10 Steps to self-employment – Starting a Business

Step 5: Need help?

It is highly unlikely we are experts in everything, however, if we know where to look for support and information we can acquire knowledge. If we want to trade legally as well as profitably it is important that we not only know the rules and regulations but act on them.

Experts are available to assist you both online, often freely available, as well as professionals who may charge you.

Let us say you are opening a business that involves either the manufacture or preparation of food, as well as possibly serving food, you will need to follow various food regulations, including hygiene.

You may need a hygiene certificate and a food hygiene rating. This not only provides you a platform to trade responsible and legally but can enhance your marketability to potential clients. The food standards agency website can provide all the answers to your many questions. <https://www.food.gov.uk/>

This site can provide information on a range of subjects: - At home, buying and eating food, Business guidance, Food safety guidance and much more.

You may need to employ staff and also interact with members of the public. You have a legal obligation to protect members of staff as well as customers and other members of the public. You will be required to conduct a risk assessment on a regular basis and comply with the health and safety executive guidelines. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/>

The site provides templates, guides, as well as helpful videos. The HSE is there to support you!

There is one area that most people wish they could ignore, however, it is one element of business you must adhere to. TAX.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/business-tax>

Knowing the rules enables you may the right amount of the various taxes and not indeed overpay! The site covers everything from income tax to Corporation Tax, National Insurance to VAT, together with tips on most aspects of taxation. If numbers are not your comfort zone, then consider a book keeper or indeed and accountant. Always comply with the HMRC.

If you have any concerns ask for help. We are available to help you with advice and guidance.