

CUSTOMER FACT SHEET

Why has the Payments Council decided to withdraw its target date to close the central cheque processing system in 2018?

Responding to what customers tell us they want, we have decided to remove any uncertainty about the future of cheques by announcing that cheques will continue for as long as they are needed and is withdrawing plans for closing the cheque clearing in 2018. Instead, we will focus on making all payments fit for the 21st century by encouraging innovation in new and existing types of payments.

Has the proposal been delayed or abandoned permanently?

All work to prepare for closing cheque clearing in 2018 has stopped. We cannot make guarantees about what will happen in the future as it will be driven by businesses and customers. As it stands, with or without our intervention, customers and businesses are using cheques less and less every year and there are no signs of this changing.

Does this mean that the future of the cheque is now safe?

Payments Council members will continue to provide customers with cheques for as long as they are needed.

You were looking at a new type of paper initiated payment. Will that go ahead?

No. Because the cheque is continuing there is no need for a new type of paper initiated payment.

Can I guarantee a cheque using a plastic card?

No, the decision to withdraw the facility to guarantee a cheque using a plastic card stands. This facility was withdrawn at the end of June this year but you can of course still use a cheque and businesses can still to choose to accept them.

Where can I find out more?

Visit www.paymentscouncil.org.uk or speak to your bank.