



**For immediate release**

**Press release**

**Creaseys LLP, Chartered Accountants and Tax Advisers in Tunbridge Wells, wins a crucial battle against HMRC for one of its private clients.**

Creaseys VAT team with the assistance of The Viscount Dilhorne FTII of Tax Counsel has successfully defended a local estate from a challenge by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

In the opinion of HMRC, a family's private shoot was being carried out as a commercial business and, as contributions received from friends and family members were above the current VAT threshold, HMRC claimed that the organiser of the events should have registered for VAT.

HMRC then took this a stage further and attempted to use legislation intended for unregistered traders to back-date an assessment for estimated unpaid VAT over the last twenty years. If HMRC were successful in their argument, or Creaseys had not defended their client in the correct manner, the total assessment including interest and penalties could have amounted to as much as £475,000.

Creaseys and The Viscount Dilhorne referred this case to the Tribunals Service in order to defend their client and, after two years and many hours of work, HMRC have finally admitted defeat and withdrawn all the assessments that they had originally raised – without even an apology.

**Important points to take from this:**

This type of case demonstrates how important it is to ensure that you have the correct advice on how to set up any large venture. If an unregistered trader should have registered for VAT, then HMRC can legitimately raise an assessment of tax for the previous twenty years.

If you do not have the advice and backing of a professional advisor, a visit from HMRC can be a very distressing time and HMRC can put you under pressure to agree to their assessment of a situation, even if it is incorrect. Creaseys can provide you with the support that you need throughout the experience and fight HMRC when appropriate.

HMRC are not always correct in their interpretation of legislation. Each year, many cases are heard in court and unless you follow the correct procedure, you may unwittingly be liable to an assessment that could have been defended.

If you would like any VAT advice in relation to this article or any other matter, please contact Sharon Crush at Creaseys for further information.

**Ends** (382 words)

### **Notes to Editors**

- Creaseys is currently the 68<sup>th</sup> largest firm of accountants in the UK.
- Creaseys has 9 partners and approximately 90 support staff based at offices in Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.
- The practice has 2 specialist divisions: Corporate & Business & Private Clients.
- Creaseys has advised more than 40 smaller accountants on specialist tax queries over the last year.
- The practice has been established for 150 years and has always been at the forefront of business life in Tunbridge Wells.
- Creaseys is a long standing and active supporter of the South East Agricultural Show, Borde Hill Gardens and local arts events.

For more information about this media release please contact Neil Edwards on 01825 840770 or by email at [neil@themarketingeye.com](mailto:neil@themarketingeye.com).