

Business bites and tax tips
from iC accountancy



Making the leap to self employment?

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Demystifying crowd funding

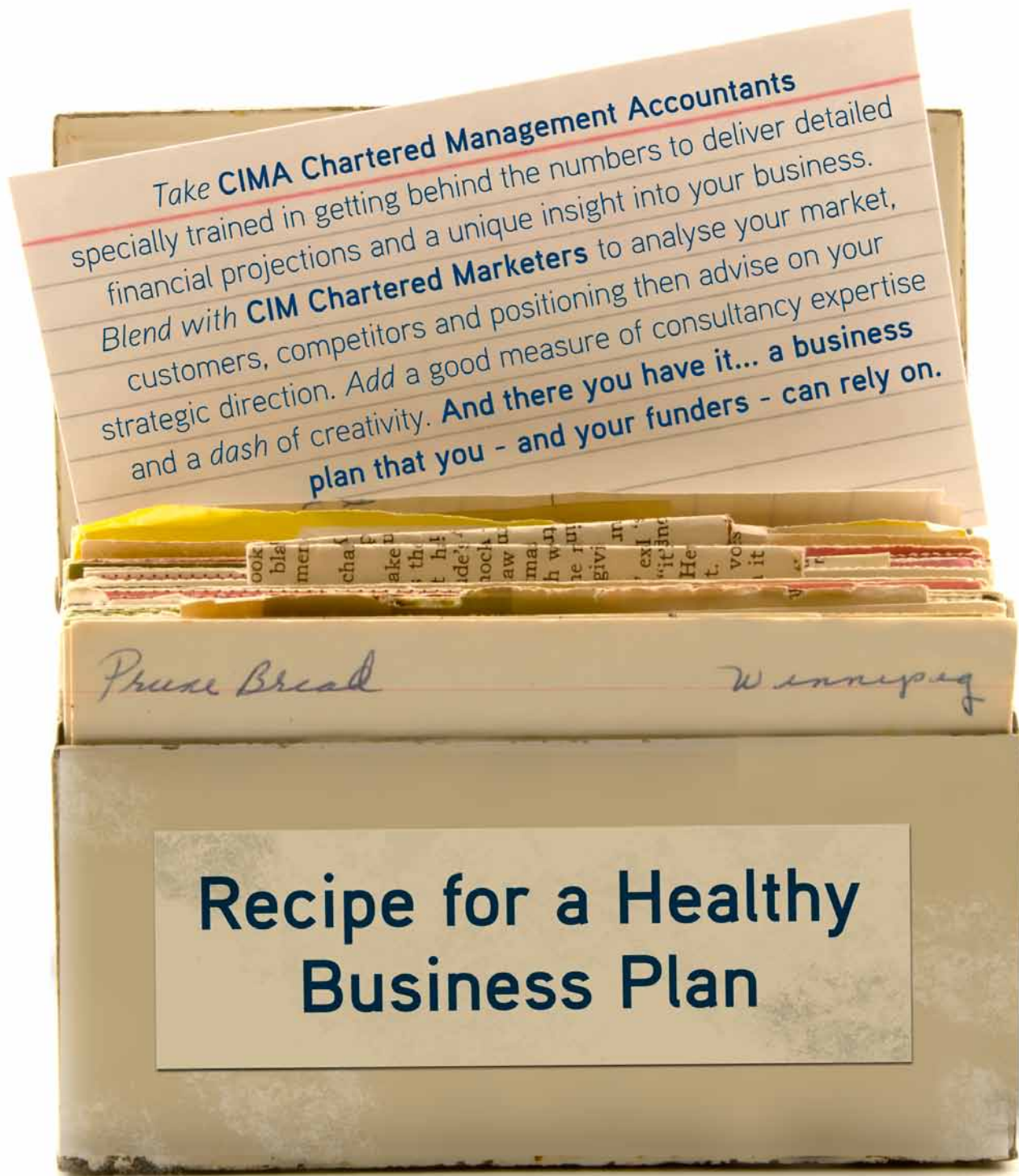
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Selected for tax investigation?

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iC... blending all the right ingredients to help you start, grow or stabilise your business.



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Editor's note...

There is no doubt that 2012 has been a rather interesting year so far – we've seen bank base rates held at record breaking lows, some fascinating U-turns on policy as our Government shows it's genuinely listening to the populace, plus – through the Jubilee and Olympic celebrations – we've all embraced our heritage and acknowledged our pride in being in *#businessinbritain*. As a nation, we may be small in size, but we are mighty in economic

presence, and I'm sure we will all rise to the business challenges ahead.

We've been making some changes ourselves – clients and colleagues will note our new website plus we've been rather vocal in the virtual world with our regular Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn updates. It's fantastic to have the opportunity to get in touch with our clients and contacts on news, views

and advice in such an accessible way, and we look forward to hearing back from you!

In this iN Sight we've tackled a number of topical themes and advised on issues that seem to matter most to our clients – but if you have queries or would like to suggest themes for the Spring edition, please email mail@icaccountancy.co.uk

Warm regards

Lisa Entwistle-Evans

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and Twitter [@icaccountancy](https://twitter.com/icaccountancy)



Principals



Damian Evans
BSc (Hons), FCMA,
CGMA, Chartered
Management Accountant



Lisa Entwistle-Evans
MA, DipM, MCIM
Chartered Marketer

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Tax our business brain...

Q&A

What is the flat rate VAT scheme, and am I eligible?

The flat rate VAT scheme is an incentive set up by HMRC to help simplify VAT accounting for certain organisations. Essentially, you charge VAT on your invoices at the current rate of 20% but only repay HM Revenue and Customs at an agreed lower rate - rates vary depending on your profession/trade, and there is currently a 1% discount in your first year of VAT registration. As an example, an IT contractor will pay VAT at the rate in the first year of just 13.5% of the gross amount and 14.5% in subsequent years.

To be eligible, your expected first year ex VAT turnover must not exceed £150k, and once you join the scheme you can remain in it until your total business income is more than £230k. Generally you cannot reclaim any of the VAT that you pay on purchases, although you may be able to claim back the VAT on capital assets worth more than £2k. Visit the VAT section of iC's website for more.

Send in your business questions to the iC team at mail@icaccountancy.co.uk – if we publish your question, we will draft a personal response and also donate £50 to the charity of your choice.

I've heard that a debenture is the safest way to invest in a company - what does this mean?

A debenture (sometimes called a floating charge) is essentially a document that acknowledges a debt between a lender and borrower, and is commonly used by companies as a medium - to long-term instrument to borrow money. The debenture is a secured loan to the company that gives the lender some precedence before other creditors should the company later be wound up. If you as a business owner file a debenture for any Directors loans made to the company you afford yourself considerable protection against any later insolvency of your company. The debenture must be set up before the loan is made and signed on behalf of the company, and once created, it **MUST** be reported to Companies House within 21 days of the effective date - failure to do so will render the Debenture void.

KEY DEADLINES THIS QUARTER

Oct:

- 1st: Increase in National Minimum wage to £6.19 p/hour for workers over 21; also due date for Corporation Tax for the year ended 31 Dec 2011
- 19th: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by cheque
- 22nd: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by BACS
- 31st: Last date for filing paper 2011/12 self assessments

Nov:

- 1st: Due date for Corporation Tax for the year ended 31 Jan 2012
- 2nd: Deadline for return of P46
- 19th: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by cheque
- 22nd: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by BACS

Top Picks

Our round up of the latest reads, hottest apps and best sites to help you manage your business...

App-solute genius



For cashflow support...DebtDroid app is a handy little app which helps you keep track of who has borrowed money and exactly how much they owe, with an alarm notification feature which reminds when money is due to be paid back. It's free to download and works on all handsets and platforms. Visit getjar.com

For managing receipts....BizExpense

makes it easier to track spending and keep expense records by allowing you to scan receipts on the go - so you don't have to worry about retrieving crumpled bits of paper from trouser pockets and gloveboxes or tax your tired brain by trying to recall every time you've laid out cash on your business! BizExpense stores receipts by categories and also has a search feature, plus you can email expense reports or export results to an Excel file. Costs £1.49 and is compatible with iPhone, iPod touch and iPad from App Store.



Bookshelf

2012 is apparently the year of reading - so here's what's on iC's bookshelf this Autumn...

You've heard the saying, "It's never too late"? Well, apparently, it's also "never too early!" A new book by brothers Adam and Matthew Toren shows how children can be introduced

to basic business principles and the rewards of entrepreneurship. "Kidpreneurs: Young Entrepreneurs With Big Ideas!" outlines in a child friendly layout how you can give kids valuable experience in starting, managing, and growing a successful business venture, enhance their decision-making skills and have fun as they learn.

Webwatch

Steve Jones, of Penarth based IT service provider, Burning Flag ICT, recommends HouseCall by Trend Micro which is a free online virus and spyware scan. Says Steve

"There are a quite a few on the market, some of them chargeable, but we recommend HouseCall to our clients because of its simplicity, reliability... and the fact that its free to use". Verify your business systems at

<http://housecall.trendmicro.com> or for tailored advice visit www.bfict.co.uk



Dec:

- 1st: Due date for Corporation Tax for the year ended 28 Feb 2012
- 19th: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by cheque
- 22nd: Deadline for PAYE/NICS deductions by BACS
- 25th: Wishing all of our clients a very merry Christmas!

WISE WORDS

"Business is more exciting than any game" Lord Beaverbrook

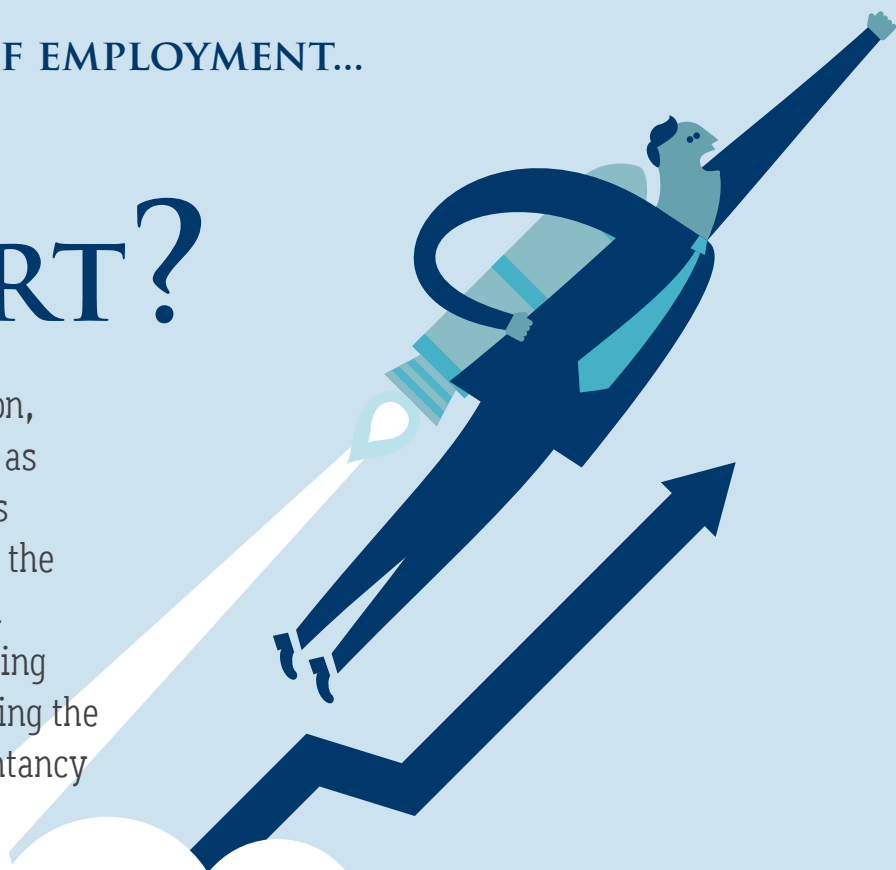
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MAKING THE LEAP TO SELF EMPLOYMENT...

WHERE DO I START?

With unemployment at over 2.6million, many are turning to self employment as a means to make ends meet, either as freelancers and consultants or taking the first steps towards starting their own business. Going it alone can be daunting enough, but if you're thinking of making the leap, then there's a number of accountancy actions you need to take:

- **Structure your new venture wisely** – sole trader, partnership or limited company? Depending on what business you are in, and what your estimated first year turnover is, it may be more prudent for you to operate as a limited company. Talk to us about your plans, and we can help you define the optimum structure to minimise tax and maximise profitability, and if necessary, can form a limited company on your behalf and undertake all incorporation activities with Companies House and HMRC;
- **Tell the tax man** – whether you decide to operate as a sole trader or as a Director of your own limited company, you'll need to register for self employment so that HMRC is aware of your employment status. You will then receive notification to complete a self assessment tax return (if you started self employment after 6th April this year, then you will need to complete your first online return by 31st Jan 2014 at the latest);
- **To VAT register or not to VAT register** – if your turnover hits the current threshold of £77,000 then you must VAT register. However, in some cases, there are benefits to smaller businesses being VAT registered, and in the case of contractors and consultants, you may well benefit from the flat rate VAT scheme. Talk to our team for tailored advice;
- **Organise your paperwork** - having a system, however simple, means that you will be all set when it's time to prepare your books. Visit the iC website for tips on smart record keeping;
- **Open a business bank account** – if you are a sole trader, there is technically no reason why you cannot receive payments into your personal bank account, but you'll certainly find it easier to manage your business finances if you do have a separate account. If you are operating as a limited company, then you are obliged under the Companies Act to open a business bank account, as you and your company are separate legal entities. Shop around as some banks offer better deals for start-ups. You may also want to set up a separate tax account so that you can budget accordingly for your tax bills, as and when you receive payments – setting aside around 25% of income is a good indicator to cover your liabilities;
- **Submit your tax return in good time** – the deadline for online submissions may be January 31st each year, but submitting earlier means that you know your obligations well in advance and can budget accordingly;
- **Consider funding sources** – if you need external finance to start the venture, then you will certainly need a business plan and forecast to assure the bank or funder that your venture is sound;



Quick 6: SIX TOP TIPS TO HELP WITH REAL ACCOUNTANCY ISSUES

Cash is King! Collecting cash can be one of the biggest headaches for small business owners - here are 6 tips to shorten the cycle:

1 Send your invoices pronto- after a project is completed, it's all too easy to move on to the next one and forget to invoice, but a customer has no obligation to pay until the invoice is received.

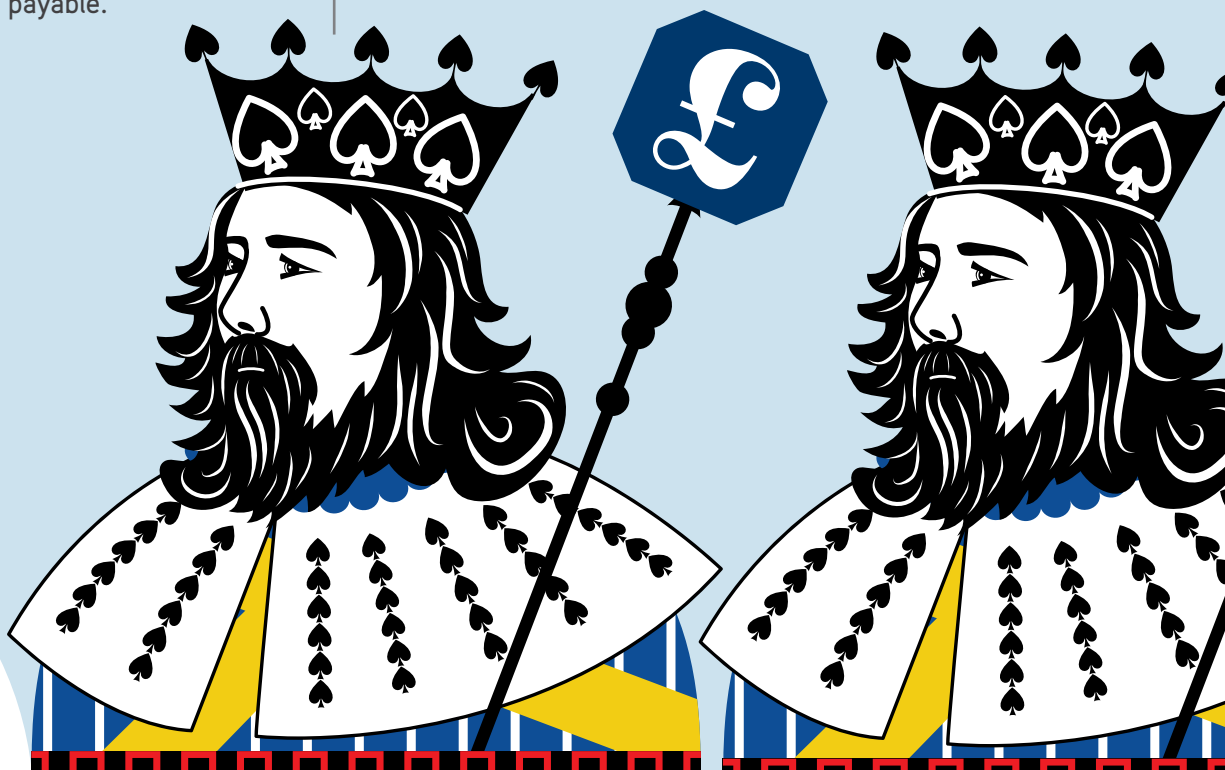
2 Spell it out - explain all the elements of the product or service required so the client fully understands what they are paying for and there is less opportunity for payment delaying queries.

3 Split the difference - consider splitting a large bill into a number of smaller invoices - a client with cash flow issues is more likely to perceive a large balance as a problem and therefore sit on it, whereas smaller more manageable amounts are likely to be paid more quickly.

4 Highlight terms - confirm terms upon engagement but also reiterate them on your invoice so that the payment deadline is clear, also pointing out any late payment action such as interest and charges payable.

5 Consider early payment discounts - of course you want to be paid in full for work you have undertaken, but if it comes to the cash being in your pocket rather than the clients, then you may want to offer a 1% discount for payment within 10 days, for example. The earlier you get paid, the less risk of something happening to your customer, plus from a working capital perspective, it lowers your cost of borrowing (important nowadays when business finance is harder to access).

6 Be friendly and polite - if the person paying the bill is not your immediate client, then be sure to build a relationship with them too - plus research has shown that messages such as "thank you for your business" can increase the chances of your invoice being higher on the list of payables.



Seeds of growth

Accessing finance to grow your business is no picnic in this current season of economic drought. Lisa Entwistle-Evans looks at how small businesses can give themselves the best chance of sourcing funding.

“Banks are inherently more risk averse these days, and in order to lend, will need to be completely satisfied that your proposition is watertight and that their investment will be repaid. In the *“good old days”*, a single sheet financial forecast may have been sufficient to persuade your bank manager that you are a safe bet, but nowadays, nothing less than a detailed business plan with robust financials to support applications will make it through to the underwriter’s desk.”



Here’s some top tips to create a business case that *“sells your story”*:

- **Present your opportunity** – essentially you are selling yourself to the funders, and need to portray yourself as a viable and sound business, worthy of investment. You will need to succinctly outline where you are now, and where you want to be, outlining clearly why the funding is needed and how it will be spent.
 - **Highlight your strengths and weaknesses**, and outline how you intend to address the latter. No business is perfect but acknowledging where you have gaps, and being proactive about mitigating the risk in these areas will show how much thought you have put into your plan.
 - **Make sure the business case tells the story of the numbers** – where growth has come from to date, how you see that changing in the future and be clear on what is a certainty (i.e. a confirmed contract) and what is a possibility (potential new business you are tendering for).
 - **See the bigger picture, and discuss the wider market**– no business operates in a vacuum, and you will always to a degree be at the mercy of external influences such as political change, economic pressures, legislative changes, etc, as well as the actions of your competitors and customers. For this reason, make sure your business case and forecast include sensitivity analysis, so that funders can look at the best and worst case scenarios.
 - **Outline in detail how funding will be spent** e.g. marketing, staffing, etc, and link each directly to the benefits e.g. a targeted advertising campaign costing £x is expected to generate £y in incremental income during the financial year 2012/13
 - **Ascertain whether the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) applies to you** – EFG is a UK government-guaranteed lending scheme intended to help smaller viable businesses who are unable to provide the security that a bank would typically require. Essentially, the government bears 75% of the risk of default on each eligible individual loan between £1000 and £1m, and banks are far more likely to lend if they know you are government backed.
 - **Ask an impartial third party to read your draft plan and figures** – ask them if they understand what you are about, what you are trying to achieve, and exactly why you require funding. Get them to fire pertinent questions at you, and make sure you have the answers to hand before you arrange the meeting with the bank.
- Above all, have confidence in your plan and don’t be disheartened if the first answer is no – different banks have different lending policies, and if bank funding fails, do remember that there are other options such as equity investors Finance Wales.

DEMYSTIFYING...



Crowd funding is essentially an alternative means of raising finance for a business. Unlike business angels or venture capitalists where one person or organisation typically takes a larger stake in a business, crowd funding seeks a “crowd” of investors, each of whom take a small share by contributing towards an online funding target. The advantage is that this is usually simpler and quicker to collectively raise small contributions towards your finance total than proving your business opportunity to one major backer. It also means that you have a ready made network of ambassadors for your product or service – it’s in their interests to promote your brand to their contacts – plus it

gives friends and family a tax efficient means of investing in you. The Enterprise Investment Scheme, anyone investing between £500 and £1m in a qualifying business will have the added incentive of becoming eligible for income tax relief at 30% of the amount invested. Kickstarter, the highly successful New York based crowd funding website for creative industries, will launch on this side of the pond in Autumn and is one to watch for those with an innovative idea to launch – also take a look at CrowdCube.com



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Selected for investigation? Here's how to keep calm and carry on

HMRC are looking to achieve a 2010 spending review target of raising an extra £7bn in tax by 2015. This inevitably means that they are turning their attention to investigations, undertaking detailed reviews, either on a random basis, or because they have reason to believe that the taxpayer has underpaid. Investigations can be intrusive, time-consuming and stressful, and if it is discovered that tax has been underpaid, the taxpayer will have to pay what is due plus any penalty or interest accrued. If you have received notification that your affairs are to be investigated, here are some top tips to help you survive the experience with sanity intact.

- **It sounds obvious, but tell the taxman the truth** – investigators have huge resources at their disposal, and have the powers to scrutinize numerous aspects of an individual's affairs, as well as the authority to speak to third parties. The best advice is to disclose everything, and this will be seen far more favourably when the investigating officer is considering any penalties you may have to swallow as part of your settlement.
- **Take sound advice** – again, common sense, but taking tax tips from colleagues at the golf club will inevitably cost you in the long term. Entrust your affairs to a reputable tax advisor, who understands how HMRC operates and the jargon they use – not only will this free up your time, but emotionally, you'll feel as if a weight has been lifted.

- **Do your homework** – prepare well for any meetings and make sure you are able to answer the investigators questions as failure to do so could be deemed as "lack of co-operation".
- **Play by the rules** - if you have underpaid tax, and have reached a settlement, adhere to the payment plan, and above all, don't let it happen again – HMRC does not take kindly to serial offenders.

Good to know...

You can purchase Tax Investigations insurance, sometimes referred to as Professional Expenses Insurance which will cover all fees in the event of an investigation. Premiums are typically around £75 per annum for SMEs. Speak to the iC office for details.



Top Tax Tip: Mitigating Capital Gains

Here's a quick tip to mitigate your capital gains liability in future years. Place jointly owned property in a deed of trust with the lower rate tax payer having 99% interest in income and the higher rate tax payer having 1% interest in income. This ensures any income is taxed almost entirely at the lowest marginal rate but any capital gains are split between two beneficiaries, maximising both individuals' capital gains tax allowances in the year of sale.

Private Clients

Minimising tax whilst maintaining morality

A number of so-called tax “scams” have hit the headlines lately; whilst in many cases the schemes have been perfectly legal, the morality of hiding income from HM’s coffers has been questioned, and several high profile figures including comedian Jimmy Carr have made rather public u-turns and paid their dues.

But surely sensible tax planning is a prudent part of wealth management? We look at a tax efficient tactic that will maximise personal assets without courting controversy...

Says Damian Evans of iC: *“The Enterprise Investment Schemes (EIS) was set up to help certain small, higher risk unquoted trading companies to raise capital by providing a range of tax relief for individuals who invest in qualifying shares in these companies. The EIS of course promotes enterprise by helping companies to secure funding, but the personal tax benefits to investors are actually little known”*

Home is where the art is...

Independent Financial Advisor, Philip Salmon Vaughan of Abacus Assurance Financial Services, shares tips on art for private investment ...and for personal fulfilment.

Art can of course be a potential nest egg, but do make sure you buy a piece because you like it, and not because it’s your wished-for path to fortune – just like property, art is more of a long term investment, and the likelihood of a piece appreciating in value is typically commensurate with its purchase price – so, unless of course you happen to discover the “next big thing”, the more expensive the piece in the first place, the more valuable it may well be if you hang on to it.

Essentially with art you should pay as much as you can afford for an artist that you like – a known artist to be safe rather than a student (unless you are feeling philanthropic because you’ll never make a profit unless you happen upon a budding Kevin Synnott!). The “medium” is a big factor in the purchase price of a piece. If you can afford an oil by a known artist, always go for that – but if the budget won’t stretch to an oil, buy a watercolour, and if you can’t afford a watercolour, buy a drawing or a print. From an investors

Tax avoidance represents nearly 14% of the UK tax gap, according to the Treasury

“An EIS approved by HMRC allows the investor to claim 30% income tax relief in the year in which the investment was made – or you can carry this back to the previous tax year. Any capital gains realised upon disposal of shares are exempt from Capital Gains Tax, provided that they have been held for at least 3 years and that none of the income tax has been withdrawn. So if you invest £100k you receive relief on £30k, plus any losses can be offset against personal income tax, and if you sell 3 years later for £120k, you pay no tax on the £20k profit”

Says Mark Ryan of Professional Solutions IFA: *“As with any investment scheme, there are a number of conditions and associated management charges, but the EIS remains one of the soundest opportunities with those who have cash to invest”*



perspective, I’ve had first hand experience of a Kyffin Williams oil increase tenfold in value in ten years; a Williams drawing that doubled its worth over the same decade, but a print by the same artist that simply did not move in price.

If you’re buying to sell on in the future, do think about the content of the work, so that it has appeal to a broader base of buyers – for example, don’t buy a religious painting unless you intend keeping it (unless of course its an Old Master!!)

Do also read up on your subject – there are some great online resources which will give you an indication of the current market for a certain artist, so that when you go to a gallery, you’ll know if a piece represents good value. In other words, as with all investments, you really have to do your homework!

News & views from Villa House...

iC out and about...

We had a great day at the Penarth Food Festival this summer, and are pleased to be acting as Treasurer to its organisers Gwyrddio Penarth Greening (GPG) for a second year. GPG is a Penarth based charity which aims to draw attention to the challenges of climate change and in doing so, explores practical ways of reducing carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Some of the projects that the group has fostered include community orchards, local food festivals, apple days, plotshares and the excellent Shop In Penarth scheme which supports the town's retail trade via an innovative shopper's discount card scheme. Visit www.gpgpenarth.co.uk for more information.



CANCER RESEARCH UK



iC's Lisa laced up her running shoes in July and took part in Race for Life 10k, finishing 14th out of around 1700 runners with a time of 49 minutes! *"It was a personal challenge, but also a great way to raise money for our office charity, Cancer Research, which is a cause very close to my heart"*. We'd like to thank all of our clients and colleagues who sponsored Lise and helped her raise £515.



Work, rest and play...

Business owners invest not only money but passion into their ventures – which is why diving under the duvet at the first sign of a sniffle is anathema to many. Recent research by Clydesdale Bank indicates that almost 60% of small business owners UK wide haven't taken a single sick day in 3 years, working around 15 million extra days a year than average UK worker, who – according to the CBI – takes 6 sick days per year.

A rather more worrying statistic is the fact that small business owners forgo around 50 million days holiday a year, with many feeling that they simply cannot justify temporarily closing the office doors and switching off. As admirable as that may be, don't forget that investing time in yourself in terms of mental and physical wellbeing can be as important as investing cash in your business...do remember the old adage *"all work, and no play makes Jack a dull boy..."* and make sure you occasionally recharge your batteries to stay at the top of your game.

"A man should never neglect his family for business." - Walt Disney

HMRC scam email warning

HMRC is warning people not to fall foul of fake emails claiming that recipients are due a tax rebate – these emails include a link to a clone of HMRC's website where recipients are asked to supply credit card or bank details. HMRC state that they will never contact taxpayers via email regarding rebate details and advise recipients to forward any scam emails to them at phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk ...and then delete them.



Opinion counts...

We want to keep up to date on the biggest difficulties facing clients and as such we regularly gather opinion on business matters, our question this issue is: **“Have you found cash collection more difficult in 2012?”**

Visit www.icaccountancy.co.uk/survey to have your say.

Take the red tape challenge

We're big fans of the Government's "Red Tape Challenge", an initiative which seeks to reduce the burden of administration which often seems to hamper UK business and the wider society as a whole. The website www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk offers the opportunity for all to tell Government which regulations (of which there are an astonishing 21,000) are working and which are not; what should be scrapped, what should be saved and what should be simplified. Every few weeks, the site publishes regulations affecting one specific sector or industry and invites comment. Ministers then have 3 months to determine which regulations to keep and why, the default presumption being that burdensome regulations will disappear unless a very good case can be made to the contrary. So if you've been frustrated by red tape, whether in a business, personal or volunteering context, then jump online and have your say!



Take a Letter

Earlier this year, two of the world's most respected accounting bodies, CIMA, the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, joined forces with AICPA, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, to create the CGMA designation. The new designation demonstrates management accounting expertise, determination and commitment to achieving sustainable business success, and is set to advance the global discipline of management accounting.

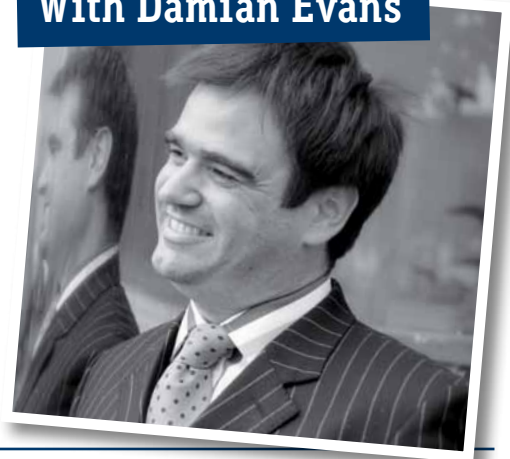
CIMA

PRACTISING CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Business Advisory... With Damian Evans

Cost Conscious

When improving profitability is on the corporate agenda, it's easy to become over-focussed on the top line i.e. how do we increase turnover? But profitability has another rather important bedfellow – cost reduction. Damian Evans, FCMA, looks at ways to streamline operations, without compromising service levels.



STREAMLINED AND SAVVY

Says Damian: "Quite often when we speak with businesses about how they operate, we find that processes are followed because *"we've always done it this way"*. But when you look into the detail of the business, you realise that there may be more efficient ways of doing things that can save time, and ultimately money.

Business process mapping is a simple way to involve staff in the review process – essentially you walk through an operations process – be it sales, purchasing, accounts, etc - from beginning to end with all departments involved, challenging and questioning as you go, for example, *"why do you have to enter the order details twice?, or "why does it take 3 days to send the invoice post shipping?"* You often find that there is duplication of effort in some areas, and lack of control in others and with a few simple changes, the business can become much more streamlined. It's also a useful tool to review where service levels can be improved – for example, if staff time is spent answering emails and calls regarding order status, perhaps a system could be implemented which emails the customer once an order is shipped with a tracking number.

CUT COSTS, NOT CORNERS

Look at both direct and indirect costs – direct costs are essentially your cost of goods sold, and there may be opportunities to renegotiate better terms or prices with key suppliers. However, it's often the indirect costs that present the most opportunities for savings, the smaller less obvious costs that can really add up, such as utilities, telecoms, stationery, insurance, travel and entertainment, postage, advertising, catering and cleaning.

Any review of expenditure requires a focussed approach – at iC we start with a detailed spend analysis, where we collate, clean, classify and analyse all spend data. The results are often surprising and from this, you can create a detailed task list for cost reduction such as diarising when insurance policies expire so that you can shop around for better deals or re-issuing expense policies so that employees have limits on purchasing stationery or client entertainment. Do remember though, that as part of any cost reduction initiative, your aim is to maintain, if not improve, service levels – make sure potential new suppliers can offer the same service, otherwise you may find that customers become dissatisfied – which in the long run could cost you more"



Client Corner

Carpenters Arms

The charming Carpenters Arms in Coed-Y-Paen, Monmouthshire, near the beautiful Llandegveth reservoir, was derelict when owner Matt Hiscox took over in 2004. It's now now a thriving pub, restaurant and events venue - the heart of the local community.

Matt, catering wasn't an early ambition of yours - how did you become an "accidental publican?"

At 18, I had intended to go to Imperial College in London to study engineering but I decided to take a gap year and worked in a local pub. I learnt on the job from an excellent chef, and when the opportunity arose to purchase a share in the place, I jumped at the chance. So at the age of 19, I found myself as partner in a public house, a role I happily did for 4 years. Whilst looking for my next challenge, I learnt about the Carpenters. It wasn't exactly love at first sight - it had been derelict for 7 months, there was mould on the bar and the rather hazardous electrics only stayed on momentarily but it's certainly been a labour of love renovating and restoring its charm and original character. I love the fact that it is steeped in history - a former smithy, the building is circa 250 years old. In fact, the place is reputed to be haunted by the blacksmiths daughter (although that's possibly a rumour circulated by the barmaids!) The Carpenters was very much a local pub in its former day, but I feel we have evolved to be food led and it's now a reknowned restaurant offering freshly cooked fine country dining using delicious locally sourced ingredients.

What have been the highs and lows over the past 8 years?

I think one of the high points was securing the funding to build the main restaurant and 200 capacity function room and realise the plans I had always had for the place. But that also sparked one of the greatest challenges - project managing a major renovation whilst running a thriving pub and restaurant was not exactly stress-free! But there have been many happy times - it always feels like you are amongst friends. From impromptu tractor racing on the grounds, to serving a company of chaps in Roman dress pulling a customised cart, to witnessing a 90 year old lady drink Jagermeister shots through a giant Welsh dragon ice sculpture... we've certainly seen a few sights and met some amazing guests!!

Any business tips or lessons learnt that you can share with us?

I think its critical to love what you do, and work hard at what you love...which in itself creates a good reputation. We're a little bit tucked away here in Coed-y-Paen and so I'd like to think its our warm welcome which draws our regular clientele from miles around to visit our little country haven.

So, what's next for the Carpenters Arms?

Some of the nicest comments we receive are from happy wedding guests (we're licensed for civil ceremonies) and it's lovely to be part of such a special day - so we're aiming to host more wedding parties. In the longer term, I'd like to move on to a new challenge - but it would have to be a special opportunity to take me away from the Carpenters...when I look over the lovely grounds, full of my late Grampa Jack's glorious flowers and shrubs, I have a sentimental attachment to the old place that you can't really put a price on...

Visit www.thecarpenterscoedypaen.co.uk



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