

"Keeping you informed"

## Introduction

Welcome to the third issue of Agent Update. In your feedback to the last issue a number of you told us that January is your busiest month of the year and suggested that December would be a better month to receive the next Agent Update. So here it is.

We appreciate that some of you have already entered that busy period. However, several of the items in this issue concern approaching deadlines or are time-sensitive, and we did not want you to miss out on the information. To save time, use the brief introductions to help you decide which pieces are most relevant to you and click on the headlines to read more.

If there are any other areas you would like to see covered in future issues, or you have any other suggestions, please let us know by visiting the [feedback page](#) on HMRC.gov.uk and selecting 'Tax Agents section of the Practitioner Zone' from the list.

## This month's top articles

### [Consultation on income shifting - closes 28 February 2008](#)

Contribute to the consultation on draft legislation to prevent a tax advantage being gained through income shifting. Details are available on the HM Treasury website.

### [Guidance on how to contact HMRC](#)

Straightforward advice on the different ways you can contact us, including Agent priority lines.

### [Hear November's HMRC podcasts](#)

Dave Hartnett, HMRC Acting Chairman, responds to more Agents' questions.

Clare Merrills explains why it's important for people receiving tax credits to tell us when their circumstances change.

Ellie King talks about the help available from HMRC to people starting a new business.

### Tax

Developments and changes to legislation and allowances relating to UK tax.

### HMRC Service

Changes to services, upcoming HMRC events and guidance.

### Consultations

Details of live consultations.

## Tax

Go to other sections:

[HMRC Service](#)

[Consultations](#)

### Corporation Tax

#### [New Corporation Tax legislation](#)

The tax law rewrite project is now addressing Corporation Tax legislation.

#### [Research & Development claims - deadline of 31 March 2008](#)

Research & Development (R&D) claims for accounting periods ending before 31 March 2006 must be submitted by 31 March 2008.

#### [Changes to the enquiry window from April 2008](#)

See the latest advice on changes to the time limit within which an enquiry can be opened into a company tax return.

### Customs

#### [Imminent changes to declaration of imports and exports](#)

This JCCC Information Paper details changes made to the procedures for declarations of imports and exports from 20 January 2008.

### Individual Savings Account (ISA)

#### [Changes to ISA rules](#)

From 6 April 2008, the ISA investment allowance will be £7,200. See details of the change, including a Q&A.

### Inheritance Tax

#### [New Inheritance Tax & Trusts Newsletter](#)

View the latest edition of the newsletter, including reminders on processes and updates to procedural changes.

### Money Laundering Regulations

#### [New Money Laundering Regulations from 15 December 2007](#)

As of 15 December, all Accountancy Service Providers, Trust or Company Service Providers, Money Service Businesses and High Value Dealers must have risk-based anti-money laundering controls in place. Forms and guidance have been published to help businesses register.

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## Tax

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### PAYE

#### [Advisory Fuel Rates made easier](#)

Recently concluded proposals have simplified the way in which Advisory Fuel Rates are reviewed. New rates also take effect from 1 January 2008.

### Pensions

#### [File Pension Scheme Returns and Event Reports online by 31 January 2008](#)

View *Pensions Tax Simplification Newsletter 30* for full information, including details of the difference between the Pension Scheme Return and the SA970 Return for registered pension scheme trustees.

### Self Assessment

#### [Forms and notes for 2006/07 Self Assessment Tax Return](#)

A full list of – and links to – all associated forms and help sheets for the 2006/07 SA Return.

#### [Self Assessment: attachment to online Return](#)

Read current information on the attachment to the SA online Return facility.

### Stamp Duty Land Tax

#### [Guidance on Stamp Duty Land Tax](#)

Read about the benefits of filing Stamp Taxes online, including online delivery of the SDLT 5 revenue certificate, and an end to SDLT 8 letters requesting further information.

### VAT

#### [Guidance on completing VAT 1 registration form](#)

Help reduce delays caused by incomplete information with these tips on completing the VAT 1 registration application form.

#### [VAT registration updates](#)

View the latest application processing figures for VAT registration.

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## HMRC Service

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### Contacting HMRC

#### [Guidance on how to contact HMRC](#)

Straightforward advice on the different ways you can contact us, including Agent priority lines.

### Customs

#### [Apply for Authorised Economic Operator status online](#)

A new JCCC Information Paper on Authorised Economic Operators (AEOs) details how businesses involved in the movement of goods across international borders can apply for AEO status online.

### Online

#### [Self Assessment Online Services demonstrator](#)

Our online demonstrator takes you through the registration process for our Online Services, with a whole section dedicated to Agents.

#### [Business Economic Notes](#)

Following a review of our publication policy a decision has been made to withdraw the current Tactical & Information Packages (TIPs) from the HMRC website. Business Economic Notes (BENs) are still available online.

### Podcasts

#### [Hear November's HMRC podcasts](#)

Dave Hartnett, HMRC Acting Chairman, responds to more Agents' questions.

Clare Merrills explains why it's important for people receiving tax credits to tell us when their circumstances change.

Ellie King talks about the help available from HMRC to people starting a new business.

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## HMRC Service

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### Self Assessment

#### [Online Services Workshops - your questions answered](#)

Read the latest answers to questions posed by attendees of the recent Online Services Workshops.

#### [Find all-agency import/export information via one website](#)

The International Trade Single Window (ITSW) gives online information on importing and exporting from all the relevant Government agencies in one convenient place.

#### [Pilot to test clearances process starts January 2008](#)

From January 2008, a pilot will test new processes and guidance for clearances (currently set out in VAT Notice 700/6 and Code of Practice 10) given to business customers. Details include the sectors and regions involved.

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## Consultations

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### Disclosure of tax avoidance schemes

#### [Consultation on disclosure of tax avoidance schemes - closes 12 February 2008](#)

Contribute to the consultation on the proposed changes to the tax avoidance disclosure Regime to improve the identification of users of disclosed schemes.

### Income shifting

#### [Consultation on income shifting - closes 28 February 2008](#)

Contribute to the consultation on draft legislation to prevent a tax advantage being gained through income shifting. Details are available on the HM Treasury website.

### Tax appeals

#### [Tax appeals handling consultation open until 31 December 2007](#)

You have until 31 December to respond to the consultation document *HMRC and the taxpayer: Tax appeals against decisions made by HMRC*.

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