

Future of Money,
Reserve Bank of NZ
2 The Terrace
Wellington

20th July 2024

Re :Opposition to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand: In Opposition to Digital and Centralised Banking Control Over Money

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal for digital and global centralized banks to control money. Below are several critical reasons why maintaining cash is essential for our society:

Broad Acceptance and Convenience: Cash is accepted by 99.99% of sellers at local farmers' markets, small businesses, and local charity groups. These entities rely heavily on cash transactions for their operations and fundraising efforts. In contrast, EFTPOS or digital currencies often incur taxes and fees, which can be burdensome for these small-scale sellers.

Financial Education and Savings for Children: Traditional piggy banks and cash savings play a vital role in teaching children the value of money. For example, our five-year-old son worked diligently every day for a month to save \$200 for our family holiday. This experience not only taught him about saving but also instilled a sense of accomplishment and responsibility.

Reliability During Crises: In the event of a crisis or natural disaster, power outages could render digital transactions impossible, leaving people unable to purchase essential items such as food. Cash provides a reliable alternative in such scenarios.

Risk of Centralized Control: A centralized digital currency would give the governing bank unprecedented control over individuals' funds, dictating when, how, and on what items money can be spent. This level of control is concerning and undermines financial autonomy.

Impact on Community Activities: Cash is integral to many community activities such as garage sales and local bake sales. These events foster community spirit and provide a way for individuals to earn extra income or raise funds for local causes.

Religious and Cultural Practices: Many churches rely on cash offerings from their congregations. Moreover, the concept of a digital currency is seen by some as a form of the "mark of the beast" from the book of Revelations, which raises significant religious and ethical concerns.

Charity Collections: Street collectors for charities often rely on cash donations. Without cash, these organizations would struggle to collect funds, impacting their ability to provide essential services to those in need.

Gratuities: Tour bus drivers, waitstaff, and other service providers often receive tips in cash as a token of appreciation. Digital transactions could complicate or reduce these gratuities, affecting the livelihood of many workers.

Small Personal Transactions: Children earning money by mowing a neighbor's lawn or other small tasks often receive payment in cash. This fosters a sense of independence and responsibility in young people.

Practical Everyday Uses: Cash is convenient for small everyday transactions, such as feeding a parking meter. Eliminating cash would complicate these simple activities.

Summary

A cashless society is a step towards eroding our freedoms and one of our basic human rights. Cash ensures financial inclusivity, personal autonomy, and resilience in times of crisis. It supports local economies, fosters community spirit, and respects cultural and religious practices. The move towards a fully digital and centralized banking system poses significant risks and could undermine the fundamental liberties we currently enjoy. I urge the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to consider these points and retain cash as a vital component of our financial system.

Sincerely,

Redacted under 9(2)(a)

