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Hello again and welcome to our latest newsletter.

Do get in touch if there's anything you'd like to talk to us about.

Making Tax Digital is Live

July already! So, for some of us, MTD is now live.

If you have a turnover of £85,000 or above and are on the normal quarterly stagger, this will apply to any vat quarter ending from June 30th onwards.

Please would you email us to advise when the next stagger end is. We need to know June, July or August, and only so we know who to do this with and when.

We're trying to go through the first MTD return with everyone to make it less stressful because, after all, we're old hands at it now, having submitted two real life returns of our own.

If you haven't already done so and June was the end of your stagger, now is the time to register.

Go to www.gov.uk and look for sign up to making tax digital. You already have compatible software but you will also need your government gateway ID and password, a mobile phone (for security, they will send you a code to be entered when signing in to make the return and you'll have to input that code as part of the signing in process), and possibly some other details dependent on the type of entity of the firm.

HMRC should acknowledge your registration within 72 hours, and you will not be able to submit a return until you have that confirmation. We understand it's a proactive acknowledgement and you will need to respond to it.

Before doing a submission, you will need to talk to your IT people and ask them to allow incoming traffic into port 3017 on the pc you intend submitting the returns on. We understand some reluctance to do this as it can be deemed a security risk, but it could be opened just prior to you doing the return and then closed afterwards, or possibly just allowed for a set time limit on one day each quarter.

Let us know when all the above is in place and you're ready to submit. We'll install a small update, again only on the one pc, and go through the submission with you.

Programme Updates

We have been forced to make a policy decision regarding our updates.

We regret that we are having some problems with clients who pay late. Sometimes very late. Sometimes its because of a genuine reason — on holiday, it got overlooked, the invoice went into junk mail etc. We can live with that, we're human too.

But it is apparent that a few of our clients are just plain reluctant to pay. If it's because they don't want our service, they simply have to let us know. We are fine about it; we quite understand that business needs change. But we're very upfront about when we will invoice (the first working day of each month) and when we would like the payment to reach us (by the fifteenth day of the same month). And about the fact that the programme has an expiry date, as shown on the login page.

And we're always happy to talk to our clients.

Our charges are very low. We manage to charge so little because we try to avoid any unnecessary expenses like postage, stationery, excess staff and so on.

As previously stated, we endeavour to have a long -term business relationship with your firm, and our input towards that is that we have committed to be as helpful and friendly as we can, to provide a good service, and to keep our prices down.

Your assistance in this will help to keep our costs low, and low costs to us means very reasonable charges to you. However, those firms who don't pay on time, or sometimes even after we've sent reminders, increase our admin costs to the point where we're going to struggle to maintain our low prices.

We have therefore decided that we will prioritise updating firms whose account with us is up to date. But we'll let users know that we are prioritising others.

Hope you understand this. After all, you're in business too.

Blue Tuesday Prices

Our firm is now three years old, and we have held our prices at the same level since day one.

As per our licence agreement, we will not increase our current prices by more than 10% over the RPI annually and will not in any event increase the price during the first twelve months of the agreement with any client.

Reluctantly, we are going to increase our subscription fees to future new clients. This will affect new clients from now on, but not firms who have already booked their installations or who have already had quotes from us.

Our new monthly usage rates will be:

1 user £40 per user per practice (payable in advance)

2 to 5 users £33 per user per practice (payable in advance)

6 to 10 users £27 per user per practice (payable in advance)

11 or more users £22 per user per practice (payable in advance)

Shared users £20 per computer using a shared licence (payable in

advance)

All prices will be subject to VAT at the prevailing rate, and we will continue to offer a 10% discount for firms who wish to pay annually.

The shared user concept is a way of having Blue Tuesday on more computers than you request licences for, and it works on the basis that no more than a fixed number of people will be using the programme at any one time. It's ideal for firms who may have staff who only occasionally need to log into Blue Tuesday and therefore can't really justify the costs of a full licence but would find it convenient to look at a ledger, post time, set up a new client/matter or perhaps to produce documents when other admin staff don't need the system.

We are aware that many of you recommend our services to other firms, and are very grateful to you for doing so. Please continue to do so, but perhaps don't mention what you're paying in case we quote them for more.

The one-user cost remains as it was three years ago.

Angela

Angela would like to thank all who have enquired if she had a good holiday.

For those who haven't yet asked, the rain let up long enough for the hail and strong winds to make their mark, but she enjoyed having time off!