

Tax Centre of Excellence celebrates first birthday

1st April 2017 marked one year since the launch of the Tax Centre of Excellence, in this time we have had over 5,000 views on our [website](#) from over 1,000 users, responded to nearly 450 queries from more than 80 different public sector bodies.



What's new?

T **Retrospective claims for VAT bad debt relief**
HMRC have published [Revenue and Customers Brief 1 \(2017\)](#), setting out their position on claims for historical bad debt relief- claims relating to supplies prior to 1st April 1989 will be refused, whilst claims relating to supplies between 1st April 1989 and 19th March 1997 will be paid, provided sufficient evidence is given to show the debts occurred and VAT relief has not yet been claimed.

C **Changes to salary sacrifice schemes**
From 6th April, benefits provided under 'optional remuneration arrangements' (OPRAs) are valued at the higher of cash given up and the taxable value of the benefit under normal rules. Transitional provisions apply for arrangements entered into before 6 April 2017- valuation rules continuing as previously until the earlier of variation, renewal or modification, and 6th April 2018, or 6th April 2021 for certain cars, living accommodation and school fees. More information, including apportionment and details of transitioning is available [here](#).

O **COS Heading 26- Hire of vehicles, including repair and maintenance**
Further guidance has been received from HMRC with regards to the removal of the 30 day stipulation. They state that "whilst the guidance in its present form does not preclude ad hoc agreements if they include clauses for actual repair and maintenance during the period of hire, we do not believe that there are likely to be many", as they believe most agreements only refer to the car being supplied to a satisfactory standard.

E **Off Payroll working and student loans**
Fee payers for off payroll workers will not be required to deduct Student Loan payments, even if any Student Loan Notices (SL1) are received, as deductions will be made via the individual's Self Assessment return. Refer to the 'exceptions' section [here](#). If you missed last month's Bulletin, HMRC has now released supporting guidance for the 'Check my Employment Status' tool, providing additional clarity/consistency. Read the full guidance [here](#).

Actions

- Once more, we welcome feedback on this month's Bulletin and if there are any topics that you would like to see covered in the future. Email us [here](#)
- We still welcome hearing from you about what you would like to get out of the Tax Centre of Excellence, please get in touch with your usual contact, [here](#)
- Don't forget to regularly visit our Tax Centre of Excellence [website](#) which contains lots of other useful guidance and documentation.
- Previous Bulletins are now available on the Tax Centre of Excellence website [here](#).