

## TAX AVOIDANCE PROMOTERS MUST PUBLICISE HMRC'S MONITORING

Promoters of high-risk tax avoidance schemes must publicise when HM Revenue and Customs are monitoring their activity, or face fines of up to £1m.

The rules are aimed at making potential customers aware of the risks associated with schemes before entering into them. Camberleigh-Hay have never promoted schemes and this is a good move which will make the work of the less scrupulous even harder.

It was last summer when laws were introduced so that the promoters identified as 'high risk' could be issued with conduct notices, requiring them to change their behavior. The new rules mean that if a promoter does not comply with the conduct notice, they were previously issued, they can be issued with a tougher 'monitoring notice', which means they will be publicly named by HMRC and will have to inform their clients that they are being monitored. If these conditions are not complied with, the ultimate sanction could be a fine of up to £1m.

The new rules follow similar steps introduced in February, where those who repeatedly participate in tax avoidance schemes could face a surcharge on the repeated use of tax avoidance schemes that ultimately fail.

David Gauke (financial secretary) said: "The government has taken unprecedented steps to clamp down on tax avoidance. Our tough new rules will force high-risk promoters to change their behavior and help protect taxpayers from unscrupulous advice. " We have to say that we agree the new measures, if used correctly, will help shape a better environment.

