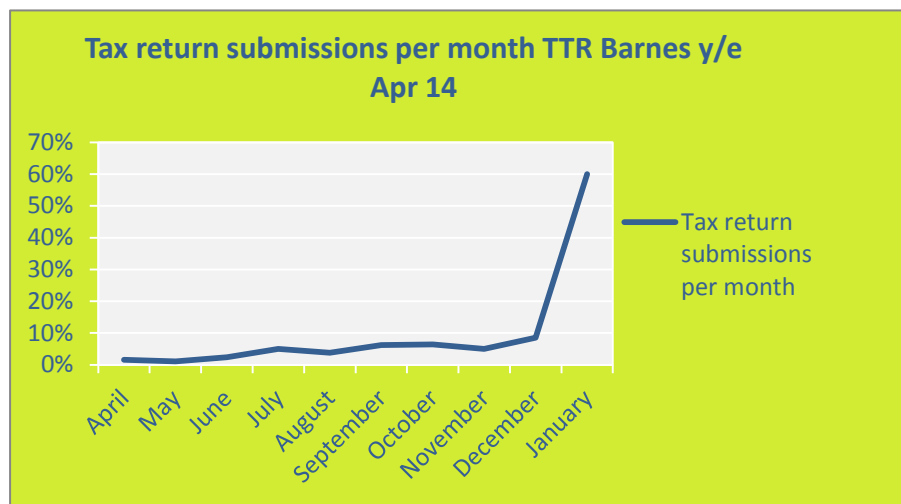


# THE BATTLE OF THE TAXES AT TTR BARNES



Following the post 31 January tax return submission deadline our tax department has taken the time to put their eye to some of the statistics surrounding the tax return deadline – with some interesting results!

The tax return deadline strikes fear into the hearts of most self-assessment taxpayers, and it seems that this is reflected in how long those affected typically leave it to submit their tax returns. Almost 60% of our clients waited to submit tax returns until the final deadline month of January. However, it would seem that the women of the business world are a little sharper off the block, with only 27% of these last-minute submissions coming from female clients.



Here at TTR Barnes, we successfully submitted 100% of 2013/14 tax returns on time despite recent analysis conducted by HMRC which showed that taxpayers in the North East were the second worst-performing region in England for failing to submit a tax return on time, with London being the worst.

The initial penalty for failing to submit a tax return on time is £100 and HMRC have recently published a rather humorous list of their top ten most terrible excuses from taxpayers trying to avoid paying the charge.<sup>1</sup>

1. My pet dog ate my tax return...and all the reminders.
2. I was up a mountain in Wales, and couldn't find a post box or get an internet signal.
3. I fell in with the wrong crowd.
4. I've been travelling the world, trying to escape from a foreign intelligence agency.
5. Barack Obama is in charge of my finances.
6. I've been busy looking after a flock of escaped parrots and some fox cubs.
7. A work colleague borrowed my tax return, to photocopy it, and didn't give it back.
8. I live in a camper van in a supermarket car park.
9. My girlfriend's pregnant.
10. I was in Australia.

Thankfully here at TTR Barnes, we have not seen any excuses as weird or wacky as this!