

NEW CATALOGUE CHARTS & RELATED RULE CHANGES FAQs

Recorded Music NZ is updating the Official NZ Music Charts to introduce a new set of Catalogue Charts. This document contains some of the frequently asked questions about this and the related changes to the chart rules. If you have any further questions, please contact paul@recordedmusic.co.nz.

WHEN DO THE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT?

The first Charts incorporating the new rule changes will be published on 22 April 2023.

WHAT KEY CHANGES ARE HAPPENING WITH THE CHARTS?

After a single or album reaches 18 months since its first chart appearance, it will automatically move out of the Top40 chart and into a new Catalogue Chart (regardless of position and whether it has been on a 'continuing run' in the charts).

WHY THE CHANGES?

The changes have come about as a result of the survey/engagement we did in 2022 with artists, right holders and the music community. We heard that the charts are valued as a promotional tool, but there was widespread frustration about the Official Charts being slow to move due to the impact of streaming, where some popular recordings stay in the charts for long periods of time, preventing new material from entering.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT THE CHANGES TO ACHIEVE?

The Top40 charts will become more dynamic and accessible to newer material, newer artists and will reflect the most current cultural tastes and consumer trends. The rule changes will create greater opportunity for diversity, provide promotional opportunities for more local artists and help the charts serve as a platform that supports music discovery.

The Catalogue Charts will provide a clear measure of the true success of an artist's whole repertoire. We hope there will be extra incentive to promote older titles, sell records at shows, and submit data for older recordings due to the opportunity for recordings to feature in the Catalogue Chart, which under the previous rules would have been missing from the Top40.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHANGES TO BE AWARE OF?

There is no longer a limit on the number of new singles from an album that can enter the charts and the rules around catalogue recordings re-entering the Top40 chart are now more restrictive - touring and re-marketing are no longer sufficient for a return to the Top 40 Chart.

CAN CATALOGUE RELEASES (WHICH FIRST CHARTED MORE THAN 18 MONTHS AGO) STILL RETURN TO THE TOP40 CHART?

Yes. There is provision for catalogue releases to re-enter the Top40 charts temporarily (for up to a maximum of 10 weeks) in special circumstances, for example where an increase in consumption occurs due to the death of an artist, a re-issue including new material, viral social media moments or memes, or high profile film, television or advertising placements or other significant coverage in national media.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR A CATALOGUE RELEASE RETURNING TO THE TOP 40?

Where a single or album receives sufficient consumption that it would, without the new 18 month restriction, appear in the top half of the Top40 Album or Singles Chart - the right holder may submit a case for temporary re-inclusion.

The Chart Compiler will inform the relevant right holder when this situation arises and they will have 48 hours to clearly identify the explanations and contributing factors driving the resurgence in consumption of the relevant catalogue.

Right holders will be expected to supply specific links and, where possible, engagement statistics from the relevant media (eg, Tik Tok view stats, television ratings etc) to the Chart Compiler.

In each case, a high threshold will be applied to ensure that this special eligibility dispensation is reserved for unusually significant, consumer-driven phenomena or late-blooming breakout hits. Eligibility is determined by the Chart Compiler in the first instance and will be referred to the Charts Committee where necessary.

At the end of a 10-week period of temporary eligibility, the release will return to the Catalogue Charts and not be eligible for a further period in the Top40 for 12 months.

WHAT IS NOT CHANGING?

Just about everything else. These changes are simple and require no adjustment to any underlying data on which the charts are based. Chart history such as 'Peak' and 'Weeks On' will be carried across both sets of charts meaning that albums that move into the Catalogue Charts can continue to aim for, and break, existing records for longevity as they maintain their run.

The full chart rules can be found [HERE](#).