

Time to file your tax return

If you haven't already filed your self-assessment tax return, why don't you use the festive period to be proactive rather than putting it off until the New Year?

For online tax returns there is just over two months left until the 31 January 2023 deadline. After this date, the automatic late filing penalty of £100 applies. Also, on 31 January 2023, you will need to settle any outstanding tax owed for 2021-22 and make a payment on account for 2022-23 (if applicable).

The 2021-22 tax year will still have tax implications to take into consideration for many, due to the schemes brought in by the government to help businesses through the pandemic. For example, more than 2.9 million people claimed at least one Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) payment up to 5 April 2022. These grants are taxable and should be declared on tax returns for the 2021 to 2022 tax year.

So, with more time to spare it is possible to properly process your tax information and review your tax position prior to filing, rather than it being quickly rushed, which may in turn cause mistakes.

You will also have a better idea of what you owe, and it will give you a little more time to gather funds. Even if you think you will have trouble paying the bill you should still file your return on time. Fines for late payment are a lot lower than fines for late filing. A further bonus is that if you

have overpaid tax, you will get the money back sooner. Advice and support are available on GOV.UK.



If you use an accountant, it is also far more beneficial to hand in your tax records as soon as possible, to give them more time to research and plan. Hopefully then no opportunities are missed, and you will know in advance what your tax payments are likely to be for the following year.

By filing now, you can sit back and enjoy Christmas and the New Year without worrying about tax paperwork!

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