
Fee Protection provides a solution to new HMRC tactics and powers

The budget 2009 was the Government's chance to authorise and announce the new powers available to HMRC, and their new tactic to 'come down hard**' on non-complying tax returns.

Faced with a £23 billion shortfall in tax receipts as the economy slides deeper into recession, HMRC have stepped up investigations to try to pull back lost revenue.

Simple mistakes in tax returns, big changes in income or expenses from last year or big purchases risk triggering an inquiry by Revenue investigators.

Buy-to-let property investors, higher rate taxpayers, savers with offshore or foreign accounts and the self-employed are most at risk of facing the new penalties imposed by HMRC.

And tax experts warned that an increasingly desperate Revenue would drag more innocent taxpayers into lengthy investigations.**

No matter how careful your bookkeeping or how diligent we are, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) may still choose you for one of their random investigations, enquiries or disputes. Anyone who completes a tax return can be selected and HMRC doesn't even have to give a reason.

With the consequences and penalties associated with HMRC enquires worsening (HMRC are now naming and shaming tax evaders***), we believe that having the peace of mind that all our professional fees are covered is essential.

We understand that during this economic climate, you are thinking about your bottom line, but we believe that insuring against the worst eventuality makes good business sense. And with our fees covered, we can focus our time and effort entirely on your investigation.

That's why we recommend all our clients sign up to our CCH Premier Protection Scheme.

What does CCH Premier Protection offer?

We have chosen CCH Premier Protection because of the wide range of cover it provides. Not only does it cover HMRC Full and Aspect enquiries, but also any intervention in writing by HMRC, including VAT and Employer Compliance reviews.

What is covered?

The equivalent of up to £100,000 of professional costs per incident resulting from HMRC interventions, investigations and/or disputes.

Benefits

No excesses - Premier Protection will cover your case no matter how small, and up to £100,000 of our fees

The security of knowing that we can dedicate all the time and resources we need to represent you - and you won't have to worry about the extra cost

The knowledge that you're dealing with us, your own accountants, rather than a stranger who doesn't know you or your affairs.

Peace of mind - our scheme has been set up for us by CCH Fee Protection, the UK market leader in fee protection, with over 20 years' experience.

Did you know..?

- HMRC knows that one third of taxpayers are not fully complying with their obligations each year
- HMRC has recently established specialist teams to provide a tailored approach to certain sectors of the Self Assessment population
- The Government has included a clause in the Home Office Serious Crime Bill to extend surveillance powers so that they will now apply to matters formerly the responsibility of Inland Revenue
- We may be able to reduce your tax bill. In the 2006/2007 tax year, 152,795 fixed penalties were dropped on appeal****.

* HMRC departmental report July 2008

** The Times January 10th 2009 (this article is available from us)

*** Daily Mail 18th April 2009

**** HM Revenue & Customs 2006-07 Accounts (12th July 2007)