


Briefing

CHARITY



Generosity of tax relief leads to tighter controls

A round up of results from OSCR's operations review

Valued Assets: Reporting Heritage Assets

Online – Cash management: the difference to your funding

Integrating UK Standards with IFRS

Considering the broad proposals

In this edition

Regular readers will be aware that we have been following the proposed changes to reporting that charities will be required to make next year. Now that the consultation period has closed, Gillian Donald considers exactly what the broad proposals for the integration of UK standards with IFRS will mean for charities.

A decision by the European Courts has changed the way tax relief applies to charitable giving throughout Europe. Your charity could be missing opportunities from abroad, or may face tighter competition in the UK, Kirsty Murray examines the impact of this ruling for UK Charities.

Also in this edition, Iain Lee clarifies heritage assets and how they apply to your balance sheet, while Scott Craig provides the latest VAT updates.

Remember to go online to read the extended Charity Briefing containing advice on cash and funding & the latest pension information from Scott-Moncrieff Wealth Management.



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Accounting for charities – an update

OSCR carried out a study of 150 charities with income above £25,000 and it revealed a series of issues. For example, 41% of the Trustees' Annual Reports were graded as 'Poor', with omissions including no comment on financial performance, no reference to the governing document, no policy on investment or grant-making, lack of information on reserves and no details as to how trustees are recruited or trained.

Too many charities use template

examples of text 'cut and pasted' from other reports produced by other similar bodies and without entering sufficient tailored detail, and this is not acceptable. Standard texts are not enough – for example, SORP requires a summary of the main activity/achievements in the year covered and some indication of future plans – and OSCAR is expecting much more fulsome narratives.

One area where there has been some improvement is in the creation of risk registers, in parallel with a

reduction in the simple templating of risk policies without any real thought to the individual body's activity/exposure.

Other points highlighted were the need to have a clear reserves policy and accurate investment policy with objectives/performance included. The survey examined a considerable range of topics, and those interested are welcome to contact us at Scott-Moncrieff and we can go into detail and reference the findings to the individual charity.

These updates, together with UK GAAP and IFRS convergence and Financial Reporting Standard 30 (FRS 30) on heritage assets, mean that charitable body accounting is becoming more challenging – but with the positive background being to put them on a stronger footing.

If any trustee or board member has any question in this area, it is always better to seek early advice rather than learn what is required once it is too late. ■

A marriage of three tiers

Gillian Donald considers the broad proposals for integrating UK Standards with IFRS.

IN OUR last edition of Charity Briefing, we considered the developments affecting the next edition of the SORP and how the significant changes to the overarching framework could probably delay SORP for some time. The consultation period for the framework closed on 1st February and this article considers the broad proposals for integration of UK Standards with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

It is likely that the UK will move to a three tier system:

Tier	Definition	Requirement
1	Publicly accountable entities	Full IFRS
2	All entities that are not tier 1 or tier 3	IFRS for small and medium sized entities (SMEs)
3	Small entities with: gross income <£6.5m, gross assets <£3.26m, employees <50	Financial Reporting Requirements for Smaller Entities (FRSSE)

In **Tier one** publicly accountable entities are not intended to include charities. Tier one is intended for those entities that are listed on a stock exchange, or take deposits and/or hold assets in a fiduciary capacity for a broad range of outsiders. In other words – those that have outside investors who are not directly involved in running the business.

It is intended that tier one entities will comply with IFRS as adopted by the EU in full.

Included in **Tier two** will be all entities that don't qualify as tiers one or three. In other words they are too big to be included in tier three but don't meet the requirements of public accountability.

These will be expected to adopt the International Accounting Standards Board's IFRS for small and medium sized entities (SMEs). The IFRS for SMEs is a much reduced version of full IFRS, although still significantly longer than the current Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE).

To qualify for **Tier three** the entity must meet the Companies Act definition of small: gross income not exceeding £6.5m, gross assets not exceeding £3.26m and number of employees not exceeding 50. If you fall within these thresholds (and it's likely that 98% plus of Scottish charities will do) you can apply the FRSSE as it stands at the moment. This represents the simplest



version of accounting for charities. However if you work with partners or funders outside of the UK, you may find that moving up to tier two is beneficial as it will increase your comparability with non-UK entities.

Public benefit entities statement

Those charities that apply the tier two requirements of the IFRS for SMEs will have a public benefit entity standard (PBE) which will cover issues specific to public benefit entities. In addition to this there will be a charity SORP.

The way that charity legislation is worded currently, compliance with SORP is stated as being best practice – this may have to change to accommodate the public benefit entity standard, unless the SORP repeats the information in the PBE.

Timescale

The exposure draft was issued in October 2010 with a six month consultation period, which takes us through to April 2011. The

ASB has said that a public benefit entity exposure draft will follow later and the consensus from the consultation period seems to be that two years will be required to allow entities to prepare properly. It is intended that the new regime will be in place for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2013 which means 31 December 2014 / 31 March 2015 for most charities. Depending on progress with the public benefit entity standard and the new charity SORP it may be



even longer. Until then we can expect to retain the current SORP, along with information updates as and when they are required. ■

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EU backs cross-border giving

But **Kirsty Murray** sees the generosity of tax relief leading to tighter controls.

UK Charities lead the way with tax reliefs, however such generosity has good and bad implications.

The 2010 Finance Act introduced several changes for charities operating in the UK, both for domestic and EU organisations.

Previously only UK charities have qualified for the various UK charity tax reliefs and exemptions such as gift aid. However, following a decision in the European Court of Justice in the case of *Hein Persche v Finanzamt Lüdenscheid* (January 2009) which ruled that a German donor should receive tax relief on a donation made to a Portuguese charity, UK charity tax reliefs will be opened up to all charitable bodies located in the EU, Iceland and Norway from January 2009. This extension is estimated to cost the Exchequer £200 million by 2018, when full up take is expected.

This move makes the UK's charitable tax reliefs some of the most generous in Europe and highly appealing to European charities. As a result, we might see charities in Europe start competing with domestic charities for donations from the UK public.

The flip side of this is that UK charities receiving donations from EU residents may in future be able to claim gift aid or equivalent from that EU tax authority. A case was heard in the European Court of Justice where the Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity was left a legacy from a Belgian resident worth £1.1million. As the charity was not Belgian it only received 20% of the donation rather than the 91% it would have received if it was a Belgian charity. It was ruled that the decision was contrary to EU Law. Cross border giving is still a rare phenomenon but this is likely to be an increasing trend. This may open the door for UK charities to claim further tax reliefs from EU tax authorities.

In order to qualify for UK tax reliefs, European charities must now make an application to HMRC. The application should include documentation which confirms that the organisation is a recognised charity with the charity regulator in their country of origin. This process of applying to HMRC to receive charitable status will not only apply to EU charities but also new charities in the UK or ones that have not previously registered with HMRC but now want to claim gift relief. This procedure will enable HMRC to publish a list of



Great Ormond Street Hospital (left) received only 20% of a Belgian donation rather than the 91% it would have received if it was a Belgian charity. The decision was ruled contrary to EU Law.

charities which are eligible for UK charitable tax reliefs.

With the extension of UK charity reliefs to EU organisations, the potential for fraud and abuse is clearly amplified. In order to combat this, procedures have been tightened and a stricter definition of 'charity' has been introduced.

Charity definition

The new regulations specify that in addition to meeting the charity regulator's requirement in their home country, an organisation must comply with the English law definition. This applies throughout the UK; now a charity in Scotland needs to meet both the OSCR and English law definition in order to claim charity tax reliefs.

This was introduced to standardise the UK position for tax purposes. The definition in Scotland differs slightly from the English definition and some charities have in the past failed to qualify for tax reliefs because of this. The OSCR requirements tend to be stricter than the English Charity Commission definitions, with an added requirement that the charity must not have ministerial control or charge excessively high fees.

Fit and proper

The new definition of a charity also includes a requirement that its managers are fit and proper persons. There is no legislative definition of 'a fit and proper person' but HMRC have provided

guidance on how they will apply a test, which will vary by individual. It will apply to trustees, directors and any other officials who have day to day control over the running of the charity, including the chairperson, treasurer, secretary, and financial controller. Essentially, HMRC are looking to ensure that the charity relief they grant is not exploited for non charitable purposes.

Factors which may lead to HMRC deciding that a manager is not a fit and proper person include a history of tax fraud, a history of fraudulent behaviour, or being barred from acting as a charity trustee by a charity regulator.

HMRC state that they believe all people appointed by charities are fit and proper persons unless they hold information to show otherwise. Provided charities take appropriate steps on appointing personnel then they may assume that they meet the management condition at all times unless, exceptionally, they are challenged by HMRC.

HMRC may ask a charity about any of its managers but unless specifically asked to provide more details, charities should only tell HMRC when there is a change of authorised official. An authorised official is the person who deals with the charity's tax affairs, gift aid and other repayment claims. The 'HMRC Charities Variations Form' should be used to notify HMRC of changes to their organisation. Changes include a change of name or address or if there is a change to the authorised official. Unfortunately this is another administrative burden for charities and HMRC are being particularly sticky about accepting gift aid claims from a new authorised person if they have not had a variation form at least 30 days in advance.

Although ensuring all European countries are treated consistently and encouraging cross border donations should be positive for UK charities it is likely to create unnecessary administrative burdens and greater uncertainty.



If you want any further information on any of the issues raised in this article, please contact me at the address below or contact your usual partner. ■

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"The UK's charitable tax reliefs are some of the most generous in Europe."

Results from the OSCR review of operations

Janet Hicks looks at the latest updates to charity legislation.

IT IS now five years since the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 came into effect. During this time OSCR has had the opportunity to review the operation of the Act. As a result some recommendations were made and these have been included in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 which received Royal Assent on 28 April 2010.

Many charities will be pleased to see that the amended Act now permits the purchase of trustee indemnity insurance. Although not strictly prohibited by the 2005 Act, the purchase of such insurance fell foul of the restrictions relating to remuneration to trustees. However, recognising the dichotomy, OSCR did not pursue charities for this 'breach' of the law.

A new section on the reorganisation of restricted funds is included in the Act. Where the original purpose of funds donated to a charity no longer exists and the donor's permission for a change of use cannot be obtained, the charity will be able to apply to OSCR for a reorganisation of the restricted funds, thus enabling the charity to use them more effectively.

Other changes in the Act include:

1. The requirement for a charity now to provide similar information about the charity on its website as is already included on other documents issued by the charity, such as its charity number.
2. Provision for OSCR to vary or revoke any direction it may give to a charity which no longer meets the charity test. Previously, OSCR



had no powers to vary or revoke a direction as a result of receiving new information.

3. Additional powers to the Court of Session to remove a trustee or prevent a former trustee from being a trustee again.
4. Provision for a charity to approach OSCR for assistance in appointing new trustees.
5. Provision for a charity to alter its charitable purposes.

With the exception of the section on restricted funds which should come into effect next year, the changes came into effect from 1 August 2010.

Looking forward, **The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010** come into effect for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2011.

The main changes, arising from the legislation, are to raise the threshold whereby fully accrued and therefore SORP compliant accounts should be prepared and also one of the thresholds necessitating an audit.

This means that non-company charities with 'gross income' of less than £250,000 (previously £100,000) can opt to prepare receipts and payments accounts rather than fully accrued accounts. Please note the revised thresholds do not in any way override the need to prepare fully

accrued accounts where these are required by the charity's governing legislation or funding bodies.

Charities which meet the other conditions to be exempt from audit and have gross assets of less than £3.26 million (previously £2.8 million) can now opt for an independent examination.

In addition, the new regulations provide a clearer definition of gross income. Under the 2006 regulations, resources received as capital funds were excluded from gross income. This gave rise to uncertainty as to the accounting treatment of certain funding such as grants received towards purchase of fixed assets. In the revised definition the only exemption is the receipt of any donated asset in a permanent or expendable endowment fund.



For further clarification or if you want to discuss the implications of this, please contact me at the address below or contact your usual partner. ■

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Funding agreements & VAT

Scott Craig provides information on the recovery position.

HISTORICALLY grant funding has always been outside the scope of VAT. This position is still applicable as long as no goods or services are provided to the funder in return for the funding received.

In the current financial and political climate changes to funding agreements can often affect the VAT liability of the funding.

Where grant income is received in return for a specific and measurable supply of services or

goods the income received is seen as consideration for a supply. If the supply is liable to standard or zero-rate VAT the income received will have to be recorded and accounted for. It could even result in a requirement to register for VAT.

If the correct liability is not identified it will expose a charity to challenge and assessments from HMRC. Furthermore, if standard-rate VAT is applicable, and this is not acknowledged or budgeted for,

it could reduce the funding received by or available to the charity.

In our experience we have found that funding agreements do not normally identify or acknowledge VAT. In some cases the terminology used can be misinterpreted.

In an attempt to avoid confusion and unnecessary challenge or cost we would suggest that the terms of funding arrangements or

agreements are considered from a VAT point of view at an early stage.

It is worth remembering that the application of VAT to grant funding could be beneficial. As long as the funder can recover the VAT charged, the increase in taxable activities should allow a charity to recover additional VAT from HMRC. ■

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Contributions to knowledge and culture

Iain Lee asks if you have valued and reported all your heritage assets?

The Accounting Standards Board has recently issued Financial Reporting Standard 30 (FRS 30) on heritage assets. Its objective is to ensure that enhanced disclosures apply to all heritage assets regardless of whether they are reported in the balance sheet and that where information is available on cost or value it is included in the balance sheet.

So, what is a heritage asset?

Heritage assets are those assets held and maintained by an entity, principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. They can have historical, artistic, scientific, geophysical or environmental qualities. Assets that are used by an entity in its operations should continue to be accounted for as before in accordance with FRS15, notwithstanding any historical or other heritage qualities. The new FRS sets out new disclosure requirements for the reporting of heritage assets which apply whether or not they are reported in the balance sheets.

The main features of the standard are, firstly, that the disclosures should apply to all entities that hold heritage assets, regardless of whether these assets are reported on the face of



the balance sheet. The disclosures will provide information about an entity's total holding of heritage assets and the entity's stewardship of these assets.

“Disclosures should apply to all entities that hold heritage assets”

Secondly, the disclosures should make clear the accounting policies adopted for an entity's holding of heritage assets and the extent to which they are recognised in the balance sheet. The disclosure should provide readers with an understanding of the asset values being reported, as well as the entity's policies for managing its total holdings of heritage assets. To encourage a valuation

approach, the FRS allows entities to use internal valuations without the need for a full external valuation to be carried out every five years.



The new standard is applicable for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2010 but earlier application is encouraged. ■

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Act now to reduce the cost of VAT

FROM 4 January 2011 the standard rate of VAT will increase to 20%. It has been estimated that this could cost the Scottish charity sector an additional £15 million – at a time when funding is already being cut!

Time is running out if the Government wants to do anything to help the charity sector. However, there are already a number of ways that charities can make VAT savings and efficiencies.

Advertising and publications – charities qualify for zero rated advertising. They should ensure that they do not pay VAT on advertising and that all publications are zero rated!

Donated goods – the sale of donated goods is zero rated but should still be included in VAT calculations as it will improve the recovery of VAT.

Change of VAT rate – by controlling tax points you could reduce the cost of irrecoverable VAT as the items will cost less. Consider making significant purchases before the VAT rate changes on 4 January 2011.

Fuel and power – where non-business activities exceed 60%, charities are exempt from climate change levy and should incur the

reduced rate of VAT on fuel and power bills (5%). Charities should keep out the VAT chill by ensuring they avoid VAT on fuel and power wherever possible.

Staff – VAT should not be charged or incurred where seconded staff perform a non-business function. ■

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Defined Benefit Pension Schemes - DBPS

Accounting Standard FRS17 is certainly a hot topic in the world of charity accounting.

Mark Probert looks at the impact of scheme valuations as at 31 March 2010.

THE majority of scheme valuations in 2010 are showing increasing liabilities which fall due on the employer. FRS17 requires recognition in the financial statements where the charity's share can be separately identified from all employers contributing to the scheme.

Overview

Increased liabilities are a feature for most employers who are admitted bodies to, or scheduled members of, multi-employer pension schemes. Reasons for increases in the scheme liability position arise due to financial assumptions being less favourable, i.e.

- Real discount rate down 2.1% a year to 1.6% p.a. (due to a fall in corporate bond yields over the year).
- Mortality assumptions have been strengthened to reflect improvements in life expectancy. This has an adverse effect on the funding position of pension schemes, as they face the prospect of having to pay retirement benefits to pensioners who are living longer into the future. Those schemes where the members are relatively younger will be worse affected than those where there is a higher average age.

Although scheme assets have tended to increase due to improved market conditions the impact of liability increases has outweighed this. The Government's announcement of its intention to tie future pension increases to CPI rather than RPI will mitigate this, but is unlikely to counteract it completely.

An increased pension liability may be so material as to eliminate a charity's free reserves and may lead to going concern issues arising which must be considered by the auditors.

Impact

SORP 2005 only permits allocation of pension liabilities to restricted funds to the extent that the liability can be properly met within the restrictions imposed on these funds, and suggests that liaison with the provider of the restricted fund may be necessary to establish this.

Therefore, charities usually account for

pension liabilities through unrestricted funds which may lead to a large deficit arising on unrestricted reserves. The charity is therefore being supported only through restricted funds.

Trustees may choose to set up a designated fund to cover the pension liability, which may have similar implications for the charity's free reserves.

Disclosure in the financial statements, on the validity of the going concern assumption, would need to be addressed and evidence provided to enable the auditors to express their audit opinion.

For all charities requiring an audit the auditor needs to assess the following:

- the impact of the liability on the financial position in the financial statements; and
- the ability to meet contributions falling within twelve months of the expected signing date of the financial statements.

The auditors' assessment of either point may result in additional disclosure being required in the financial statements and possible enhanced disclosure or qualification of the audit report.

Options for the employer

Each charity must assess whether it can continue to meet its obligations in terms of employer contributions set triennially by the actuary.

Trustees may wish to consider whether there

Winding up or closing the scheme results in any liability crystallising and being payable in the short term. Many employers are finding this to be unaffordable.



are any mitigating steps they should take with regard to the scheme. For example:

- closing the scheme to new entrants; or,
- winding up the scheme and paying it off in full.

Winding up or closing the scheme results in any liability crystallising and being payable in the short term and any such cessation would inevitably lead to a higher liability position falling due on the employer, with likely increased regular contributions. Many employers are finding this to be unaffordable in the short term.

Alternatively, as highlighted recently by some of our College clients, an employer may challenge the assumptions. Those being used included 5.3% salary increases for all staff. Is this really applicable to your charity in the current economic climate where wage freezes are becoming the norm? The assumptions made by the professionals may not be right for your circumstances. It is much more cost-effective to challenge these before the valuations are run rather than afterwards, so it would be worth making a diary note to ask the pension



scheme actuary for these before the charity's year end.

If you want to discuss this further, please contact me at the address below, or your usual partner. ■

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“An increased pension liability may be so material as to eliminate a charity's free reserves.”

Forecasting cash requirements

Donald Forsyth

recommends eschewing the use of a crystal ball.

SUCCESSFULLY securing finance for your charity starts with clearly establishing your cash requirements. Times are tight, and the banks – the traditional ‘first port of call’ for most charities – are continuing to readjust their lending models. No matter who you speak to, the starting point is a clear assessment of just how much you need. Here are the essential steps in forecasting your cash requirements.

Should we have debt?

Before speaking with anyone, do your homework: There are some basic questions that you must be prepared for. So, a few ground rules are:

Make sure you know how much you need: Too many organisations fail to raise the finance they need simply by not being clear about the amount they require.

Timing is everything: Know when you need it, and for how long. Be clear about what you need the money for and about how and when you are going to use it.

Research your audience diligently: Bankers and investors are all human, all different, with particular likes and dislikes. Work with advisors who can help you target the right individuals and who can help you hone your presentation to perfection. Often, you have only one chance to get this right.

Cover all the bases: when it comes to preparing your financial projections, include I and E cash flow and balance sheet projections – all three are critical in presenting a robust and well integrated projection of your organisation. One or two out of three just doesn’t work. And don’t forget the balance sheet either, having established your funding requirement, all funders will want to see monthly balance sheet projections to assess your asset cover at the point of your peak funding requirement.

Start with a solid foundation: Robust financial projections need a good starting point and your opening position is critically important. Use your most recent management accounts and your most up to date balance sheet as your starting point. Review this balance sheet carefully, line by line, and make an honest assessment of the cash implications of each item. Assess when your debtor balances will be received and when creditors need to be paid. Don’t kid yourself. Too many financial projections go way off beam



“Cash is king: We’ve all heard it a thousand times before, but don’t forget it.”

in the first few months simply because unrealistic assumptions are applied to opening balances – it isn’t realistic to assume that all of your debtors will pay you in 30 days. Don’t ignore bad and doubtful debts and those balances that you know will take time and effort to collect.

Tempus fugit, so don’t let your financial projections go stale. Funders will inevitably take time to review your projections and by the time you meet them your opening position and possibly your first month’s figures will be out of date. Nothing will destroy your credibility more than a projected cash balance at the end of month one which is significantly at odds with the figure on your bank statement. Keep refreshing your financial projections and keep your opening balance sheet as up to date as possible.

Keep it simple: Prepare monthly and annual profit and loss, cash flow and balance sheet projections for maybe three or four years. Each should fit on one side of A4. Include a schedule of your key assumptions and leave it at that.

Too many charities and not for profit organisations fail to attract the funding they require through sloppy presentation – financial projections which run to 30 pages with poorly set print ranges could go straight in the bucket.

It may seem counter intuitive, but let the funders be creative. Having established your

peak funding requirement, don’t second guess how your funders will structure your finance. Adding new loans and finance costs to your projections can distract and confuse, particularly in these uncertain times.

Keep it pure: make sure your cash flow projections clearly show the peak requirement without any new finance in place and then actively engage with your funders to establish the most appropriate and cost effective funding solution.

Be realistic: Too many organisations fail, simply by not raising enough cash to meet their peak requirement. Test your assumptions to destruction and err on the side of caution. Assume that everything will take twice as long and will cost twice as much.

Cash is king: We’ve all heard it a thousand times before, but don’t forget it. The easiest organisation to fund is one that doesn’t need funding. If you only do one thing, focus on making your organisation as cash efficient as

possible. Your financial projections may look the part, but nothing will make a bigger impression with your funders. ■



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Workplace pension reform

Companies will be required to feather their NEST, reports **Heather McGovern**.

2012 will bring us more memorable events than just the Olympics. October 2012 marks the beginning of the roll-out of the Government's workplace pension reforms.

It may not be as thrilling as the Olympics but it will change the face of employee pension provision in the UK. And it will very likely affect your organisation.

What's happening?

The Government wants to see everyone making some provision for their retirement. So, between 2012 and 2016 (starting with the largest organisations), employers will have new duties to:

- automatically enrol most of their employees into either a 'qualifying' company pension plan or NEST (a new statutory, centralised pension scheme), and
- make payments to the plan.

Even employees who don't give consent will be automatically enrolled (although they can opt-out again).

What does it mean for you?

There is a high chance that the workplace pension reforms will impact on your existing

company pension plan if you have one and they will certainly create new pension costs if you're making employee pension provision for the first time.

Auto-enrolment is likely to increase employee take-up rates and, regardless of whether you use your own company pension plan or NEST, a total payment of 8% of employees' qualifying earnings will ultimately have to be made – with the employer putting in at least 3%.

The minimum payments are being introduced in three phases, starting at 2% with an earnings threshold at £7,475 and stepping up to 5% in October 2016 then the full 8% from October 2017.

One thing is for sure: all employers will have to review their employee pension arrangements and their contracts of employment to make sure they're in shape for the new regime.

NEST is designed to be a simple, low cost centralised pension plan. But this drive for simplicity means that it will have little investment choice, low contribution limits, restrictions on transfers and few options on retirement. As a result it may not suit everyone.

A company pension plan gives more flexibility. Unlike NEST, there is scope to tailor the plan design to your specific needs, allowing

you to make it more appealing to senior or more financially sophisticated employees.

Of course, you can use NEST and your own plan to meet the needs of different employees - albeit with the extra administration that running two pension plans brings.

Whichever option you choose, communicating with your employees is important so they understand the true value of their pension plan; a good pension advisor can help with this.

Act now

There's no doubt that a good pension plan is more than an 8% payment. With pensions higher on the agenda, getting the right pension arrangements in place for your employees and communicating them properly could make a big difference to staff retention and recruitment. And it makes sense to start planning ahead and budgeting early for any additional pension costs. So don't delay. Prepare well in advance and make sure you're ahead of the pack with your company pension. ■

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Coming soon: Sage 50 Club

2011 will see the launch of our Sage 50 Club for clients that specifically use the Sage 50 accounts range.

Membership will be free and will include discounted group training sessions with our Sage trained and accredited specialist

consultants covering key functionality.

You will receive hints and tips on more efficient ways of using the software functionality and information on upgrades and new functionality as it is released.

This will be your one stop for all

your Sage 50 requirements. If you'd like to know more in advance of the launch please contact either **Campbell McLundie** or **Wendy Clydesdale**. ■

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On scott-moncrieff.com

Business News

Professor Donald MacRae, Chief Economist, Lloyds Banking Group, provides his thoughts on what the remainder of 2010 could have in store and Bruce Cowie,

Kaplan Hawksmere gives you a timely forewarning on IFRS for SMEs.

And as the pursuit of efficiency savings and cost reduction

continues, our Business Technology team share their views on how investing in the right technology can improve your bottom line.

Online briefings

Public Sector Briefing

Although the decision to postpone public sector cuts from 2010/11 to 2011/12 now seems, in hindsight, short-sighted the intent to protect the fragile economic growth was well founded.

However, with the full scale of the challenges now apparent to all, it appears the cuts we will have to make will be even more draconian than would have been necessary if earlier action had been taken. Nick Bennett provides his thoughts on how the cuts can be delivered.

Tax Briefing

The unexpected rise in CGT took many by surprise and forced the question has this Government thought through how this will impact on our already fragile economy? As the increase has taken affect, Morag Page provides a breakdown on who will really gain from the rise.

In the recent Budget the Government announced various pension changes which will impact anyone approaching retirement. You should take note of the real and proposed changes which may affect your current retirement plans.

Ewan Pitcairn tells us why life could be a beach for those retiring on page 5.

Further reading includes pensions reforms, renovation tax breaks and a review of Premier Protection – covering the costs of an HMRC inspection.



Online highlights

Latest News

A regular digest of business and tax news is published in our regular Business Alerts.

Tax Rates 2010/11

Up to date UK business and personal tax rates for the financial year ahead.

Public Sector Briefing online

Entrepreneurial auditors: adding value through internal audit.

Wealth Management online

The place to round-up your financial investments.

SME 300

Supporting Scotland's growing companies.

In the press

Scott-Moncrieff speaks out on the issues which affect our clients and our profession.

About us

Our partners, services, approach and association with Moore Stephens International.

Careers and recruitment

Current vacancies and opportunities for graduates.

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