



FINURA

# YOUR GUIDE TO TAX PLANNING IN 2023/2024



# 7 ALLOWANCES TO MAKE USE OF IN THE 2023/2024 TAX YEAR

**With many allowances changing in the Spring Budget, Clients cannot always count on allowances and limits that they've relied on in the past still being available, at the same rate, in the years ahead.**

Reviewing your finances earlier in the tax year could mean you discover an allowance you could make better use of now instead of waiting until the end of the tax year in April 2024.

Here are seven allowances to consider using during the 2023/24 tax year.

## MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE

**The 2023/24 allowance: is £1,260. Using your Marriage Allowance could reduce your Income Tax bill by £252.**

The Marriage Allowance allows a spouse or civil partner to give some of their unused Personal Allowance to their partner.

The Personal Allowance is the amount of income you can receive before Income Tax is due. For the 2023/24 tax year, it is £12,570.

If you or your partner has an income below this threshold, the person on the lower income may be able to pass on up to £1,260 of their Personal Allowance. This effectively increases the Personal Allowance of their partner to £13,830. This can then reduce their tax bill for the 2023/24 tax year by £252.

To be eligible you must be married or in a civil partnership. The partner with the higher income must also pay Income Tax at the basic rate in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland. This usually means their income is between £12,571 and £50,270.

In Scotland, the higher income earner must pay the Scottish starter, basic, or intermediate rate of Income Tax. This usually means their income is between £12,570 and £43,662.

You can backdate the Marriage Allowance for up to four years. So, you have until 5 April 2024 to use your entitlement from the 2019/20 tax year.

**Please note:** HM Revenue and Customs practice and the law relating to taxation are complex and subject to individual circumstances and changes which cannot be foreseen.

# ISA ALLOWANCE

The 2023/24 allowance is £20,000. An ISA provides a tax-efficient way to save and invest.

The interest or returns you earn on money held in an ISA are free of both Income and Capital Gains Tax (CGT). For the current tax year, you can add up to £20,000 to an ISA.

You can spread your annual allowance across several different ISA types.

For adults, there are five different types of ISA that you can contribute to:

- 1. Cash ISA:** A Cash ISA operates similarly to a savings account, but the interest you earn is paid free of Income Tax and CGT. Some Cash ISAs are subject to restrictions, such as how much you can withdraw
- 2. Stocks and Shares ISA:** Using a Stocks and Shares ISA allows you to invest in the stock markets and other assets. Returns are free of Income Tax and CGT. As with all investments, you should have a long-term outlook and understand your risk profile when using a Stocks and Shares ISA
- 3. Lifetime ISA (LISA):** If you're aged between 18 and 39, you can open a LISA. A LISA can be a Cash or Stocks and Shares ISA. You will receive a 25% government bonus on your contributions. However, you will be penalised if you make a withdrawal before you turn 60 for any purpose other than buying your first home. The maximum amount you can place into a LISA each tax year is £4,000
- 4. Innovative Finance ISA:** An Innovative Finance ISA is designed for peer-to-peer lending investments. Usually, these kinds of investments are higher risk than traditional alternatives, so are not appropriate for most investors
- 5. Help to Buy ISA:** While you can no longer open a Help to Buy ISA, if you already have one, you can continue to contribute until November 2029. You can add up to £200 a month and the government will top up your savings by 25% (up to £3,000) when you buy your first home

## FACT

ISAs are an important part of saving and investing for many people.

According to [official statistics](#), around 12 million adults subscribed to an ISA in 2020/21. During that year, around £72 billion was added to ISAs. In total, £687 billion, was held in adult ISAs.

## PERSONAL SAVINGS ALLOWANCE

You may also have a Personal Savings Allowance. This is the amount of interest you can earn without paying tax. The allowance depends on which Income Tax band you're in:

- £1,000 if you're a basic-rate taxpayer
- £500 if you're a higher-rate taxpayer

You do not have a Personal Savings Allowance if you are an additional-rate taxpayer.

## SAVING FOR CHILDREN THROUGH A JUNIOR ISA (JISA)

A JISA is a tax-efficient way to save or invest for a child. The annual subscription limit for 2023/24 is £9,000. The child can begin managing their ISA from 16, but they cannot withdraw money until they are 18. Like their adult counterparts, interest and returns are free of Income and Capital Gains Tax.

## SHOULD YOU CHOOSE A CASH OR STOCKS AND SHARES ISA?

Whether you should choose a Cash or Stocks and Shares ISA will depend on your goals and financial circumstances.

A Cash ISA may be appropriate if you have short-term goals in mind or are using it to build an emergency fund. However, as inflation is higher than interest rates, your savings could be losing value in real terms.

A Stocks and Shares ISA may be appropriate if you're saving with long-term goals in mind. While investment returns cannot be guaranteed, historically, markets have delivered returns over the long term that beat inflation. If you choose to invest, it's important you understand your risk profile and choose an option that is right for you.

### FACT

**If you don't use the allowance before the end of the tax year, you will lose it.**

**Please note:** An ISA is a medium to long term investment, which aims to increase the value of the money you invest for growth or income or both. The value of your investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise. You may not get back the amount you invested.

# DIVIDEND ALLOWANCE

**The 2023/2024 allowance was reduced to £1,000. This will be further reduced to £500 in April 2024.**

Dividends are paid by companies to share out the profits they have made. If you hold shares in a dividend-paying company, you will receive payments. The amount you receive will usually be dependent on performance and stock price. You may also receive dividends if you own your own business. Many company directors draw a combination of salary and dividends from their business to maximise the tax efficiency of their income.

The Dividend Allowance means every individual can receive up to £1,000 in dividends without incurring tax. So, if you're a company director, you can pay yourself up to £1,000 in dividends from the business without paying any Dividend Tax.

How much tax you pay on dividends that exceed the allowance will depend on your Income Tax band (these remain unchanged from last year):

- Basic rate: 8.75%
- Higher rate: 33.75%
- Additional rate: 39.35%

If you don't use your Dividend Allowance before the end of the tax year, you will lose it.

## FACT

**Since the Dividend Allowance has been reduced, if dividends form part of your income, your tax liability may have risen in April 2023, and you should review your financial plan.**

# CAPITAL GAINS TAX

## ANNUAL EXEMPT AMOUNT

The annual exemption for 2023/2024 has reduced to £6,000. This means that more individuals will find themselves paying CGT on their capital gains when they sell certain assets.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) is paid when you sell certain assets and make a profit. This may include stocks that aren't held in an ISA, a second property, or personal possessions worth more than £6,000 (excluding your car).

For the 2023/24 tax year, the CGT exempt amount means an individual can normally make profits up to £6,000 before CGT is due.

In some cases, spreading out the disposal of assets across several tax years can help reduce your CGT liability. You may also want to plan with your partner to maximise both of your annual exempt amounts.

If you exceed this allowance, your rate of CGT will depend on other taxable income:

- Standard CGT rate: 18% on residential property, 10% on other assets
- Higher CGT rate: 28% on residential property, 20% on other assets

If you're not sure if your assets could be liable for CGT or the tax rate you'd pay, please contact us.

If unused, you can't carry forward the CGT annual exemption.

### FACT

**The CGT annual exempt amount will fall again from £6,000 in the 2023/24 tax year to £3,000 for the 2024/25 tax year.**

**If you are disposing of assets, it's important to keep these changes in mind as they could affect your tax liability.**

**In some cases, selling assets before the annual exempt amount changes could make financial sense.**

# PENSION ANNUAL ALLOWANCE

The 2023/24 allowance has increased by £20,000 to £60,000.

A pension is a tax-efficient way to save for your retirement.

Using your Annual Allowance could help create financial security in your later years.

The pension Annual Allowance is the maximum that you can pay into your pension each tax year while still benefiting from tax relief. This includes pension contributions made by your employer or other third parties.

In the 2023/24 tax year, the Annual Allowance is 100% of your annual earnings, up to £60,000, for most people.

However, there are two reasons why your Annual Allowance may be lower:

1. The **Tapered Annual Allowance** means if your threshold income is over £200,000 and your adjusted income is more than £260,000, your Annual Allowance will be reduced by £1 for every £2 your income exceeds these thresholds. It can be reduced by a maximum of £50,000. As a result, your Annual Allowance can be as low as £10,000.
2. If you have flexibly accessed your pension, you may be subject to the **Money Purchase Annual Allowance**. This reduces the amount you can tax-efficiently save into a pension each tax year. However, the minimum allowance has recently increased from £4,000 to £10,000, providing new scope for those who have flexibly accessed their pension benefits to boost their pensions savings

It's important to know what your Annual Allowance is, so please contact us if you're unsure or have any questions.

Unused pension Annual Allowance can be carried forward for up to three tax years. You have until 5 April 2024 to make full use of your allowance from the 2020/21 tax year.

**Please note:** The value of investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the original amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance and should not be relied upon.

## MAKE USE OF YOUR FAMILY'S ANNUAL ALLOWANCE

Tax relief makes saving into a pension an efficient choice. So, don't just use your own allowance, make use of your loved ones' too. It could help them create long-term financial security.

Even those without an income, including children, can contribute to a pension and benefit. Non-taxpayers can add up to £2,880 each tax year to their pension and would usually benefit from tax relief of 20%.

# INHERITANCE TAX ANNUAL EXEMPTION

**The 2023/24 exemption is £3,000. If your estate could be liable for Inheritance Tax, the annual exemption means you can pass on a gift tax-free.**

If you're concerned about Inheritance Tax (IHT), gifting to loved ones now can reduce the value of your estate and, so, the eventual bill.

However, not all gifts are immediately exempt from IHT. Some may be considered part of your estate for up to seven years. Taking advantage of gifts that are outside of your estate immediately can provide peace of mind.

Each year, your IHT annual exemption means you can pass on a tax-free amount. In 2023/24, this amount is £3,000. The limit applies per individual, so couples can gift up to £6,000 between them. The exemption can be carried forward for one year.

## GIFTING SMALL AMOUNTS

In addition to the annual exemption, you can gift small amounts (up to £250 per person) to as many people as you like.

## GIFTS FROM YOUR INCOME

**The 2023/24 allowance is dependent on your disposable income. Making gifts from your income could reduce your estate's Inheritance Tax bill.**

If Inheritance Tax (IHT) is a concern, gifting from your income is another way to reduce a potential bill. However, these gifts need to be made regularly and must:

- Be made from your income
- Be part of your normal expenditure
- Leave you with sufficient income to maintain your current lifestyle

This can be a useful way to offer financial support to loved ones. For example, you might pay the school fees of grandchildren or make regular deposits to pay for the living costs of your children.

If you want to take advantage of this, it's important to make sure your regular gifts have continued throughout the current tax year. You should also keep a careful record of gifts made under this exemption.

Gifts from your income must be made regularly. So, missing a gift might mean that HMRC doesn't deem the gifts "regular" so includes them in the value of your estate when you pass away.



## DO YOU NEED TO CONSIDER INHERITANCE TAX?

The standard Inheritance Tax (IHT) rate is 40%. If your estate could be liable, it's important to be proactive to maximise how much you pass on to your loved ones.

The nil-rate band for the 2023/24 tax year is £325,000. If the value of your entire estate doesn't exceed this threshold, no IHT will normally be due. If you will be leaving some properties, including your main home, to children or grandchildren, you can also use the residence nil-rate band. For the 2023/24 tax year, this is £175,000.

This means many people can leave up to £500,000 before IHT is due. If you're married or in a civil partnership, you can also pass on unused allowances to your partner. As a result, if you're planning as a couple, you could leave up to £1 million before you need to consider IHT.

If the value of your estate exceeds these thresholds, there are often steps you can take to mitigate an IHT bill, so please contact us to discuss your needs.

**Please note:** The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate estate and tax planning. Levels, bases of and reliefs from taxation may be subject to change and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor.

# GET IN TOUCH

Keeping on top of allowances and exemptions can be challenging. We can help ensure the ones that make sense for you are part of your financial plan.

Please contact us to discuss how we can help you put an effective plan in place for the upcoming tax year that considers your allowances, recent changes and help you make the most of your income and wealth during the 2023/24 tax year.

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