

Robinsons London – Practical Tax Advice, Modern Solutions

1. What is Making Tax Digital for Income Tax and Self Assessment?

Making Tax Digital (MTD) is HMRC's flagship initiative to modernise the UK tax system. It moves taxpayers away from paper-based annual tax returns to a digital-first approach, ensuring accurate and timely reporting.

Key changes and timelines:

- From April 2026 – MTD applies to self-employed individuals and landlords with income over £50,000.
- From April 2027 – Individuals with income between £30,000 and £50,000 join the scheme.
- From April 2028 – Those with income above £20,000 must comply.

What this means for you:

- Keep digital records of income and expenses.
- Submit quarterly updates using MTD-compatible software.
- File a Final Declaration by 31 January each year.

Impact on taxpayers:

- Better visibility of tax liabilities during the year.
- More frequent record-keeping, less year-end stress.
- New software tools may be required if you currently use manual systems.

2. What is Digital Software, and What Software Will I Need?

To comply with MTD, all submissions to HMRC must be digital.
No paper returns or manual entries in HMRC's portal are allowed.



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Chartered Certified Accountants

Types of software:

Cloud Accounting (e.g. Xero, QuickBooks, FreeAgent):

- All-in-one bookkeeping and MTD submission.
- Best suited to businesses needing a full accounting system.

Bridging Software:

- Links Excel spreadsheets to HMRC's MTD platform.
- Simpler and cheaper – ideal for sole traders and landlords.

Our recommendation:

There is no "one size fits all" solution.

If you contact us, we'll be pleased to advise on the most appropriate software for your business or rental activity.

3. What Help Will Robinsons Provide?

We offer three levels of support. All include full HMRC liaison on your behalf:

Option 1: Light Support – Advice & Final Return.

- You handle bookkeeping and quarterly updates.
- We review data and submit the Final Declaration.
- You can contact us for advice as needed.

Option 2: Shared Approach – You Bookkeep, We File.

- You do the bookkeeping, we submit all returns.
- We review your data quarterly and handle final declarations.
- We also manage HMRC communications.

Option 3: Full Service – We Do It All.

- We manage all bookkeeping and digital records.
- We complete all MTD submissions and declarations.
- You receive proactive advice and deadline reminders.

Robinsons Chartered Certified Accountants
5 Underwood Street
London
N1 7LY



Contact Robinsons London
Call: 0776 523 0413
Email: info@robinsonslondon.com
Visit: www.robinsonslondon.com

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