

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025



NORTHFIELD GROUP

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Chartered Accountants and
Business advisors in Witney



Happy New Year from all at Northfield Accountancy & Tax Services

As we welcome in 2025 with our first newsletter of the new year, I want to start by wishing all of our clients a happy, successful and prosperous New Year on behalf of our team.

No doubt, like any year, 2025 will bring with it unique and unforeseen challenges that will require thick skin and adaptability to navigate. However, what is beyond doubt is that the support of a good knowledge network of professionals surrounding your business can help to ensure you and your teams are prepared for the challenges ahead, have plans in place to mitigate potential threats, and can identify opportunities to grow your business and personal wealth.

As always, we encourage you to contact us for advice and guidance whenever needed over the next 12 months, as we strive to make the most of the year ahead for you and your business.

Darren Thomas

Darren J. Thomas FCA
Managing Director

IN THIS EDITION

The latest tax news impacting you and your business

A reminder for those selling on platforms like ebay and Air BnB about new tax reporting requirements

Check your eligibility for business rate relief... you could save your business £000s

Key tax reporting dates for your diary for Q1 2025

Oxfordshire commerce updates for local business owners and taxpayers

TAX UPDATES

HMRC contacts self-employed delivery drivers

Individuals who worked as delivery drivers in 2023/24 and were not paid through pay as you earn should consider registering for self assessment if they have not already done so.

The letters and emails sent by HMRC explain that the individual should complete a tax return for 2023/24 if they had self employment income for the year of £1,000 or more. HMRC's online tool can be used to check if a tax return is required.

Don't respond to agent services text message, warns ICAEW

HMRC has confirmed that a text message from "TaxGateway" asking the recipient to click on a link and confirm details of their agent services is fraudulent.

The text message should not be confused with an earlier campaign in which HMRC asked agents to provide details of their agent codes.

If you receive any text messages that you are not expecting, which appear to be from HMRC and make reference to agents services, please contact us to check authenticity before actioning any instructions in the messages.

JHMRC nudges taxpayers to declare property income and gains

In its latest one-to-many campaign, HMRC is writing to taxpayers it suspects of failing to declare taxable income from property lettings and/or a taxable profit on the sale of a property.

If the taxpayer has income and/or gains to declare, they are asked to contact HMRC by calling the number given in the letter or by using HMRC's online service. This should be done within 30 days of the date of the letter.

If the taxpayer believes that they do not have anything to declare, they are asked to call or email HMRC using the contact details provided in the letter. Again, this should be done within 30 days of the date of the letter. HMRC says that it will open a compliance check if the person fails to respond to the letter.

Sell on eBay, Etsy or Vinted or rent your home on Airbnb? Firms will now report your earnings to HMRC – so check if you need to pay tax

If you sell goods online on sites such as eBay, Etsy or Vinted, rent out your home on Airbnb, or earn extra income from providing services via platforms including Deliveroo or Uber, then these firms will soon start passing on information about you to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). This means it's vital to check if you need to declare your income through self-assessment and possibly pay tax on it.

So-called "digital platforms" now have to collect extra information about sellers, including – crucially – how many sales they've made and how much income they've generated.

The platforms will have to start automatically sharing this information with HMRC by 31 January 2025 – the first lot of data-sharing will cover the 2024 calendar year, which is why it's worth getting on top of it now.

If all you're doing is selling goods online, firms will ONLY pass on data to HMRC automatically if you're selling 30 or more items a year OR have total earnings over the equivalent of €2,000 (currently around £1,700).

It's important to note that the rules around who pays tax on earnings made from digital platforms have NOT changed. If you didn't owe any tax on these earnings before, and you continue to use these platforms the same way, you won't have to start paying tax on them now.

What has changed is that HMRC will be able to find out what people are making on digital platforms more easily, so now is a good time to check if you owe tax or if you may do so for future earnings.

If the total amount you earn via a platform in a tax year is £1,000 or above, you may need to tell HMRC and pay tax on this.

Please contact us if you believe this applies to you, and we will be happy to advise based on your specific circumstances.

Is your eligible business claiming business rate relief?

At the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, the Chancellor announced that eligible ratepayers will receive 75% relief on their business rates bills for the year 2024/25 up to a maximum cash cap of £110,000.

Small business rate relief

Many businesses with rateable values below £12,000 will pay nothing. Those with rateable values between £12,001 and £14,999 will receive relief on a sliding scale. Businesses with a rateable value below £51,000 will benefit from having their charge calculated using the small business rate multiplier.

Local Newspaper Relief

The government has introduced a £1,500 business rates discount for office space occupied by local newspapers, up to a maximum of one discount per local newspaper title and per heritable property, for 2 years from 1 April 2017. The discount is subject to state aid levels.

This relief has now been extended up to 31 March 2025.

Rate relief for rural businesses

Certain types of business in rural settlements with a population below 3,000 may qualify for mandatory rural rate relief. To qualify the property must be occupied and be the only:

- general store or post office with a rateable value of less than £8,500;
- public house or petrol filling station with a rateable value of less than £12,500; or
- a food shop with a rateable value of less than £8,500

Charity and registered Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) relief

Charities and registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs are entitled to 80 per cent relief where the property is occupied by the charity or club and is wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes or as a registered community amateur sports club. The council has discretion to give further relief on the remaining bill.

To register as a CASC visit the HM Revenues and Customs website or call 0845 302 0203.

Tax Calendar Q1 2025: Key Dates

19th January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIS return: payments made to subcontractors in the month to 5 January 2025
31st January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline for online Self Assessment tax returns for 2023/24 tax year• Deadline for paying tax bill for tax year ending 5 April 2023/24• Company accounts filing deadline for year end of 30 April 2024• Deadline to amend a 2022/23 tax return.• Corporation Tax payment deadline for company year ends of 30 April 2024• Corporation Tax return deadline for company year ends of 31 January 2024
7th February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline for filing VAT returns for Q4 2024 for company's who report VAT on a calendar-quarter basis
19th February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIS return: payments made to subcontractors in the month to 5 February 2025
28th February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporation Tax payment deadline for company year ends of 31 May 2024• Corporation Tax return deadline for company year ends of 28 February 2024• Company accounts filing deadline for year end of 31 May 2024
1st March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory fuel rates for company car drivers: new rates published
19th March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIS return: payments made to subcontractors in the month to 5 March 2025
31st March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline to amend returns and pay any outstanding tax for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024• SDLT: temporary residential rates of SDLT introduced by previous government in 2022 withdrawn• Corporation Tax payment deadline for company year ends of 30 June 2024• Corporation Tax return deadline for company year ends of 31 March 2024• Company accounts filing deadline for year end of 30 June 2024

Council Tax set to rise across Oxfordshire

Households across Oxfordshire are set to be hit with a nearly 5% increase in Council Tax for the 2024/25 tax year.

The government limits the amount that councils can increase Council Tax by without holding a local referendum. For 2024/25 the referendum limit is 3%. The government also allows councils with adult social care responsibilities to raise an adult social care precept to help relieve funding pressures, capped at 2%.


Oxfordshire County Council have voted in favour of increasing Council Tax for the upcoming tax year by the maximum allowed 4.99%.

Households in Council Tax band D will see their annual bill rise to £1,820.56 (£1,734.03 in 2023/24), whilst higher value properties in the top band H will be paying £3,641.12 (£3,468.06 in 2023/24).

Oxford named one of the best places in the UK for start-ups

Oxford has been named as one of the best places in the UK for start-ups by a new study. The city ranked seventh on the list, which was compiled by Accu Components. The study aimed to highlight the differences between UK cities in terms of their suitability for start-ups.

Oxford scored 44.13, benefitting from a relatively high number of new economy firms and start-ups per 10,000 residents. The city also has 55 high-growth businesses per 10,000 residents, ranking first nationwide, and an economic inactivity rate of 18.1 per cent.



For further detail on any of the updates contained in this newsletter, or to find out more about any of the services we offer, please contact us any time.

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