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HMT CHEQUE IMAGING CONSULTATION

Background

The Cheque and Credit Clearing Company is a non-profit making industry body funded by its members. It has managed the cheque clearing system in England and Wales since 1985 and in Scotland since 1996.

The Cheque and Credit Clearing Company ensures that cheques and credits remain a viable, secure and efficient choice of payment for all users by:

- providing consumers, via financial institutions, with the central payment system services for the exchange and settlement of cheques and credits and managing the operational processes of those services;
- delivering innovation that has brought the cheque into the digital age via the implementation of an image-based cheque clearing process. The Image Clearing System speeds up cheque processing significantly for customers across the UK by exchanging and clearing digital images of cheques;
- determining the rules, standards, and procedures required to maintain the integrity of the clearings, including the access criteria for participating in the clearings and ensuring compliance with those rules;



- engaging with the full range of stakeholders that use cheques, financial institutions that offer cheque clearing services, cheque processors, cheque printers and other suppliers, as well as regulators, trade associations and other payment schemes; and
- managing the Cheque Printer Accreditation Scheme (CPAS).

Comment on the Consultation

Cheque and Credit Clearing Company is grateful for the opportunity to comment and appreciates that the use of cheques is a complex area and welcomes any secondary legislation that brings clarity to the end user.

We would suggest that the secondary legislation ensures that the need to provide the data details and the image of the cheque overrides other data protection provisions (including that of GDPR legislation).

A McDonald
Director of Insight & Control

On behalf of Cheque and Credit Clearing Company