

**GSCCA Circular 17**

**18 March 2021**

**2019 company tax returns**

The 2019 income tax return filing deadline was further extended to 31 March 2021 when the island entered its second period of lockdown on 23 January 2021.

Representations have since been received from the GSCCA Tax Sub-Committee about the impact of lockdown on the ability of tax practitioners to file corporate tax returns for their clients, coupled with some users still experiencing issues logging into the online system.

Whilst the functionality to register is now available, there are still some intermittent performance issues which affect the timeliness of the verification email. Our suppliers are investigating the issues and expect these to be resolved by the end of this week.

Our suppliers have also advised that a unique email address is required when registering or adding users to a new and/or existing registration.

The Revenue Service will therefore allow a 30 day grace period for filing of 2019 company tax returns. This means that penalties will only be imposed if a company has not filed its tax return by 30 April. Tax filing reminders will not be sent to customers prior to a penalty being imposed.

Backdated surcharges will not be collected regarding late payment of tax where the 2019 company tax return has been filed by 30 April 2021.

This further grace period will not delay the availability of the calendar year 2020 income tax return. Recognising that this return will be available later than usual, the filing deadline for the 2020 income tax return will be 28 February 2022.

Customers are reminded that companies incorporated in 2019 are expected to either file a 2019 company tax return or notify the Revenue Service that their first accounting period (which is subject to a maximum period of 18 months) will end in 2020. Currently there are over 1,000 newly formed companies that will have a penalty automatically imposed, unless they take corrective action.

N Forshaw

Director of the Revenue Service