

UK INHERITANCE TAX EXEMPTIONS AND RELIEFS

THIS GUIDE LOOKS AT SOME OF THE KEY EXEMPTIONS AND RELIEFS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO AN INDIVIDUAL TO HELP THEM REDUCE A POTENTIAL UK INHERITANCE (IHT) LIABILITY DURING THEIR LIFETIME.



THE NIL RATE BAND (NRB)

The NRB is the amount up-to which no IHT is payable on a UK estate and is currently £325,000. Upon death, IHT is payable on the value of the estate that exceeds the NRB at a rate of 40%.

An individual may have a reduced NRB on death if gifts were made during their lifetime and are not covered by the tax-free allowances (exemptions) and they died within seven years of making the gift.

EXEMPTIONS

The following exemptions allow an individual to reduce their estate that is subject to IHT without reducing the available NRB.



Annual Exemption

Every tax year an individual is entitled to make transfers up to £3,000. These can be made to other individuals or into trusts.

Any amount of the annual exemption that is not used in any tax year can be carried over to the following tax year. This means the maximum annual exemption in any tax year could be £6,000.



Spousal Exemption

Transfers made between UK domicile spouses or civil partners are completely exempt and free of IHT. There is no limit to the amount that can be transferred.

A transfer from a UK domicile spouse to a non-UK domiciled spouse or civil partner is limited to £325,000 unless the non-UK domiciled spouse or civil partner elects to be treated as UK domiciled. This election is irrevocable.



Small Gift Exemption

Gifts made to individuals of less than £250 are not subject to IHT. There are no limits to the amount of gifts an individual can make under this exemption.

NB: this exemption can't be used in connection with other exemptions.



Normal Expenditure Out of Income

This allows gifts to be made out of the individual's surplus income. To qualify, the taxpayer must be able to show that the gift:

- Formed part of their normal expenditure
- Was made out of income, and
- Left the transferor with enough for them to maintain their normal standard of living



Gifts in Consideration of Marriage Exemption

Depending on the relationship between the person making the gift and the recipient couple gifts in consideration of marriage or civil partnership are exempt for IHT, up to:

- £5,000 to the donor's child
- £2,500 to the donor's grandchild
- £1,000 to any other couple

RELIEFS



Tapering Relief

This relief can be used to reduce any IHT that may become payable on a lifetime gift by the recipient should that transfer become subsequently chargeable.

For further information, please refer to our guide on Tapering Relief.



Quick Succession Relief

Where property has been gifted and IHT become payable, relief can apply if the recipient subsequently dies within 5 years of receiving the gift. Relief is given on a sliding scale.

It is important which each of the reliefs and exemptions mentioned that accurate records are maintained so that any executors of an estate can correctly calculate any IHT liability.

IMPORTANT NOTES

For financial advisers only. Not to be distributed to, nor relied on by, retail clients.

Please note that every care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is current and in accordance with our understanding of current law and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) practice as at April 2020.

You should note however, that we cannot take on the role of an individual taxation adviser and independent confirmation should be obtained before acting or refraining from acting upon the information given. The law and HMRC practice are subject to change.

