

Joint Statement by HMRC and Companies House on a common approach to the online filing of accounts

Lord Carter of Coles published his review of HMRC's Online Services in March 2006.

One of the recommendations contained in his review was that HMRC and Companies House should work together to provide a joint filing facility. The recommendations in Lord Carter's report were accepted by Government and since then HMRC and Companies House have been working closely towards this aim. This statement describes the basis for a joint approach for HMRC and Companies House in the development of services for the online filing of accounts.

In support of these recommendations, Companies House has encouraged online filing wherever possible. Indeed, its current electronic filing service for dormant and abbreviated accounts was the first Government service in the world to use an eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) format for accounts filing and it has been operating successfully for a number of years.

Also contained within the review were recommendations that all companies should be required to file their Company Tax Returns online, using XBRL, and make payments electronically for returns due after 31 March 2011. HMRC has now decided that statutory accounts and tax computations showing the derivation from those accounts of the entries in the Company Tax Return must be delivered electronically using Inline XBRL (iXBRL) format. Inline XBRL will allow companies and agents to submit their accounts and tax computations to HMRC with **all** branding, stylistic and terminological preferences in the human-readable form. The use of iXBRL will be **mandatory** when filing accounts with HMRC as part of a Company Tax Return for all accounts prepared under the Companies Act 2006. Companies with less complex tax affairs will be able to use HMRC's software, provided free on their website, which will allow those companies to fully meet their HMRC filing obligations after mandation.

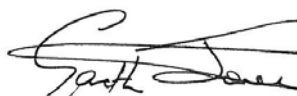
HMRC and Companies House are fully committed to aligning their filing services as closely and as quickly as possible. We both recognise that we deal with similar customer groups in respect of statutory accounts submission. We want to minimise the impact on software developers, companies and agents by enabling systems at both HMRC and Companies House to receive accounts in iXBRL. Format alignment of both organisations' services using iXBRL will avoid the complexities and associated expense of producing substantially similar information in different formats. This alignment will also allow HMRC and Companies House to work together towards creating an environment using iXBRL that will enable companies to make a single online transmission over the internet for a Company Tax Return (including attachments) and accounts for the public record. Further information on this will be provided in later statements.

In addition, HMRC and Companies House will base their development of their online filing services on the appropriate taxonomies published by XBRL UK Ltd (UKGAAP or IFRS, as adopted by the EU).

HMRC will introduce their iXBRL service in November 2009. Companies House will add iXBRL software filing for unaudited full accounts to their service by the summer of 2010 and then continue to develop their iXBRL capability for all the main accounts types they receive by summer 2011.



**Director, Business Customer Unit
HM Revenue and Customs**



**Chief Executive
Companies House**