

desk@leicestermercury.co.uk

'Slaughter' warning

NEW measures aimed at stopping accountants from bending tax rules for their clients must contain robust safeguards to prevent "a slaughter of the innocents", says a city tax expert.

Pete Miller, of The Miller Partnership, in New Walk, said without such protection professional advisers who have simply assisted clients to be more tax-efficient, rather than introducing them to tax savings schemes, could also face tough penalties.

Under the Government's new proposals, accountants or tax advisers who help clients gain tax advantages that HMRC thinks were not intended by Parliament could be fined up to 100 per cent of the tax bill that had been avoided.

Mr Miller said: "The Government's consultation document must contain robust safeguards to prevent a slaughter of the innocents by HM Revenue & Customs."