

2019/20 Employment Related Securities Reporting - Deadline 6 July 2020

Employers that have provided shares or options to employees or directors are likely to have an annual reporting obligation under the Employment Related Securities ("ERS") regime, subject to some narrow exemptions.

This includes shares or options under both approved and unapproved share schemes; as well as stand-alone awards.

In addition to the issue of shares or options, there are also other reportable events concerning existing shares or options under the ERS regime. This includes transactions such as the disposal of securities for more than market value, any actions which artificially enhance the market value of ERS and the release, cancellation or assignment of options for consideration.

If there is an existing ERS scheme, then there will be an annual reporting requirement, even where there have been no reportable events in the year.

The annual reporting is based on the tax year and the deadline for filing ERS returns for the 2019/20 tax year is 6 July 2020. At present, no postponement to the normal deadline has been announced in relation to COVID 19.

It is recommended that the process is initiated as early as possible, as unless there is an existing ERS scheme in place, it will be necessary to register a new scheme with HMRC, which can involve a number of steps.

HMRC may charge penalties both for late submission and incorrect returns. Therefore, it is important that ERS reporting is undertaken in both a timely and accurate manner.

If you have issued shares or options to employees or directors, or need any assistance with ERS reporting for existing ERS shares or options, then please contact your usual Rawlinson & Hunter advisor, or any of those listed below.

This publication and all other recent Rawlinson & Hunter LLP updates, including technical support on COVID-19 related initiatives, please see the technical updates section on our website <u>here</u>.

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BUSINESS TAX ALERT

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