

*These notes refer to the Corporation Tax Act 2009
(c.4) which received Royal Assent on 26 March 2009*

CORPORATION TAX ACT 2009

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Tax Law Rewrite project

7. In December 1995 the Inland Revenue presented a report to Parliament on the scope for simplifying the United Kingdom tax system (*The Path to Tax Simplification*). The main recommendation was that United Kingdom direct tax legislation should be rewritten in clearer, simpler language.
8. This recommendation was warmly welcomed, both in Parliament and in the tax community. In his November 1996 Budget speech the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP) announced that the Inland Revenue would propose detailed arrangements for a major project to rewrite direct tax legislation in plainer language.
9. The project team has been carrying out this work. The aim is that the rewritten legislation should use simpler language and structure than previous tax legislation. The members of the project are drawn from different backgrounds. They include longstanding HMRC employees, former private sector tax professionals and parliamentary counsel including (as head of the drafting team) a senior member of the Parliamentary Counsel Office.