

eNews

21 FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome to haysmacintyre's regular 'e-news alert' for corporates and private individuals.

HMRC targets R&D claims

HMRC has [written to over 2,000 companies](#) who have claimed research and development (R&D) tax reliefs through its "One to Many" letter campaign. [The letter](#) encourages businesses to check their R&D tax claims, against a supplied checklist, to ensure the information provided is complete and to amend for any errors. HMRC warns companies of possible tax enquiries and rejected claims if their returns are found to be incorrect. This reflects an increase in HMRC's compliance activity in light of a number of fraudulent and inaccurate R&D claims. Please contact [Danielle Ford](#), Head of Tax Disputes and Resolutions, if you require assistance.



ICAEW's calls for HMRC taskforce

ICAEW has set out a [number of recommendations to the Government](#) ahead of the Budget on 15 March 2023. In particular, it is calling for the creation of an immediate taskforce to address HMRC delays, such as a year's delay in responding to queries and waits on the phone of over an hour before being cut off. ICAEW believes HMRC's performance is impacting economic growth. ICAEW's other recommendations include: making childcare affordable, especially where there is a critical worker shortage; updating the Apprenticeship Levy; providing longer-term funding certainty for regional and local authorities; and providing incentives to transition to net zero.

Slow progress on audit reform

Publication of research by the House of Commons Library, [Company audits: issues and proposed reforms](#), shows the Government has not committed to a specific date for publishing a draft Audit Reform Bill. This Bill is expected to introduce further audit reforms following earlier reviews of the audit profession in the wake of various corporate failures. The Government Minister, Lord Callanan said reform was being delivered in a number of ways, including some already made and commented that the Government was committed to legislating when "Parliamentary time allows".



French property owners' declarations

French property tax rules have changed so that all owners must declare their occupancy status as the current tax is replaced by a single land tax. France is phasing out the *taxe d'habitation* (occupancy tax) for all properties physically occupied by their owners or tenants, leaving only the *taxe foncière* (land tax) as its annual property tax. Declarations must be submitted through an online tax portal www.impots.gouv.fr by 23 June 2023. Please contact [Katharine Arthur](#), Head of Private Client, for assistance with your personal tax matters.

Another "One to Many" letter

HMRC is [launching a campaign](#) to tackle UK residential property and the Annual Tax on [Enveloped Dwellings](#) (ATED) under its "[One to Many](#)" campaign. The latest letter will be sent to non-resident companies that own UK residential property and have been filing ATED returns where HMRC has information showing the ATED bands used may be incorrect. Accordingly, if you receive a letter please do not be alarmed but, if your affairs need amending, approaching HMRC before they approach you will mitigate any potential penalty charges. Please contact [Danielle Ford](#), Head of Tax Disputes and Resolutions, if you require assistance.

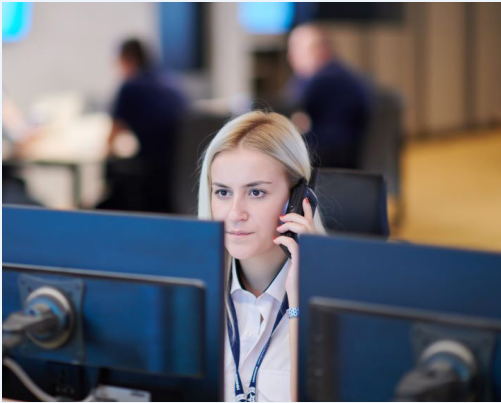


Check your NI record

Anyone intending to claim the UK state pension should check their National Insurance (NI) record before 5 April 2023. Currently, voluntary contributions can be made to "plug gaps" in your record back to April 2006 but this will be curtailed from this April to the last six tax years only. You can view your record through your [Government Gateway Account](#): Please contact [Katharine Arthur](#), Head of Private Client, for further assistance.

One into three goes

The Prime Minister, [Rishi Sunak, has announced](#) the current Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will be split into three new departments. The new departments will be the [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#), the [Department for Science, Innovation and Technology](#) and a [Department for Business and Trade](#). The changes are intended to assist focus on the Prime Minister's five promises: to halve inflation, grow the economy, reduce debt, cut waiting lists and stop the boats.



And finally... a record year for SARs

The [National Crime Agency has announced](#) that the year ended 31 March 2022 was a record year for the submission of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), with over 900,000 being received and processed. The financial sector continues to dominate the number of reports, contributing over 90% of the total. Accountants and tax advisers contributed 25% more than the previous year, albeit still less than 1% of the total. Nearly £300m was denied to criminals as a result of refused Defence Against Money Laundering requests.

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Shortlisted 2019 National Firm of the Year



Shortlisted 2019 Tax Team of the Year



Highly Commended Partner of the Year



2021: Best auditor
2020: Best outsourced finance service



Winner: Audit Team of the Year



Top 15 auditor to quoted companies in Adviser Ranking Listing



An eprivateclient top accountancy firm 2022