Changes between 2017 to 2018 notes and 2018 to 2019 notes

End of EUSD/SIR reporting
The last EU Savings Directive or Savings Income Reporting return was for the tax-year to 5th April 2016. At present the return specifications for BBSI and OI each have a provision to also allow reporting of EUSD data. Those provisions will continue until at least tax-year 2019 to 2020 reporting. At that time HMRC may shrink down the BBSI and OI returns to cut out the EUSD sections. This warning is given so that financial institutions have as much warning as possible of the changes. The specifications and spreadsheets in current use have rules for completing the EUSD parts of the return where you have nothing to report. You should continue to use these rules.

Data encryption
This continues to be at the forefront of what HMRC do. The FAQs and Returns Bulletin, currently number 9, has been revised. The latest information, as provided by the Bulletin, is published as and when necessary. HMRC cannot insist that data transfers are encrypted but the Data Protection Act puts the responsibility for security firmly on the sender of the data until it is received at its intended destination.

Deeply Discounted Securities reporting still not required
HMRC have the power to ask for more information than they currently do about this type of investment. They are not using that power for the tax year of 2018 to 2019. If, in the future, they choose to increase the amount of information they want you to put on your return they will announce that widely. Until then, the information needed about deeply discounted securities will remain as per section 4 of the guidance notes.

NINos reporting still not required
As previously reported in R&C Brief 39/12, HMRC still does not to require anyone to report new NINo information on accounts opened from 6th April 2013 onwards. See the guidance notes for a fuller explanation of what existing NINo reporting is still required. If, in the future, HMRC choose to increase the amount of information they want you to put on your return they will announce that change widely.

Making Tax Digital
Over the past year discussions have been held about changing the BBSI and OI return formats. HMRC have decided to permit some small changes (see below) to BBSI return information reported over the next two years 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020. HMRC will engage fully with BBSI and OI return providers to set out in good time the formats for the returns going forward from 2020.

Full participant reporting allowed from 2018 to 2019
Up to now HMRC have only required reporting of the first two reportable participants for each account reported on, along with the total number of participants for the account. Starting with tax year 2018 to 2019 they will permit all the UK participants to be reported on where you wish to do so. This is in the expectation of a change, in 2020, to reporting of all UK participants. HMRC know that for some financial institutions the reduction from all participants to just a maximum of two is an unwelcome extra step in the production of their returns.