

I'm Thinking of Becoming Self-Employed... Now What?

What You Need To Do Now

- **Decide on your structure.** Most people start as sole traders, but you could also form a limited company or partnership. Each option has pros and cons - including how you're taxed, what records you keep and your legal responsibilities.
- **Register with HMRC.** If you become a sole trader, you'll need to register for Self Assessment once you start earning (ideally sooner rather than later). This means you'll file a tax return each year.
- **Set up a business bank account.** Keeping your business and personal money separate makes bookkeeping much easier and helps you stay organised.
- **Understand your tax responsibilities.** You'll be responsible for saving and paying your own tax and National Insurance. No one takes it out for you. A good rule of thumb is to set aside around 25 to 30 percent of your profits.
- **Keep records from day one.** Start tracking income and expenses, even if it's just a notebook or spreadsheet to begin with. Cloud software makes life much easier when you're ready.
- **Think about insurance and licences.** Depending on your work, you may need public liability insurance, professional indemnity cover, or even a licence to trade.

How I Can Help

I can:

- Help you decide whether to register as a sole trader or limited company
- Register you with HMRC
- Set you up with easy bookkeeping tools
- Make sure you understand how tax works
- Be your go-to support as you grow

Easy Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Waiting too long to register with HMRC
- ✗ Underestimating how much to save for tax
- ✗ Mixing personal and business money
- ✗ Forgetting to claim allowable expenses
- ✗ Feeling like you have to figure it all out alone

Need a hand?

Getting started is often the hardest bit - but you don't have to do it on your own. I can walk you through the steps, explain what's involved and help you get going with confidence.