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Client Briefing

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Tax Health Plan

On 11 January 2010 HM Revenue & Customs (“HMRC”) launched the first stage of a “professionals campaign” designed to provide an opportunity for professionals who have unpaid tax liabilities to get their affairs in order. The first group of professionals that this opportunity is aimed at is all medical professionals regulated by the General Medical Council, for example doctors, medical specialists, consultants and cosmetic surgeons. HMRC have also confirmed that they are now including dentists in this Tax Health Plan (“THP”).

HMRC have advised that they are obtaining/examining information from various sources, including NHS Trusts, private hospitals and medical insurers, which appear to indicate understated tax liabilities in the medical profession.

As a consequence of this the THP has been announced, the main details of which are set out below:

- ⊕ All “medical professionals” have until the 31 March 2010 to register their intention to disclose any undeclared tax liabilities.
- ⊕ HMRC have provided a unique telephone number (0845 600 4508) and mailbox (www.hmrc.gov.uk/tax-health-plan) to provide basic registration data.
- ⊕ All disclosures must be finalised and full payment made to HMRC by 30 June 2010.
- ⊕ Any underpaid tax and NIC, plus interest will be charged in full, but any penalties payable will be restricted to 10% of the tax/NIC liability and VAT if applicable.
- ⊕ Only in exceptional cases will HMRC consider criminal prosecution (for example, if the disclosure came from the proceeds of serious organised crime).

HMRC have also confirmed that from April 2010 they will be using all information at their disposal to investigate medical professionals who have not declared their full income. They have also confirmed that the minimum penalty charged at that time to any medical professional who has undisclosed tax liabilities will be 30% (with the maximum being 100%).

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