



All-Party Parliamentary Loan Charge Group

www.loanchargeappg.co.uk

Sir Jonathan Thompson
Chief Executive and Permanent Secretary
HM Revenue and Customs
100 Parliament Street
London. SW1A 2BQ

5th September 2019

Dear Sir Jonathan,

URGENT – Loan Charge Review: immediate suspension of settlement discussions

As you know, the Prime Minister yesterday announced a review of the Loan Charge – a review which we feel must include the processes followed by HMRC in the implementation of the Loan Charge as well as the Loan Charge itself – following his commitment on 29th June to an independent review and his previous support for delaying the Loan Charge to allow for such a review. Now a review has been announced, it could have a number of recommendations and outcomes, including changes to the Loan Charge.

Consequently, it is now the case that settlement discussions with people facing the Loan Charge must be suspended. As HMRC make clear, these are voluntary settlements and as such HMRC must not seek to force people to settle on the basis that otherwise they will have to pay the Loan Charge, when this is now something that may change. So it would be wholly illegitimate (and legally questionable) for HMRC to seek to continue settlement discussions.

As you know, there have been several suicides of people facing the Loan Charge (six have been reported directly to us) and with the serious ongoing risk of suicide, it would be recklessly irresponsible for HMRC to continue to pursue individuals. So we hope you will now confirm that all settlements, APNs and debt enforcement action related to loan schemes subject to the Loan Charge are now to be suspended, pending the outcome of the review.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Ed Davey, Chair

Ruth Cadbury, Vice Chair

Ross Thomson, Vice Chair

On behalf of the Loan Charge APPG

Chair: Sir Edward Davey MP Vice-Chairs: Ruth Cadbury MP, Ross Thomson MP, Baroness Kramer, Liz Twist MP

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