

HMRC TAX INVESTIGATIONS COUNT RISES SIGNIFICANTLY

The number of people being investigated by HM Revenue and Customs has doubled in one year. With HMRC now following stronger procedures it is important for people to be aware that there is an increased chance they could face an enquiry.

Last year (2012/13), 237,215 people had their tax return enquired into, compared to 119,000 people in 2011/12, with the number of self-employed people investigated being 4 times higher last year than in 2011/12.

The increase in investigations is in an attempt to try and recover the estimated £35 billion tax lost each year. The new measures to manage tax collection include the hiring of 200 additional investigators in the last 3 years, as well as HMRC being granted powers to remove money directly from peoples bank accounts.

The increased pressure from HMRC has also seen prosecutions for tax evasion to rise, with 1165 people being jailed last year, compared with a mere 165 people in 2010.

