



CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS

TAX YEAR-END 2025/26

FIND YOUR TAX RELIEF

**ACT NOW TO USE YOUR TAX RELIEFS
AND ALLOWANCES BEFORE 5 APRIL**

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS 18 PAGES AND WILL TAKE LESS THAN 15 MINUTES TO READ

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HELPING YOU REACH LIFE'S BIGGEST GOALS

Making the best use of your tax reliefs and allowances can help you get closer to achieving your financial goals. That could include anything from laying a foundation and helping to secure your – and your family's – financial future, to retiring in style or planning how to pass on your wealth. Find out more on the following pages:

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THE ADVANTAGES OF USING YOUR TAX RELIEFS AND ALLOWANCES TODAY

Nothing quite beats that feeling of knowing you're on course to reach your financial goals

It might be to take the first step onto the property ladder, save for your child to go through university debt free, or upgrade to a bigger home. Or it could be to enjoy the financial freedom in later life to follow your passions, or to ensure you'll pass on as much of your wealth as possible to loved ones.

Whatever your ambitions, smart tax planning can play an important role in helping you achieve them. And a key element of that is ensuring you take advantage of the tax reliefs and allowances that are available to you every year.

SO, ARE YOU READY FOR TAX YEAR-END?

We can help you create a coherent plan

Achieving your long-term goals whilst meeting the demands of today requires an effective tax and financial plan.

That means using the right tools for you at the right time and ensuring you find the right balance of savings and investments, to make your money work harder for you. This is even more important in a time of continuing financial uncertainty. The freezing of many tax allowances is also placing a greater burden on many taxpayers, so it's essential to consider the decisions and actions you can take this tax year to mitigate any impacts.

Expert advice is invaluable here. Whether it's opening or topping up an ISA, maximising your Capital Gains Tax allowance or adding to your pension, we're here to help. Act now – before the tax year-end deadline of 5 April.

Remember, there's still time. We can show you how to benefit from your available tax allowances and reliefs, now and in the future.

The value of an investment will be directly linked to the performance of the funds selected and may fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested.

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are generally dependent on individual circumstances.

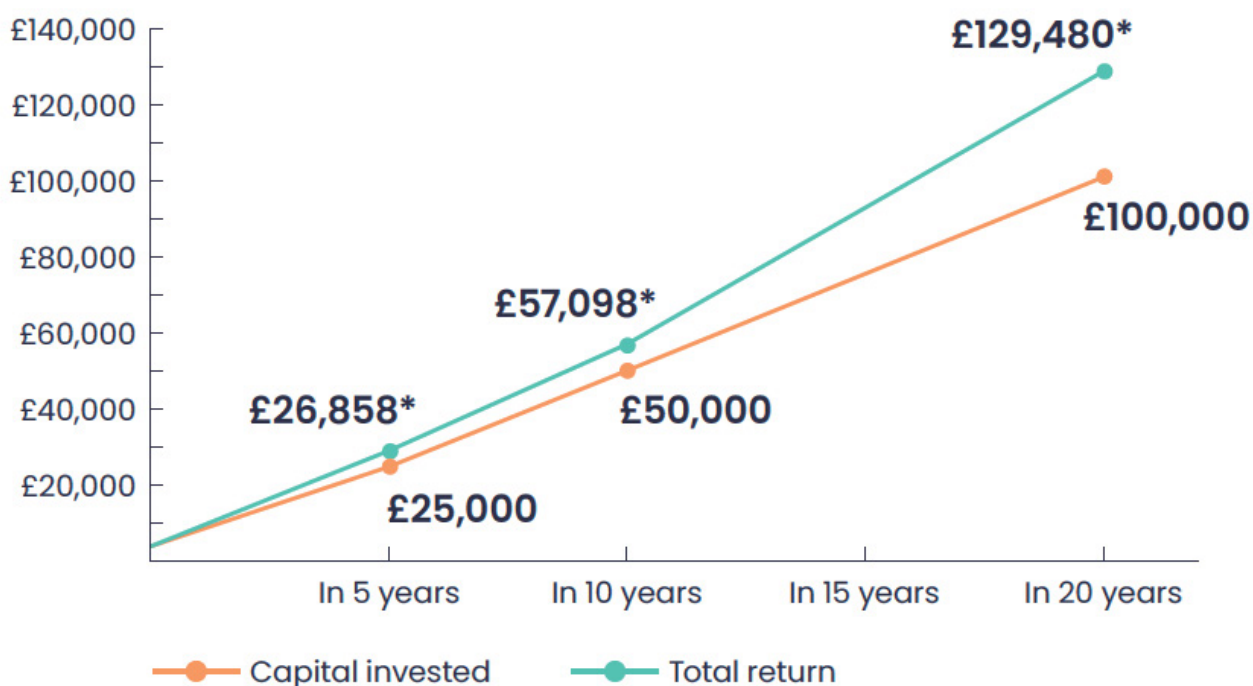
ISAs

WHAT IS AN ISA AND WHY SHOULD YOU CONSIDER ONE?

An ISA is a great way of making your money work harder for you. Everything you earn from it is currently free of Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax, making it extremely tax efficient. ISAs are also a flexible option if you want to start investing in stocks and shares. You can't carry forward any ISA allowance you don't use in a single tax year – so make sure you use as much of this year's £20,000 allowance as you can. Please note that if you are under 65 from April 2027 you can only put up to £12,000 into a cash ISA.

Adding a little each year goes a long way

The power of compounding means that even adding relatively small amounts to your Stocks & Shares ISA each year can make a big difference in the long run. If you started an ISA with £5,000 in year one and then topped it up by £5,000 at the same time every year – thanks to the fact the returns on your investments will be reinvested and are so tax efficient – **here's how your money could grow:**



*Figures based on growth after charges of 2.4% per year. The figures are examples only and not guaranteed. They are not minimum or maximum amounts. What you get back depends on how your investment grows and the tax treatment of the investment. You could get back more or less than this.



FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE OF ISAS

Even with higher interest rates, high inflation means that if you keep your savings in a Cash ISA, the money could lose its value in real terms. If you're able to invest in a Stocks & Shares ISA over the long term, it has the potential to beat inflation over time, despite the short-term ups and downs of the stock markets.

The value of an ISA will be directly linked to the performance of the funds selected and may fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested. An investment in a Stocks & Shares ISA will not provide the same security of capital associated with a Cash ISA. The favourable tax treatment of ISAs may not be maintained in the future and is subject to changes in legislation.

LIFETIME ISAS:

18 to 39 year olds can open a Lifetime ISA to buy their first home or save for later life. You can invest up to £4,000 per annum and the government will top this up with a 25% bonus (up to a maximum of £1,000 per year). The £4K limit counts towards your annual ISA limit of £20K pa.

Once you reach 50 no further contributions can be made and there are withdrawal charges if you use the funds before the age of 60 for anything other than buying a home.

YOUR ISA ALLOWANCES FOR 2025/26

Each tax year, you can contribute £20,000 per person into an ISA (so £40,000 for a couple who each hold an ISA), and £9,000 per child into a Junior ISA. This can be either a Stocks & Shares ISA, a Cash ISA, or a mix of both.

When it comes to making the most of ISAs, it's a case of 'use it or lose it' – you can't roll your allowance over into another year. So think about starting an ISA, or topping up your existing ones, before 5 April.

Your deadline for this year's ISA allowances is 5 April, the end of the current tax year.

Contact us now for a no-obligation consultation to discuss the tax implications of starting an ISA or topping up your existing one.



PERSONAL SAVINGS ALLOWANCE

FIND THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN CASH AND INVESTMENTS

What should you do if you've been keeping your savings in cash accounts? With interest rates higher than they have been for many years, it's more likely some of the interest on your savings will be subject to tax, particularly if you're a higher-rate taxpayer. You do have a few options, though. It's still important to have an 'emergency fund' that you can access quickly. You should hold this in cash, as stocks and shares can lose value. But for longer term goals, a Stocks & Shares ISA is worth considering, as there's more potential for long-term growth (see page 4).

YOUR PERSONAL SAVINGS ALLOWANCE FOR 2025/26

The Personal Savings Allowance (PSA) means you don't have to pay tax on some of the interest you receive from your cash savings accounts.

Your annual allowance is based on the rate at which you pay Income Tax, as follows:

£1,000

**BASIC-RATE TAXPAYERS CAN EARN UP TO
£1,000 A YEAR IN INTEREST TAX FREE**

£500

**FOR HIGHER-RATE TAXPAYERS,
IT'S £500 A YEAR**

£0

**FOR ADDITIONAL-RATE TAXPAYERS, IT'S £0,
MEANING ALL INTEREST IS SUBJECT TO TAX.**

Here's how much you could hold in a cash account (paying 5% annual interest) before you'd be liable for tax on the interest:

▶ **BASIC-RATE TAXPAYER
£20,000**

▶ **HIGHER-RATE TAXPAYER
£10,000**

WATCH OUT FOR THE 60% TAX TRAP!

If you earn less than £100,000 per year, the first £12,570 of that is free of Income Tax for most people. However, if you earn £100,000 or more, that tax-free personal allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 you earn over £100,000.

That means you could be taxed at a rate of 60% on income between £100,000 and £125,140.

Here's how that might work in practice:

Assume your income is: £100,000

But you get a bonus or pay rise of: £10,000



Amount paid in
Income Tax on the
£10,000 (at 40%):
£4,000



Additional Income tax (as
your personal allowance is
reduced by £5,000): £2,000



Total extra income tax
paid: £6,000 That's
60% of your
additional income

One way of avoiding this trap is to pay earnings over £100,000 into your pension, which will take your taxable income below the threshold and allow you to keep your full personal allowance. You'll also benefit from the 40% higher rate tax relief on that contribution, subject to certain limitations. Anything over the 20% basic rate of tax must be reclaimed via your tax return.

It could be you -

An increasing number of people will be affected by the 60% tax trap, as earnings are rising on average but Income Tax thresholds are frozen.

Check you're making the most of your tax allowances so you don't have to pay more tax than you need to.

The value of an investment will be directly linked to the performance of the funds selected and may fall as well as rise. You may get back less than you invested.

An investment in equities does not provide the security of capital associated with a deposit account with a bank or building society.

The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are dependent on individual circumstances.

PENSIONS

WHY INVESTING IN A PENSION IS A VITAL INGREDIENT FOR A HAPPY RETIREMENT

Because of the Income Tax relief you get on the money you pay into your pot, a pension – used as part of a balanced investment portfolio – is one of the best ways to save for your retirement. This tax year, subject to certain allowances, you can contribute up to £60,000 or 100% of your earnings, whichever is lower, and receive tax relief.

Bear in mind that the freezing of the Income Tax personal allowance and tax bands – and the reduction of the additional-rate Income Tax threshold to £125,140 – means you could end up paying more tax. Maximising your pension contributions is one way to reduce the effects of this.

HOW TAX RELIEF ON PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS WORKS

When you pay into your pension pot (up to £60,000 per year, or 100% of earnings, if less), you will receive tax relief on the contributions. So, to make a total contribution of, for example, £100:



**BASIC-RATE
INCOME TAX**

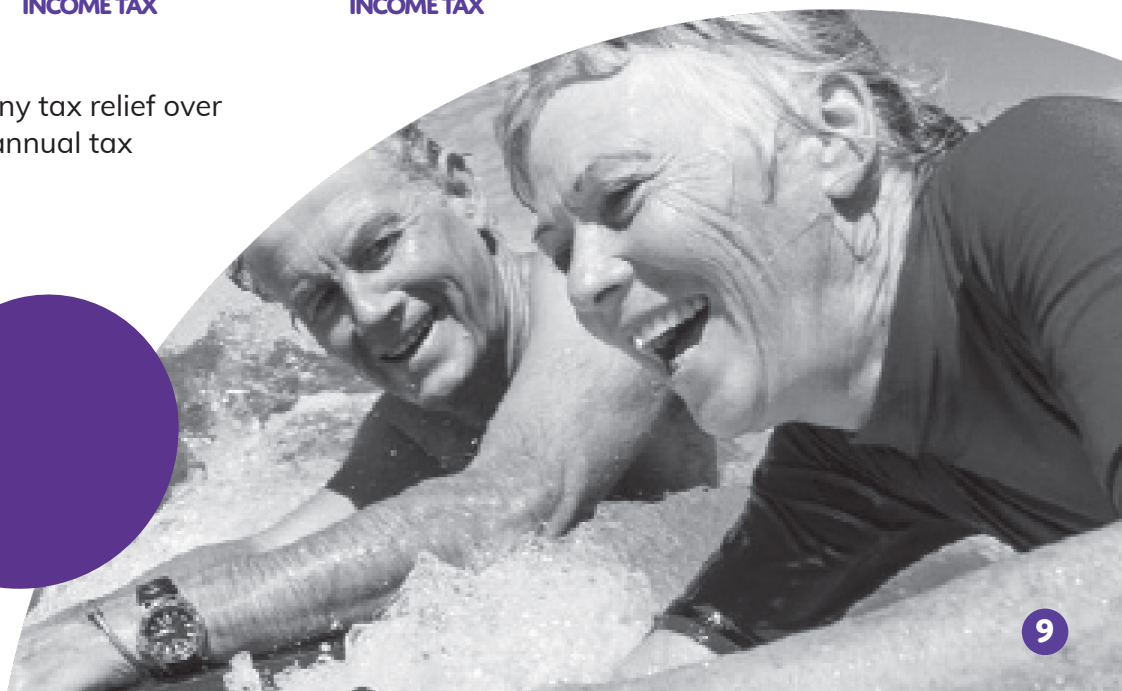


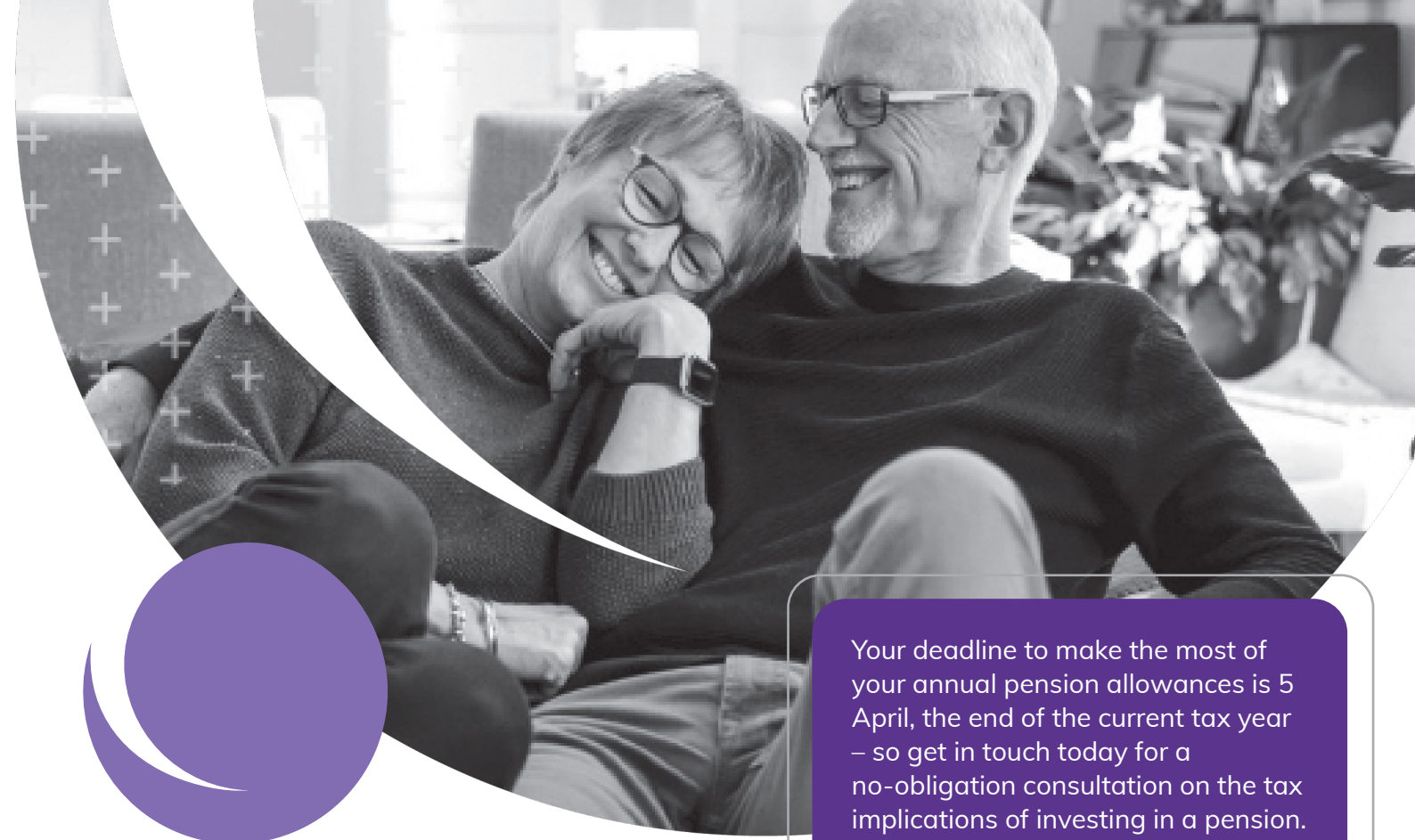
**HIGHER-RATE
INCOME TAX**



**ADDITIONAL-RATE
INCOME TAX**

You will need to claim any tax relief over the basic rate via your annual tax return.





Your deadline to make the most of your annual pension allowances is 5 April, the end of the current tax year – so get in touch today for a no-obligation consultation on the tax implications of investing in a pension.

YOUR PENSION ALLOWANCES FOR 2025/26

You can personally get Income Tax relief on 100% of your earnings, or £3,600 if lower, but the total amount that can be paid into your pension, including from your employer is limited to an annual allowance of £60,000.

You can 'carry forward' your annual allowance if you haven't used it all in previous years. You use this year's one first, then you can go back up to three tax years (ie 2022/23) and use the unused allowance, then the next, and the next. The total amount you pay personally would still be limited to 100% of your earnings or £3,600.

From age 55 (set to rise to 57 in 2028), you can take out up to 25% of your pension pot tax free. The rest is charged at your usual Income Tax rate.

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INHERITANCE TAX

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WEALTH

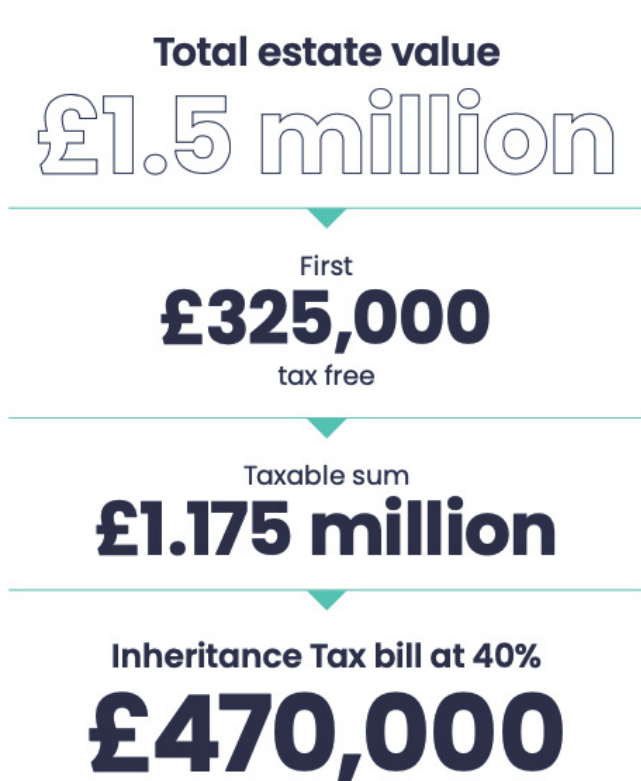
The high rate at which Inheritance Tax (IHT) is charged gives many families a shock, so it's well worth doing what you can to take advantage of the relevant tax reliefs and allowances available to you.

Although the tax-free allowance of £325,000 per person may seem generous, the 40% rate at which IHT is paid on the rest of your estate is not, subject to other allowances being available.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TAX-FREE GIFTING ALLOWANCES

A good way of reducing IHT bills is to make the most of your gifting allowances. You can give cash gifts to your loved ones every year that won't be counted as part of your estate for tax purposes. This is an effective way of passing on as much of your wealth as possible.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT COULD BE CHARGED WHEN YOU DIE



This example does not take into account the allowance of the residence nil-rate band of up to £175,000 if you leave your residence to your direct descendants.

Here's how gifting works

£3,000


The amount you can gift tax free per year

£6,000

The total amount you and your partner can gift if you combine your allowances

£12,000

The amount you and your partner can gift this year if you haven't used last year's allowance, as it can be carried over for one year



Your deadline for this year's gifting allowances is 5 April, the end of the current tax year. Contact us now for a no-obligation consultation to discuss this and other ways of protecting your family wealth.

Contributing to a Junior ISA (see page 6) or a pension (see page 10) for your children or grandchildren are also effective ways of passing on your wealth tax efficiently.

YOUR INHERITANCE TAX ALLOWANCES FOR 2025/26

If you leave all your estate to your spouse or civil partner, there is no tax to pay. The first £325,000 of your estate that you leave to anyone else is also tax free.

If your home is included in your estate and you pass it onto your children, grandchildren or other lineal descendants, the tax-free threshold increases to £500,000 per person, as long as the estate is worth less than £2 million.

If your home is not worth at least £175,000, the main residence allowance will be equivalent to its actual value.

When your partner dies, your allowances can be combined – meaning up to £1 million can ultimately be passed on tax free. You and your spouse or partner can each gift up to £3,000 per year, which will be deducted from the value of your estate.

This £3,000 allowance can be carried forward if you didn't use it last year – giving a limit of up to £12,000 for a couple for this tax year.

You can also make larger gifts but they generally take seven years to be exempt from IHT.

MAJOR CHANGES AND UPCOMING REFORMS

Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and **Business Property Relief (BPR)** will be capped from April 2026. 100% relief applies only to the first £2.5m of combined business/agricultural assets, 50% relief applies thereafter.

Unused pension funds will be brought into the estate for IHT purposes from 6 April 2027.

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CAPITAL GAINS TAX

HOW TO STEER CLEAR OF THE CGT TRAP

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) can be one of the most complex taxes, so it's no wonder people fall into the trap of paying unnecessarily, or end up being fined for not paying when they should. Here's how you might fall liable for CGT without even realising.

You were given some free shares in a company as a bonus, which are worth £5,000

Their value rises considerably and they're now worth £25,000

Your 'taxable gain' (ie the profit you have made) if you sell them all at once is £20,000

The first £3,000 of the tax rate is tax free, but you must pay tax on the remaining £17,000

If you're a higher-rate taxpayer, the tax charge is 24% – therefore the tax bill would be £4,080

There are several ways of reducing this bill – potentially to zero – including:

1. Holding the shares in an ISA, which makes them exempt from CGT (see page 4).
2. Transferring your assets to your spouse or civil partner so you can both make use of your individual allowances.

You must report and pay an estimate of the CGT on most sales of UK property (that's not your home) within 60 days of the sale

Your deadline for making the most of your current CGT allowances is 5 April, the end of the current tax year. Get in touch today for a free consultation to discuss this and ensure you don't end up paying too much or too little.

TIMES ARE CHANGING

From 6 April 2025, the CGT allowance is £3,000. If you've not yet used your CGT exemption, you don't have much time before the end of the tax year. Making sure you're using losses and realising gains at the most appropriate time can make a big difference to the amount of tax you have to pay. This could mean moving assets into different wrappers – pensions and ISAs, for example – to make sure you're not creating gains, or splitting the sale of assets over several tax years.

DIVIDENDS

CONSIDER HOLDING YOUR SHARES IN AN ISA

You usually receive payments from stocks and shares in the form of dividends. If they're not held in an ISA, it can mean you're liable to pay Dividend Tax.

The first £500 you receive in dividends is tax free, but after that you'll have to pay tax according to your Income Tax band: 8.75% if you pay tax at the basic rate, 33.75% if you pay at the higher rate and 39.35% if you pay at the additional rate.

From April 2026, rates are:
Basic 10.75%
Higher 35.75%
Additional 39.35%

HERE'S HOW MUCH YOU'D BE TAXED IF YOU'RE A HIGHER-RATE TAXPAYER:

YOU RECEIVE ANNUAL DIVIDENDS TO A TOTAL VALUE OF

£5,000

THE AMOUNT THAT IS TAXABLE IS

£4,500

THE AMOUNT YOU'LL BE TAXED THIS YEAR (AT 33.75%) IS

£1,518.75

IF YOU'D HELD YOUR SHARES IN AN ISA, YOU'D BE TAXED

£0

Your deadline for making the most of your tax-free allowances is 5 April, the end of the current tax year. Contact us now for a no-obligation consultation to discuss your options.

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YOUR TAX YEAR-END CHECKLIST

Ensure you've made the most of your available tax reliefs and allowances to create the financial future you want.



ISAs

Are you taking full advantage of this year's £20,000 ISA allowance? Or the 9,000 Junior ISA allowance?



Personal Savings Allowance

Have you got the balance between keeping a cash fund and making the most of this year's ISA allowance?



Pensions

Are you making the most of the tax-efficient benefits your pension can bring?



Inheritance Tax

Are you looking to reduce a potential IHT bill? You can gift up to £3,000 before 5 April and it will reduce the taxable value of your estate



Capital Gains Tax

Make sure you pay what you owe this year, but don't end up paying when you don't need to



Dividends

Are you receiving your dividends tax free in an ISA?

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PREMIUM TAX BUNDLE

At 360, we offer a Premium Tax Bundle for those with an income of over £150,000 or net assets worth more than £1 million.

This is **£3,500 + VAT** and includes:

- Tax return
- Tax payment reminders and checks
- Pre year end planning and reviewing
- IHT review/ calculation
- Company valuation (if applicable)
- Financial review by an IFA
- Will writing or review

CREATE THE FINANCIAL FUTURE YOU WANT

We can help you make the most of your available tax reliefs and allowances to put you on track to help achieve your ambitions. The levels and bases of taxation, and reliefs from taxation, can change at any time and are generally dependent on individual circumstances.

**GET IN TOUCH BEFORE 5TH APRIL
SO WE CAN HELP YOU REACH
YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS.**

The information contained in this document is for information only and no responsibility for any loss incurred as a result of any actions taken or refrained from as a result of the information cannot be accepted by 360, Chartered Accountants or any of its employees. 360 is not authorised to give financial advice although we can comment on advice given by financial advisers and the tax implications thereon.



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TEL: 01482 427360

EMAIL: HELP@360ACCOUNTANTS.CO.UK

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