

Stressful, Expensive and Time Consuming

HMRC have the power to investigate anyone that submits a tax return



Service Summary

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 a client who is subject to any of the following events:

A Full Enquiry – This is an extensive examination which considers all aspects of the self assessment tax return. It will involve a comprehensive review by HMRC of all books and records underlying the entries made on the return. It will also feature the issue of a notice under S9A/S12AC TMA 1970 or paragraph 24(1) Schedule 18 FA 1998.

An Aspect Enquiry – This is where HMRC enquires into one or more aspects of the self assessment tax return which may involve clarification of particular entries, to detailed consideration of whether those entries have been treated correctly for tax purposes. It may involve a check on the records upon which the particular entries were based. It will also feature the issue of a notice under S9A/S12AC TMA 1970 or paragraph 24(1) Schedule 18 FA 1998.

A Business Inspection Notice – This is where HMRC exercise their power to request entry to a person's business premises and inspect the business premises, assets, goods and documents. It will feature the approval of an "Authorised Officer" of Revenue & Customs and the issue of an Inspection Notice for a short notice or unannounced visit or where the proposed inspection has been approved by the First Tier Tribunal. The notice will be issued under Schedule 36 paragraph 12(2) FA 2008.

VAT/PAYE/CIS Compliance Visit – This is where HMRC wish to carry out a routine PAYE/VAT/CIS Compliance Visit where it is considered that professional representation is necessary and the matter cannot be dealt with by the client alone. The limit of indemnity for this is £2,000.

VAT Dispute – This is a challenge by HMRC to the accuracy or completeness of returns submitted. It will feature a disagreement over both the way in which VAT has been operated and over the amount of VAT due.

PAYE/NIC/CIS Dispute – This is a challenge by HMRC to the accuracy or completeness of returns submitted in accordance with Pay As You Earn/CIS Regulations. It will feature a disagreement over both the way in which PAYE/CIS has been operated and over the amount of PAYE/NIC due.

Employment Status Dispute – Where HMRC state that an individual previously classed as self-employed should have been subject to PAYE.

IHT Cover – This relates to an estate or trust where our involvement is considered necessary following the submission of an IHT return which has been wholly prepared by us. The limit of indemnity for this is £5,000.

Gift Aid Inspections – Where a registered charity operating a Gift Aid Scheme with HMRC is being reviewed. The limit of indemnity for this is £2,000.

Partners/Directors Cover – Where a partnership or limited company join we may also make a claim in the event of either an aspect or full enquiry into the personal returns of the partners and directors and their spouses and company secretaries (where we prepare the tax return). This automatic cover will not extend to rental income in excess of £50,000 per annum (before expenses) or any other business activities. We must also be the tax return agent at the time the enquiry commences.

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Application for a Judicial Review – This is an application (during the course of a valid claim under the Policy) to the Administrative Court to challenge a decision of an official where no other legal recourse is available to the applicant. The limit of indemnity for this is £5,000.

Code of Practice 8 Investigation – This is where HMRC Specialist Investigations conduct an investigation in accordance with Code of Practice 8. The limit of indemnity for this is £5,000.

IR35 Status Check – This is where HMRC write asking if it has been considered whether the client falls within the scope of IR35. The limit of indemnity for this is £2,000 per claim.

IR35 Dispute – This is where HMRC states a client should be subject to the IR35 legislation following a PAYE Compliance Visit or the issue of a notice under paragraph 24(1) Schedule 18 FA 1998. It will feature a disagreement over whether this legislation applies.

Interventions (Informal Enquiries) – This is where HMRC issue a routine letter or telephone call with a view to obtaining clarification on particular points on a self assessment tax return without the issue of a statutory notice and not dealt with or excluded under any other section of this policy. The limit of indemnity for this is £2,000.

The Main Exclusions in our service are as follows:

- » 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.

Full details available on request.

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

Subscribers 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

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