Expert-led, Compliant R&D Tax Claims You Can Trust

Compliant claims. Technical depth. Total peace of mind.

Progress takes risk.

R&D tax relief exists to reward businesses that take it.

The opportunity is real.
The question is whether your claim is prepared to the standard that captures it fully, and protects it if HMRC looks closely.

R&D tax relief is one of the UK government's most significant incentives for business innovation. It rewards companies that invest in qualifying research and development with a meaningful financial benefit.

The scheme exists because genuine progress rarely comes without risk. Businesses that commit resources to resolving scientific or technological uncertainties – without knowing whether they will succeed – are exactly who it was designed to support. The government's intention is to reward that speculative effort and encourage businesses to keep making it.

For ambitious, growing businesses, that opportunity is real and meaningful. Whether you are developing new software, improving production processes, advancing materials science, or working through complex scientific uncertainties in life sciences, the qualifying question is never whether your work is groundbreaking – it is whether you faced genuine uncertainty and worked systematically to resolve it.

"It is worth understanding how the scheme works today. For companies whose accounting period begins on or after the 1st of April 2024, the previous SME and RDEC schemes were replaced by a new merged R&D expenditure credit scheme, which now applies to the majority of claimant companies. Under the merged scheme, the net benefit is 15% for profit-making companies and 16.2% for those which are loss-making. A separate scheme, Enhanced R&D Intensive Support (ERIS), remains available for loss-making SMEs where R&D expenditure represents at least 30% of total spend, providing a higher rate of relief for the most R&D-intensive businesses.

The key is making sure your claim reflects the full value of your qualifying work, accurately, compliantly, and in a way that holds up under scrutiny.

That last point matters more than it once did. HMRC's approach to R&D compliance has sharpened considerably in recent years, and the bar for what constitutes a well-prepared claim has risen with it. Generic narratives and templated reports no longer cut it. HMRC expects clear, evidence-led explanations of genuine scientific and technological uncertainties, and businesses are best placed to benefit from the scheme when they work with advisers who know exactly how to deliver that.

A different kind of R&D adviser.

Over more than three decades, we have supported over a thousand businesses across a broad range of sectors, from ambitious SMEs and software engineers to manufacturers, engineers, and life sciences companies.

Every claim we prepare is built on the same foundation: technical depth, financial accuracy, and a genuine commitment to getting it right.

What sets MSC R&D apart starts with the people. The quality of an R&D claim is only ever as good as the expertise behind it, **which is why we have built a team unlike any other in this sector.**

Every R&D tax adviser in our team is a chartered professional, holding either the Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) or ACA qualification. To our knowledge, we are the only R&D tax specialist firm in the UK where this is true across the board. It is not a detail we take lightly.

Three former HMRC inspectors work within our team. One of them is Gavin Bate, formerly HMRC's technical lead for the R&D regime and a contributor to the HMRC CIRD guidance manual. The people who review your claim have sat on the other side of the table.

Technical Analysts with deep industry expertise. Our technical team has worked across the sectors our clients operate in. That means they understand your engineers, speak their language, and can lead the Blitz Day® without asking your team to prepare narratives or write up their work in advance. The result is a thorough, accurate technical report – with minimal burden on your people.

Over 150 years of combined R&D tax experience across the team, including approximately 50 years of direct HMRC experience.

Accreditations:

MSC R&D holds ISO 9001 and ISO 27001:2022 certifications, reflecting our commitment to quality management and information security. We are also recognised under the EFQM Excellence framework and hold the Investors in People standard. Our ISO 9001 was most recently recertified with zero non-conformities.

bsi ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems CERTIFIED

bsi ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Management CERTIFIED

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

RECOGNISED BY EFQM ★★

Chartered Tax Adviser

From qualifying activity to compliant claim, we handle it all.

R&D tax relief exists to reward businesses that take on genuine scientific and technological risk. Our job is to make sure every pound your business is legitimately entitled to is identified, documented, and prepared to the highest standard.

We work across a broad range of sectors, including technology and software, manufacturing and engineering, life sciences and pharmaceuticals, and growing SMEs investing seriously in innovation.

Process Steps:

IDENTIFY

We work with you to identify the R&D activity within your business, focusing on the genuine scientific and technological uncertainties you encountered and how you approached resolving them. Many businesses carry out qualifying work without realising it – the bar is not whether the outcome was successful or groundbreaking, but whether the uncertainty was real and the approach systematic.

CAPTURE

We make sure all qualifying expenditure is captured accurately, including staff costs, subcontractors, software, consumables, cloud computing, and data licences. Costs that are frequently overlooked by less experienced advisers are identified and analysed as a matter of course.

DOCUMENT

Our technical analysts and tax advisers work together to prepare the technical and financial documentation required for your claim. This includes preparation of the Additional Information Form (AIF), which is now mandatory for all R&D claims, as well as the Advanced Notification Form (ANF) where required for first-time or lapsed claimants. The result is an evidence-led narrative that clearly sets out your technological uncertainties, your approach to resolving them, and the costs associated with that work.

REVIEW

Every claim goes through a rigorous internal Quality Assurance process, including review by former HMRC inspectors. Nothing leaves MSC R&D unless it meets our standards.

SUBMIT & SUPPORT

We support submission via your accountant through the CT600 and liaise directly with HMRC on your behalf if any queries arise. You are never left to navigate that process alone. Importantly, enquiry support is included within our fees.

Your time is valuable. We built our process around that.

One of the most common frustrations businesses have with R&D tax claims is the time they take. Lengthy interview processes, repeated requests for information, and weeks of back-and-forth can place a real burden on technical teams who are already busy. We designed the Blitz Day® to solve exactly that problem.

The Blitz Day® is MSC R&D's structured, intensive approach to claim preparation, purpose-built to capture everything we need in a single focused session with minimal disruption to your business.

Rather than spreading information gathering over a prolonged period, the Blitz Day® brings together your key technical and financial contacts with our specialists for a concentrated, highly productive engagement. We come prepared. We know your sector, we understand the technical language, and we ask the right questions – first time.

The result is a claim that is captured thoroughly and efficiently, without your people being pulled away from their work repeatedly over weeks.

What the Blitz Day® delivers:

- **A structured, single-session information capture with your team**
- **Sector-specific technical questioning from PhD-level analysts who understand your field**
- **Simultaneous financial and technical scoping, so nothing falls through the gaps**
- **A clear, efficient process from first engagement to draft claim**
- **A significantly reduced time commitment for your staff compared to a traditional approach**

> We do not ask your engineers to become tax experts. We ask the right questions, in the right way, and we do the heavy lifting, so your team can get back to what they do best.

When the stakes are high, the adviser you choose matters.

There is no shortage of firms offering R&D tax services. The difference lies in what happens when HMRC looks closely, and in the quality of what you receive long before they do.

MSC R&D was built on a straightforward principle: that a compliant, technically robust claim, prepared by genuine specialists, is always the right approach. Not the easiest. Not the fastest. The right one.

That principle shapes everything about how we work.

The MSC R&D Difference:

Chartered expertise, across the board

Every R&D tax adviser in our team is a chartered professional, holding either the CTA or ACA qualification. In an industry where this is far from standard, it is a mark of the professional rigour we hold ourselves to and a level of accountability that protects you.

HMRC insight that cannot be replicated

With three former HMRC inspectors in our team, including the individual who helped shape the very guidance HMRC uses to assess R&D claims, we understand exactly how your claim will be viewed from the other side. That perspective informs everything we prepare.

Technical depth, not generic narratives

Our PhD-level Technical Analysts bring genuine sector expertise. They understand the science and engineering behind your work, which means your technical report reflects it accurately rather than relying on vague, templated language that attracts attention.

A quality assurance process built for scrutiny

Every claim is reviewed internally before submission, including sign-off from former HMRC inspectors. We do not cut corners at this stage, because we understand what an enquiry costs a business.

Compliance as a foundation, not an afterthought

The R&D landscape has changed. Firms that treat compliance lightly are exposing their clients to real risk. We treat it as the basis of everything we do, because that is what our clients deserve.

> MSC R&D is the right choice for businesses that want their claim done properly, and that value working with a firm that will stand behind its work when it matters most.

What our clients say.

For the 5th year in a row, MSC R&D Tax Services has proven themselves to be the absolute best in the industry. Their professionalism, diligence, and in-depth expertise in R&D tax credits are truly unparalleled. Each year, they deliver results with the highest level of accuracy and precision, providing peace of mind and confidence that we are in the most capable hands.

We have worked with MSC R&D for several years and have always trusted them to guide us through the complexities of making R&D claims. Their commitment to understanding our business, combined with their exceptional attention to detail and patience, has been invaluable.

The team we worked with was incredibly knowledgeable and helped us navigate the complexities of R&D tax brilliantly. It provided us with the confidence needed to maximise our claim whilst adhering to guidelines, especially during this time of higher scrutiny from HMRC.

R&D looks different in every sector. We know them all.

Technology and Software

From resolving complex integration uncertainties to developing proprietary platforms where the technical outcome was not known in advance, software businesses often have more qualifying R&D activity than they realise – and more to lose from a poorly documented claim.

Manufacturing and Engineering

Developing new materials, improving production processes, or engineering components that push beyond what existing methods can achieve. Qualifying activity in this sector is often extensive, and well-evidenced with the right approach.

Life Sciences and Pharmaceuticals

Whether in drug development, medical device advancement, or clinical diagnostics, claims in this sector demand advisers with genuine scientific understanding. Our technical team has it.

SMEs and Growth Businesses

For growing businesses, R&D relief can be genuinely transformative, reinvested into further development, new talent, or commercial expansion. Getting the claim right from the outset is what protects that opportunity.

Ready to find out what your R&D is really worth?

If you are investing in innovation, you deserve an adviser who will capture the full value of that work, accurately, compliantly, and without placing unnecessary demands on your team.

MSC R&D has been doing exactly that since 1990. The conversation starts with a straightforward, no-obligation call. We will listen to what your business is working on, give you an honest view of what may qualify, and explain clearly how we work. No pressure, no jargon, just a genuine conversation with people who know this field inside out.

Book a call with our team here:
www.mscrnd.com/contact-us

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