

## eNews - March 2015

This month we report on the latest round of penalties issued by the Pensions Regulator and end of year filing and payment reminders for employers. We also include details of how to claim the new Marriage Allowance. Please contact us if you would like any further information on these or any other issues.

[Fines for those who fail to comply with Pensions Auto Enrolment](#)

[Registration opens for new married couples tax break](#)

[Charities Digital Service launched](#)

[PAYE end of year - pay on time reminder](#)

[HMRC concession for late RTI returns and payments](#)

[Advisory fuel rates for company cars](#)

[Car benefits online](#)



### Fines for those who fail to comply with Pensions Auto Enrolment

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) has issued 166 Fixed Penalty Notices of £400 to employers who failed to meet their obligations in the last quarter of 2014.

The number of employers approaching the date when they must confirm that they have complied with new workplace pensions duties (known as a declaration of compliance) is now beginning to rise significantly as Auto enrolment is rolled out across all employers. In future months, TPR expects to see more employers who, despite the message to prepare early, leave it too late or do not comply at all.

The Pensions Regulator's Director of automatic enrolment, Charles Counsell, said,

*'My message to all employers is that failing to declare within five months of your staging date means you risk being fined, which is why we recommend you start your automatic enrolment planning and preparation 12 months before staging.'*

*It appears some medium employers waited for a prompt from the regulator before completing their automatic enrolment duties. Employers must complete all their duties including making their declaration of compliance to The Pensions Regulator.'*

*Experience to date also shows that employers should begin gathering the information they need to complete their declaration of compliance well in advance of their deadline.*

If you would like help or advice with auto enrolment please get in touch.

Internet link: [Press release](#)

### **BUT WE'RE READY!!**

From only £28 per month for full payroll processing including all Auto Enrolment requirements, with NO SET UP COSTS. We are ready for Auto Enrolment.

# Charles Stringer & Co

Yes, we are ready for Auto Enrolment. We offer a full year's payroll processing including all of your Auto Enrolment requirements for £28.00 per month including VAT with NO set up costs. That is just a £10 per month increase for existing clients who have their payroll requirements dealt with by us.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that we are now ready to undertake full auto enrolment compliance, for all of our clients for a price that is less than a lot of our competitors charge for payroll processing alone.

Included in this price is full payroll processing for up to 4 employees, with additional employees chargeable at a maximum of £5 per employee per payroll. (We would welcome the opportunity to quote for any larger payrolls that we do not already take responsibility for, as we believe there are further savings to be made from economies of scale)

This includes all correspondence with employees, and pension funds.

You may be interested to hear that we were originally quoted a set-up fee of £500 per employer, and further investigation only seemed to increase the potential costs with our next offering at over £1,000 per employer, followed swiftly by official estimates of £8,900 in time and fees for an employer with up to 4 employees. We then made it our mission to minimise this frankly opportunistic costing, to save the health of our current clients against such scary figures.

Gareth, with his wealth of experience in this area having successfully auto enrolled over 300 employees in an extremely high staff turnover industry, has been able to tailor this experience to smaller businesses ranging from the micro employer, through small employers, up to medium sized employers.

Whether you are looking simply:

- To conform to the legislation and meet the minimum requirements, or
- to embrace the changes to pensions legislation, and maximise this opportunity, to treat it as a medium term savings plan, where up to 25% can be taken as a tax free lump sum from the age of 55, we have secured a fixed price solution.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to call, but be assured that we will be in contact with all of our known employers no later than nine months before your staging date to formalise client-specific plans.

## Registration opens for new married couples tax break

HMRC have announced that registration for the new Marriage Allowance for married couples and those in civil partnerships is now open.

From 6 April 2015 certain married couples and civil partners may be eligible for a new Transferable Tax Allowance referred to by the Government as the Marriage Allowance. The allowance will enable eligible spouses and civil partners to transfer a fixed amount of their personal allowance to their spouse. The option to transfer is not available to unmarried couples.

The option to transfer will be available to couples where neither pays tax at the higher or additional rate. If eligible, one partner will be able to transfer 10% of their personal allowance to the other partner which means £1,060 for the 2015/16 tax year which could save them tax of up to £212 a year.

Couples can [register](#) their interest to receive the Allowance.

# Charles Stringer & Co

The government estimates that more than four million married couples and 15,000 civil partnerships will be eligible for the tax break.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said:

*'We made a promise to introduce a recognition of marriage into our tax system – and now we're delivering on that promise.*

*This includes updating the tax system so that it recognises marriage and civil partnerships.*

*Our new Marriage Allowance means saving £212 on your tax bill couldn't be simpler or more straightforward.'*

From April, HMRC will contact those who have already registered for the Marriage Allowance to apply. People can register at any point in the tax year and still receive the full benefit of the allowance. It is also possible to claim the allowance after the end of the tax year where claimants are unsure if they will qualify.

Applying online is simple. One person in a couple will apply online to transfer the allowance to their spouse or civil partner, and HMRC will tell the recipient about the change to their Pay As You Earn (PAYE) tax code.

Internet link: [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

## Charities Digital Service launched

HMRC have launched an online registration service for charities.

Until now charities have been required to complete a paper form (ChA1). Approximately 15,500 new charities are registered each year.

Chief digital and information officer at HMRC, Mike Dearnley, said:

*'We are completely changing the way we work with our customers – including charities. Our new digital services are straightforward, easy to use and convenient. The charities service minimises the risk of making mistakes, so applications are less likely to be returned to the organisation.'*

All registration must now be completed online. Please contact us if you would like help with a charity.

Internet link: [Charities Digital](#)

## PAYE end of year - pay on time reminder

HMRC are reminding employers that with the end of the 2014/15 tax year approaching they will soon need to make their final 2014/15 PAYE (RTI) submission.

For most employers, the final submission will be their final Full Payment Submission (FPS) which advises HMRC about the very last employee payments for 2014/15 and this needs to be made on or before 5 April 2015. Details of how to make the final submission can be found on the GOV.UK website using the link below. Alternatively if you would like help with your payroll please do get in touch.

HMRC are also advising employers to take extra care as the deadline for electronic payment of 22nd March falls on a Sunday.

HMRC are advising that employers should ensure their payment reaches HMRC on time, which means that cleared funds should be in HMRC's account by the 20th unless employers are able to arrange a Faster Payment. For more details about paying HMRC electronically visit [Pay PAYE tax](#).

Internet link: [GOV payroll annual reporting Employer Bulletin](#)

## HMRC concession for late RTI returns and payments

HMRC have announced that employers will not incur penalties for delays of up to three days in filing RTI returns. There is no change to the filing deadlines and employers should generally file their full payment submissions (FPS) on or before each payment date unless a concession applies.

HMRC are also advising any employer that has received an in-year late filing penalty for the period 6 October 2014 to 5 January 2015 and was 3 days late or less, to appeal online by completing the [Other](#) box and add [Return](#) filed within 3 days.

In addition, to prevent unnecessary penalties being issued, HMRC will be closing around 15,000 PAYE schemes next month that have not made a PAYE report since April 2013 and which appear to have ceased.

HMRC will write to the affected schemes to tell them about the planned closure and what to do if they are, or should be, operating PAYE.

Employers with fewer than 50 employees are reminded that PAYE late filing penalties will apply to them from 6 March.

Internet link: [News](#)

## Advisory fuel rates for company cars

New company car advisory fuel rates have been published which took effect from 1 March 2015. Due to the reduction in fuel prices many rates have reduced this quarter between two and three pence so please take care to update your expenses payments. However, the guidance states: *'You can use the previous rates for up to one month from the date the new rates apply'*. The rates only apply to employees using a company car.

The advisory fuel rates for journeys undertaken on or after 1 March 2015 are:

Engine size	Petrol
1400cc or less	11p
1401 cc - 2000cc	13p
Over 2000cc	20p
Engine size	LPG
1400cc or less	8p
1401 cc - 2000cc	10p
Over 2000cc	14p
Engine size	Diesel
1600cc or less	9p
1601cc - 2000cc	11p
Over 2000cc	14p

Other points to be aware of about the advisory fuel rates:

# *Charles Stringer & Co*

- “ Employers do not need a dispensation to use these rates. Employees driving employer provided cars are not entitled to use these rates to claim tax relief if employers reimburse them at lower rates. Such claims should be based on the actual costs incurred.
- “ The advisory rates are not binding where an employer can demonstrate that the cost of business travel in employer provided cars is higher than the guideline mileage rates. The higher cost would need to be agreed with HMRC under a dispensation.

If you would like to discuss your car policy, please contact us.

**Internet link:** [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

## **Car benefits online**

As part of HMRC's digitisation campaign, an online trial allows company car drivers to make changes to car and fuel benefits that will affect their tax codes.

It is important to ensure the benefits included in your tax code are as accurate as possible or large under or overpayments of tax may arise. For information on how to amend your tax code visit the link below. Alternatively if you would like help checking your tax code please do get in touch.

**Internet link:** [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

E-mail: [office@charlesstringerandco.co.uk](mailto:office@charlesstringerandco.co.uk) Skype: chas01fca Tel: 01455 617890 FAX: 0870 622 1891  
[www.charlesstringer.tel](http://www.charlesstringer.tel) 17 FRITH WAY HINCKLEY LE10 0JE Incorporated in England Wales number 09185210

For information of users: This material is published for the information of clients. It provides only an overview of the regulations in force at the date of publication, and no action should be taken without consulting the detailed legislation or seeking professional advice. Therefore, no responsibility for loss occasioned by any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material can be accepted by the authors or the company.