PayToolkit

Making Tax Digital — Quarterly Deadlines Cheat Sheet 2026/27

Who must use MTD for Income Tax?

Sole traders and landlords with combined gross income (turnover + rents, before expenses):

- **Over £50,000 — mandatory from 6 April 2026 (based on your 2024/25 tax return)**
- Over £30,000 — from April 2027 • Over £20,000 — from April 2028

Quarterly update deadlines (2026/27)

Update period (standard)	Covers	Deadline
Quarter 1	6 Apr – 5 Jul 2026	**7 August 2026**
Quarter 2	6 Apr – 5 Oct 2026	**7 November 2026**
Quarter 3	6 Apr – 5 Jan 2027	**7 February 2027**
Quarter 4 (full year)	6 Apr 2026 – 5 Apr 2027	**7 May 2027**

Using calendar quarters (1 Apr – 31 Mar)? Same deadlines apply: 7 Aug, 7 Nov, 7 Feb, 7 May. Choose in your software before your first update.

Key facts

- **Updates are cumulative.** Each update covers from 6 April to the end of the period — so you can correct earlier figures without resending old updates.
- **They are summaries, not tax returns.** Software sends category totals only. HMRC never sees individual receipts or invoices. No accounting adjustments needed at quarter-end.
- **Nil updates still required.** No income or expenses this quarter? You must still send the update.
- **Same categories as Self Assessment.** Income and expense categories match your current SA return.
- **Two businesses = two updates.** A sole trader who is also a landlord files one update per business, each quarter.
- **Year-end still applies.** After Q4 you make tax adjustments and file a final tax return by 31 January as usual.

Penalties — first-year grace period

For 2026/27 only, HMRC will NOT issue penalty points for late quarterly updates. But you must still send all four before you can file your tax return — and late tax returns DO still earn points. From 2027/28, each late update earns a point; 4 points = £200 penalty.