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With Christmas fast approaching and the beginning of a New Year on the horizon, 2023 has been a bumpy ride to say the least.

We look forward to enjoying a short Christmas break but with the self-assessment tax return deadline just around the corner, we will be working hard to make sure everything is submitted on time by 31 January 2024. Please remember we are only a phone call or email away if you need any help or advice.

May we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a successful 2023 - *please note our office opening times in our Christmas message below.*

Our best regards  
Directors and Staff at Morris Crocker

**morris crocker**  
chartered accountants  
business and tax advisers

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## **Your key reminders this month**

**[Claim tax relief for job expenses](#)**

**[Reporting early payments due to Christmas](#)**

**[Reclaiming tax on directors' loans](#)**

**[Marriage allowance](#)**

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### **Claim tax relief for job expenses**

If you are employed and incur deductible expenses in doing your job, you can claim tax relief for those expenses. You can claim in various ways, but if the claim is made by post, you must do so via the P87 form. The form is due to be updated in February 2024 to include a nomination section which will enable you to opt for the repayment to be issued to a third party, such as your agent.

From the 26 February 2024 all claims will need to be made on the new P87 form, as any claims made after this date on the old form will be rejected. Claims must be £2,500 or less if you are claiming by post. If the amount is higher than £2,500, the claim can be made via your self-assessment tax return.

Further guidance and how to claim can be found [here](#)

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## Reporting early payments due to Christmas

If you plan to pay your staff early over the Christmas period, the contractual payment date should be used when reporting the payment to HMRC. You should submit the Full Payment Submission (FPS) on or before the contractual pay date.

This relieves you of the need to send the FPS on or before the actual payment date when the employee is paid early and will also help protect any employee's universal credit eligibility as it avoids double monthly earnings in one assessment period.

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## Reclaiming tax on directors' loans

If a loan to a director or another participator in a close company remains outstanding at the corporation tax due date the company must pay tax on the loan. This is temporary tax that is repaid after the loan has been repaid, released, or written off. You can claim this repayment nine months and one day from the end of the accounting period in which the loan was repaid, released, or written off.

Further guidance can be found [here](#)

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## Marriage Allowance

Could the marriage allowance benefit you? This allowance would allow one spouse or civil partner to transfer 10% of their personal allowance to their partner, providing that the recipient doesn't pay tax at the higher rate. Couples could save up to £252 in tax for 2023/24 if they were to make use of this allowance.

HMRC now have a calculator that couples can use to see if they would benefit from the marriage allowance, they have also issued a press release highlighting the benefits of the marriage allowance.

To see if this would benefit you please click [here](#)

To read HMRC's press release please click [here](#)

[Our latest blog posts](#)

## Submit your Tax Return through PAYE

Although the deadline for submitting your 2022/23 tax return online is midnight on 31 January 2024, if you owe tax and you want to have it collected through PAYE via an adjustment to your tax code, you will need to file your tax return by the earlier date of 30 December 2023.

[Read more](#)

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## Beware property PM partnerships involving hybrid arrangements

HMRC have recently published a spotlight warning landlords to avoid schemes offering hybrid property arrangements that purport to save tax. HMRC's view is that the scheme does not work and landlords who are tempted by the advertised advantages might find themselves out of pocket

[Read more](#)

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## Divorce and the former marital home

On separation or divorce, it is common for one spouse to move out of the family home and for the other spouse to continue to live there. Where the couple have children, the spouse remaining in the family home may do so until the youngest child reaches the age of 18, at which point the family home is sold and the proceeds shared. Alternatively, the departing spouse may transfer their interest in the family house to the remaining spouse as part of a divorce settlement, or the marital home may be sold to a third party.

[Read more](#)

### Our latest advice guides

**Tax and your work Christmas party** – How to reward your team in a tax-efficient way. As 2023 draws to a close, many employers will be looking for ways to reward their teams' hard work. But how can you do that in a tax-efficient way that benefits both you and your employees?

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**Self-assessment** – What to watch for when navigating this important financial obligation. The UK self-assessment system has its quirks and nuances, and understanding how to stay compliant is crucial to a smooth and stress-free income tax process.

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