



FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS)
20, Sokode Crescent, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja -Nigeria
www.firs.gov.ng

FAQs on:

WAIVER ON PENALTY AND INTEREST FROM 2013-2015

Sequel to the recent newspaper publication in major Nigerian dailies on 5th October, 2016 in respect of the above subject, please find below some *Frequently Asked Questions*:

1. **Period Covered:** 2013 to 2015 Financial Years.
2. **Taxes Covered:** All Tax Types i.e CIT, EDT, VAT, WHT, PPT, PAYE, CGT, NITDA as enshrined in 1st schedule of FIRS Establishment Act, 2007.
3. **Penalty and Interest Covered:** It covers Penalty and Interest on Late Payment of Taxes, Late Returns Penalties (LRP) and Penalties for Late Registration.
4. **Tax Refund for Penalties and Interest Already Paid?**
There is NO Tax Refund for penalty and interest already paid before the publication.
5. **Mode of Application:** Taxpayers should apply in writing with relevant documents to the Office of the Executive Chairman, Revenue House, 20 Sokode Crescents, Abuja.
6. **Can Application be submitted at the Tax Office?:** The application can be submitted at the Tax Offices and are to be collated by the State Coordinators for onward delivery to the Office of the Executive Chairman for approval.
7. **Window Period:** The Tax Amnesty is valid for a 45 day period, commencing on 5th October, 2016 and terminating on 24th November, 2016.
8. **Does the Waiver cover Periods Prior to 2013 Accounting Year?**
The waiver does not cover periods prior to 2013 accounting year; Taxpayers are expected to have paid all taxes due including penalty and interest prior to 2013 accounting year.
9. **Does it cover Self-Assessment, Tax Audit and Investigation Assessments?**
It covers all penalties and interest imposed on self-assessment and additional assessments arising from Tax Audit and Investigation.
10. **If taxpayer is currently undergoing tax audit or investigation for the period specified in the Notice, can they opt for the waiver?**
The waiver is for established tax liabilities on which relevant assessment notices have been raised.
11. **Would there be any further concession for micro and small businesses regarding principal tax due especially if they are unable to raise the cash required to pay even 25%?**
The conditions specified on the notice apply to all taxpayers regardless of the category of taxpayer.
12. **Is a taxpayer who has no principal tax to pay but has defaulted in filing returns eligible for the waiver? For instance, a company that failed to file NIL VAT returns which means it is only exposed to penalty for failure to file returns.**
The penalty and interest will be waived provided the taxpayer submitted all outstanding Tax Returns within the 45-day window.
13. **Condition for Approval**
Taxpayers are expected to provide evidence of payment of at least 25% of the Principal undisputed tax liabilities and a payment plan for the outstanding sum.

Office of the
Executive Chairman
Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)



FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICE
20 SOKODE CRESCENT, WUSE ZONE 5, P.M.B 33, GARKI, ABUJA, NIGERIA
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FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

WAIVER OF PENALTY AND INTEREST ON TAX LIABILITIES FROM 2013 TO 2015

As part of the efforts of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, (FIRS) to promote voluntary compliance and shield taxpayers from the burden of carrying forward old tax liabilities arising from penalty and interest, the Service wishes to announce as follows:

1. That the FIRS in exercise of its powers under Section 85 (3) of the Companies Income Tax Act CAP C21 LFN 2007 (as amended) (and replicated in Section 32 (3) of the Federal Inland Revenue Service Establishment Act (FIRSEA 2007) hereby invites all principal officers, especially Chairmen, Managing Directors, Chief Executive Officers, Executive and Non-Executive Directors, Chief Financial Officers and all company owners or their representatives, to take advantage of a Special Window to avoid payment of penalty and interest on tax due between 2013-2015;
2. That FIRS, by this Public Notice, will grant a pardon stretching back to three years (2013-2015) to ALL TAXPAYERS in default, provided that such defaulting taxpayers:
 - (a) come forward to declare their indebtedness within the 45-day window
 - (b) present a payment plan on the outstanding Principal Tax Liability acceptable to the Federal Board of Inland Revenue;
3. That this Special Window will be opened for 45 days ONLY, commencing 5th October 2016 terminating 24th November 2016;
4. That this waiver relates ONLY to accumulated penalty and interest and not principal tax due;
5. Based on this waiver, part payment/full payment of undisputed tax liabilities should be paid, while the balance can be paid instalmentally, however, it is expected that a reasonable amount of not less than 25 per cent should be paid on account;

By this Public Notice, FIRS invites taxpayers who have not been fulfilling their statutory tax obligations, to take advantage of this Special Window, failing which all legal means at the disposal of the FIRS will be deployed including criminal prosecution of Board and Management of defaulting organisations.

This Special Window closes on 24th November 2016 - 10 days' from today. Board members and members of Management of defaulting taxpayers who fail to take advantage of this Special Window, will be liable to criminal prosecution, as specified above.

Applicants who want to take advantage of this Special Window should forward their applications to:

Office of the Executive Chairman
Federal Inland Revenue Service, FIRS
20 Sokode Crescent
Wuse Zone 5
Abuja

Contact:

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Signed:
Tunde Fowler
Executive Chairman
Federal Inland Revenue Service