

Update March 2010

Mitigating the 50% (and higher) rates of Tax coming into effect from 6th April 2010

If your annual income exceeds £100,000 this is very likely to affect you. Depending on your circumstances a degree of mitigation may be achieved by one or more of the following strategies:-

- Paying bonuses or dividends before 5th April 2010
- Taking reduced income in future years (in the hope tax rates will later fall)
- Making pension contributions, but take care, strict new limits apply
- Making charitable donations
- Converting income to capital (subject to HMRC anti-avoidance legislation)

Professional Fee Protection

For those of you who already subscribe to this service renewal invoices have now been issued with payment due on 1st April 2010. If you have not already done so and you would like to subscribe for this service, which in essence means that the professional costs associated with a HMRC enquiry into your own or your company's affairs are chargeable by us to our insurer rather than you, then please contact us at any time to subscribe.

Limited Companies – reduced filing deadlines

A reminder that accounts for private Limited companies must now be filed within 9 months of your year end in place of the previous 10. Plenty of time you would think but human nature does mean some Clients do run late and the penalties (fines) are now much higher. In particular the large number of Clients with a year end of 31st March must ensure records are with us promptly after the year end to ensure we can schedule the work to be done before the deadlines, thank you.

Mandatory Online Filing of VAT Returns

A reminder to any VAT registered clients, who has not received our e-mail newsletter, that if your turnover exceeds £100,000 it will be mandatory to file and pay your returns electronically from 1st April 2010. We have already contacted all Clients we believe are affected but if we have missed you and you need help please call.

Tax payments

In order to improve security over cheque payments, if you are unable to pay by alternative means, please ensure that the payee is written out in full i.e. 'HM Revenue & Customs' and not HMRC.

Gary Robinson

We are delighted to announce that Gary Robinson will become a partner of the firm in April 2010 having joined us as a graduate trainee before qualifying as a chartered accountant and becoming our audit manager.

Let's Go Green!

It remains our intention to issue updates such as this by e-mail in future to the majority of Clients (we will still send a hard copy to anyone that would prefer that format). Can you please contact us to advise or confirm your e-mail address by way of action@stewartco.co.uk

If you require any additional information or advice on the above or any other matter, then please contact the Partners and Staff of Stewart & Co. who would be delighted to offer their services to you.