



## **PREPARATION OF SELF-ASSESSMENT TAX RETURNS AND SOLE TRADE ACCOUNTS**

### **1. RESPONSIBILITY AND SCOPE FOR PERSONAL TAX SERVICES**

#### **1.1. Recurring compliance work**

- 1.1.1. We will prepare your self-assessment tax returns together with any supplementary pages required from the information and explanations that you provide to us. After obtaining your approval and signature, we will submit your returns to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).
- 1.1.2. We will prepare your business accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice from the books, accounting records and other information and explanations provided to us by you or by others on your behalf.
- 1.1.3. We will calculate your income tax, national insurance contributions (NIC) and any capital gains tax liabilities and tell you how much you should pay and when. We will advise on the interest and penalty implications if tax or NIC is paid late. We will also check HMRC's calculation of your tax and NIC liabilities and initiate repayment claims if tax or NIC have been overpaid.
- 1.1.4. We will advise you on possible tax-return-related claims and elections arising from information supplied by you, other than as regards tax credits and universal credit (see below). If instructed by you, we will make such claims and elections in the form and manner required by HMRC.
- 1.1.5. We will review PAYE notices of coding provided to us and advise accordingly.

#### **1.2. Excluded, ad hoc and advisory work**

- 1.2.1. The scope of our services provided to you will be only as set out above and all other services which we may offer are excluded. If you instruct us to do so, we will provide such other taxation, ad hoc and advisory services as may be agreed between us from time to time. These may be the subject of a separate engagement letter at our option. Where appropriate, we will agree with you a separate fee for any such work you instruct us to undertake. Examples of such work that you may wish to instruct us to undertake include:
  - a) advising on ad hoc transactions (for example the sale of assets);
  - b) advising on preparing accounts on the cash basis and helping you to make the requisite election;
  - c) dealing with any enquiry opened into your tax return by HMRC;
  - d) preparing any amended returns which may be required and corresponding with HMRC as necessary;
  - e) advising on the rules relating to and assisting with registration for VAT or equivalent non-UK taxes; and
  - f) advising on tax credits and universal credit; these are, in effect, social security benefits, and your entitlement or otherwise will depend not only on your own circumstances but also on those of your household; we would require all relevant information to advise in this area.
- 1.2.2. If specialist advice is required, we may need to seek this from, or refer you to, appropriate specialists.

#### **1.3. Changes in the law, in practice or in public policy**

- 1.3.1. We will not accept responsibility if you act on advice given by us on an earlier occasion without first confirming with us that the advice is still valid in the light of any change in the law, practice, public policy or in your circumstances.
- 1.3.2. We will accept no liability for losses arising from changes in the law (or the interpretation thereof), practice or public policy that are first published after the date on which the advice is given.





**1.4. Your responsibilities**

1.4.1. You are legally responsible for:

- a) ensuring that your self-assessment tax returns are correct and complete;
- b) filing any returns by the due date; and
- c) paying tax on time.

Failure to do any of the above may lead to penalties and/or interest.

1.4.2. Taxpayers who sign their returns cannot delegate this legal responsibility to others. You agree to check that returns that we have prepared for you are correct and complete before you approve and sign them.

1.4.3. To enable us to carry out our work, you agree:

- a) that all returns are to be made on the basis of full disclosure of all sources of income, charges, allowances and capital transactions;
- b) to provide all information necessary for dealing with your affairs; we will rely on the information and documents being true, correct and complete and will not audit the information or those documents;
- c) to authorise us to approach such third parties as may be appropriate, for information that we consider necessary to deal with your affairs; and
- d) to provide us with information in sufficient time for your tax return to be completed and submitted by the due date following the end of the tax year.

1.4.4. You will keep us informed of material changes in your circumstances that could affect your tax liability. If you are unsure whether the change is material, please tell us so that we can assess its significance.

1.4.5. HMRC may send you an agent authorisation code which expires within 30 days of issue. Please send this to us as soon as you receive it. This code will enable us to register as your agent with HMRC. This authorises HMRC to communicate with us as your agent, although they consider that you should still take 'reasonable care' over your tax affairs.

1.4.6. You will forward to us HMRC statements of account, copies of notices of assessment, letters and other communications received from HMRC, in sufficient time to enable us to deal with them as may be necessary within the statutory time limits. Although HMRC have the authority to communicate with us when form 64-8 has been signed and submitted, it is still essential that you let us have copies of any correspondence received, because HMRC are not obliged to send us copies of all communications issued to you.

1.4.7. You are responsible for monitoring your monthly turnover to establish whether you are liable to register for VAT. If you do not understand what you need to do, please ask us. If you exceed the UK VAT registration threshold and you wish us to assist you in notifying HMRC of your liability to be VAT registered, we will be pleased to assist you in the VAT registration process. You should notify us of your instructions to assist in your VAT registration in good time to enable a VAT registration form to be submitted within the time limit of one month following the month in which you exceed the VAT registration threshold in force at that time. We will not be responsible if you fail to notify us in time and, as a result, incur a late registration penalty. The same applies for equivalent non-UK taxes.

1.4.8. You are responsible for employment taxes, pensions (including auto-enrolment) and the assessment of the tax status of your workers, including domestic staff. If you do not understand what you need to consider or what action you need to take, please ask us. We will not be in a position to assist you in complying with your responsibilities if we are not engaged to provide such a service. We are not responsible for any penalty that is incurred.