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Tax Faculty – Newsletter 2/2017

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Training costs - additional 50% deduction

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Paragraph 16 of the Income Tax Act 2010 provides that:

"Where a person has incurred cost in the provision of qualifying training, an employer may claim a further deduction of 50% of these costs as a deduction under this paragraph in addition to the 100% deduction which may be claimed under paragraph 2(1)."

"A self-employed individual undertaking qualifying training may also claim the 50% deduction"

"Qualifying training' means any qualification and training as approved by the Commissioner."

However, the Act provides no further definition as to the criteria to be met to be approved as qualifying training.

The Acting Commissioner of Income Tax has confirmed that as a general guideline, qualifying expenditure would include:

- costs relevant to the work, either current or planned, carried out by an employee for their employer;
- costs of a course or training charged to the employer (or self-employed individual) by the course organiser, such organiser being an unconnected person as defined in Schedule 4 to the Income Tax Act 2010. Where the organiser is a connected person, but the organisation of such courses or training is a part of their business, such costs may be included provided they are at an armslength basis;
- travel and accommodation costs incurred, where these are necessary to attend the course or training:
- costs of hiring a venue and similar costs, where these are met directly by the employer;

Qualifying expenditure excludes:

 salary and other indirect costs of an employer in arranging or providing training for their own staff."