

PRESS RELEASE

7th January 2016

For immediate release

Deaf self-employed people can get free advice in British Sign Language with completing their tax return, thanks to a new service from RAD and HMRC

Royal Association for Deaf people and HMRC's innovative new service makes tax information and advice more accessible to Deaf people.

The January 31st deadline for submitting online Self Assessment forms is fast approaching. Deaf people can visit www.royaldeaftax.org.uk to access a British Sign Language (BSL) tax advisor by webcam or contact HMRC direct via Video Interpreting Service.

One customer explains how she received tax advice via the Video Interpreting Service:

"Using Skype and RAD webcam to relay the conversation I had with the tax office - it was great. Thank you so much for setting up and I hope many more Deaf BSL Users will use the link."

For Self Assessment information in BSL, click here.

To arrange an appointment, visit <u>www.royaldeaftax.org.uk</u> and click on BOOK AN APPOINTMENT.

Visitors to <u>www.royaldeaftax.org.uk</u> can also find information in British Sign Language (BSL) about tax credits, PAYE and child benefit.

Dr Jan Sheldon, Chief Executive for RAD said, "We work with Deaf people to make as many mainstream services as possible accessible to Deaf people. The website we have developed with HMRC has been enormously beneficial. For the first time ever, Deaf people have access to information about tax in their first language".

For more information visit www.royaldeaftax.org.uk or contact taxadvice@royaldeaf.org.uk

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Note to Editors

The Royal Association for Deaf people promotes equality for Deaf people through the provision of accessible services in British Sign Language including advice, advocacy and social care. For more information visit www.royaldeaf.org.uk