

Dear Clients & Contacts,

We hope you are safe and well and enjoying the summer.

We are trying to vary the content of these e-zines so that it is useful, relevant and practical to you, without an information overload as such. If you would like us to cover any topics please let us know.

Financial Planning :

We have noticed that some of our clients have used the last couple of weeks to get on top of some items they had been putting off or had not time to allocate to. For example in the area of a financial plan. See attached a financial plan sample and some clients have got this done which basically is a financial summary and lifetime cash flow projection, retirement summary, lifetime financial goals and projected estate summary. It's quite a useful thing to have, giving a game plan to retirement or indeed just a review of your covers.

From a legal point of view we encourage our clients to have a Will in place and an enduring power of attorney, important useful items to do a legal review, but in tandem with that, it is important to do a financial life and pension review also. We don't do this ourselves and it maybe something you can look at with your existing QFA but happy to recommend a holistic financial planning approach, helping people to make smart decisions with their money and to achieve long-term financial security. Especially at the moment, some people may be concerned, given that we are in uncertain times and it would be good to get a second opinion on your existing investment and pension policies for example.

Contactless Tax Return Service :

See attached our contactless tax return service. This is working well at the moment where you don't need to meet with us in order to get your tax return done. We are just utilising technology and can be done over the phone, by e-mail, via Zoom etc. We will resume client meetings shortly in a safe way and our offices have been upgraded and meet the health and safety requirements. Our team as always are available by phone and email.

Banking :

A lot of our clients who have bank and leasing exposures in their business have availed of a moratorium and most banks and finance companies will accommodate such payment breaks. It can also be done on the mortgage of your home. So it is good to engage early with your bank or finance company to work with them if you have experienced a drop in income etc. All these can help in terms of getting through this.

What you need to know about the Debt Warehousing Scheme.

Back in May, the Government announced legislation to "warehouse" deferred VAT and PAYE liabilities.

- The proposed scheme would effectively park these debts for a period of 12 months after a business recommences trading and apply a lower interest rate of 3% per annum on the repayment of the “warehoused” tax debts after that date.
- The scheme should automatically apply to all affected SMEs.
- Larger businesses impacted by COVID-19 and experiencing cash-flow difficulties should contact the Collector General or their local tax office.

Note that all businesses wishing to avail of this scheme must ensure that all outstanding tax returns are submitted on time.

The actual VAT and PAYE liabilities for the scheme have yet to be clarified, though. Revenue are expected to be flexible in their approach in dealing with businesses.

Also, Revenue have confirmed that the “warehoused” tax liabilities will not be taken into consideration when a business applies for a tax clearance certificate. And unless instructed by the taxpayer, Revenue will not offset any tax refunds/ repayments against the “warehoused” tax liabilities.

If you have availed of all the supports, checked your business interruption policy to see and availed of a payment break then the next step is to adapt and develop a survival and growth strategy with a cashflow forecast for the next six months. We encourage you to keep filing all your returns even if you cannot pay which will help keep your compliance up to date. For a lot of SMEs it is not about survival and getting through this.

We are here to help and support you and we understand there is a further stimulus package to be announced shortly which may help the SME sector. We have made recommendations and submitted a report to Government last month along with other groups for more supports for SMEs .We will keep you posted on this in due course.

Have a nice weekend and stay safe !