)
- Interest on early payment (IEP)
- Interest on overpayment (IOP)
- Delayed refund interest (DRI).

We report on interest that you:

- may be able to claim as a deduction (GIC or SIC)

- must declare as assessable income (GIC or SIC remissions or recoupments)
- must claim as interest paid by the ATO (IOP, IEP, DRI).

Individual taxpayers can choose to report ATO interest deductions and income using either:

- [Calculating ATO interest](#)
- [Manually calculating ATO interest.](#)

Completing ATO interest in your paper tax return

We changed the individual tax return labels you use to report ATO interest as follows:

- For 2018 and later income years you report
 - interest deductions at **question D10 – label N** *Cost of managing tax affairs – Interest charged by the ATO*
 - assessable interest at **question 24 – label X** *Other income – Category 2 (ATO interest)*
 - interest paid by the ATO at **question 10** *Gross interest.*
- For 2017 and prior income years you report
 - interest deductions at **question D10** *Cost of managing affairs*
 - assessable interest at **question 24 – label Y** *Other income*
 - interest paid by the ATO (that is, IOP, IEP, DRI) at **question 10** *Gross interest.*

Recurring data issues

Before you lodge your tax return, you should check your pre-fill data against your:

- ATO statements of account
- other source documents.

Interest calculations will not capture your specific circumstances in the following situations:

- Recoupments of interest charged
When we report interest remission and credit adjustments as

assessable income, we assume you have claimed a deduction for interest that we imposed. If you have not claimed a deduction and the period for requesting an amendment of your return to claim the deduction has lapsed, you don't include that interest income. (You may need to adjust the interest totals we have provided to remove the amount you are not claiming.)

- Change in residency status

We report interest paid by the ATO on the basis of your residency status when the interest data is extracted from your account at the end of the income year. If you were a non-resident at the date of extraction, no interest paid data will be provided. If you were a non-resident when we paid you interest, then we should have withheld tax from that payment. If this is the case you don't have to declare this interest in your tax return. If tax was not withheld, you must declare the interest as income at **question 10** *Gross interest*.

You may need to adjust the interest totals we have provided to remove or add the interest paid by the ATO. See [Examples 5 and 6](#)

- Movement of transactions across ICA

We move transactions across accounts. For example, to isolate pre and post-bankruptcy transactions; to isolate amounts that are in dispute. When we move a transaction between accounts, the process date is reported as the date the transaction was moved. This means interest previously reported may be reported again in a later pre-fill report. We have revised our business rules to prevent this duplication in the report for 2018 and later years. You may need to adjust the interest totals we provide for the 2017 and prior years if your accounts contain moved transactions.

Calculating ATO interest

For the 2015 and prior income years, we use the [effective date](#) and [processed date](#) to capture separate interest totals for:

- interest deductions
- assessable interest
- interest paid by the ATO.

Non-individual taxpayers will need to continue using these calculation rules for all income years.

For the 2016 and later income years, we capture all interest transactions in the pre-fill totals for individual taxpayers using the processed date. We also report either a net deduction or a net assessable interest amount instead of a separate total for these interest categories. Interest is reported as follows:

- net interest deductions at **question D10** or **question D10 – label N** (where the interest imposed exceeds the interest income)
- net assessable interest at **question 24 – label Y** or **question 24 – label X** (where the interest income exceeds the interest imposed), and
- interest paid by the ATO at **question 10**.

Where the net balance of interest calculations is nil, no interest will be reported. Nor will we provide a message that there is any interest.

Individual taxpayers don't have to rely on the pre-fill interest amounts. They can use the previous method of calculation. See [Manually calculating ATO interest](#).

2016 income year adjustments

This only impacts the calculation of pre-fill interest for the **2016** income year.

The 2015 *Pre-filling report* was changed to a static report on 9 November 2015 to cater for the new reporting method. This means:

- the debit interest transactions processed on or after 9 November 2015 with an effective date of 30 June 2015 or earlier will be included in the interest totals for the 2016 pre-fill report
- the debit interest transactions processed on or after 1 July 2015 but before 9 November 2015 with an effective date of 30 June 2015 or earlier may be captured in the interest totals in several pre-fill reports – the 2016 and earlier year reports – depending on when interest was incurred.

If you lodged your 2015 tax return before 9 November 2015 using ATO pre-fill data, you may need to adjust the 2016 pre-fill interest figures (see [Example 4](#)).

The following may help you to work out if adjustments will be needed:

- Did you have ATO interest in 2015?

- If no, no adjustment to 2016 data is needed.
- Did you lodge your 2014–15 tax return using pre-fill data before 9 November 2015?
 - Adjust 2016 pre-fill data (see [note 1](#)) by any debit interest transaction with
 - process date between 1 July 2015 and the date you lodged, and
 - effective date between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015.
- Did you lodge your 2014–15 tax return using pre-filled figures after 9 November 2015?
 - Adjust 2016 pre-fill data (see [note 1](#)) by any debit interest transaction with
 - process date between 1 July 2015 and 9 November
 - effective date between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015.
- Did you lodge your 2014–15 tax return using non-prefilled figures?
 - Manual calculation method required.

Note 1. An adjustment will be needed if the same debit interest transaction is captured in the 2015 and 2016 interest totals. This is done by reducing the 2016 deductions claimed. That is, increase 24Y or decrease D10 by the amount of the duplicated transaction. Adjustments to credit transactions are not needed.

How the new reporting process works – examples

Example 1: Net amount of ATO interest is nil

Chris has an outstanding debt with us and was charged \$1,200 GIC in the period 1 July 2015 to 31 January 2016. Chris paid his debt and requested leniency with the charges. A full remission was granted on 31 January 2016. In this case, Chris has a:

- \$1,200 deductible interest expense
- \$1,200 assessable interest income (due to the GIC remission).

Under the new approach, we will not provide pre-fill information as the net balance of the interest deductions and interest income is nil.

Under the legislative rules, Chris would claim a deduction expense of \$1,200 at label D10 and include interest income of \$1,200 at label 24Y in the supplementary return. Under the new reporting approach, he will not declare ATO interest at these labels.

Example 2: Net amount of deductible interest

Jenny has an outstanding debt with us and was charged \$2,300 GIC in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. There were GIC remissions of \$56 in this period. Jenny lodged a credit amendment for the 2014 income year in the same period and this reduced the debt payable. The GIC debt was also reduced by \$505. In this case, Jenny has a \$2,300 deductible interest expense and \$561 assessable interest income (due to the GIC remission and credit reduction). Under the new approach, we will report a \$1,739 net deductible interest expense.

Under the legislative rules, Jenny would claim a deduction expense of \$2,300 at label D10 and include interest income of \$561 at label 24Y in the supplementary return. Under the new reporting approach, Jenny will declare \$1,739 at label D10.

Example 3: Net amount of assessable interest income

John has an outstanding debt with us relating to the 2014 income year and was charged:

- \$1,265 GIC in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
- \$981 GIC for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

John lodged a credit amendment for the 2014 income year on 30 September 2015 which resulted in a refund. The GIC charged in the 2015 and 2016 income years was subsequently reduced to nil. In this case, John has a \$1,265 deductible interest expense

and \$2,246 assessable interest income (due to the GIC adjustments in the 2016 income year). Under the new approach, we will report \$981 net assessable interest (John would have claimed a \$981 deduction in his 2015 tax return).

Under the legislative rules, John would claim a deduction expense of \$1,265 at label D10 and include interest income of \$2,246 at label 24Y in the supplementary return. Under the new reporting approach, John will declare \$981 at label 24Y.

Example 4: Transitional year calculations – 2016 tax return only

Eva has an outstanding debt with us relating to the 2014 income year:

- \$435 GIC was processed in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 (this includes the \$45 and \$53 mentioned below)
- \$550 GIC was incurred in the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 (this includes the \$45 mentioned below)
 - \$45 processed 7 July 2015 with effective date of 30 June 2015 (end of year GIC calculation)
 - \$53 processed 10 November 2015 with effective date prior to 30 June 2015 (this amount will be included in the calculation of interest in 2016 only).

Eva lodged her 2015 tax return on 30 August 2015 using ATO pre-fill data and declared a deductible expense of \$505 (\$550 – \$45). She will need to consider whether to amend this return to declare the \$53 imposed on her account after lodging the 2015 return, if she uses the legislative rules to calculate her entitlements.

Under the new 2016 approach we will report \$435 net deductible interest. Eva will need to adjust this total for the \$45 claimed as a deduction in the 2015 return.

Under the legislative rules, Eva can claim a deduction expense of \$337 (\$435 – \$45 – \$53) at label D10 in her 2016 tax return. Under the new reporting approach, Eva will declare \$390 at label

D10. She will not need to amend her 2015 tax return to claim the \$53 processed in November 2016 as the new process results in the deduction being claimed in the later year.

Example 5: part year residency – taxpayer resides in Australia

Steven returned to Australia on 30 October 2018 and updated his address with the ATO.

The 2019 income year pre-fill interest data included \$125 IOP paid to Steven by the ATO on 10 August 2018 from which we withheld tax. This means Steven does not have to declare this IOP. When Steven lodged his return on 21 September 2019, he removed \$125 from the IOP interest total pre-filled at item 10 *Gross interest*, so that he is not taxed again on this interest.

Example 6: part year residency – taxpayer resides overseas

Susan left Australia to reside overseas on 20 May 2019. She notified the ATO of her change of address before her departure. As we recorded Susan as a non-resident we will not report the interest paid by us the pre-fill interest totals for 2019.

When Susan checked her ATO records she realised we had paid her IOP of \$120 on 15 November 2018. As she was a resident when this was paid, we did not withhold tax from the payment. When Susan prepares her 2019 tax return she must adjust the pre-fill data at item 10 *Gross interest* to include the \$120 so that she is correctly declaring the interest income she has received.

Manually calculating ATO interest

You must calculate the ATO interest you want to claim as a deduction or must declare as assessable income, if:

- we do not provide you pre-fill interest data but
 - your statement of account or transaction list on ATO online shows you have ATO interest
 - we told your agent in the *Pre-filling report* that you have ATO interest on your account
- we paid interest to you in the period 1 July 2015 to 9 November 2015 and
 - the transactions have an effective date prior to 1 July 2015, and
 - you included the interest in an earlier tax return – see [Transitional year adjustments](#).

You may wish to manually calculate the ATO interest where:

- you prefer to declare interest deductions and income separately at the relevant labels in your tax return, instead of reporting a net balance of interest
- you don't wish to rely on ATO pre-fill data
- you want to assess which reporting method provides the best outcome for you.

General rules for assessing ATO interest transactions

- Effective date – the date a transaction affects the account for determining the daily balance and calculating GIC.
- Processed date – the date we process a transaction on your account.

Question 10 Gross interest

This label includes the interest we've paid or credited to you (IOP, IEP, DRI).

The same rules apply for both the legislative process and the new reporting process.

For the calculation:

- the processed date is when we paid you interest
- declare any new credit balance.

Question D10 or D10N Cost of managing tax affairs– Interest charged by the ATO

This label includes an interest charge we imposed on you (GIC, SIC).

For the calculation under the legislative rules:

- use the processed date and effective date of the interest transaction to determine when it was incurred (noting that GIC with an effective date of 1 July that relates to interest imposed in the period prior to 1 July will be reported in that prior year)
- claim the net debit interest balance.

For the calculation under the business rules for the new reporting process:

- use the processed date of the interest transaction
- declare a debit balance where the net deduction is greater than your net assessable interest.

Question 24Y or 24X (Other income – Category 2 (ATO interest))

This label includes amounts of interest we imposed on you that have been remitted or recouped. This includes:

- GIC remissions and GIC credit adjustments
- SIC remissions and SIC credit adjustments.

It does not include certain transactions such as write-offs or released amounts.

Under the legislative rules you must declare interest that has been remitted or reduced where you claimed a deduction, or can claim a deduction, for the interest that was imposed. (The benefit that you gain from the deduction must reflect the actual amount of interest imposed.)

Interest is assessable in the year that it is remitted or recouped.

For the calculation under the legislative rules:

- use the processed date of the transaction to work out when the interest that we imposed has been recouped (that is, the benefit of the deduction has been reversed)
- declare the net credit balance.

For the calculation under the business rules for the new reporting process:

- use processed date
- declare the net income where this is greater than the net deduction total.

Applying the different calculation rules

You will need to analyse your ATO statements of account and review all interest transactions in the relevant timeframe. The examples below show how to calculate interest deductions and income amounts using the different reporting methods.

Example: Statement of account #1 – Income tax

Processed date	Effective date	Transaction description	Debit \$	Credit \$
02/06/2015	02/06/2015	General interest charge (GIC) from 01 Jun to 02 Jun 2015	5.46	0.00
02/06/2015	02/06/2015	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	-5.46
01/07/2015	01/07/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 02 Jun to 30 Jun 2015	99.82	0.00
01/07/2015	01/07/2015	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	-99.82

01/08/2015	01/08/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 01 Jul to 31 Jul 2015	107.40	0.00
01/09/2015	01/09/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 01 Aug to 31 Aug 2015	108.29	0.00
01/10/2015	01/10/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 01 Sep to 30 Sep 2015	105.64	0.00
03/11/2015	03/11/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 01 Oct to 02 Nov 2015	116.46	0.00
01/12/2015	01/12/2015	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 03 Nov to 30 Nov 2015	99.61	0.00
01/12/2015	01/12/2015	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	-99.61
02/01/2016	02/01/2016	General interest charge (GIC) calculated	113.93	0.00

		from 01 Dec 2015 to 01 Jan 2016		
02/02/2016	02/02/2016	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 02 Jan to 01 Feb 2016	112.65	0.00
02/03/2016	02/03/2016	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 02 Feb to 01 Mar 2016	102.56	0.00

Calculating ATO interest under the new process – statement 1

Identify the interest transactions processed in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

For the transitional 2016 year we adjust your pre-fill interest data to exclude the GIC processed on 1 July as this was included in the 2015 pre-fill interest totals.

- Total deductible interest
 $\$107.40 + \$108.29 + \$105.64 + \$116.46 + \$99.61 + \$113.93 + \$112.65 + \$102.56 = \$866.54$
- Total assessable interest income
 $\$99.82 + \$99.61 = \$199.43$

Net interest reported:

Net deductible interest you could claim at question D10 = $\$866.54 - \$199.43 = \$667.11$

Calculating ATO interest under the legislative rules – statement 1

Identify the income year in which:

- GIC was incurred (which is generally by the effective date of the transaction)

- interest that was remitted or reduced (by the processed date of the transaction).

Interest reported:

- Total deductible interest expense you could claim at question D10 = \$866.54
- Total assessable interest income you must declare at question 24 – label Y = \$199.43

Example: Statement of account #2 – Income tax

Processed date	Effective date	Transaction description	Debit \$	Cr
26/09/2015	05/06/2014	Tax return individuals – income tax for the period from 1 Jul 2012 to 30 Jun 2013	1,199.15	
26/09/2015	21/11/2014	Tax return individuals – income tax for the period from 1 Jul 2013 to 30 Jun 2014	15,644.15	
26/09/2015	26/09/2015	Credit offset from Client Integrated Account	0.00	–9,3
29/09/2015	01/07/2014	General interest charge (GIC) calculated from 1 Oct 2013 to 30 Jun 2014	8.52	

29/09/2015	01/07/2014	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	
29/09/2015	02/06/2015	Amended general interest charge (GIC) calculated from 1 Jul 2014 to 1 Jun 2015 (see note)	926.45	
29/09/2015	02/06/2015	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	–\$
30/09/2015	01/07/2014	Amended general interest charge (GIC) calculated from 1 Jun 2013 to 30 Jun 2014 (see note)	62.32	
30/09/2015	30/09/2015	Remission of general interest charge (GIC)	0.00	–

Amended general interest charge denotes an account correction by the ATO. This may affect interest amounts you previously reported depending on the method you use.

Calculating ATO interest under the new process – statement 2

Identify the interest transactions processed in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

- Total deductible interest you could claim at question D10
 $\$8.52 + \$926.45 + \$62.32 = \997.29

- Total assessable interest income you must declare at question 24Y
 $\$8.52 + \$926.45 + \$62.32 = \997.29

Net interest reported:

Net deductible interest is $\$997.29 - \$997.29 = \$0.00$

There is no interest to be reported at question D10 or 24 – label Y in the 2016 tax return.

Calculating ATO interest under the legislative rules – statement 2

The account adjustment by the ATO does not change the timing of the deduction for the GIC incurred in the 2014 income year. It corrects the GIC that can be claimed as a deduction in the tax return for that year.

2014 income year:

- Total deductible interest to report at question D10 = \$62.32

You must lodge an out of time objection if you wish to include this deduction with any other deductions claimed, if any.

2016 income year:

- Total deductible interest you could claim at question D10
 $\$8.52 + \$926.45 = \$934.97$
- Total assessable interest income you must declare at question 24 – label Y
 $\$8.52 + \$926.45 + \$62.32 = \997.29

Note 2: The 2013 and 2014 tax returns were lodged late in the 2016 income year. The GIC of \$8.52 and \$926.45 imposed on the liabilities established by the notices of assessment for these income years, is incurred in 2016. The \$62.32 is incurred in the 2014 income year as the account adjustment alters the interest imposed in that year.

For more information on SIC and GIC charges we impose, see:

- TD 2012/2 *Income tax: when is the shortfall interest charge incurred for the purposes of paragraph 25-5(1)(c) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*
- PS LA 2011/12 *Remission of General Interest Charge.*

General interest charge

General interest charge (GIC) is applied to unpaid tax liabilities and is worked out daily on a compounding basis.

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On this page

[When GIC applies](#)

[Why we apply GIC](#)

[How much GIC we apply](#)

[Effect of GIC on income tax](#)

[How to view GIC applied](#)

[Remission of GIC on late payment of debts](#)

When GIC applies

We may apply GIC if an amount of tax or some other liability remains unpaid after the date it should have been paid. This includes where:

- there is a tax shortfall because of an amendment or correction
- an instalment of tax is underestimated
- a return is lodged late.

Why we apply GIC

We apply GIC to:

- encourage timely payment of tax
- ensure taxpayers who pay late don't have an unfair financial advantage over taxpayers who pay on time

- compensate the community for the cost of late payment.

How much GIC we apply

We review the GIC rate quarterly. GIC is calculated on a daily compounding basis on the amount overdue.

Effect of GIC on income tax

GIC incurred before 1 July 2025 can be claimed as a deduction in your tax return for the financial year in which the GIC is incurred.

If you claim the deduction and we remit the GIC, you'll need to include the remitted GIC as income in your return for the financial year in which the remission is granted.

GIC incurred on or after 1 July 2025 can no longer be claimed as a **deduction**. This also means if the GIC is later remitted, you do not need to include the remitted GIC as income in your tax return.

How to view GIC applied

Generally, the amount of GIC that applies is visible on:

- a late payment notice
- a GIC notice
- your account summary on ATO online services.

For individuals (including sole traders), the amount of interest you have been charged is normally pre-filled on your tax return. You can also access your account summary in ATO online services.

- Go to **Tax**.
- Select **Accounts**.
- Select **Summary**.

For users of Online services for business:

- go to **Accounts and payments** dropdown menu
- select **Account summary**.

If you need to work out how much you have been charged, see [Calculate and report ATO interest](#).

Remission of GIC on late payment of debts

You can ask us to remit the GIC. We may remit the GIC if there are extenuating circumstances.

QC 33415

Shortfall interest charge

Shortfall interest charge may apply if your tax return is amended and your tax liability increases.

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On this page

[Why we apply SIC](#)

[How the SIC is applied](#)

[Payment of the SIC](#)

[Effect of the SIC on income tax](#)

[Remission of interest for shortfall periods](#)

Why we apply SIC

If your tax return is amended and there is a tax shortfall, we apply shortfall interest charge (SIC) rather than general interest charge (GIC). This is because taxpayers are usually unaware of a shortfall amount until they receive an amended assessment.

How the SIC is applied

We apply SIC to the tax shortfall amount for the period between when it would have been due and when the assessment is corrected. SIC is incurred in the year you are served a notice of amended assessment.

We update the SIC rate quarterly using a formula set by law.

SIC applies to amended assessments for:

- income tax for the 2004–05 and later income years
- petroleum resource rent tax for the 2006–07 and later income years.

SIC is applied on a daily compounding basis to the shortfall amount.

Payment of the SIC

The due date for payment of the extra tax and SIC is 21 days after the day we issue the notice of the amended assessment. Once the due date has passed, GIC will apply automatically to any unpaid tax and SIC.

Effect of the SIC on income tax

A deduction for a SIC amount that was incurred before 1 July 2025 can only be claimed in the income year that you received the notice of amended assessment that included the SIC amount.

If you claimed a deduction and:

- we remitted the SIC, you must include the remitted SIC amount as **interest income** in your tax return in the income year that we granted the remission
- you make an amendment that reduces an earlier amendment, you must also include a reduction in the SIC deduction amount in line with the SIC amount that was reduced.

SIC incurred on or after 1 July 2025 **can no longer be claimed as a deduction**. This also means if the SIC is later remitted, you do not need to include the remitted SIC as interest income in your tax return.

Remission of interest for shortfall periods

You can ask us to remit a SIC amount (and any related GIC) in full or part if there are extenuating circumstances – for example, if we

contribute to an error that leads to a shortfall, or if the shortfall amount is paid before the notice of amended assessment issues.

For more information see *PS LA 2006/8 Remission of shortfall interest charge and general interest charge for shortfall periods*.

QC 33406

Our commitment to you

We are committed to providing you with accurate, consistent and clear information to help you understand your rights and entitlements and meet your obligations.

If you follow our information and it turns out to be incorrect, or it is misleading and you make a mistake as a result, we will take that into account when determining what action, if any, we should take.

Some of the information on this website applies to a specific financial year. This is clearly marked. Make sure you have the information for the right year before making decisions based on that information.

If you feel that our information does not fully cover your circumstances, or you are unsure how it applies to you, contact us or seek professional advice.

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