ROUTE MAP NO. 004 · UK · SELF ASSESSMENT

When is the Self Assessment deadline?

8 stops

Checked against GOV.UK, 9 November 2026

Approved by Clive Angel, 30 years in finance

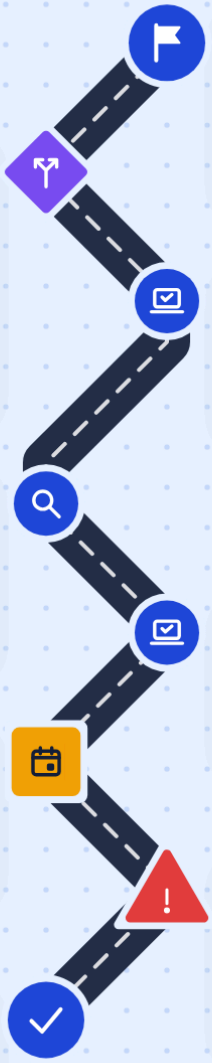
Zero2CFO

ROUTE MAP No. 004
UK · SELF ASSESSMENT

When is the Self Assessment deadline?

Register by 5 October if you are new, then file and pay online by 31 January.

8 stops | Checked against GOV.UK, 9 Nov 2026 | Approved by Clive Angel



01 Do you need a return?

Sole traders over £1,000, partners, and many others must send a Self Assessment return. Check if you are in.

Source 3

02 Missed 5 October?

Missed the 5 October registration deadline? Register now if you still need a return.

Yes — Register now. Do not wait.

No — Register by 5 October if new.

Sources 1, 2

03 Register with HMRC

Tell HMRC you need a return. You get a Unique Taxpayer Reference to file online.

Source 2

04 Gather your figures

Income, expenses, dividends and anything else the return asks for. Keep your records to hand.

05 File online by 31 January

Submit your online return by 11:59pm on 31 January. Paper returns have an earlier date.

Source 1

06 Pay by 31 January

Pay what you owe by 11:59pm on 31 January, even if you filed earlier.

Source 1

07 Late filing costs

Miss the online deadline and you get a late filing penalty. Paying late brings its own penalty.

Source 1

08 Return and payment done

Keep your submission receipt and bank proof. Next year starts again on 6 April.

KEY: Start here | Check this | Decide | Online service | Deadline | Watch out | Done

SOURCES checked 9 Nov 2026

1. GOV.UK: Self Assessment tax returns: Deadlines
2. GOV.UK: Check how to register for Self Assessment
3. GOV.UK: Self Assessment tax returns: Who must send a tax return

General information, not personal advice. Check the source before you act.

File and pay your Self Assessment online by 11:59pm on 31 January. If you are new to Self Assessment, or you skipped a year, tell HMRC by 5 October. Missed that date? Register now. This page is general information, not tax advice.

The route, stop by stop

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Who needs a return

You must send a return if, for example, you were a sole trader and earned more than £1,000 before expenses, or you were a partner in a partnership. GOV.UK lists the full set of cases.

The two dates that matter

5 October is the date to tell HMRC you need a return when you have not sent one before, or you skipped a year. 31 January is the online filing and payment deadline for the tax year that ended the previous 5 April.

Missed 5 October?

Register now. The filing and payment deadline is still 31 January, and waiting only shortens the time you have left.

Common questions

When do I file online?

By 11:59pm on 31 January.

When do I pay?

By 11:59pm on 31 January, the same day as the online return.

What if I missed 5 October?

Register now. Do not wait for the next year.

Is this tax advice?

No. It is general information from official pages checked on 9 November 2026. Rules change, so check the sources before you act.

Where the rules come from

1. GOV.UK: Self Assessment tax returns: Deadlines checked 9 November 2026
2. GOV.UK: Check how to register for Self Assessment checked 9 November 2026
3. GOV.UK: Self Assessment tax returns: Who must send a tax return checked 9 November 2026

This map is general information, not personal advice. Rules and rates change, so check the sources before you act. If your situation is tricky, talk to your accountant.

Route Maps are general information for business owners, not personal advice. Rules change, so check the source before you act.

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