

Main Changes to Guidance notes for ss17/18 reporting for year 2011/12

Data encryption

This is at the forefront of what we do. The security section, number 8, has been revised to remove the ongoing situation information. This latest information is provided by the Return bulletins we publish as and when necessary. We are publishing one at the same time as this note. We cannot insist that data transfers are encrypted but the Data Protection Act puts the responsibility for security firmly on the sender of the data until it is received at its intended destination.

Deeply Discounted Securities

We have the power to ask for more information than we currently do about this type of investment. We are not using that power this year. If, in the future, we choose to increase the amount of information we want you to put on your return we will announce that widely. Until then the amount of information needed about deeply discounted securities will remain as per section 4 of the guidance notes.

“Unclaimed Assets” / “Reclaim Fund” Scheme

These accounts are currently reportable if you are paying interest and you have a reportable address. In most cases you will only have a “gone away” address. In general when accounts are transferred to the “Reclaim Fund” your reporting obligations are put into suspension. When the money is reunited with its owner any accumulated interest paid should be reported in the year in which the account is reunited. The new guidance is in paragraph 4.9 for section 17 and paragraph 4.11 in the section 18 note.

Future changes to ss17/18 TMA

The current draft Finance Bill that was released on 9 November 2010 contains proposals that will move HMRCs remaining data gathering powers from ss13-28 of TMA into a schedule of the Finance Act. For ss17/18 this is just a move in the legislation. We do not expect any substantial change in the system for ss17/18 returns nor any change in what is reportable. Rather the other data gathering powers will be brought up to the standard of guidance and customer help we provide for ss17/18. There will, however, almost certainly be a name change from “ss17/18”.