

# Press release: New help for small businesses launched

A new online tax forum and dedicated webchat service for small businesses and the self-employed has been launched today by HMRC.

The Small Business Online Forum is a quick and easy way for small businesses to get answers to their tax questions, as well as help with:

- starting a business
- support for growing a business – including taking on employees and expanding
- buying and selling abroad
- completing tax returns
- tax credits

Linked to the forum, HMRC's new dedicated webchat service offers direct support to businesses and the self-employed.

[Mel Stride](#), Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster General, said:

The UK's 5.4 million small businesses play a vital role in our economy. We want to help businesses get off the ground and support them as they grow.

That is why we are launching a new forum and webchat service which will give these companies useful hints and tips – including how to complete tax returns, grow a business and trade outside the UK – so that they can continue to flourish.

1. The Small Business Online Forum forms part of the government's business tax roadmap announced at Budget 2016.
2. A pilot was launched in March 2017 and since then the forum has grown to have more than a 1,000 registered users.
3. The forum does not deal with questions about taxpayers' individual circumstances. Any comments which include personal information will be deleted.
4. While no personal or case-specific information is posted on the forum, customers may be offered help through HMRC's webchat service and their personal case handled by an adviser.
5. Follow HMRC Press Office on [Twitter](#).
6. HMRC's Flickr channel can be found [here](#)