



HMRC are conducting a record number of Tax Investigations and compliance checks.

The Government is faced with record levels of deficit. As it works to fill a public finance black hole, it has allocated significant resource to HMRC to yield increased tax revenue by carrying out compliance checks.

We have seen an increase in the number of enquiries raised on tax returns and the tax authorities now have more powers than ever to investigate UK businesses.

What could an investigation involve?

Some investigations will involve a detailed examination of a specific item on a tax return others may extend to a full review of all individual or business affairs. HMRC has the power to inspect business documents and assets at your premises, can ask for documents and information, make unannounced inspections and go back up to six years to investigate matters.

Are you at risk of a Tax Investigation?

Yes, if you submit a tax return, HMRC may investigate you at any time.

Even if you have done nothing wrong, many Tax Investigations are conducted at random so you are still at risk of being investigated.

HMRC have been set with ambitious targets and is therefore continually investing in new technology and strategies to maximise its tax revenue.

HMRC are using a piece of highly efficient software which is accessing and trawling through your financial information right now.

The 'Connect' system is scouring vast databanks to unearth discrepancies between taxpayers and businesses, income, assets and transactions. However, sometimes they may not be correct and select the wrong targets.

Since 2008, billions of pounds worth of extra tax has been clawed back and the reach of 'Connect' is ever growing.

We are constantly vigilant and stay up to date with the latest tax advances but you are still at risk of an investigation at any time.

We offer a Tax Investigation Service which will pay for our professional fees should HMRC target you for an investigation.

Did you know?

This is HMRC's seventh consecutive year of record total tax revenues, collecting a total of £574.9 billion — £38.1 billion more than the previous year.

Our Tax Investigation Service can help to protect you if HMRC come calling

When you subscribe to our Service we are able to make a claim against our insurance policy held with Professional Fee Protection, in respect of our fees incurred (up to £100,000 per claim unless otherwise indicated) when we defend you if you are subject to any of the following events:

- A Full Enquiry
- An Aspect Enquiry
- A Business Inspection Notice
- VAT/PAYE/CIS Compliance Visit*
- VAT Dispute
- PAYE/NIC/CIS Dispute
- Employment Status Dispute
- IHT Cover**

- Gift Aid Inspection*
- Partners/Directors Cover
- Application for a Judicial Review**
- Code of Practice 8 Investigation**
- IR35 Status Check*
- IR35 Dispute
- Interventions (Informal Enquiries)*
- * The limit of indemnity for this is £2,000
- ** The limit of indemnity for this is £5,000

Main exclusions: The costs of making good any deficiencies in books, records, accounts or returns or work ordinarily capable of being done by the client; claims which originate from any matter which existed before the first period of our insurance policy except where full disclosure has been made and the increase in risk has been accepted in writing; minimum wage, student loan and tax credit enquiries; CIS gross payment status disputes; returns which have been submitted more than 90 days late; any claim involving the Civil Investigation of Fraud procedure (Code of Practice 9) or specialist investigations/fraud investigations, except where a Code of Practice 8 booklet has been issued; IHT enquiries where we have not prepared the IHT return. Full details are available on request.

Added value for subscribers

Client Legal Helpline

Unannounced HMRC visits "Out of hours" helpline now included

HMRC have the powers to make unannounced visits to any business. Sometimes these visits can be late at night. Clients who subscribe to our Tax Investigation Service will now be provided with access to a free helpline to provide you with expert advice on how to deal with this situation "there and then" should you receive an unannounced visit from HMRC.

When faced with this very real threat it is important you have the support and advice of an expert when you need it most. Our "out of hours" helpline will do this for you. It is not uncommon for HMRC to visit a business at 11.00 pm. Should this happen to you it is great to know that you will have the peace of mind of instant access to an expert to advise you accordingly.

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

When you subscribe to the Service, you will get access to the helpline which is also available to deal with common legal issues such as:

- Health and safety
- Employment and personnel
- Commercial legal matters

5 reasons why it is important to take out protection

- HMRC is actively increasing its number of Tax Investigations in order to raise more tax revenue.
- Many Tax Investigations are conducted at random so you could find yourself at the centre of a Tax Investigation at any time, even if you have done nothing wrong.
- The professional fees associated with a Tax Investigation can amount to thousands of pounds.
- 4. We know and understand your business, providing you with the best possible defence and saving you time and money in the long run.
- 5. HMRC may have you in their sights.



"If you are subject to a Tax Investigation, you will have peace of mind from our Tax Investigation Service, knowing we will act for you."

Stephen Towne

Low Cost Accounts

Contact us

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