

### **Repayment Supplement payable?**

A repayment trader in the mobile phone industry and originally suspected by Customs of being in a "carousel fraud" chain was entitled to interest from Customs because they took longer than the permitted 30 days to conclude their enquiries into the veracity or otherwise of the claim.

Whilst Customs were entitled to investigate the authenticity of a refund claim and the various transactions encompassing the movement and transfer of goods between parties, once they had concluded their enquiries repayment should be made to the claimant. If the period of enquiry from initial contact by Customs with the claimant to cessation of their enquiry exceeded the 30 day period, the repayment supplement became due.

The receipt of interest however will be little compensation to those businesses that are not involved in fraud that have gone bust due to lack of cash flow.