



Barlow Andrews

Chartered Accountants - Create | Retain | Realise

Hello taxpayer, can I have some more?

Here are some key facts:

- H M Revenue & Customs randomly selects 6,000 returns each tax year for a full enquiry
- The number of self assessment enquiries in the year ended 5 April 2007 was approximately 161,000
- During one year, enquiries were opened at the rate of one every 30 seconds of the working day
- In 2007, the Times newspaper stated that Inspectors were being offered bonuses for meeting their enquiry targets
- Staff levels at the Special Civil Investigations are expected to increase by 2,000
- H M Revenue & Customs are seeking to obtain information about offshore bank holders from 25 financial institutions.

The last Budget also introduced measures that will give Tax Inspectors more powers to enquire into our businesses and business related transactions. Some of the new measures to come into force include:

- Ability to look at records before the Tax return is submitted
- Easier procedures to obtain information from third parties
- Ability to enter business premises including private premises with business use with only 24 hours' notice
- Ability to request production of formal documents that should have been prepared at the time but were not.

With increased powers, it is now more important that you know what your rights are so that you are not incurring unnecessary time and costs to deal with the enquiry.

If you would like to discuss your enquiry on a purely confidential basis or to obtain a second opinion on the progress of your enquiry, please contact Mark Sheen at mrcs@barlow-andrews.co.uk or Tim Lwin at tl@barlow-andrews.co.uk.