

## Survey finds 78% of accountants say clients missed R&D tax relief after HMRC policy changes

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**Failing to notify HMRC is a significant risk for businesses making R&D tax relief claims, say 78% of accountants**

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- *Over half (57%) of accountants cite HMRC enquiries as a serious pain point for their clients*

More than three quarters (78%) of accountants have seen clients unable to make an R&D tax relief claim due to failure to notify HMRC under the new requirements for claim notification, according to a new survey conducted by innovation incentive experts, [ForrestBrown](#). This highlights that lack of awareness of the rule change process could be costing businesses carrying out genuine R&D.

### More pressure and less time

Although accountants are already taking steps to adapt to the merged R&D tax relief scheme, many report increased operational burdens as a result of all the recent changes. Eight in ten accountants (80%) say claims take longer to prepare than a year ago, with more than a third (35%) noting a 'significant' increase in time.

Over three quarters (77%) have had to invest in additional training to stay up to date with R&D tax relief changes, highlighting the mounting time and financial pressures firms are under to keep pace with shifting regulation.

### Changing guidelines

Accountants are facing specific technical hurdles, as well as simultaneously adapting their processes to keep up with claims becoming more complex.

More than half (55%) say they struggle with writing project descriptions for the Additional Information Form and a further 64% say establishing who has the right to claim under the new guidelines on contracted out R&D is one of the most challenging aspects. More than half (57%) said that HMRC enquiries are one of the biggest pain points.

**Kelly Oakley, Associate Director at ForrestBrown, said:**

*"Unsurprisingly, changes made to the R&D tax relief incentive are creating challenge for accountants and their clients alike. More work is needed to put together a robust claim that meets HMRC requirements, and the new rules create complexity."*

*"This is prompting some accountants to review how they provide R&D tax advice which for some means choosing to partner with a specialist to supplement their own expertise."*

**-ENDS-**

### Notes to editors

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### About ForrestBrown

ForrestBrown is the UK's leading R&D tax specialist and innovation incentives consultancy. Our

100-strong multi-disciplinary team is made up of qualified chartered tax advisers, accountants, lawyers, industry-experienced sector specialists and a former HMRC inspector. We offer unmatched technical expertise and are passionate about helping innovative businesses to grow. We were named 'Best Independent Consultancy Firm' at The Taxation Awards 2023.

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