

ATO Processing Times

A common question asked by clients is the time taken to process taxation returns with the Australian Taxation Office. This not only includes income tax returns lodged, but also includes BAS, ABN application, account transfers/refunds, letters of request for information (such as copies of tax returns lodged) and more.

For income tax returns lodged electronically, the time for processing is within 28 days. If a tax return is lodged via paper, the anticipated timeframe is within 60 days. For amended tax returns, including any claims for FTB or Child Care Rebate, it may also take up to 60 days.

For BAS/IAS lodged electronically, the timeframe is 14 days, but experience shows that this is much sooner. For paper lodgments, this may take up to 28 days.

The ATO can only be followed up if the expected timeframe has passed. Please also allow for sufficient time, additionally, for the ATO to mail your Notice of Assessment. If your taxation return or BAS is selected for random audit, then the processing time is likely to exceed the allowed timeframes.

When applying for a new ABN, the expected timeframe can take up to 28 days, as the ATO needs to undertake internal checks with various government departments before written confirmation of a new ABN can be issued. During this period, it is advisable to use "ABN pending" on invoices that you issue to cover yourself.

For most other enquires with the ATO, the standard timeframe is within 28 days. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.