



Corporation tax return late filing penalties

These are doubling for filing dates from 1 April 2026 per below.

	Current rate	From 1 April 2026	3rd successive failure, return late (Current rate)	3rd successive failure, return late (From 1 April 2026)
Late return	£100	£200	£500	£1,000
3 months late	Additional £100	Additional £200	Additional £500	Additional £1,000
6 months late	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid
12 months late	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid	Additional 10% of tax unpaid

If the tax return is late 3 times in a row, the £100 (£200 from 1 April 2026) penalty is increased to £500 (£1,000) on the third consecutive failure to meet the filing deadline.

If the return is more than six months late, an additional tax geared penalty of 10% of the unpaid tax may be charged, increasing to 20% if the return is more than 12 months late.

Please note that for long periods of account, such as if the accounting period is extended or for a new company's first period of account, 2 corporation tax returns need to be filed. These are two separate tax returns so if both are filed late and the next return is also filed late, this will count as the 3rd successive late return and the increased penalty rate will apply.

Corporation tax late payments

There are no changes to late payments. Penalties are not charged for late payment, however interest does arise on outstanding tax due.

- For companies outside the quarterly instalment payment regime, interest is charged from the payment deadline of nine months and one day after the end of the accounting period. This is at base rate plus 4%, currently 7.75% pa.
- For those in the quarterly instalment regime, interest can arise on each late instalment payment. This is currently 6.25% pa.