

UK Income Tax Self-Assessment reporting requirements, effective from April 2026

Summary: What Changes from April 6, 2026

1. **Mandatory digital record-keeping & compatible software**

From April 2026, those with **gross self-employment or property income over £50,000** must keep digital records and submit via HMRC-approved software—no more paper or spreadsheets.

2. **Quarterly reporting replaces annual-only returns**

Instead of one tax return per year, you must now submit **four quarterly updates** (income and expenses), plus a **final year-end declaration**.

3. **Important deadlines for quarterly submissions**

Expect deadlines roughly as follows:

- **By 7 August** – for April–June quarter
- **7 November** – for July–September
- **7 February** – for October–December
- **7 May** – for January–March quarter

Then a **final declaration** and payment by **31 January** after year-end.

4. **Watch your income thresholds for roll-out stages**

The **£50,000** threshold applies from April 2026. From April 2027, it drops to **£30,000**, and then to **£20,000** in April 2028.

5. **Penalties for late or incorrect submissions**

Failing to meet quarterly deadlines will earn “penalty points”—accumulate enough, and you’ll receive fines (e.g., £200 and more). Penalties also apply to late payments.

Why This Matters to You

- **Stay compliant:** If your self-employment income (or from rental) exceeds those thresholds, you're required to start using digital reporting.
- **Avoid last-minute stress:** Quarterly reporting means spreading out the work—less deadline pressure.
- **Choose software early:** Explore HMRC-approved accounting packages soon to get a head start.
- **Prepare for penalties:** Missing deadlines or using the wrong methods can result in fines.