

TAX RISK AND INVESTIGATION MANAGEMENT

More taxpayers are being subjected to investigation as HMRC focuses on increasing tax collection through compliance checks.

HMRC's compliance checks such as tax enquiries, investigations and interventions can be disruptive, intrusive and costly to you and your business, even if there is nothing wrong.

The tax investigations environment

HMRC is responsible for ensuring that taxpayers comply with ever more complex tax legislation and has recently shown an increased focus on ensuring everyone complies. HMRC officers are tasked with identifying and tackling individuals, partnerships and companies who receive income or gains but do not currently file returns, and those who file inaccurate or incomplete returns.

Through the increased use of technology to analyse data, HMRC investigations are becoming better-targeted and more effective.

Working with you to secure the best result

Our Tax Risk and Investigation Management (TRIM) team can help you to secure the best possible outcome. Our team members use their experience and skills to identify at the outset the investigator's real concerns, together with the information held by HMRC. This enables our specialists to:

- quickly establish the key facts and evidence;
- provide only what is necessary to evidence the position; and
- substantially reduce the time that it takes to close the investigation.

Should further tax be due, then our specialists can negotiate the best possible outcome. Through years of experience in successful negotiations with HMRC, we understand what scope there is to settle cases. This can have a significant effect on the amount of the penalty and the number of years for which HMRC will seek to collect tax.

We can advise on all direct taxes (income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax, NIC, PAYE) and indirect tax (VAT) as well as inheritance tax and Stamp Duty Land Tax, and are happy to work directly for you, with your existing adviser or through an intermediary.

How we can help

RSM employs a team of talented and experienced tax investigation specialists, made up of senior tax professionals and former officers of HMRC.

Our TRIM team has a deep understanding of how HMRC works and how to interact with it to secure the best possible outcome for our clients. For further information please contact our confidential tax investigations helpline on +44 (0)800 032 8374 or one of our team:

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Risk management

Disclosures

If you have a disclosure to make to HMRC then our specialists can help. They will establish contact with an appropriately experienced person within HMRC, thereby ensuring the matter can be settled with the minimum amount of disruption. If the case is complex or serious and is to be handled by HMRC's Fraud Investigation Service then you can be assured that our specialists have the relevant experience to deal with enquiries under Codes of Practice 8 or 9.

Pre-filing reviews

Our experts are available to review the tax position prior to submission of the return to HMRC. Using their knowledge of HMRC procedures and investigative techniques, they review the key documents and advise whether a filing position is tenable.

Their advice is designed not only to minimise the chance of penalties being sought if things do go wrong, but also to reduce the risk of an enquiry in the first place.

These reviews are suitable for both personal and corporate taxpayers as well as trustees, and include consideration of:

- annual tax returns and tax computations;
- tax residence status, including permanent establishment for businesses; and
- transactions.

Common HMRC issues

Our TRIM team can also help where any tax problem requires a thorough understanding of HMRC procedures. By way of example, we have extensive experience in assisting clients with the following:

- · civil fraud investigations;
- voluntary disclosures;
- Tax dispute resolution involving ADR:
- overpayment relief claims;
- out-of-time loss claims;
- farming loss claims;
- · penalty negotiations; and
- helping representative bodies negotiate industry–specific reliefs.

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