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Recaptured – in focus

Tax rates 2022/23

Autumn Statement 2022

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These tables are a summary and do not cover all situations.

They are based primarily upon information announced by the UK government and the devolved governments on or before the date of Autumn Budget 2021 (27 October 2021) and may not reflect subsequent legislative changes or policy decisions.

These tables were updated on 30 November 2022. Certain changes announced after 27 October 2021 are reflected in these tables, in particular those affecting taxation for 2022/23, including announcements made in the Spring Statement of 23 March 2022, the Growth Plan statement of 23 September 2022 and related government announcements in October 2022, in the Autumn Statement of 17 November 2022, and by the Scottish and Welsh governments prior to December 2022.

This publication has been written in general terms and therefore cannot be relied on to cover specific situations. Application of the principles set out will depend upon the particular circumstances involved and we recommend that you obtain professional advice before acting or refraining from acting on any of the contents of this publication.

Personal tax

Income tax rates 2022/23 (2021/22)

Income band (£)	Dividends ^d (%)	Other savings income (%)
Up to 37,700^{a, b} (up to 37,700)	8.75 (7.5)	20 (20)
37,700-150,000^b (37,700-150,000)	33.75 (32.5)	40 (40)
Over 150,000^b (over 150,000)	39.35 (38.1)	45 (45)
Income band (£)	Other income (%)	Cumulative tax (£)
Up to 37,700^c (up to 37,700)	Basic rate: 20 (20)	7,540 (7,540)
37,700-150,000^c (37,700-150,000)	Higher rate: 40 (40)	52,460 (52,460)
Over 150,000^c (over 150,000)	Additional rate: 45 (45)	

- a. A 0% starting rate applies to the first £5,000 of savings income. For many taxpayers this is not relevant as the starting rate does not apply if their taxable non-savings income exceeds the starting rate limit.
- b. Subject to Personal Allowance, Personal Savings Allowance, and Dividend Allowance (see page 3).
- c. Subject to Personal Allowance, Property Allowance, and Trading Allowance (see page 3).
- d. The above dividend income tax rates for individuals increased by 1.25 percentage points from 6 April 2022. The rates applicable to savings income and other income are unchanged from 2021/22.

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the basic rate band will be maintained at £37,700 until 5 April 2026. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the basic rate band will be maintained at £37,700 for an additional two years until 5 April 2028. It was also announced that the additional rate threshold will be reduced from £150,000 to £125,140 from 6 April 2023.

The income bands are broadly used in the following order:

- Non-savings income
- Savings income
- Dividends

Discretionary trusts and accumulation and maintenance trusts are entitled to a standard rate band of up to £1,000. Income in excess of this amount is subject to income tax at the top rate of income tax which is 45%. The rate of tax on dividend income received in excess of the standard rate band is 39.35% (2021/22: 38.1%).

Income tax rates – Scotland

The Scottish Parliament has the power to set income tax rates and bands for **non savings, non-dividend income** of Scottish resident taxpayers. (The dividend and other savings tax rates and bands on page 1, including the 2022/23 increases to the tax rates applied to dividend income, apply to the dividend and other savings income of Scottish taxpayers.)

The **2022/23** Scottish Budget was published on 9 December 2021.

The following five tax rates and bands for non-savings, non-dividend income apply in **2022/23**:

Income band (£) – 2022/23	Other income (%)	Cumulative tax (£)
Up to 2,162	Starter rate: 19	411
2,162 – 13,118	Scottish basic rate: 20	2,602
13,118 – 31,092	Intermediate rate: 21	6,377
31,092 – 150,000	Higher rate: 41	55,129
Over 150,000	Top rate: 46	

Subject to Personal Allowance, Property Allowance, and Trading Allowance for 2021/22 (see page 3).

The **2023/24** Scottish Budget is scheduled for 15 December 2022.

Income tax rates – Wales

The Senedd has the power to vary the income tax rates (but not the bands) for **non-savings, non-dividend income** of Welsh resident taxpayers. (The dividend and other savings tax rates and bands on page 1, including the 2022/23 increase to the tax rate applied to dividend income, will apply to the dividend and other savings income of Welsh taxpayers.)

The final **2022/23** Welsh Budget was published on 1 March 2022, and the income tax rates and bands for 2022/23 are aligned with those in England and Northern Ireland.

The **2023/24** Welsh Budget is scheduled for 13 December 2022.

Income tax allowances

	2022/23 (£)	2021/22 (£)
Personal Allowance – Individuals ^{a, d, e}	12,570	12,570
Married Couple's Allowance (elder aged 85 or over on 5 April 2020) ^{b, c, d}	9,415	9,125
Personal Savings Allowance for basic rate taxpayers ^f	1,000	1,000
Personal Savings Allowance for higher rate taxpayers ^f	500	500
Dividend Allowance ^g	2,000	2,000
Property Allowance ^h	1,000	1,000
Trading Allowance ^h	1,000	1,000

- a. Reduced by £1 for each £2 of income (less deductions) in excess of £100,000.
- b. Reduced by £1 for each £2 of income (less deductions) which exceeds £31,400 (2021/22: £30,400). The minimum age-related married couple's allowance is £3,640 (2021/22: £3,530).
- c. Restricted to relief at 10%.
- d. Neither of these allowances is available to a non-UK domiciled individual who makes a claim to pay tax on the remittance basis of taxation.
- e. Spouses or civil partners will be able to transfer £1,260 (2021/22: £1,260) of their unused Personal Allowance to their partner. This is available provided neither person pays income tax at the higher rate (or Scottish equivalents). This is not available if the couple are in receipt of the married couple's allowance.
- f. A 0% tax rate for personal savings income for basic and higher rate taxpayers only.
- g. A 0% tax rate for dividend income available to all taxpayers. Note, this 0% rate is unaffected by the 1.25 percentage point increase to other dividend rates from 6 April 2022.
- h. Subject to some exceptions, allowances for property income and trading income available to all UK taxpayers. Where individuals are in receipt of gross property income or gross trading income below the allowances, the income will not be subject to income tax. Where gross receipts are in excess of these amounts, the recipient can choose to take the £1,000 allowance as a deduction against their gross income instead of deducting actual expenses to arrive at their taxable income figure.

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the Personal Allowance for individuals will be maintained at £12,570 until 5 April 2026. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Personal Allowance for individuals will be maintained at £12,570 for an additional two years until 5 April 2028.

At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Dividend Allowance will be reduced from £2,000 to £1,000 from 6 April 2023, and to £500 from 6 April 2024.

Income tax reliefs and incentives

Annual limits	2022/23 (£)
Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) (maximum) ^a	1,000,000
Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) (maximum) ^b	100,000
Venture Capital Trust (VCT) (maximum) ^c	200,000
Individual Savings Account (ISA) (maximum) ^{d, e}	20,000
Junior ISA (maximum per child)	9,000

- a. Income tax relief restricted to 30%. Capital gains tax deferral on gains on disposal of other assets is also available. From 6 April 2018, the annual limit doubled to £2 million, provided any amount over £1 million is invested in one or more ‘knowledge-intensive companies’.
- b. Rate of income tax relief is 50%. The annual limit will increase to £200,000 from 6 April 2023. The relief applies to shares in qualifying trading companies with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees, and assets of up to £200,000 issued after 6 April 2012 (£350,000 from 6 April 2023). Maximum stake 30% of share capital and voting rights. Total SEIS financing per company is limited to £150,000 cumulatively (£250,000 from 6 April 2023) (within three years preceding the share issue).
- c. Rate of income tax relief for investors in VCTs is 30%. Dividends received on qualifying VCT investments are exempt from income tax.
- d. A Lifetime ISA can be opened by individuals between the ages of 18 and 40. Individuals can save up to £4,000 each tax year into an account which will be topped up at the end of the tax year with a government bonus of 25%. The money saved, including the bonus, can be used to buy a first home worth up to £450,000 or can be withdrawn from the age of 60. Any contribution to this new Lifetime ISA counts towards the overall ISA subscription limit.

Relief is available at the taxpayer’s marginal rate of income tax for charitable donations via the Gift Aid and Payroll Giving schemes and for charitable gifts of quoted shares and securities and real property.

Pensions

	2022/23 (£)	2021/22 (£)
Annual allowance	40,000 ^{a, b, c}	40,000 ^{a, b, c}
Adjusted income limit	240,000	240,000
Threshold income limit	200,000	200,000
Minimum annual allowance	4,000	4,000
Money purchase annual allowance	4,000 ^c	4,000 ^c
Lifetime allowance	1,073,100 ^d	1,073,100 ^d

- The annual allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 of adjusted income (broadly net income plus any relievable pension savings) over the adjusted income limit, subject to the minimum annual allowance. The reduction does not apply where threshold income (broadly net income plus employer contributions made via salary sacrifice arrangements after 8 July 2015) is below the threshold income limit.
- The annual allowance may be increased by up to £120,000 with unused allowances from the previous three years. If earlier allowances were reduced, the reduced amounts are carried forward. Lower income limits applied before 2020/21.
- Where a member has flexibly accessed his uncrystallised or drawdown fund, the annual allowance for contributions to a money purchase scheme is capped at the level of the money purchase annual allowance, with no unused allowance brought forward. A potentially higher limit for defined benefit schemes remains.
- The standard lifetime allowance, which is the total value of pensions savings that can be accumulated without a tax recovery charge when a pension or lump sum is taken, has reduced on a number of occasions in recent years. Various transitional protection rules exist and, subject to conditions, members who have elected into them may continue to benefit from higher tax-free limits.

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the lifetime allowance will be maintained at £1,073,100 until 5 April 2026. No further announcements were made at the Autumn Statement 2022.

Aggregate contributions made by employers and employees to a money purchase (defined contribution) registered pension scheme attract an annual allowance charge to the extent they exceed the annual allowance for the tax year in which the pension input period ends, augmented by any brought forward unused relief from the previous three years. No charge arises where the member dies in the year or is medically assessed as unable to work ever again.

An annual allowance charge similarly applies to salary-related pension accrual where the inflation-adjusted increase in pension entitlement, multiplied by a valuation factor of 16, exceeds the annual limit. No charge applies where the member's active participation in the scheme has ceased. Where the annual limit is exceeded, tax is payable on the excess at the individual's marginal rate i.e. normally 20%, 40% or 45%. (Scottish rates, excluding the 19% starter rate, apply to Scottish residents). This is normally payable by the individual via self-assessment, but in some cases they may elect for the pension scheme to pay the tax instead.

On drawing a pension, the maximum tax-free pension commencement lump sum payable is the lesser of 25% of the value of an individual's uncrystallised fund, 25% of the member's lifetime allowance and one third of the amount crystallised for the payment of a pension or annuity for life, or as funds available for drawdown.

Subject to the agreement of the scheme administrator, members of money purchase schemes who have reached the minimum pension age of 55 are able to take funds from their drawdown account flexibly – whenever they want, and in any desired amount. Members also have the option of taking an 'uncrystallised funds pension lump sum', 25% of which is tax-free, provided they have sufficient lifetime allowance available. If the member dies before age 75 any unused drawdown or undrawn uncrystallised funds can be paid to dependants or nominees free of tax. After that age lump sums are taxable. Death benefit lump sums will normally be taxed as pension income of the recipient (i.e. marginal income tax rates).

In certain circumstances, including when a member takes a pension or lifetime annuity, designates funds for drawdown, dies holding uncrystallised funds or takes a pension commencement or uncrystallised funds pension lump sum, his aggregate pension savings are also tested against the lifetime limit, taking account of any previous benefit crystallisation event. Any excess is taxed at 25%, or 55% if taken as a lifetime allowance excess lump sum.

Any unauthorised lump sum is taxed on the member at rates of 40% or 55%, with a further charge on the scheme.

Making contributions to pensions is a long term investment decision and individuals should take advice on the suitability of making pension contributions in their particular circumstances.

Company car, van and fuel benefits

For more detail see www.cartaxguide.co.uk.

Company car tax rates

A company car benefit is calculated by multiplying the car's list price (including selected optional accessories) by the appropriate percentage graduated according to the car's carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, fuel type and electric range (where applicable).

Appropriate percentage for cars first registered on or after 6 April 2020

CO ₂ emissions ^a (g/km)	Electric range figure ^b (miles)	% of list price ^c	
		2021/22	2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25
0	N/A	1	2
1-50	>130	1	2
1-50	70-129	4	5
1-50	40-69	7	8
1-50	30-39	11	12
1-50	<30	13	14
51-54		14	15
55-59		15	16
60-64		16	17
65-69		17	18
70-74		18	19
75-79		19	20
80-84		20	21
85-89		21	22
90-94		22	23
95-99		23	24
100-104		24	25
105-109		25	26
110-114		26	27
115-119		27	28
120-124		28	29
125-129		29	30
130-134		30	31

CO ₂ emissions ^a (g/km)	Electric range figure ^b (miles)	% of list price ^c	
		2021/22	2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25
135-139		31	32
140-144		32	33
145-149		33	34
150-154		34	35
155-159		35	36
160-164		36	37
165+		37	37

- a. Unless otherwise specified, CO₂ emissions should be rounded down to the nearest 5g/km.
- b. For cars in the 1-50g/km of CO₂ band, the 'electric range figure' is relevant for determining the appropriate percentage. The 'electric range figure' is the number of miles which is the equivalent of the number of kilometres specified in an EC certificate of conformity, an EC type-approval certificate or a UK approval certificate on the basis of which a car is registered, as being the maximum distance for which the car can be driven in electric mode without recharging the battery.
- c. Add 4 percentage points to the '% of list price' if the car runs solely on diesel, up to the limit of 37%. Cars that meet the Real Driving Emissions Step 2 (RDE2) standard are exempt from the supplement.

Appropriate percentage for cars first registered before 6 April 2020

For cars with CO₂ emissions of 1g/km or higher, add 1% to the appropriate percentage shown above for the 2021/22 tax year (up to the limit of 37%). From 2022/23 onwards, use the same appropriate percentage as shown above for cars registered on or after 6 April 2020. See www.cartaxguide.co.uk for further details.

Employee contributions

The list price of the car is reduced by up to a maximum of £5,000 for capital contributions made by an employee. Employees' contributions towards private use reduce the taxable benefit pound for pound.

Private fuel benefit

Fuel benefit for company cars is calculated by applying the appropriate percentage for the car based on fuel type and CO₂ emissions to a pre-set figure which is £25,300 (2021/22: £24,600).

Van & van fuel benefit

The private use of vans attracts a scale charge of £3,600 (2021/22: £3,500), regardless of the age of the vehicle. In addition, if free or subsidised fuel is provided for private use in a company van, a taxable fuel benefit will arise of £688 (2021/22: £669).

Optional Remuneration Arrangements

Where employees select a company car via either a salary sacrifice arrangement or instead of a cash allowance (where they have that choice), then rules, which came into effect from 6 April 2017, may affect the calculation of company car benefit. These rules do not affect cars with CO₂ emissions of 75 g/km and below.

Where an employee entered into an Optional Remuneration Arrangement for a car before 6 April 2017 (which includes where a car was ordered, but not delivered, prior to this date), then the calculation described above stands, until a variation of that arrangement, its expiry, or until 6 April 2021.

Where employees entered into arrangements on or after 6 April 2017, then their company car benefit will equal the greater of (i) the amount as calculated above, and (ii) the value of the cash pay given up (i.e. the gross salary sacrifice/gross cash allowance forgone).

Electric vehicles

The appropriate percentage for zero emission electric cars for the purposes of company car tax is 2% for the 2022/23 tax year (2021/22: 1%) The percentage will be frozen at 2% for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 tax years.

From 2021/22, a nil rate applies to zero-emission vans within the van benefit charge.

The provision of workplace facilities for charging vehicles and electricity to employees is exempt from tax as a benefit in kind. The exemption applies to workplace charging provided for company cars and private cars (although there are certain criteria to be met for the private car exemption to apply).

Approved mileage rates

Employers can make tax- and NIC-free payments to employees using their own vehicle for business travel, as follows:

- cars and vans – 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter (for NIC purposes there is no mileage limit for the 45p per mile rate);
- motor cycles – 24p per mile;
- bicycles – 20p per mile; and
- passengers – an optional 5p per mile for each passenger who is an employee travelling on business.

Business expenditure on leased cars

Corporation tax relief and income tax relief for expenses incurred by businesses on the hiring of cars can be restricted according to the CO₂ emissions of the car. From 1 April 2021 (for corporation tax) or 6 April 2021 (for income tax), 15% of the leasing expenses are generally disallowed if emissions exceed 50 g/km. Grandfathering provisions apply to contracts entered into before 1 or 6 April 2021 for periods of hire beginning before that date, and the applicable emissions threshold between April 2018 and April 2021 was 110 g/km.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

	2022/23 (£)	2021/22 (£)
Combined income and gains less than the upper limit of the income tax basic rate band ^{a, b, c}	10%	10%
Combined income and gains above the upper limit of the income tax basic rate band ^{a, b, c}	20%	20%

- Chargeable gains are treated as the top slice of an individual's combined gains and income. Any part of a taxable gain exceeding the upper limit of the income tax basic rate band (£37,700 for 2021/22 and 2022/23) is taxed at 20%.
- An 8 percentage point surcharge applies on the rates for gains on residential property and carried interest.
- For trustees and personal representatives of deceased persons, the CGT rate is 20%.

Annual CGT exemptions apply for individuals and trusts, as follows:

	2022/23 (£)	2021/22 (£)
Individual	12,300	12,300
Trust	6,150	6,150

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the annual exempt amounts for individuals and trusts will be maintained at £12,300 and £6,150 respectively until 5 April 2026. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the annual exempt amount for individuals will be reduced from £12,300 to £6,000 from 6 April 2023, and to £3,000 from 6 April 2024. The annual exempt amount for trusts will be reduced accordingly from £6,150 to £3,000 from 6 April 2023, and to £1,500 from 6 April 2024.

Gains realised on the disposal of an EIS or SEIS investment are exempt from CGT provided certain conditions are met including that the shares are held for at least three years, and both the investor and company remain eligible for EIS/SEIS throughout this period.

Up to 50% of capital gains of up to £100,000 (50% of gains up to £200,000 from 6 April 2023) realised on disposals of assets are exempt from CGT if the investment is a qualifying SEIS investment and appropriate claims are made.

The lifetime limit for business asset disposal relief (formerly known as entrepreneurs' relief) is £1 million. Qualifying gains made within this limit are subject to a reduced capital gains tax rate of 10%.

Investors' relief, for external investors in unlisted trading companies, applies to newly-issued shares purchased on or after 17 March 2016, provided they are held for a minimum of three years from 6 April 2016, and subject to a lifetime limit of £10 million of gains. This limit is separate from the lifetime limit of gains for business asset disposal relief.

There is no chargeable gain on the disposal of a single chattel if the gross consideration does not exceed £6,000.

Inheritance tax (IHT)

IHT is charged on an individual's estate at death, on gifts within seven years of death, and on chargeable lifetime transfers of value (e.g. a transfer to a trust). The nil rate band is £325,000. Cumulative chargeable transfers up to the limit of the nil rate band do not result in an IHT charge. To the extent that chargeable transfers exceed the nil rate band, the tax rate is 20% for lifetime transfers where the donor survives seven years, and 40% for transfers on death and in the three years preceding death. A tapered inheritance tax rate applies to gifts made between three and seven years before death.

When a surviving spouse or civil partner dies, relief is due on that death in respect of any unused proportion of the nil rate band of the spouse or civil partner who died first. This is in addition to any unused nil rate band of the survivor. Transfers between spouses or civil partners who are both UK-domiciled or both non-UK domiciled are exempt.

When a transferor spouse or civil partner is UK-domiciled and a transferee spouse or civil partner is not, the spouse exemption is limited to the level of the IHT nil rate band. Also a non-UK domiciled spouse or civil partner can elect to be treated for IHT as UK-domiciled. If he or she does so the full spouse/civil partner exemption will be due.

Where 10% or more of a person's net estate is left to charity, the rate of IHT is reduced to 36%.

An additional residence nil rate band (RNRB) was introduced with effect from 6 April 2017, which applies when a residence is passed to a direct descendant. The RNRB is £175,000. Any unused RNRB can be transferred to a surviving spouse or civil partner. It will also be available when a person downsizes or ceases to own a home and assets of an equivalent value, up to the value of the additional nil-rate band, are passed on death to direct descendants. There is a tapered withdrawal of the RNRB for estates with a net value of over £2 million, at a rate of £1 for every £2 over this threshold.

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the IHT nil rate band will be maintained at £325,000, the RNRB will be maintained at £175,000, and the residence nil rate taper will continue to start at £2 million until 5 April 2026.

At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the IHT nil rate band will be maintained at £325,000, the RNRB will be maintained at £175,000, and the residence nil rate taper will continue to start at £2 million, for an additional two years until 5 April 2028.

National Insurance Contributions 2022/23

Class 1 (employees and employers) rates 2022/23

Weekly earnings (£)	Employees	Weekly earnings (£)	Employers
123.00 or less ^a	–	175.00 or less ^d	–
123.01-190.00/242.00 ^{b,c}	0%	Over 175.00	15.05% ^f /13.8% ^f
190.01/242.01-967.00 ^e	13.25% ^f /12% ^f		
Over 967.00 ^e	3.25% ^f / 2% ^f		

a. The monthly and annual equivalents are £533 and £6,396 respectively.

b. A zero rate of NIC applies to earnings between the lower earnings limit of £123 per week and the primary earnings threshold to protect employees' contributory benefit entitlements. A primary earnings threshold of £190 per week applied between 6 April 2022 and 5 July 2022. As announced at Spring Statement 2022, and enacted by National Insurance Contributions (Increase of Thresholds) Act 2022, the primary earnings threshold rose to £242 per week with effect from 6 July 2022.

c. The monthly equivalents of the £190 per week and £242 per week primary earnings thresholds are £823 and £1,048 respectively. The annual equivalents are £9,880 and £12,570 respectively, the latter being aligned with the income tax Personal Allowance for individuals. For those subject to the company director rules for Class 1 NICs, whose Class 1 liabilities are calculated on an annualised basis, an annual primary threshold of £11,908 applies for 2022/23.

d. The monthly and annual equivalents are £758 and £9,100 respectively.

e. The monthly and annual equivalents are £4,189 and £50,270 respectively.

f. As a result of the Health and Social Care Levy Act 2021, for the period between 6 April 2022 and 5 November 2022, these rates were temporarily increased by 1.25 percentage points to 13.25%, 3.25% and 15.05% respectively. Once enacted, the Health and Social Care Levy (Repeal) Bill 2022-23 will result in the normal rates of 12%, 2% and 13.8% applying for the remainder of the 2022/23 tax year (6 November 2022 to 5 April 2023).

For those subject to the company director rules for Class 1 NICs, whose Class 1 liabilities are calculated on an annualised basis, blended rates of 12.73% and 2.73% apply respectively for 2022/23 for employee contributions, and a blended rate of 14.53% applies for 2022/23 for employer contributions.

At Spring Statement 2022, in connection with the increase in the primary threshold to £242 (per week)/£1,048 (per month)/£12,570 (per year) from 6 July 2022, it was announced that the primary earnings threshold will remain

aligned with the income tax Personal Allowance for individuals. This is due to be maintained at £12,570 until 5 April 2028 (see page 4).

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the employees' Upper Earnings Limit will be maintained at £967 (per week)/£4,189 (per month)/£50,270 (per year) until 5 April 2026. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Upper Earnings Limit will be maintained at these levels for an additional two years until 5 April 2028.

At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the employer Secondary Threshold will be maintained at £175 (per week)/£758 (per month)/£9,100 (per year) from 5 April 2023 until 5 April 2028.

Employees' qualifying business travel and subsistence expenses are excluded from earnings for Class 1 NICs purposes. Employers can pay up to 45p per mile to employees travelling on business in their own cars without incurring a NIC charge. This rate applies, for NICs purposes, irrespective of the business mileage incurred.

An employment allowance of £5,000 per year (2021/22: £4,000) is available to employers to offset against their employer Class 1 NICs. With effect from 6 April 2020, the allowance is only available to employers with an employer NICs bill below £100,000 in the previous tax year.

Employers are not required to pay employer Class 1 NICs in respect of the wages they pay to employees under the age of 21 up to £967 per week.

For apprentices under the age of 25, the Apprentice Upper Secondary Threshold is also £967 per week. This means that employers will not be required to pay employer Class 1 NICs in respect of the wages they pay to apprentice employees under the age of 25 up to £967 per week.

With retrospective effect from 6 April 2021, an NICs relief will be available for employers who hire armed forces veterans in tax years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. This relief applies in respect of employer Class 1 NICs on the earnings paid to qualifying armed forces veterans. The relief is only available for 12 consecutive months from the veteran's first day of civilian employment, and applies a 0% Secondary Class 1 NICs rate on earnings up to the Upper Secondary Threshold (£967 per week).

There will also be an NICs relief for employers who hire employees that are reasonably expected to spend 60% or more of their employed time in a single Freeport tax site in which the employer has business premises. This relief applies a 0% Secondary Class 1 NICs rate on up to £25,000 of the annual earnings paid to each qualifying employee. The relief is only available for employees who begin their employment between 6 April 2022 and 5 April 2026 and is available for a period of three years per employee.

Class 1A (employers providing benefits-in-kind)

Following enactment of the Health and Social Care Levy (Repeal) Act 2022, for 2022/23, employers will be liable to Class 1A NICs at a temporarily increased rate of 14.53% (2021/22: 13.8%) on most benefits-in-kind subject to income tax. Scale rate allowances covered by an approval notice or benefits-in-kind included in a PAYE Settlement Agreement (but see below) are not subject to Class 1A NICs. Certain other benefits are specifically exempt from both income tax and Class 1A NICs or are subject to Class 1 NIC rather than Class 1A.

With effect from 6 April 2020, the scope of Class 1A NICs was extended to include contributions on taxable termination payments above £30,000. Although Class 1A applies to these payments rather than Class 1, most termination payments will be subject to Class 1A at the same rate as the secondary Class 1 NIC rate in force at the time the termination payment is made (15.05% for termination payments made between 6 April 2022 and 5 November 2022 and 13.8% for termination payments made between 6 November 2022 and 5 April 2023) rather than the composite Class 1A rate of 14.53%.

For 2023/24, the Class 1A rate will return to 13.8% and align once again with the Class 1 secondary rate.

Class 1B (employers settling tax liabilities via PAYE settlement agreements)

Class 1B NICs are employer-only contributions, similar to Class 1A, payable by employers on the value of the tax and on certain benefits paid via PAYE Settlement Agreements. The rate for 2022/23 is 14.53% (2021/22: 13.8%) and contributions are payable by 19 October following the end of the tax year, along with the tax under the PAYE settlement agreement.

For 2023/24, the rate will return to 13.8%.

Other Classes

Class 2 (self-employed)	2022/23
Weekly rate	£3.15
Lower Profits Limit (annual)	£11,908
Small Profits Threshold (annual)	£6,725

Class 2 NICs are weekly flat-rate contributions payable by self-employed individuals and may be paid as a voluntary contribution by certain individuals working overseas who are not liable to pay compulsory NICs.

At Spring Statement 2022, it was announced that, with effect from 6 April 2022, liability to pay Class 2 NICs would now apply only to those earning more than the Lower Profits Limit applicable to Class 4 NICs (2022/23: £11,908). Individuals with profits between the Small Profits Threshold (2022/23: £6,725) and the Lower Profits Limit will continue to build up National Insurance credits but will not pay any Class 2 NICs.

At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Class 2 weekly rate will be £3.45 per week for 2023/24.

Class 3 (voluntary)	2022/23
Weekly rate	£15.85

At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Class 3 weekly rate will be £17.45 per week for 2023/24.

Class 4 (self-employed)	2022/23
Lower Profits Limit (annual)	£11,908
Upper Profits Limit (annual)	£50,270
Rate on profits between Lower and Upper Profits Limits	9.73%
Rate on profits above Upper Profits Limit	2.73%

For 2022/23, the above table reflects a temporary increase in the rates of Class 4 NICs. For 2023/24 onwards, Class 4 NIC rates are due to return to their 2021/22 levels (9% and 2% respectively).

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the Upper Profits Limit will be maintained at £50,270 until 5 April 2026. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the Upper Profits Limit will be maintained at £50,270 for an additional two years until 5 April 2028.

As announced at Spring Statement 2022, the Lower Profits Limit for 2022/23 is £11,908. The Lower Profits Limit will be aligned with the income tax Personal Allowance for individuals from 2023/24 onwards. This is due to be maintained at £12,570 until 5 April 2028 (see page 4).

Apprenticeship Levy

Since 6 April 2017, employers are required to pay the Apprenticeship Levy. The Levy is set at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's annual pay bill and is collected through the PAYE system.

The pay bill is the total amount of earnings liable to employer's Class 1 NIC, including earnings below the secondary threshold (see page 14 – £9,100 from 6 April 2022 until 5 April 2028). Similarly, where the age-related secondary percentage of NIC is 0%, e.g. for employees under the age of 21, such earnings are included in calculating the pay bill.

Employers receive an annual allowance of £15,000 to offset against payment of the Levy, and therefore the Levy will be payable only by employers who have pay bills in excess of £3 million per year. Where two or more companies are connected, only one company can claim the allowance.

Indirect taxes

Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT registration is required where taxable supplies exceed £85,000 (2021/22: £85,000) for the previous 12 months or are expected to do so within the next 30 days. The deregistration threshold is £83,000 (2021/22: £83,000).

At Spring Budget 2021, it was announced that the VAT registration and deregistration thresholds above will be frozen until 31 March 2024. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the VAT registration and deregistration thresholds above will be frozen for an additional two years until 31 March 2026.

Rates	(%)
Zero rate (e.g. newspapers, children's clothes)	0
Reduced rate (e.g. certain fuel and power, some energy-saving materials, some residential property works)	5
Temporary reduced rate for hospitality and tourism sectors – 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022 (see below)	12.5
Standard rate	20
VAT fraction for standard rate VAT inclusive price	1/6

The VAT (*Reduced Rate*) (*Hospitality and Tourism*) (*Coronavirus*) Order 2020 temporarily applied, with effect from 15 July 2020, the 5% reduced rate of VAT to certain supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks in the course of catering from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises; supplies of holiday accommodation; and supplies of a right of admission to shows and certain other attractions.

Finance Act 2021 provided for the 5% reduced rate of VAT to continue to apply to the hospitality and tourism supplies listed above until 30 September 2021. This was followed by the introduction of a new temporary reduced rate of 12.5% for these supplies which applies for the six months from 1 October 2021 until 31 March 2022. From 1 April 2022, the standard rate will apply once again to these supplies.

Insurance premium tax

The standard rate of insurance premium tax applying to most general insurance is 12%. Life and other long-term insurance is exempt.

A higher rate applies to some mechanical breakdown and travel insurance, and insurance sold with certain goods. The higher rate is 20%.

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) – England, Northern Ireland

SDLT applies to purchases of properties in England and Northern Ireland. SDLT rates for residential properties apply to slices of consideration rather than to all the consideration. This is different to the slab system that applied to residential property purchases prior to 4 December 2014 where the whole of the consideration was taxed at the applicable rate.

At Growth Plan 2022, it was announced that with effect from 23 September 2022 the threshold above which SDLT is payable on the purchase of residential property would increase from £125,000 to £250,000. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that this change would be temporary and that the threshold above which SDLT is payable on the purchase of residential property will return to £125,000 with effect from 1 April 2025.

The expected SDLT bands and rates for residential purchases are provided in the table below:

Relevant consideration (£) – residential property (1 October 2021 – 22 September 2022 and 1 April 2025 onwards)	Rate (%)
Up to 125,000	0
Above 125,000-250,000	2
Above 250,000-925,000	5
Above 925,000-1,500,000	10
Over 1,500,000	12

Relevant consideration (£) – residential property (23 September 2022 – 31 March 2025)	Rate (%)
Up to 250,000	0
Above 250,000 to 925,000	5
Above 925,000 to 1,500,000	10
Over 1,500,000	12

For example, SDLT of £3,750 is payable on a residential property bought between 1 October 2021 and 23 September 2022 for £275,000, made up of nothing on the first £125,000, £2,500 (2%) on the next £125,000 and £1,250 (5%) on the remaining £25,000.

Reduced rates are available for first-time buyers purchasing a single dwelling (and intending to occupy the purchased dwelling as their only or main residence) on or after 22 November 2017 for £500,000 or less. Prior to 23 September 2022, those claiming the relief paid no SDLT on the first £300,000 of the consideration, and paid 5% on any excess over £300,000, but no relief was available where the total consideration was more than £500,000.

At Growth Plan 2022, it was announced that with effect from 23 September 2022, the threshold above which SDLT is payable for first-time buyers purchasing a single dwelling would increase to £425,000 and that the maximum value of a property on which first-time buyers' relief can be claimed would also increase to £625,000. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that these changes would be temporary, with the first-time buyers' threshold returning to £300,000, and the maximum value of a property on which first-time buyers' relief can be claimed returning to £500,000, with effect from 1 April 2025.

Higher rates of SDLT apply to purchases of additional residential properties such as second homes and buy-to-let properties acquired for more than £40,000. The higher rates will levy an additional 3% on the total price paid for the property – such that, as shown below, the nil rate band will increase to 3% and so on up to the top slice of SDLT (which increases to 15%).

Relevant consideration, above £40k (£) – residential property (1 October 2021 – 22 September 2022 and 1 April 2025 onwards)	Normal rate (%)	Additional rate (%)
Up to 125,000	0	3
Above 125,000 to 250,000	2	5
Above 250,000 to 925,000	5	8
Above 925,000 to 1,500,000	10	13
Over 1,500,000	12	15

Relevant consideration, above £40k (£) – residential property (23 September 2022 – 31 March 2025)	Normal rate (%)	Additional rate (%)
Up to 250,000	0	3
Above 250,000 to 925,000	5	8
Above 925,000 to 1,500,000	10	13
Over 1,500,000	12	15

Purchasers will not incur the additional charge if they replace a main residence which has been sold within the last 36 months. Where the purchaser has paid the additional charge because they have not been able to sell their previous main residence before the acquisition of the new property, they will be able to claim a refund if they then sell their previous main residence within 36 months.

A higher rate of 15% may apply to all the consideration where certain ‘non-natural’ persons, such as a company, purchase an interest in a single residential property and consideration of more than £500,000 is attributable to the property. This 15% charge will apply instead of the normal SDLT rates unless a relief is available to disapply the 15% rate. The reliefs available are broadly the same as those available in respect of ATED (discussed below).

Since 1 April 2021, an additional 2 percentage point SDLT surcharge on top of the above rates applies to non-UK residents purchasing residential property in England and Northern Ireland. The charge applies to non-resident individuals and non-natural persons including companies, trusts and partnerships, as well as to UK-incorporated close companies with non-resident shareholders.

SDLT for non-residential or mixed use properties applies the same progressive slice system as for residential property so that SDLT will be chargeable on the portion of the purchase price which falls within each tax band as set out below:

Relevant consideration (£) – non-residential or mixed use property	Rate (%)
Up to £150,000	0
Above £150,000 to £250,000	2
Over £250,000	5

For example, SDLT of £3,250 is payable on a non-residential property bought for £275,000, made up of nothing on the first £150,000, £2,000 (2%) on the next £100,000 and £1,250 (5%) on the remaining £25,000.

The relevant consideration is determined by aggregating the consideration of all linked transactions. The relevant consideration is the VAT inclusive amount or value of any consideration given by the purchaser (or persons connected with him/her) in money or money's worth.

Although no SDLT will be payable until the relevant consideration exceeds the nil rate band, a transaction may nonetheless be notifiable (such that an SDLT land transaction return is required) where the relevant consideration is £40,000 or more.

Where six or more residential properties are acquired in a single transaction, they are treated as non-residential property, such that instead of the residential rates, the rates applicable to commercial or mixed property will apply (unless the relief for bulk purchases is claimed). However, for a bulk purchase of residential properties the rate of SDLT may in certain circumstances be payable at the residential rates determined by the average amount paid per dwelling. This is however subject to a minimum rate of 3% since the additional charge will generally be payable in respect of such transactions. This is achieved through claiming a relief in the SDLT land transaction return.

Until 30 September 2026 relief from SDLT in full is available for purchases of land and buildings within a Freeport tax site in England, where Freeport tax sites have been designated, subject to a control period of up to three years and the land being acquired and used in a qualifying manner.

SDLT will also be charged on the grant of a lease under which rent is payable at the rate of 1% of the net present value of the (VAT inclusive) rent payable over the term of the lease, to the extent that value exceeds £125,000 in the case of residential property (where the lease is granted prior to 8 July 2020 or on or after 1 April 2021) and £150,000 in the case of other property. Since 17 March 2016, a 2% SDLT rate also applies in respect of the grant of a lease of mixed use or non-residential property where the net present value (NPV) of the rent exceeds £5m.

SDLT is also charged on any premium paid by the tenant on the grant of the lease at the rate applicable to residential, non-residential or mixed use properties, as set out above.

Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) – Scotland

Note: the 2023/24 Scottish Budget is scheduled for 15 December 2022.

LBTT (instead of SDLT) applies to property purchases in Scotland. A progressive system is used.

As of 27 October 2021, the following LBTT rates apply to slices of consideration in the following bands:

Consideration (£) – residential transactions <i>(prior to 15 July 2020</i> <i>and on or after 1 April</i> <i>2021)</i>	Rate (%)	Consideration (£) – non-residential transactions	Rate (%)
Up to 145,000	0	Up to 150,000	0
Above 145,000-250,000	2	Above 150,000-250,000	1
Above 250,000-325,000	5	Above 250,000	5
Above 325,000-750,000	10		
Over 750,000	12		

For example, LBTT of £3,350 is payable on a residential property in Scotland bought for £275,000, made up of nothing on the first £145,000, £2,100 (2%) on the next £105,000 and £1,250 (5%) on the remaining £25,000.

As for SDLT, an additional LBTT charge (the Additional Dwelling Supplement – ADS) applies to purchases of investment properties and second homes for more than £40,000. There are, however, some technical differences between the SDLT and LBTT regimes. Since 25 January 2019, the Additional Dwelling Supplement rate has been set at 4 percentage points.

Generally, leases of residential property that are under 175 years are exempt from LBTT.

For chargeable leases, LBTT is payable at the rate of 1% of the net present value of the (VAT inclusive) rent payable over the term of the lease, to the extent that value exceeds £150,000. With effect for transactions entered into after 6 February 2020, the rate applicable to chargeable non-residential leases rises to 2% to the extent the net present value exceeds £2 million.

A relief from LBTT for first-time buyers came into force on 30 June 2018. Subject to conditions, the relief raises the 0% threshold for eligible

first-time buyers purchasing a dwelling to £175,000. First-time buyers purchasing a dwelling above £175,000 are also entitled to a relief on the portion of the price below the threshold.

Land Transaction Tax (LTT) – Wales (from 1 April 2018)

Note: the 2023/24 Welsh Budget is scheduled for 13 December 2022.

LTT (instead of SDLT) applies to property purchases in Wales. A progressive system is used.

On 27 September 2022, it was announced that the following LTT rates apply to slices of consideration in the following bands:

Consideration (£) – residential transactions (1 July 2021 – 9 October 2022)	Rate (%)	Consideration (£) – residential transactions (10 October 2022 onwards)	Rate (%)
Up to 180,000	0	Up to 225,000	0
Above 180,000-250,000	3.5	Above 225,000-400,000	6
Above 250,000-400,000	5	Above 400,000-750,000	7.5
Above 400,000-750,000	7.5	Above 750,000-1,500,000	10
Above 750,000-1,500,000	10	Over 1,500,000	12
Over 1,500,000	12		

Consideration (£) – non-residential transactions	Rate (%)
Up to 150,000	0
Above 150,000-250,000	1
Above 250,000-1,000,000	5
Over 1,000,000	6

For example, LTT of £3,700 is expected to be payable on a residential property in Wales bought for £275,000 after 1 April 2018 but before 10 October 2022, made up of nothing on the first £180,000, £2,450 (3.5%) on the next £70,000 and £1,250 (5%) on the remaining £25,000.

As with SDLT, increased LTT charges apply to purchases of investment properties and second homes for more than £40,000. There are, however, some technical differences between the SDLT and LTT regimes. For transactions with an effective date on or after 22 December 2020 the following rates and bands apply:

Consideration (£)	Rate (%)
– higher residential transactions (22 December 2020 onwards)	
Up to 180,000	4
Above 180,000 to 250,000	7.5
Above 250,000 to 400,000	9
Above 400,000 to 750,000	11.5
Above 750,000 to 1,500,000	14
Over 1,500,000	16

For chargeable leases, LTT will be charged on the grant of a lease of non-residential property under which rent is payable at the rate of 1% of the net present value (NPV) of the (VAT inclusive) rent payable over the term of the lease, to the extent that value exceeds £150,000, and 2% rate where the NPV of the rent exceeds £2 million.

Unlike for the equivalent taxes in the rest of the UK, there is no specific relief from LTT for the purchase of dwellings by first-time buyers.

Stamp duty and Stamp Duty Reserve Tax (SDRT)

Stamp duty and SDRT generally apply to transfers of UK shares (being shares in a company that is incorporated in the UK or which maintains its share register in the UK) and UK securities at a rate of 0.5% of the consideration given by the purchaser. Payment of the appropriate amount of stamp duty (or a valid claim for relief from stamp duty) generally cancels the charge to SDRT. As such, SDRT is generally only paid in the context of electronic trading, where shares are held in dematerialised form.

Share transfers where the value of the chargeable consideration is £1,000 or less are exempt from stamp duty, provided they do not form part of a larger transaction or series of transactions where the combined value of the

consideration exceeds £1,000 and a certificate confirming this is given on the reverse of the instrument of transfer.

There is a higher 1.5% rate of stamp duty and SDRT which applies to transfers of shares to depositary receipt issuers and persons providing clearance services.

Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings (ATED)

There is an ATED charge in respect of single interests in UK residential property valued at more than £500,000 held by 'non-natural' persons, such as companies. ATED generally increases each year based on inflation. The rates for 2022/23 (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) are set out below:

Taxable value of property	ATED charge per annum – 2022/23 (£)
£500,001-£1,000,000	3,800
£1,000,001-£2,000,000	7,700
£2,000,001-£5,000,000	26,050
£5,000,001-£10,000,000	60,900
£10,000,001-£20,000,000	122,250
Over £20,000,000	244,750

Relief from ATED is available for certain businesses and investors. Reliefs are available to, amongst others, property rental businesses, property developers and property traders. Relief must be claimed annually. Finance Act 2021 enacted a new relief from ATED for qualifying housing co-operatives in relation to chargeable periods from 1 April 2020 onwards.

The taxable value of a property for ATED purposes is the market value of the property on 1 April 2017 if the property was owned on this date, otherwise the market value of the property on acquisition is used.

Properties need to be revalued, and thus may move into a different ATED band, if there is a substantial acquisition of an additional chargeable interest in a dwelling or a substantial disposal of part of a chargeable interest where the acquisition cost or disposal proceeds are £40,000 or more. For transactions not at arm's length, for example, gifts or sales between connected persons, market values should be used.

At the Autumn Statement 2022, chargeable amounts for 2023/24 were announced by the government [here](#).

Business tax

Corporation tax rates

	Year ending 31 March 2023	Year ending 31 March 2022
Main rate	19%	19%

The main rate of corporation tax will increase from 19% to 25% with effect from 1 April 2023 for companies with profits over £250,000.

Companies with profits of £50,000 or less will pay a small profits rate of 19%, and companies with profits between £50,000 and £250,000 will pay tax at the main rate of 25% reduced by a marginal relief. Limits will be reduced proportionally for short accounting periods and where there are associated companies.

Corporation tax payments

Large and very large companies pay corporation tax in instalments.

Large companies are broadly those with taxable profits of at least £1.5 million and a corporation tax liability in excess of £10,000 for a 12-month accounting period. The £1.5 million threshold is reduced pro rata for '51% related group companies' and for accounting periods of less than 12 months. The £10,000 is also reduced proportionately for shorter accounting periods.

In a 12-month accounting period, four instalments are payable as follows:

- 6 months and 13 days from the first day of the accounting period;
- 3 months after the first instalment;
- 3 months after the second instalment; and
- 3 months and 14 days from the last day of the accounting period.

Large companies are not required to make instalment payments in the first year in which the £1.5 million threshold is reached unless their profits exceed £10 million. The £10 million threshold is also reduced pro rata for '51% related group companies' and for accounting periods of less than 12 months.

For accounting periods starting on or after 1 April 2019 new payment dates were introduced for **very large companies** – broadly those with annual taxable profits of £20 million or more and a corporation tax liability in excess of £10,000 for a 12-month accounting period. As above, where a company is a member of a group, the £20 million threshold is divided by the number of ‘51% related group companies’ in the group. The £20 million and £10,000 limits are also reduced proportionately for shorter accounting periods.

In a 12-month accounting period, four instalments are payable as follows:

- 2 months and 13 days from the first day of the accounting period;
- 3 months after the first instalment;
- 3 months after the second instalment; and
- 3 months after the third instalment.

Different instalment arrangements apply for “ring-fence” profits and the bank levy.

Capital expenditure

	Year ending 31 March 2023	Year ending 31 March 2022
Super-deduction for main rate assets ^a	130%	130%
First Year Allowance for special rate assets ^b	50%	50%
Annual investment allowance ^c	1,000,000 ^d	1,000,000 ^d
Plant and machinery	18%	18%
High emission cars ^e , Long-life assets ^f , integral features ^g , thermal insulation, solar panels (“special rate pool”)	6%	6%
Low emission cars ^h	100%	100%
Research and development allowances (RDAs) ⁱ	100%	100%
Structures and Buildings Allowance (SBA) ^j	3%	3%

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- a. At Spring Budget 2021, the government announced that 130% in-year relief will be available for capital expenditure by companies on most new main rate plant and machinery, subject to certain exclusions including second-hand assets, cars, and most assets provided for leasing, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.
 - b. At Spring Budget 2021, the government announced that 50% first year allowances will be available for capital expenditure by companies on special rate assets, subject to certain exclusions including second-hand assets, cars, and most assets provided for leasing, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.
 - c. Annual investment allowance (AIA) is given per business or per group of companies only. AIA is allocated against total expenditure on plant and machinery (other than cars), long-life assets and integral features. It is optional which class of asset the AIA is allocated against.
 - d. At Budget 2018, the government announced a temporary increase in the AIA to £1,000,000 with effect from 1 January 2019. At Autumn Budget 2021, the government confirmed that the temporary increase will remain in place until 31 March 2023. The AIA was due to revert to £200,000 from 1 April 2023. At Growth Plan 2022, it was announced that legislation will be introduced to fix the AIA at £1,000,000 on a permanent basis.
 - e. Until 31 March 2021, cars with CO₂ emissions between 51g/km and 110g/km were added to the main pool. Cars with CO₂ emissions that exceed 110g/km were added to the special rate pool. As announced at Spring Budget 2020, from 1 April 2021, cars (other than zero emission vehicles) with CO₂ emissions up to 50g/km are added to the main pool and cars with CO₂ emissions that exceed 50g/km are added to the special rate pool.
 - f. Applies to businesses spending more than £100,000 per annum (the monetary limit) on certain assets with a useful life of 25 years or more.
 - g. Applies to a prescribed list of assets covering: electrical systems; cold water systems; space or water heating systems, ventilation, air cooling or purification systems (and any floor or ceiling comprised in such systems); lifts, escalators or moving walkways; and external solar shading.
 - h. Until 31 March 2021, new and unused cars with CO₂ emissions not exceeding 50g/km and electric vans were eligible for a 100% first-year allowance. From 1 April 2021, only zero emission cars and electric vans are eligible for the 100% first-year allowance.
 - i. Available to businesses incurring capital expenditure in carrying out R&D or providing facilities for carrying out R&D relating to their trade.
 - j. At Budget 2018, the government announced the introduction of a new Structures and Buildings Allowance (SBA) for new qualifying non-residential structures and buildings. Relief is available on eligible construction costs incurred on or after 29 October 2018, at an annual rate of three percent from 1 April 2020.
-

At Spring Budget 2021, the government confirmed that an enhanced 100% capital allowance rate is available until 30 September 2026 for companies investing in main rate and special rate plant and machinery for use in Freeport tax sites, where Freeport tax sites have been designated. Similarly, an enhanced 10% rate of Structures and Buildings Allowances is available for the construction or renovation of non-residential structures

and buildings within designated Freeport tax sites where the structure or building is brought into use on or before 30 September 2026.

Tax relief is available for the cost of intangible assets (including goodwill and intangible property). This will, in most cases, be the level of amortisation/impairment recognised in the accounts. A fixed rate of 4% per annum may be applied on election. However, for goodwill and certain customer-related intangible fixed assets acquired on or after 8 July 2015 no amortisation or fixed-rate deduction is allowed. For such assets, debits arising on realisation are treated as non-trading debits. For purchases made on or after 1 April 2019, relief for acquired goodwill was partially re-instated for the acquisition of businesses with eligible intellectual property.

Patent Box

The Patent Box regime was introduced with effect from 1 April 2013. The regime effectively enables companies to apply a lower rate of Corporation Tax to profits attributable to patented products, processes and services. The relief provides for an effective Corporation Tax rate of 10% to the patented profits, achieved by deducting an additional amount from trading profits.

The G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting ('BEPS') project drove a change in preferential intangibles regimes, including the UK's Patent Box. The principles behind the changes were agreed by the Forum for Harmful Tax Practices and form part of BEPS Action 5 – 'Countering Harmful Tax Practices'. The changes intended to limit access to preferential intangibles regimes to companies that demonstrate that they are engaged in the substantive activities which give rise to the profits benefiting from the preferential regime. R&D activity is used as a proxy for substance in this case.

As a result of these changes, grandfathering under the original UK Patent Box regime was only available for companies elected into the regime for accounting periods straddling 1 July 2016, and only in respect of patents that were filed (or acquired from a third party) before 1 July 2016. Grandfathering ceased on 30 June 2021.

For companies grandfathering under the original UK Patent Box regime, it is possible to revoke a Patent Box election from 1 July 2021, even if this is part-way through a company's accounting period. Therefore, if a company were to expect minimal Patent Box benefit under the updated Patent Box Nexus regime, it is possible to claim under the grandfathering provisions up to 30 June 2021 and elect out from 1 July 2021.

For those companies not eligible for the grandfathering provisions, the updated Patent Box regime applied from 1 July 2016.

The Patent Box Nexus regime adds an extra step to the calculation of Patent Box benefit. In broad terms, the updated regime limits the benefit by reference to the company's R&D expenditure on developing, licensing or acquiring patents (i.e. as a proxy for substance). All companies within the Patent Box regime and intending to claim under the updated regime are required to track their intellectual property income and R&D expenditure from 1 July 2016, and trace it to the creation of specific intellectual property assets, products or product families. Following the end of grandfathering, this additional step to the Patent Box calculation applies to all claimants from 1 July 2021.

Research and development relief: revenue costs

The Autumn Budget 2021 made no immediate changes to the R&D regimes and the current rules are set out below. It was, however, announced that there will be an expansion of qualifying expenditure to include data and cloud computing costs, and that the government intends to refocus R&D tax reliefs towards activities carried out in the UK. Reforms to tackle abuse and improve compliance with the regimes are expected to take effect from April 2023.

The meaning of Research & Development (R&D) for these purposes and for the Capital Research & Development Allowances is set out in the BEIS guidelines issued on 5 March 2004.

Large companies (i.e. those that are not SMEs – see below) and SMEs where the R&D expenditure is subsidised can make claims under the R&D expenditure credits (RDEC) regime. Under this regime, the benefit is recorded as a taxable credit in operating profit and is equal to 13% of the qualifying expenditure for expenditure incurred on or after 1 April 2020 (12% between 1 January 2018 and 31 March 2020). At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the taxable credit under the RDEC regime will increase from 13% to 20% of the qualifying expenditure for qualifying expenditure incurred on or after 1 April 2023.

Non-tax paying large companies can receive a cash payment equal to the net value of the credit subject to a cap based on the PAYE/NIC paid over to HMRC in respect of the staff costs included in the R&D claim and being a going concern at the time the claim is made.

Companies that are SMEs (see below) are entitled to an additional deduction of 130% of qualifying R&D expenditure for expenditure that is not subsidised. For non-taxpaying SMEs a cash alternative of up to 33.35 pence for every pound of qualifying expenditure may be available depending on their current year tax losses. At the Autumn Statement 2022, it was announced that the additional deduction available under the SME regime will decrease from 130% to 86% for expenditure incurred on or after 1 April 2023. For non-taxpaying SMEs, the cash alternative will reduce from 33.35 pence to 18.6 pence for every pound of qualifying expenditure.

For accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2021, the cash credit available to SMEs will be capped at £20,000 plus three times the amount paid in respect of PAYE and Employee Class 1 NIC liabilities. A company is exempt from the cap if its employees are creating, preparing to create or actively managing intellectual property, **and** qualifying R&D expenditure does not include more than 15% of spend relating to connected party subcontractors or connected party externally provided workers.

A cap limits the total amount of SME R&D a company can claim on each project to €7.5 million and a going concern requirement applies.

An SME for R&D purposes is a company which, together with certain related enterprises, meets the EU definition of an SME but with higher limits such that it has fewer than 500 employees and **either** turnover not exceeding €100 million **or** total assets not exceeding €86 million.

For expenditure incurred on consumables that form part of a product which is then sold or transferred in the ordinary course of business, the cost of the consumable cannot be included in an R&D claim where that expenditure was incurred on or after 1 April 2015.

Digital Services Tax

A Digital Services Tax (DST) applies to in-scope revenue earned from 1 April 2020, with payment due nine months and a day after the end of the accounting period.

DST is a 2% tax on the revenues of large businesses that provide a social media platform, search engine or online marketplace to UK users. There is an allowance of £25 million, which means a group's first £25 million of revenues derived from UK users will not be subject to DST.

DST will apply if more than £500 million of global revenues arise to the group in connection with any in-scope digital services and more than £25 million of those revenues are linked to the participation of UK users.

The government remains committed to developing an internationally agreed solution, via the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework, to the tax challenges arising from digitalisation and has committed to repeal DST once an appropriate global solution is in place.

Diverted profits tax

With effect from 1 April 2015, the Government introduced a diverted profits tax, (DPT).

The tax applies in two situations:

1. Where a non-UK company has artificially avoided having a taxable presence (permanent establishment) in the UK; or
2. Where a group has a UK company (or UK permanent establishment of a non-UK company) and there is a tax advantage as a result of an entity or transactions that lack economic substance.

The diverted profits tax applies to diverted profits arising on or after 1 April 2015 at a rate of 25%. The diverted profits tax rate will increase to 31% from 1 April 2023.

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