



Ask Amanda

In both this issue and next month's issue, I will be sharing some helpful tips regarding taxation in France.

Beware of the DIY approach

Always discuss your situation with an experienced and knowledgeable Expert-comptables/Accountant. Taxes in France can be very different to other countries in Europe and might not be as onerous as you think, if done the right way. DIY'ers rarely utilise the tax breaks and could end up paying more tax than they need to.

A Tax Residence of choice does not work

Just because you are spending 3 months of the year in the UK does not mean you automatically qualify for UK tax residency when, in fact, you are actually spending more of your time in France. The double tax treaty will not cover you in this case.

Don't think you can hide

If you are French tax resident i.e. you spend more than 183 days a year and/or your social economic interest (family, house etc.) is in France then the Centre des Impots can find you. There is always a paper trail, utility bills, mobile phone records, school fees, airline tickets, credit card and bank statements, as well as visual evidence from neighbours, gardeners, cleaners etc. It is much better to have your affairs "regularised" and know that the knock on the door is highly unlikely.

Beware the UK 90 day rule

Trying to claim UK tax residency because you go back to the UK for at least 90 days a year out of the last 3 years, does not always work. This is not a law and can be ignored by the courts. The French tax authorities would swiftly brush this aside as an excuse if they were trying to determine tax residency in France or not.

Don't rely on a double taxation treaty to protect you

A double taxation treaty is merely an agreement between 2 countries that if you are taxed in one you will not have to pay the same tax again in the other (although any top-up tax may need to be paid). You have to be resident in at least one country in any one year. The French will quite quickly assume that you are French tax resident if there are any signs of regular/permanent establishment in the country, e.g buying a property, children at school.

Be very wary of trying to be non-resident anywhere

If you are claiming to be non-tax resident anywhere then you could misunderstand the rules of the countries that you are living in. It is possible but most countries will deem you to be tax resident even if you spend less than 6 months of the year in the country. They just do not accept that you can be non-resident anywhere these days.

Whether you want to register for our newsletter, attend one of our road shows or speak to me directly, please call or email me on the contacts below and I will be glad to help you. We do not charge for reviews, reports or recommendations we provide.

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Independent Financial Advisers

**Why not make an appointment
to see how I can help you?**

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