

# Just 100 Days Left For Self Assessment

**HM Revenue and Customs is reminding Self Assessment payers to complete their tax return before the deadline of 31 January 2021. The reminder came on October 23 – with just 100 days to go.**

Each year, around 11 million people complete a Self Assessment tax return. Payers can complete their 2019 to 2020 tax return at any time up to the deadline but HMRC recommends completing it early to allow time to pay their tax bill or set up a payment plan.

The majority of Self Assessment customers choose to complete their tax return online, which provides an immediate calculation of any tax owed.

## Too late?

Those completing a paper tax return had until 31 October 2020

to send their completed form to HMRC.

## More support

As of 1 October, Self Assessment tax payers can apply online for additional support to help spread the cost of their tax bill into monthly payments without the need to call HM Revenue and Customs.

The online payment plan service can already be used to set up instalment arrangements for paying tax liabilities up to £10,000. From 1 October 2020, HMRC increased the threshold to £30,000 for Self Assessment customers, to help ease any potential financial burden they may be experiencing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

HMRC's Interim Director General of Customer Services, Karl Khan, said: "HMRC is deter-

mined to help customers during this difficult time. We know many customers will have been adversely affected by the coronavirus pandemic or will need help to spread the cost of their tax bill. That's why we've made it quick and simple to set up a payment plan to spread the costs and help people get back on their feet. It's easy to do online and there's no need to call us to set it up.

"They can use the self-serve Time to Pay facility to set up monthly direct debits and this can all be done online so there is no need to phone HMRC." [i](#)

[Visit GOV.UK to find out more about the service and if you are eligible.](#)

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# Scaffold Warning After Fall From Height Fatality

**Wembley Scaffolding Services Limited has been fined following an incident where a worker fell five metres and suffered a fatal head injury.**

Southwark Crown Court heard how, on 16 February 2017, two operatives were dismantling a scaffold on Cricklewood Broadway, London. During this process, the scaffold collapsed resulting in one of the operatives falling at least five metres onto a concrete pavement, causing serious head injuries. He later died

from these injuries on 4 March 2017.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that Wembley Scaffolding Services Limited's Director, Sean Chapple, failed to carry out a suitable risk assessment, plan the work and provide a design for erection and dismantling of the scaffold. Sean Chapple himself was not knowledgeable about the measures required to do this without putting people at risk and therefore didn't follow the correct measures.

Wembley Scaffolding pleaded guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1. The company was fined £7,860 and ordered to pay costs of £8,940.

Sean Chapple was fined £1,000, received a 12 week prison sentence suspended for one year and was ordered to pay costs of £11,000. [i](#)

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# Remote Selling Keeps Kestrel Busy



**Kestrel Home Improvements says the Framepoint sales and quoting App has helped the company embrace remote selling and kept the order books looking healthy during Covid.**

Kestrel HI is based in Kent, with three installation teams. The firm sells windows, doors and conservatories in PVC-U, aluminium and timber, as well as guttering and roofline.

Previously, the company's reps sold face-to-face, sketching ideas on paper with homeowners and using a well-known industry software system.

The team switched to Framepoint because it provided so much more detail.

"It's proved very successful," says Mark Ramsey, Framepoint MD. "We sold 12 jobs over lock-

down and 30 jobs immediately afterwards, all using Framepoint. Our order books have been full ever since – it paid for itself with the first job.

"Homeowners are astonished," adds Ramsey. "The biggest problem when selling windows is helping customers visualise styles and what the windows will look like in situ – and this solves that problem. When a potential customer makes an enquiry we ask them to provide images of their home and we then 'make over' their property live online. It never fails to impress." **f**

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# Sean Matthews Is Screwfix Top Tradesperson 2020



**Sean Matthews, a Caerphilly carpenter & joiner, has been officially announced as the winner of Screwfix Top Tradesperson 2020.**

Matthews was presented with the award – one of the industry's most coveted titles – during the virtual Screwfix Live event on Friday, 2 October. The 50-year-old, walked away with the title and ultimate trade bundle consisting of £10,000 worth of tools, £5,000 worth of technology and £5,000 towards future training.

Over 2,500 people entered the competition with 10 finalists facing a panel of industry experts, including representatives from Screwfix, The NICEIC, CIPHE, FMB and 2019 winner, Darren McGhee. Matthews was a stand-out winner, according to the judges 'thanks to his exceptional craftsmanship, his attention

to detail and fantastic approach to customer service'.

"This is life-changing. My small Welsh family business is going to be elevated to the next level. Lots of my customers have been wishing me good luck, so I can't wait to share the good news," said Matthews. "I plan to use the prize to continue to grow my business and take on an apprentice – this award has set me on my way. I'm willing to prove you can teach an old dog new tricks and you're never too old to take on another challenge!" **f**

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