TAXbite – Off-payroll working in the private sector(IR35) after 5 April 2020 Brief overview



ICAEW TAX FACULTY
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What is affected? Client/engager (Big plc) Agency 1 Agency 2 Personal service company (T Ltd) Worker (Tom)

Disguised employment or self-employment?

- Issue: employed and self-employed pay different amounts of tax and NIC. Engagers pay employers NIC on employees pay
- Rules for determining whether a person is employed or self employed are unchanged
- · Individual worker may be engaged by a client/engager
 - directly
 - via one (or more) agency contracts
 - through a personal service company (PSC)
- Does the work look more like disguised employment than self-employment?
 - Dictates how payments made under the contract are taxed
- Tax and employment law status may differ

The rules

	Status decision maker	Tax paid by
Pre 6 April 2017	Tom/T Ltd	T Ltd
6 April 2017 to	1.Public sector client	Fee payer
5 April 2020	Client decides status	
	2.Private sector client	
	Tom/T Ltd decides status	T Ltd
6 April 2020 onwards	1.Public sector or L/M private sector	Fee payer
	Client decides status	
	2. Small private sector client	
	Tom/T Ltd decides status	T Ltd

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Receiving payments as a contractor for services delivered through a personal service company after 5 April 2020?

Know your client: 2 systems

- Public sector (all) and large/medium clients in private sector NEW RULES
- Private sector small clients, old IR35 rules still apply

In summary

- From April 2020 the operation of off-payroll working for large/medium engagers in the private sector will change to be in line with the public sector
 - Responsibility for determining employment status will move up to the end client/engager
 - The person closest to the intermediary must make payment through a payroll. ie the intermediary company will be paid net of income tax and national insurance (like an employee)
- 'Small' means small defined by s382, Companies Act 2006, 2 out of 3
 - Turnover, £10.2m
 - Balance sheet total, £5.1m
 - Employees, 50

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New rules for Public sector and L/M Private sector

- Client determines tax status of the contract on/off payroll decision
 - Issues a Status Determination Statement (SDS)
 - SDS given to person client contracts with and also directly to the worker
 - Must take reasonable care
 - May use Check Employment Status for Tax (CEST) tool
 - Must include reasons for the decision
- The SDS must be passed down the chain
 - The client is liable for tax and NIC until it tells the person it contracts with
 - Agencies will pass the SDS down the labour chain
 - Liability passes with the SDS
 - Fee-payer operates PAYE if necessary
- · Who bears cost of any Ers NIC should it become due?
 - The client, but follow the contract...

Disagreement with SDS

- Status challenge possible by
 - Worker
 - Fee-payer
- · Must give reasons
- · Will be client led
- · No involvement of HMRC
- Client has 45 days to respond

Further information

For IR35 basic rules see Off-payroll working or IR35 an overview

For a detailed consideration of the IR35 rules and practical application, see ICAEW.com/IR35

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