

Inland Revenue

## Build Pack: Period Service API

**Date:** 06/08/2020

**Version:** v0.8

---

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Overview.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	This solution .....	3
1.2	Intended audience.....	3
1.3	Prerequisites.....	3
1.3.1	Mutual Transport Layer Security and certificates .....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Solution design .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Architecture.....	5
2.2	Supported HTTP methods .....	5
2.3	Dependencies between the customer service APIs .....	6
2.4	Period Service API .....	7
2.4.1	Request payload .....	7
2.4.2	Response payload .....	7
2.5	Security .....	8
2.5.1	OAuth.....	10
2.5.2	M2M JWT .....	10
2.5.2.1	Header .....	10
2.5.2.2	Payload.....	11
2.5.2.3	startLogon .....	11
2.5.2.4	sub .....	11
<b>3</b>	<b>End points and OpenAPI specifications .....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1	End points.....	12
3.2	OpenAPI specifications .....	12
<b>4</b>	<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Change log .....</b>	<b>15</b>

## 1 Overview

### 1.1 This solution

Inland Revenue has a suite of digital services available for consumption by our service providers that supports efficient, electronic business interactions with Inland Revenue. The Period Service API described in this build pack document provides current customer information as held by Inland Revenue.

---

Before continuing, please consult [www.ird.govt.nz/digital-service-providers/services-catalogue](http://www.ird.govt.nz/digital-service-providers/services-catalogue) for business-level context, use cases and links to relevant policy. The information available here explains how to integrate with Inland Revenue's services.

---

### 1.2 Intended audience

Access to the API end point is open to any software provider that has been on-boarded to the API (referred to throughout the remainder of this document as 'Digital Service Providers'). Access to the period data is open to any logon that currently has access to these resources on eServices. This includes tax intermediaries (such as tax agents and bookkeepers) and to customers using software on their own behalf.

### 1.3 Prerequisites

Party	Requirement	Description
<b>Digital Service Provider</b>	Acquire a X.509 certificate from a competent authority for the Test and Production environments.	This is required when using mutual TLS with cloud-based service providers or financial institutions.  Note that the same certificate cannot be used for the Test and Production environments.

#### 1.3.1 Mutual Transport Layer Security and certificates

Mutual Transport Layer Security (TLS) is implemented for this API. This requires the use of a publicly-issued X509 certificate from one of the trusted certificate authorities. Inland Revenue does not issue certificates to external vendors for web service security implementations.

Inland Revenue has the following minimum requirements for accepting public X509 keys:

- Minimum Key Length: 2048
- Signature Algorithm: SHA256[RSA]
- Self-signed certificates are not accepted
- Certificates issued by a private/internal certificate authority are not accepted.

In general, shorter-lived certificates offer a better security posture since the impact of key compromise is less severe but there is no minimum requirement for certificate expiry periods.

Below is a list for examples of certificate authority providers with no recommendations or rankings incorporated. It is recommended that a business researches which certificate authority meets their requirements:

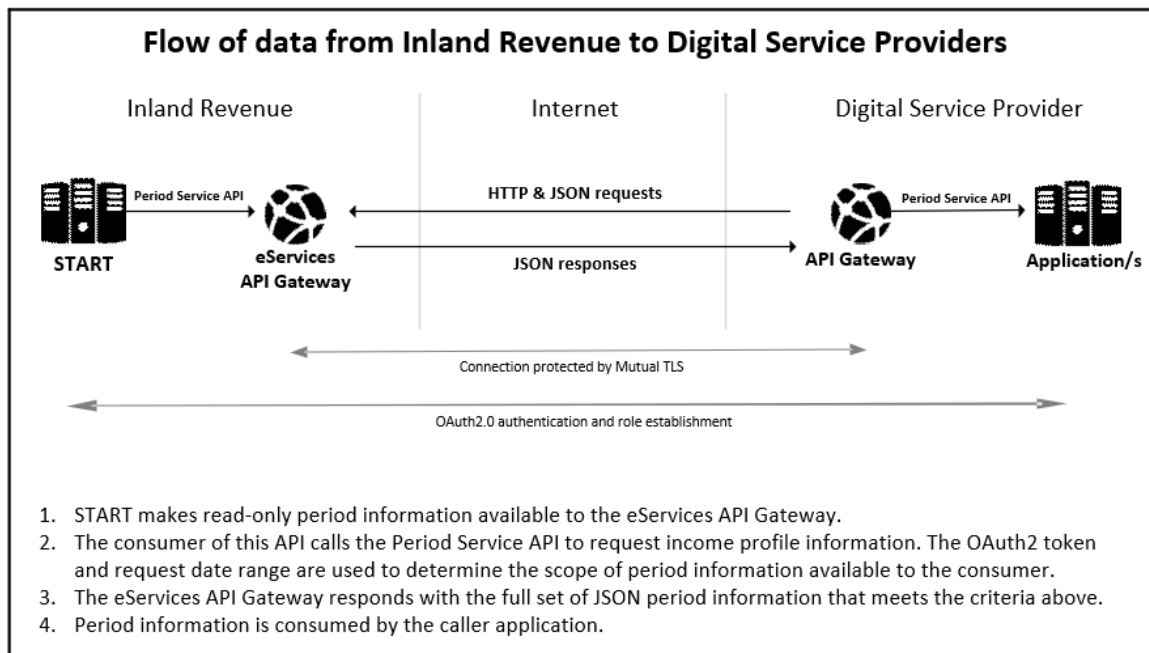
- [Comodo](#)
- [GeoTrust](#)
- [DigiCert](#)
- [GlobalSign](#)
- [Symantec](#)
- [Thawte](#)
- [IdenTrust](#)
- [Entrust](#)
- [Network Solutions](#)
- [RapidSSL](#)
- [Entrust Datacard](#)
- [GoDaddy](#).

## 2 Solution design

### 2.1 Architecture

Inland Revenue is offering a suite of web applications in order to facilitate interactions via software packages. This API will be used by approved organisations to retrieve period information from Inland Revenue.

The diagram below illustrates the flow of data from Inland Revenue to the Digital Service Providers.



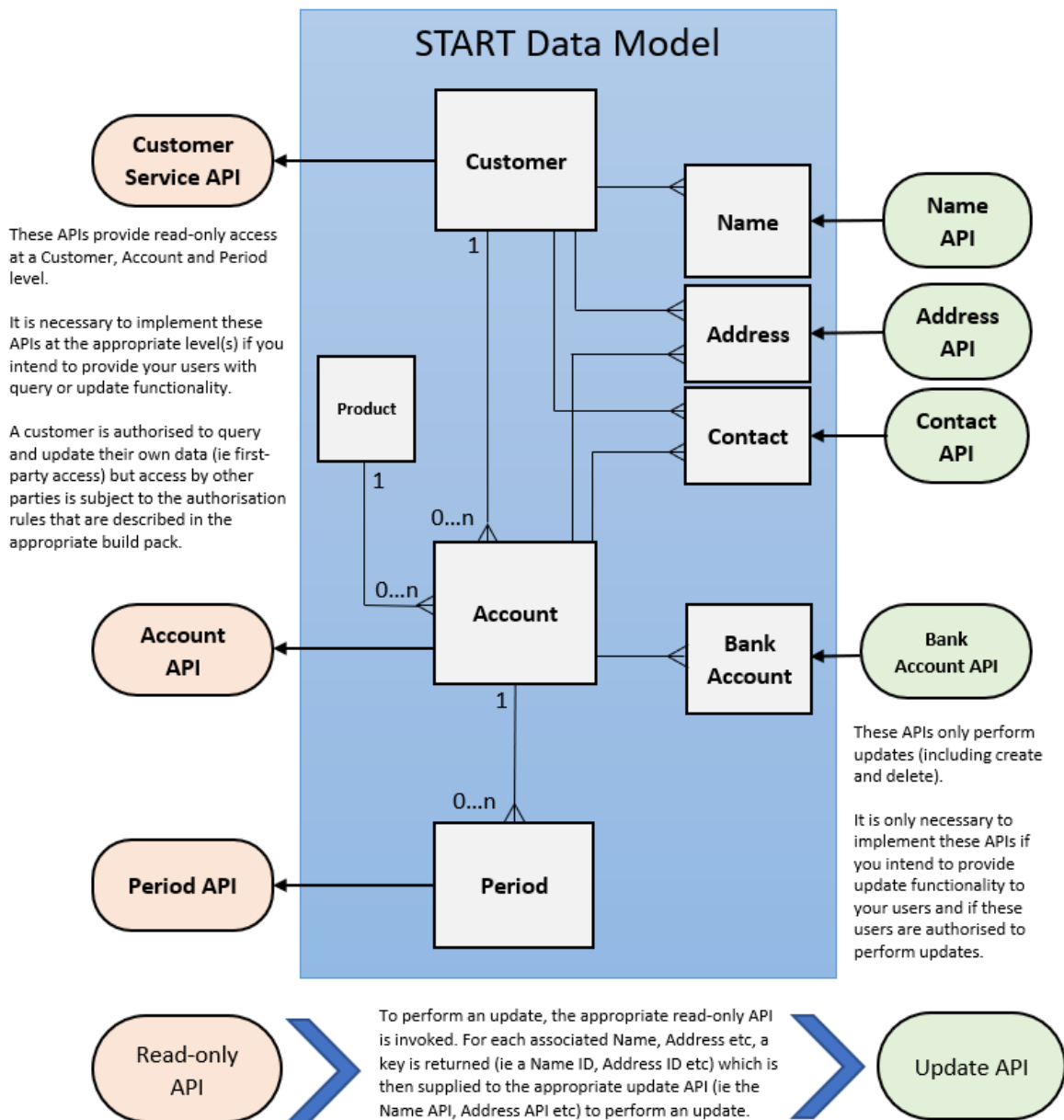
### 2.2 Supported HTTP methods

This service only supports the POST HTTP method and will not allow any other methods such as GET or PUT.

## 2.3 Dependencies between the customer service APIs

This API is one of seven 'customer service' APIs designed to be used together—Account, Address, Bank Account, Contact, Customer Service, Name and Period. It is important to understand the dependencies between these when deciding which ones to implement, how to correctly sequence their adoption, how authorisation rules impact access, and how to use them in general.

These APIs align to START's data model as depicted below:



## 2.4 Period Service API

### 2.4.1 Request payload

Field	Description
<b>AccountID</b>	An account identifier for an account belonging to the customer
<b>AccountIDType</b>	An account ID type for an account belonging to the customer
<b>FromDate</b>	The earliest period to return. If not provided, no lower bound will be applied to the listing of periods.
<b>ToDate</b>	The latest period to return. If not provided, no upper bound will be applied to the listing of periods.

### 2.4.2 Response payload

Field	Description
<b>AccountType</b>	The type of account
<b>PeriodBegin</b>	The beginning of the period
<b>PeriodEnd</b>	The end of the period
<b>FilingFrequency</b>	The frequency with which the customer can file for this account
<b>NoticeOfAssessmentIssued</b>	If a notice of assessment letter was issued for this account
<b>ReturnData</b>	A return is either expected or has been filed for this period
<b>DefaultAssessment</b>	The value of all default assessments on this period
<b>INC.BalanceDate</b>	The balance date of the Income Tax account for this period
<b>INC.ExtensionOfTime</b>	If this Income Tax account has an extension of time for this period
<b>INC.ExtensionOfTimeType</b>	If the extension of time for this Income Tax period was through the agent or the customer
<b>INC.DeferredDate</b>	The deferred date of the Income Tax return
<b>INC.LossCarriedForward</b>	The amount of loss to carry forward for this period
<b>INC.ExcessImputationCarriedForward</b>	The amount of excess imputation carried forward for this period
<b>INC.ICABalance</b>	The ICA balance for the period
<b>INC.MACBalance</b>	The MAC balance for the period
<b>INC.TaxPooling</b>	Indicates that the customer intends to use tax pooling for this Income Tax period

Field	Description
<b>INC.FilingGroup</b>	The filing group for the Individual Income Tax account
<b>INC.LossCarryBack</b>	Indicates that the customer is using the loss carry-back on this Income Tax period
<b>INC.Prov.Method</b>	The provisional tax method for the Income Tax account during the period
<b>INC.Prov.Ratio</b>	The ratio of the provisional tax
<b>INC.Prov.Amount</b>	The amount of provisional tax for the period
<b>INC.Prov.Commence</b>	The beginning of the provisional tax method, as there may be multiple within a single period
<b>INC.Prov.Cease</b>	The end of the provisional tax method

## 2.5 Security

This API will require a unique identifier in order to establish the calling party's identity and to allow the access model to authenticate.

This design will use JSON Web Tokens (JWT) and OAuth2.0 tokens and protocol to establish the calling party's identity. The OAuth2.0 method requires a user to logon, while JWT is a machine-to-machine credential.

Each HTTPS header contains the authorisation attribute JWT/OAuth:

1. A signed JSON Web Token (JWT) token. This will establish a registered digital services provider identity via the asymmetric public key held in the key store established during onboarding.
2. An OAuth2.0 token that is a customer- or intermediary-level XIAMS user account recognised by START.

This API uses an HTTPS transport layer, with HTTP1.1 transport protocol supported.

Regarding transport layer security (TLS), note that while TLS1.3 is now an industry standard, it is not yet widely adopted, as doing so requires upgrades to perimeter security devices and software. Inland Revenue will upgrade to TLS1.3 once it is adopted widely enough, and where practical, external software partners should also anticipate upgrading to this version. TLS1.0 and TLS1.1 are not supported by myIR or Gateway Services.

Asymmetric keys of approved strength must be used. Inland Revenue requires the following ciphers and key strengths to be used:

<b>Encryption:</b>	Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)	FIPS 197	256-bit key
<b>Hashing:</b>	Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) using P-256 or Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-2) NOTE: ECDSA is preferred but RSA will be supported.	FIPS 180-3	SHA-256 (or greater)



Gateway Services will use this token in the HTTP header of a message in the same manner that an OAuth token has been used, namely:

"Authorization: {JWTAccessToken}"

*Refer to the Identity and Access Services build pack for more information.*

	End point for connections
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End point to which digital service providers will connect</li> </ul>
<b>Client application type</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cloud applications or in-house servers</li> </ul>
<b>Constraints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only for source locations with client-side TLS certificates</li> <li>On the cloud end point Inland Revenue has controls to shield service providers from issues caused by heavy usage from other providers</li> </ul>
<b>Mutual TLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inland Revenue explicitly trusts the certificate the service provider associates with the TLS connection as client for Mutual TLS connections and uses it to identify the web service's sending party</li> </ul>
<b>Minimum TLS version</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.2</li> </ul>
<b>URL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains ../gateway/..</li> </ul>
<b>Port</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4046</li> </ul>
<b>Web service consumer identification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machine-to-machine authentication using client-signed JSON web tokens (JWT)</li> <li>OAuth2 authorisation using tokens generated by XIAMS</li> </ul>
<b>Firewalling in production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No IP address restrictions</li> <li>Access limited by certificate enrolment</li> </ul>
<b>Firewalling in non-production environments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No IP address restrictions</li> <li>Access limited by certificate enrolment</li> </ul>

**Delegated permissions:** The service will allow for the retrieval of period data for a user (as represented by the JWT or OAuth2 token) who has delegated access. If the user does not have access to the period in the request parameters, an error will be returned.

### 2.5.1 OAuth

HTTP headers intended for OAuth access services will have the JWT prefixed with "Bearer ".

HTTP header	Example value
<b>Authorization</b>	Bearer {JWTAccessToken}

*Refer to the Identity and Access Services build pack for more information on authorisation flows.*

### 2.5.2 M2M JWT

Authorisation intended for M2M (machine-to-machine) communication will not use "Bearer " flag on the HTTP header and only contain the JWT. The JWT will contain a field "startLogon" which can resolve to a myIR logon. The M2M JWT will be identified by a value of "M2M" in the Key ID ("kid"). The M2M JWT will be signed with a self-signed certificate, for which the public key was provided during onboarding.

HTTP header	Example value
<b>Authorization</b>	{JWTAccessToken}

Example data structure used for M2M authorisation:

```
Base64Url encoded {
  "alg": <algorithm value>,
  "typ": "JWT",
  "kid": "M2M"
}
.
Base64Url encoded {
  "sub": <token subject>,
  "iss": <issuer value>,
  "startLogon": <myIR_user>,
  "iat": <epoch issued value>,
  "exp": <epoch expired value>
}
.
JWS Signature (
  base64UrlEncode(header) + "." + base64UrlEncode(payload)
)
```

#### 2.5.2.1 Header

Field	Requirement	Description	Valid values
<b>alg</b>	Required	Signature or encryption algorithm	RS256, RS384, RS512 ES256, ES384, ES512
<b>typ</b>	Required	Type of token	JWT
<b>kid</b>	Required	Key ID	M2M

### 2.5.2.2 *Payload*

Field	Requirement	Description	Valid values
<b>sub</b>	Required	Subject (to whom the token refers)	SHA-1 Thumbprint/fingerprint of signing certificate
<b>iss</b>	Required	Issuer who created this token	eg CompanyNameA
<b>startLogon</b>	Required	The myIR logon of a representative of the token subject. The subject must be the data owner.	Valid myIR logon, or null
<b>iat</b>	Required	Issued at. The number of seconds since Unix epoch 1 Jan 1970, UTC.	Must not precede the signing certificate issue date Example: 1560144847
<b>exp</b>	Required	Expiration time. The number of seconds since Unix epoch 1 Jan 1970, UTC.	Must not exceed 8 hours from the <b>iat</b> (issued at) time value Example: 1574323940

### 2.5.2.3 *startLogon*

A myIR logon can be provided in order to use the myIR delegation model for identifying customers for whom period information should be retrieved. If the myIR logon is provided, then information will only be shown for accounts the logon can access.

### 2.5.2.4 *sub*

A subject must be provided, which is the thumbprint of the signing certificate, and can be used to determine which period information should be retrieved. The subject will always be used to validate the signature of the JWT but will only be used for determining which period information to retrieve when a value for **startLogon** is not provided. The subject can be used for access when the subject is a tax preparer—period information will be returned for accounts currently linked to the tax preparer.

---

## 3 End points and OpenAPI specifications

### 3.1 End points

Current environment information for this service—including the end points for each environment—is available within the relevant Software Development Kit (SDK).

To access the SDK, do one of the following:

- Go to <https://github.com/InlandRevenue> and select this service
- Go to <https://developerportal.ird.govt.nz> and click the link to the SDK within the Gateway Service documentation (please register first).

### 3.2 OpenAPI specifications

An OpenAPI file allows for the description of the entire API, end points, operations on each end point, and operation parameters. The included .yaml file can be used along with an OpenAPI editor such as [editor.swagger.io](https://editor.swagger.io) to view technical specifications for this operation and generate example client code.

To access the latest OpenAPI definition for this service, please do the following:

- Login to the developer portal at <https://developerportal.ird.govt.nz> (register first)
- Download and view the OpenAPI definition within the Gateway Service documentation.

## 4 Glossary

Acronym/term	Definition
<b>API</b>	Application Programming Interface—set of functions and procedures that allow applications to access the data or features of another application, operating system or other service.
<b>Authentication</b>	The process that verifies the identity of the party attempting to access Inland Revenue
<b>Authorisation</b>	The process of determining whether a party is entitled to perform the function or access a resource
<b>End points</b>	A term used to describe a web service that has been implemented
<b>FIPS</b>	Federal Information Processing Standard—a suite of IT standards from the US Federal Government
<b>Gateway</b>	Inland Revenue’s web services gateway
<b>HTTP, HTTPS</b>	Hyper Text Transmission Protocol (Secure)—the protocol by which web browsers and servers interact with each other. When implemented over TLS1.2 HTTP becomes HTTPS.
<b>IAMS</b>	Identity and Access Management—a logical component that performs authentication and authorisation. Physically it is a set of discrete hardware and software products, plug-ins and protocols. Usually implemented as separate External IAMS (XIAMS) and Internal IAMS.
<b>IAS</b>	Identity and Access Service
<b>IP</b>	Internet Protocol—the principal communication protocol in the Internet protocol suite for relaying datagrams across networks
<b>IRD</b>	Inland Revenue Department (ie IRD number)
<b>OAuth</b>	An HTTPS based protocol for authorising access to a resource, currently at version 2
<b>OpenAPI specifications</b>	Formerly known as Swagger specifications—a specification for machine-readable interface files for describing, producing, consuming and visualising RESTful web services.
<b>Payloads</b>	This refers to the data contained within the messages that are exchanged when a web service is invoked. Messages consist of a header and a payload.
<b>Schemas</b>	An XML schema defines the syntax of an XML document, in particular of a payload. The schema specifies what a valid payload must or can contain, as well as validating the payload.
<b>SHA</b>	Secure Hashing Algorithm. There is a family of them that provide different strengths. SHA-2 is currently favoured over SHA-1, which has been compromised.
<b>SOAP</b>	Simple Object Access Protocol—a set of standards for specifying web services. GWS uses SOAP version 1.2

Acronym/term	Definition
<b>SSL</b>	Secure Sockets Layer certificates—used to establish an encrypted connection between a browser or user’s computer and a service or website
<b>START</b>	Simplified Taxation and Revenue Technology—IR’s new core tax processing application. It is an implementation of the GenTax product from FAST Enterprises.
<b>TLS1.2</b>	Transport Layer Security version 1.2—the protocol that is observed between adjacent servers for encrypting the data that they exchange. Prior versions of TLS and all versions of SSL have been compromised and are superseded by TLS1.2.
<b>URL</b>	Universal Resource Locator—also known as a web address
<b>X.509 certificate</b>	An international standard for encoding and describing a digital certificate. In isolation a public key is just a very large number, the X.509 certificate to which it is bound identifies whose key it is, who issued it, when it expires etc. When a counterparty’s X.509 digital certificate is received, the recipient takes their public key out of it and store the key in their own keystore. The recipient can then use this key to encrypt and sign the messages that they exchange with this counterparty.
<b>XIAMS</b>	External IAMS—an instance of IAMS that authenticates and authorises access by external parties, for example customers, trading partners etc, as opposed to internal parties such as staff
<b>YAML</b>	"YAML Ain't Markup Language"—a human-readable data-serialisation language commonly used for configuration files and in applications where data is stored or transmitted.

## 5 Change log

This table lists all material changes that have been made to this build pack document since its release (most recent changes listed first). It does not encompass non-material changes, such as to formatting etc.

Date of change	Document section	Description
06/08/20	2.5.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Typo corrected in value values field for 'alg'</li> </ul>
30/07/20	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependencies diagram updated</li> </ul>
22/07/20	2.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added in new field: DefaultAssessment</li> </ul>
14/07/20	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New section added: 'Dependencies between the customer service APIs'</li> </ul>
23/06/20	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed period list operation, as it's been combined with the period operation</li> </ul>
18/06/20	2.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added in Provisional Tax fields</li> </ul>
27/05/20	2.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field name INC.LossCarriedForward to INC.LossToCarryForward</li> </ul>
25/05/20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V0.8 released</li> </ul>