

## Do you need to complete a Self-Assessment Tax Return?

With a couple of months to go for the deadline to complete a paper tax return – **31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**, should you be asking yourself this question?

If you file online you can relax (slightly) as you have until the **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020**. There are many different reasons why you may need to complete a self-assessment tax return. If you are in receipt of any of the following then you would need to be reporting this income to HMRC.

You will need to file a tax return if:

- Your income from self-employment was more than £1,000 - anything under this amount falls within the new 'trading allowance'.
- You are renting out a property and your rental income is more than £1000 – anything under this falls within the property allowance.
- You are a company director (except for directors of a not-for-profit organisation and you did not receive any pay or benefits, like a company car or medical insurance).
- You are a trustee of a trust or registered pension scheme or the executor of an estate.
- You are living abroad and have a UK income - this includes non-UK resident landlords.
- You have income from abroad such as interest, dividends of more than £300, income from property.
- You have taxable foreign income such as pensions, even if tax has been deducted in the country of origin.

Or if you receive:

- Income from savings and investments of more than £10,000.
- Dividend income of more than £10,000.
- Other 'untaxed income' of more than £2,500. This could be tips or commission. If the income is less than £2,500 a year you might not have to complete a tax return but it is still your responsibility to report such income by [contacting HMRC](#).
- A taxable annual income of more than £100,000.
- Regular annual income from a trust or settlement, or income from the estate of a deceased person and further tax is due.
- State pension which is more than your personal allowance and is your only source of income, except in cases where your pension commenced on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- Income over £50,000 (or your partner's income was over this amount) and one of you claimed child benefit.
- [Capital Gains](#) where:
  - You have given away or sold assets worth £46,800 or more for 2018/19; or
  - You have a capital loss but your gains net of any losses are more than the annual exemption for 2018/19 of £11,700; or
  - You have no losses to claim but your gains are more than the annual exemption for 2018/19 of £11,700; or
  - You need to make any other capital gains tax claim or election for the year.

The logo features the words "TAX HELP" in a bold, sans-serif font. A large, black checkmark is positioned over the letter "X" in "TAX". Below "TAX HELP" is the phrase "FOR OLDER PEOPLE" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

## TAX HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

You may also need to file a tax return if you:

- Need to [claim for work expenses](#) which total £2,500 or more.
- Want to claim tax relief for donations made to charity or private pension contributions.
- Need to prove you are self-employed, for example to claim tax free childcare.
- Want to make voluntary class 2 national insurance payments to qualify for benefits.
- Have an outstanding P800 tax bill that has not been paid either through your PAYE income tax code or by a voluntary payment.

Although we have tried to cover the most common SA criteria, HMRC may want you to complete a return for something not listed. If you are still not sure if you need to file a tax return, please take a look at the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website or you can phone HMRC on 0300 200 3310. If you have an income under £20,000 and are 60 or over you can call us for guidance, details below.

If you are not already registered for Self-Assessment then you can either register online or call HMRC.

If HMRC have requested the completion of a tax return but you do not believe that you meet any of the self-assessment criteria, you can phone HMRC and ask for the tax return to be cancelled. If HMRC agrees, this will mean that you no longer have to file a return.

This article is by Tax Help for Older People registered charity no 1102276 (Scotland no SC045819), offering free tax advice to older people on incomes below £20,000 a year. The Helpline number is 01308 488066.