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# Planning Ahead For Your Finances

Managing Your Money For The Future

**All references to BT refer to the BT Group company that employs you: either BT plc or Openreach Limited.**

# About Us

We are a leading financial wellbeing and retirement specialist - helping those in the workplace to improve their financial future.

Established in 2005, we work with hundreds of organisations across both the private and public sector.

Our financial education services are delivered on a bespoke basis.

# What We'll Cover Today

- Taking stock of your existing finances
- Debt and mortgages
- Building up savings in the BTRSS
- Investing your BTRSS
- Receiving your pension at retirement
- The State Pension
- Other savings and investments
- Estate planning
- Next steps

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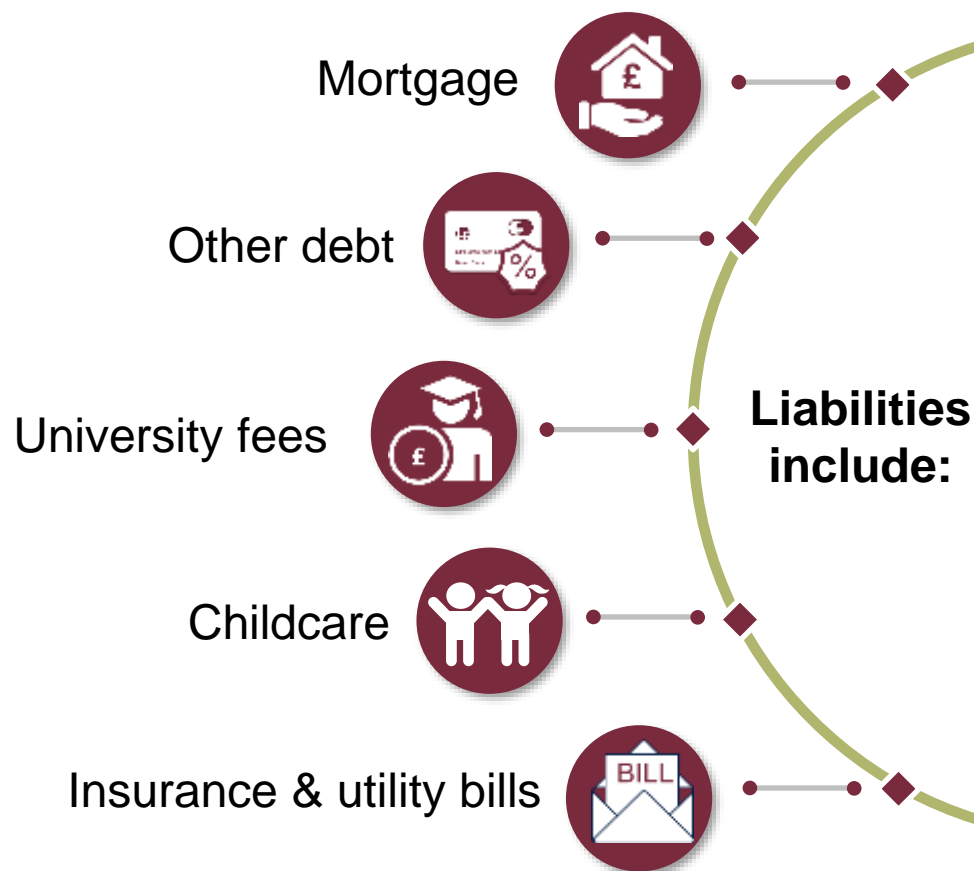
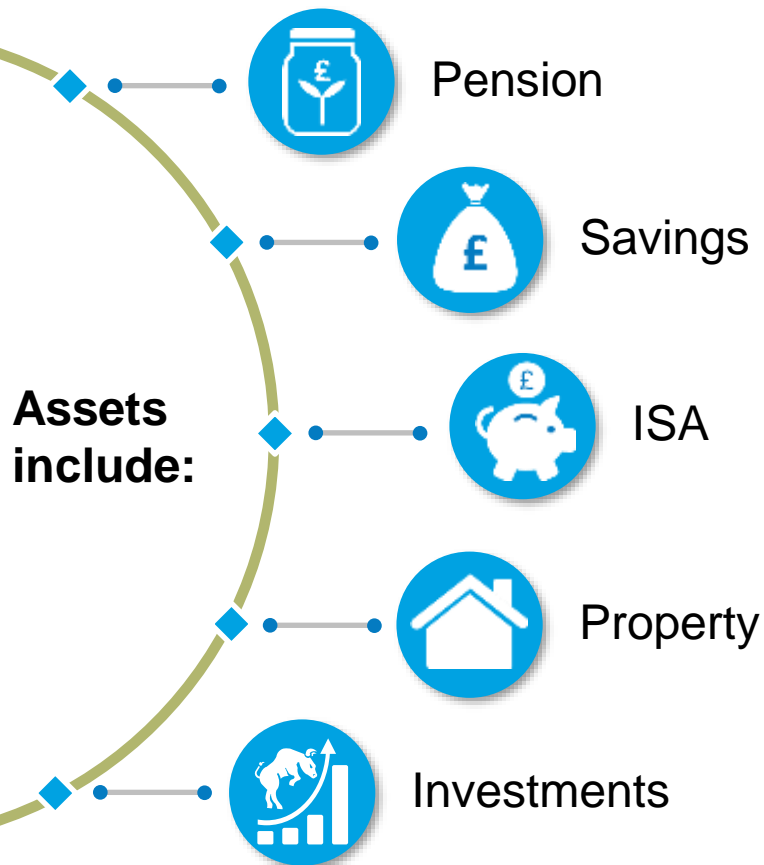
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# Taking Stock Of Your Existing Finances

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# Your Assets And Liabilities



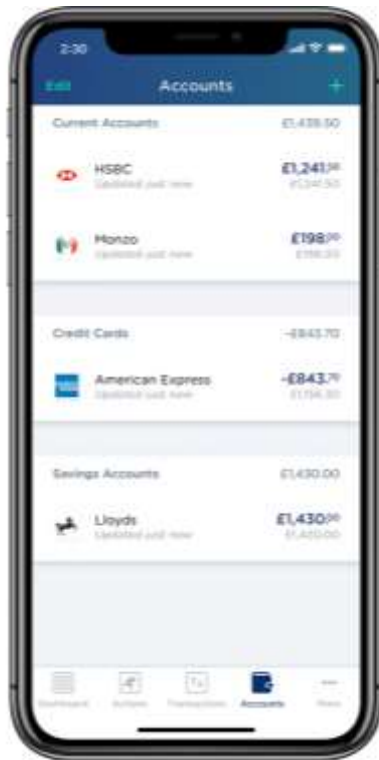
# Budgeting – 4 Steps



Search: 'Money Helper Budget Planner'

# budget planning.

Apps are available that can integrate with your accounts to build a budget in one place.



A clear overview of all accounts

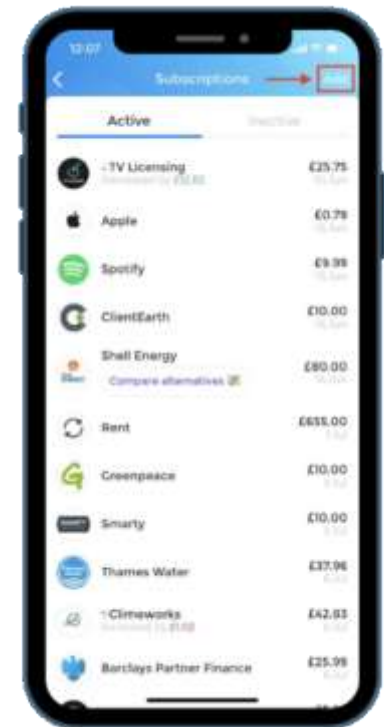


# budget planning.

Apps are available that can integrate with your accounts to build a budget in one place.

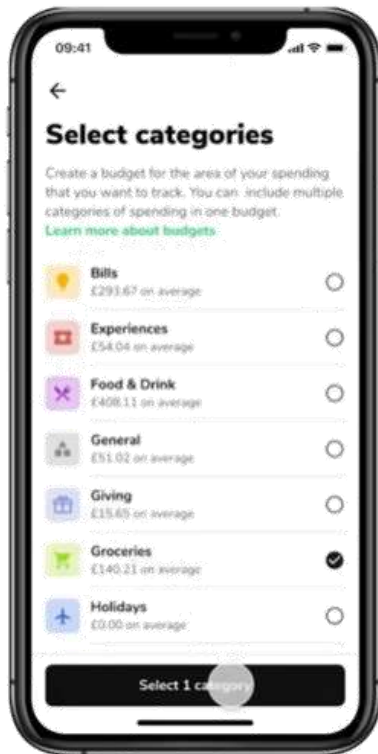
A clear overview of all accounts

Show all transactions in one place



# budget planning.

Apps are available that can integrate with your accounts to build a budget in one place.



A clear overview of all accounts

Show all transactions in one place

Set multiple budgets

# budget planning.

Apps are available that can integrate with your accounts to build a budget in one place.

A clear overview of all accounts

Show all transactions in one place

Set multiple budgets

Set multiple savings goals



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# budget planning.

Apps are available that can integrate with your accounts to build a budget in one place.



A clear overview of all accounts

Show all transactions in one place

Set multiple budgets

Set multiple savings goals

Keep on track with reminders

# Financial Protection

Financial protection is available to you through your employment at BT Group.

## Death In Service Cover



- Provided to all employees
- Tax free lump sum if you die whilst employed at BT Group
- Check your level of cover & chosen beneficiaries

## Private Medical Insurance



- Access to private medical treatment
- Check if you have cover in place

## Critical Illness Cover



- Tax free lump sum if you suffer a specified illness or injury
- Check if you have cover in place

Some benefits are available to select all year round, while others are only available during the annual selection window in March.

For more details log in to Your Rewards: [www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login](http://www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login)

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# Updating Your Beneficiaries

You can update your beneficiaries for your death in service and BTRSS pension.



**Keep your chosen beneficiaries up to date**  
The lump sum payment is made free of IHT and income tax



**Complete your BTRSS nomination form**  
Your BTRSS savings are normally free of IHT

## **Death before age 75:**

Your pension is usually received tax free by your beneficiaries

## **Death after age 75:**

Your pension is taxed at your beneficiaries marginal rate

[www.btretirementsavingscheme.com](http://www.btretirementsavingscheme.com)

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# My Benefits



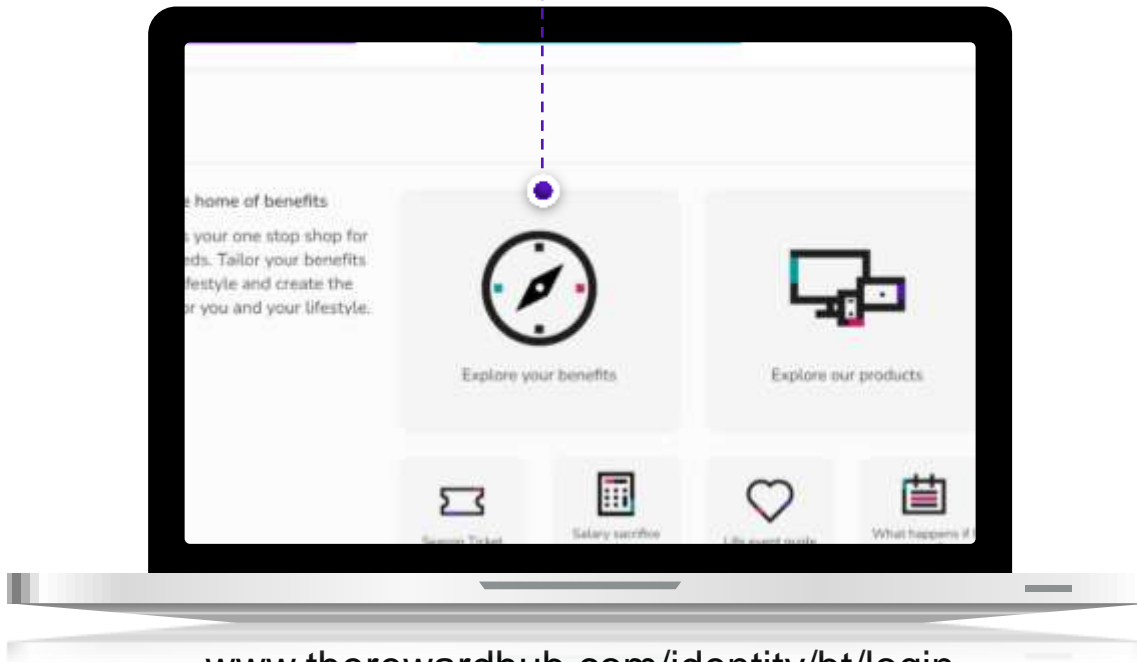
[www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login](http://www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login)

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# My Benefits

**'Explore your benefits'** is a good place to start and links you through to your Expression of Wish form.



[www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login](http://www.therewardhub.com/identity/bt/login)

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# Rates Of Income Tax 2024/25

## Personal Allowance

on the first  
£12,570\*



>£12,570\*

## Basic Rate Tax

on the next  
£37,700



>£50,270

## Higher Rate Tax

on the next  
£74,870



>£125,140

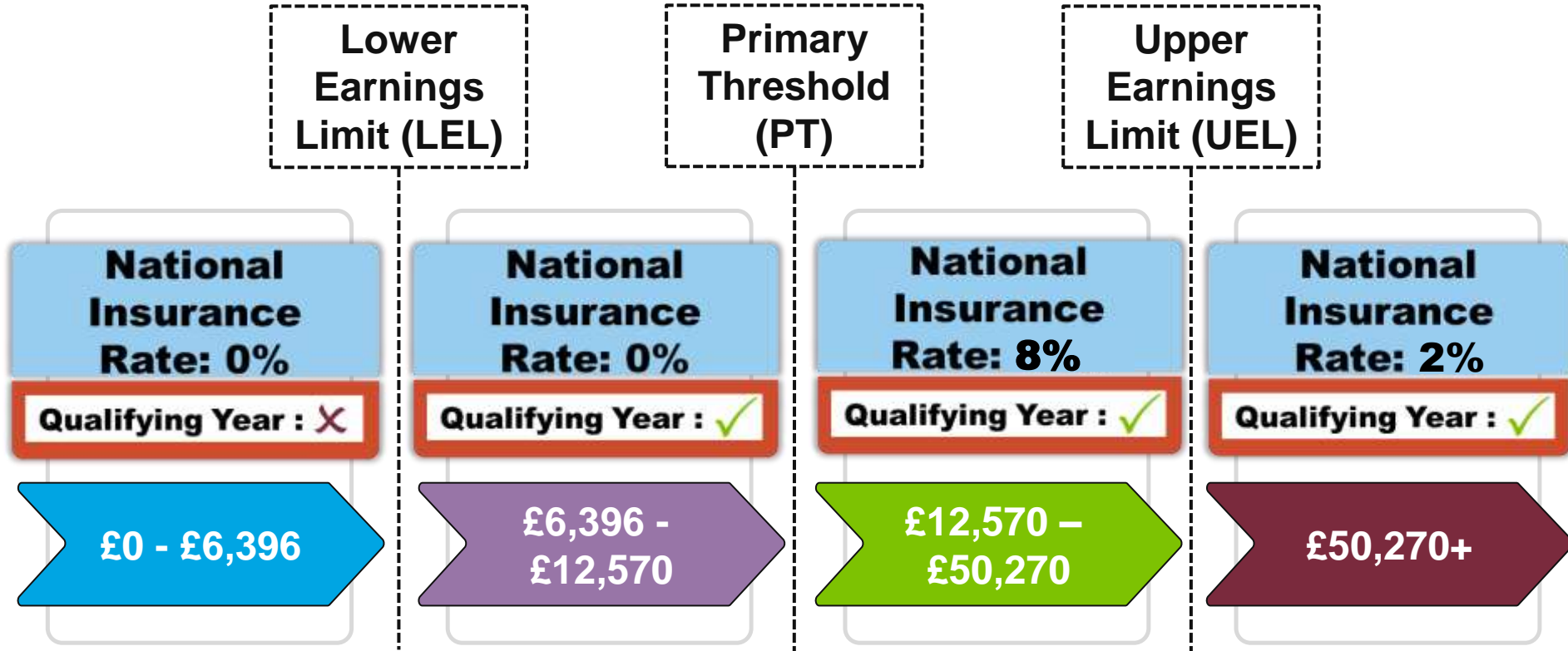
## Additional Rate Tax

on earnings above  
£125,140



\*The Personal Allowance reduces by £1 for every £2 of income above £100,000.

# National Insurance 2024/25



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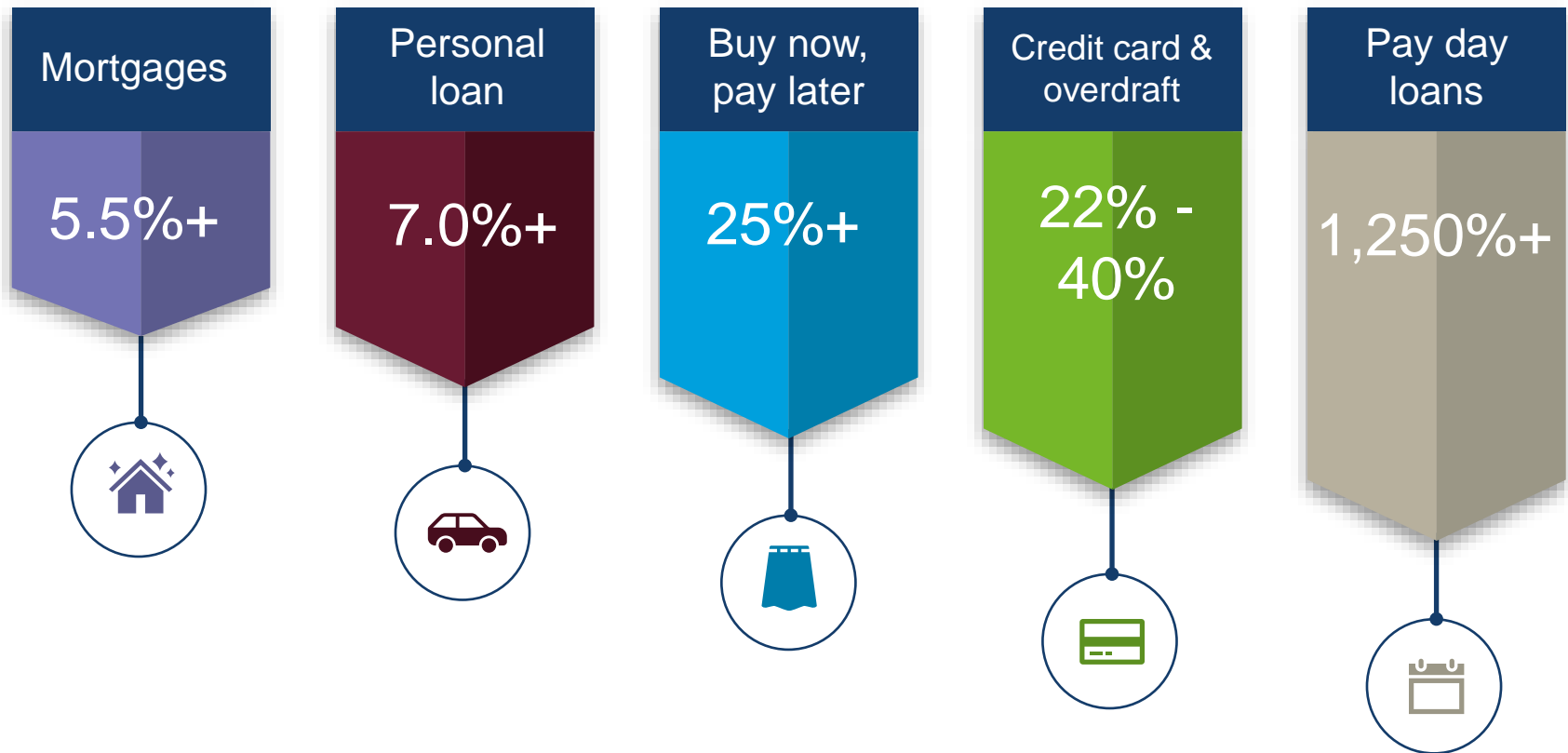
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# Debt And Mortgages

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# Types Of Debt



\*All rates are approximate examples only.

# Credit Card Overpayments

Based on a credit card debt of £3,000 and 22% APR.

Repay £60 per month

**£3,534**  
interest

Term



Repay £100 per month

**£1,198**  
interest

Term



Repay £300 per month

**£310**  
interest

Term



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# Check Your Credit Score For Free

## ClearScore



uses data from  
**Equifax**

[www.clearscore.com](http://www.clearscore.com)

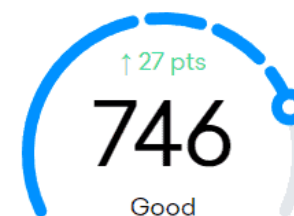
## Free account with Experian



uses data from  
**Experian**

[www.experian.co.uk](http://www.experian.co.uk)

## Credit Karma



uses data from  
**TransUnion**

[www.creditkarma.co.uk](http://www.creditkarma.co.uk)

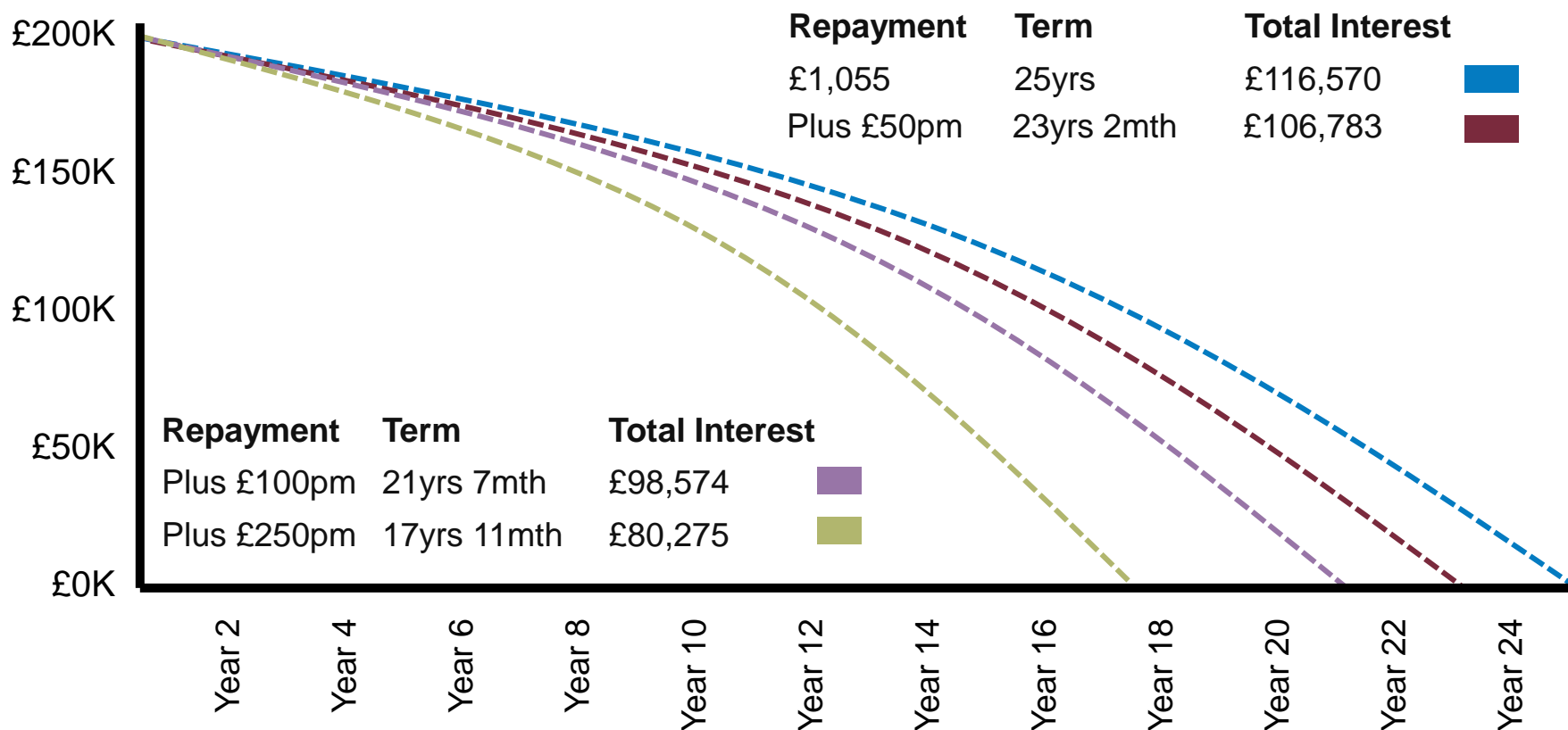
**It's worth checking your credit score with all three agencies at least once a year**

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# Repaying Your Mortgage Early

Based on a £200,000 repayment mortgage with 25 year term and 4% interest rate



Graph shown for illustrative purposes only. Data provided by Nationwide Building Society. Any early repayment charges or changes in interest rates are not reflected in the figures shown

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# Building Up Savings In The BTRSS

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# Defined Contribution (DC) Schemes

Employer and employees  
contribute (tax-free\*)



Any investment  
growth is tax-free



You can access your  
pension from age 55\*\*



Receive up to 25%  
tax-free



Receive a taxable lump sum or generate  
a taxable income with remaining pot



\*subject to HMRC limits

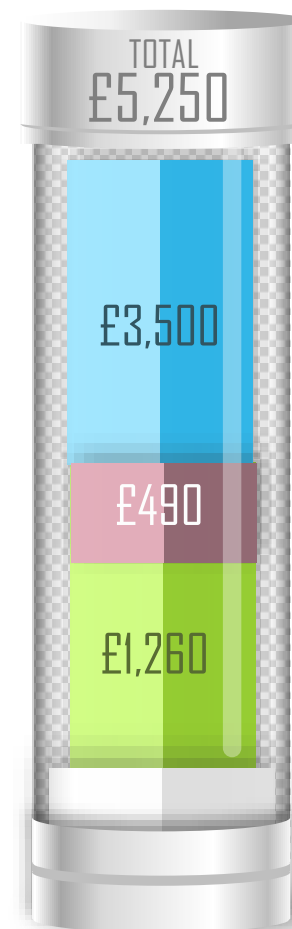
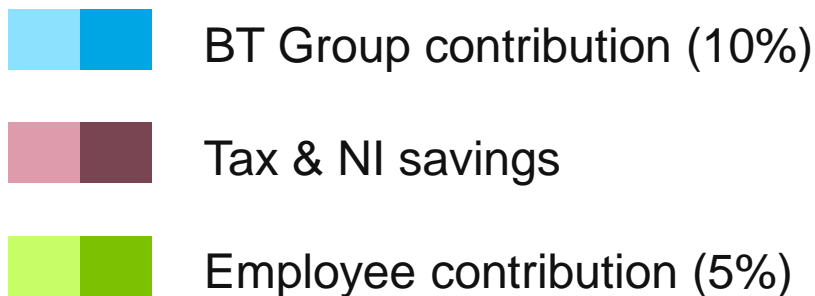
\*\*The minimum age for accessing your pension is expected to increase to age 57 from 6 April 2028. Pension savings in certain schemes may be protected from this change.

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# How Contributions May Add Up

- Annual Salary £35,000 (salary sacrifice member)
- Employee Contribution = £1,750pa (5%)
- Tax Saving = 20%
- NI Saving = 8%
- Personal Cost = £1,260
- BT Group Contribution = £3,500pa (10%)



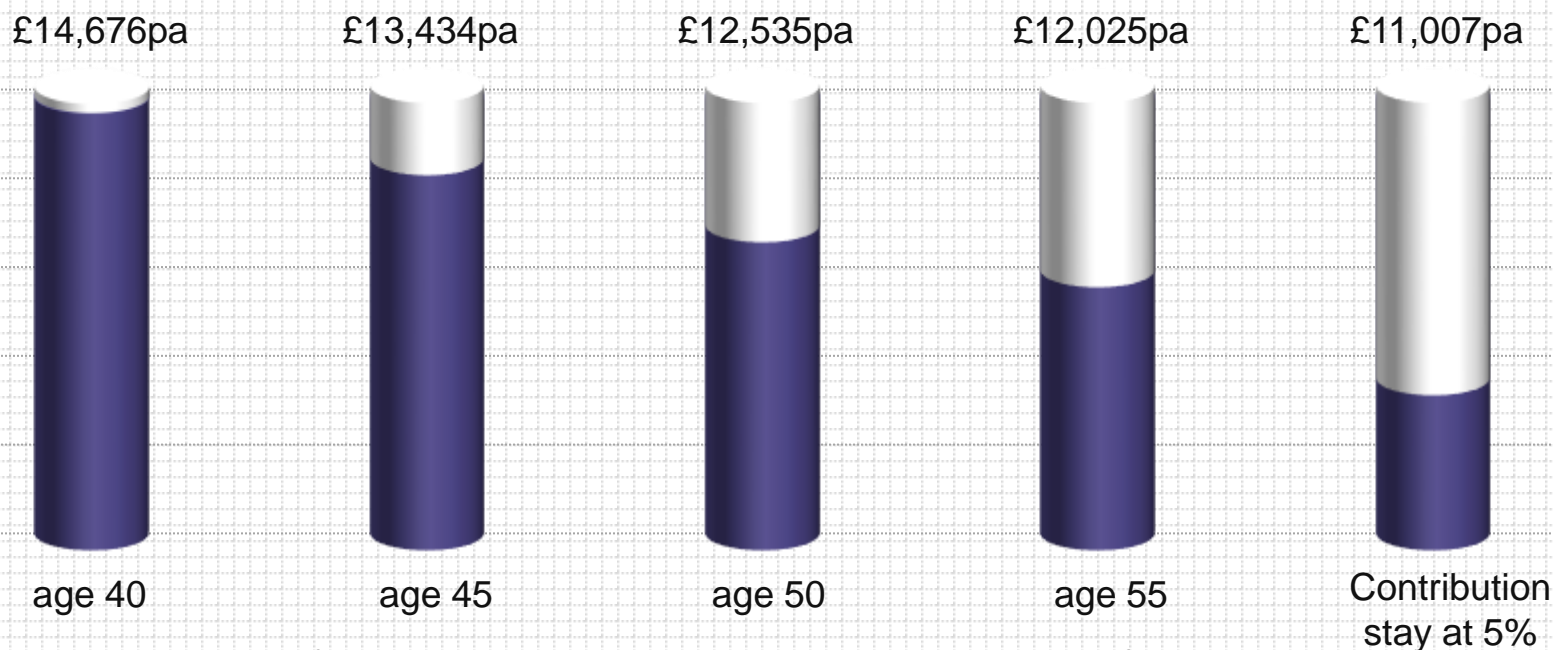
\*You must contribute at least 5% and BT Group will contribute 10% of pensionable salary.

# Making The Most Of Your Pension

Increasing pension contributions as early as possible is likely to have the biggest impact.

£35,000 salary | Age 40 | Retirement age 65

Estimated annual pension from the BTRSS



Age of employee when member contributions increase from 5% to 10%

Note: pension values are estimates only and are provided by the Standard Life pension calculator.

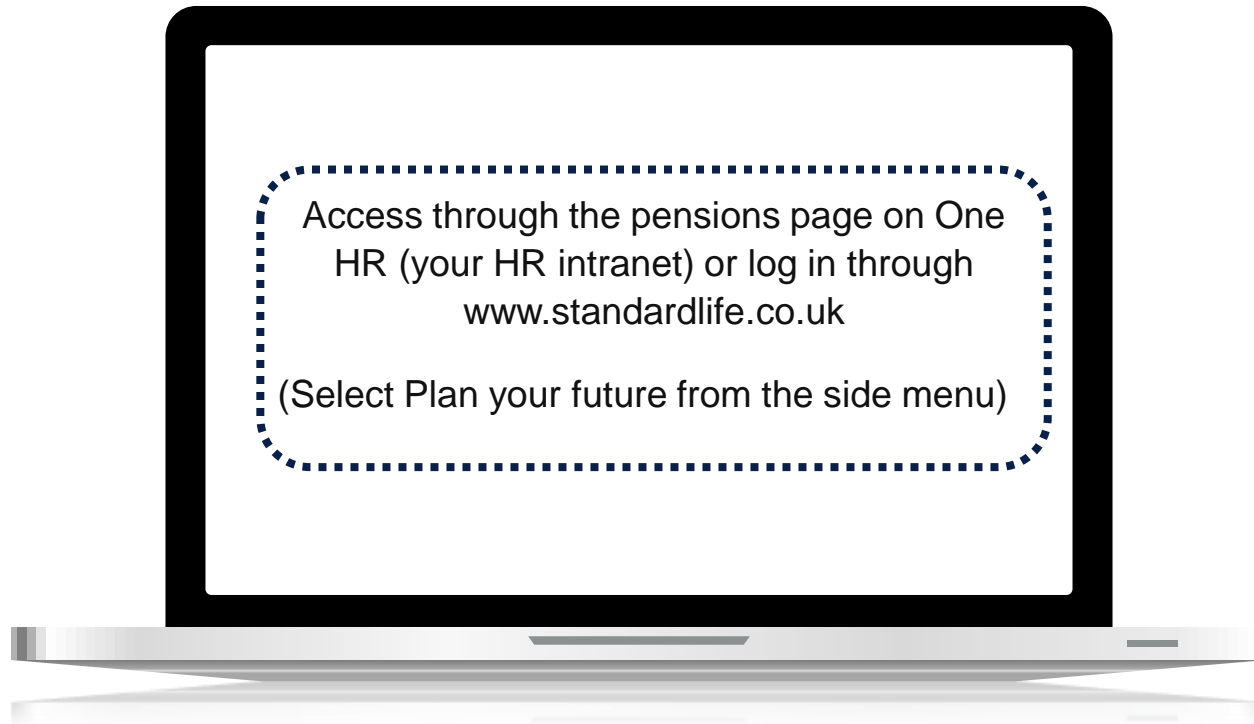
Pension values assume an annuity is purchased at retirement.

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# Pension Calculator

Make use of the Standard Life pension calculator to see the potential future value of your pension savings.



# Limits On Tax Efficiency

## Annual Allowance (AA)

- The annual allowance is £60,000\*
- This may be reduced if your total taxable income exceeds £200,000 or you flexibly withdraw taxable income from a DC scheme
- Carry forward may be available from up to the 3 previous tax years

## New limits

- The Lifetime Allowance (LTA) has been abolished
- Two new limits have been introduced:
  - Lump Sum Allowance (LSA): The maximum tax-free cash is limited to 25% of the pension value, subject to a total cap of £268,275 (which is set to be frozen)
  - Lump Sum and Death Benefits Allowance (LSDBA): The maximum amount of non-taxable lump sums that can be taken from a pension, set at £1,073,100.
- Those individuals who hold LTA protection will have allowances based on their protected LTA



**If you think you may be affected, ask about this on your follow up call**

\*Tax relief is only available on contributions up to the greater of 100% of relevant earnings or £3,600

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# Investing Your BTRSS

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# Your Investment Options

How your pension savings are invested is up to you. There are choices depending on how involved you want to be with your investments.

## OPTION

1

**Do It For Me  
(default)**

The low  
involvement  
lifestyle option



## OPTION

2

**Help Me Do It**

Other  
Standard Life  
Lifestyle  
profiles



## OPTION

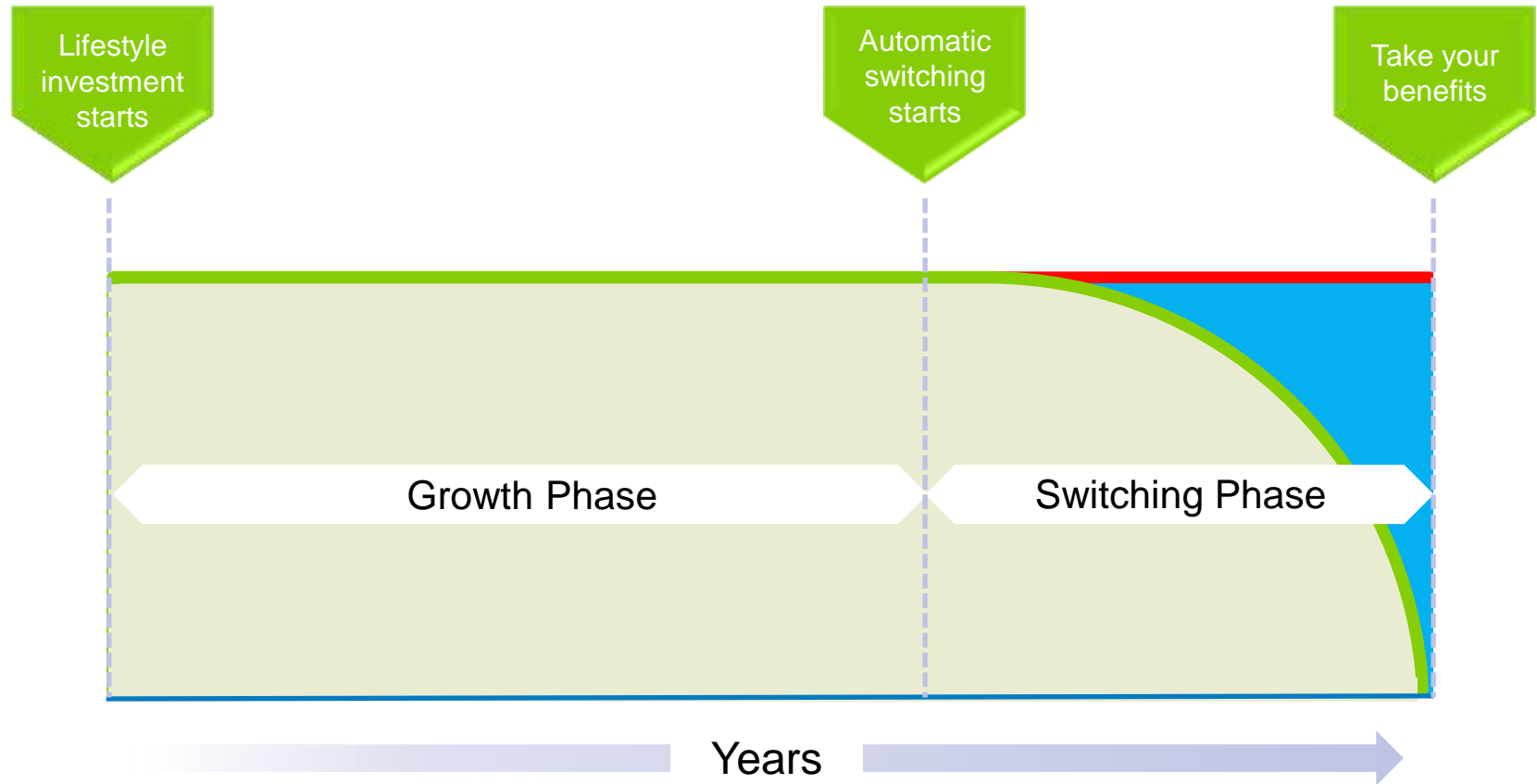
3

**Let Me Do It**

Choose from  
the full fund  
range



# Lifestyle Funds





# Your Selected Retirement Date

The screenshot displays the 'Standard Life' user interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links: Home >, Your pension >, Plan your retirement >, Combine your pensions >, **Your details >** (circled in red), Mailbox >, Help >, Guides >, and Logout >. The main content area has three tabs: 'Personal details', 'Plan information' (circled in red), and 'Preferences'. Under the 'Plan information' tab, there is a 'Plan retirement date' section with 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. Below this, a text line states: 'The date you have chosen to start taking your retirement benefits.' The 'Retirement date' section shows 'Plan retirement date' with a dropdown menu set to '19', a text field containing 'February', another dropdown menu set to '2050', and a link: 'Important information about changing your retirement date'. Below this is an 'Important information' box with a disclaimer about investment values and tax rules. At the bottom, a yellow curved line separates the main content from a footer area that includes the text 'There's a lot to look forward to' and 'Connect with us'.

**Standard Life**

[Home >](#)  
[Your pension >](#)  
[Plan your retirement >](#)  
[Combine your pensions >](#)  
**[Your details >](#)**  
[Mailbox >](#)  
[Help >](#)  
[Guides >](#)  
[Logout >](#)

**Personal details** **Plan information** Preferences

Plan retirement date

The date you have chosen to start taking your retirement benefits.

**Retirement date**

Plan retirement date  
19  2050

[Important information about changing your retirement date](#)

**Important information**

The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may get back less than was paid in. Laws and Tax rules may change. Your own circumstances - including where you live in the UK - also have an impact on tax treatment. The information here is based on our understanding in April 2019. Some figures may refer to past performance. Where applicable, past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.

There's a lot to look forward to

Connect with us

# Self-select Funds



Choose from a range of different investment types



Invest into equities, bonds, property or cash



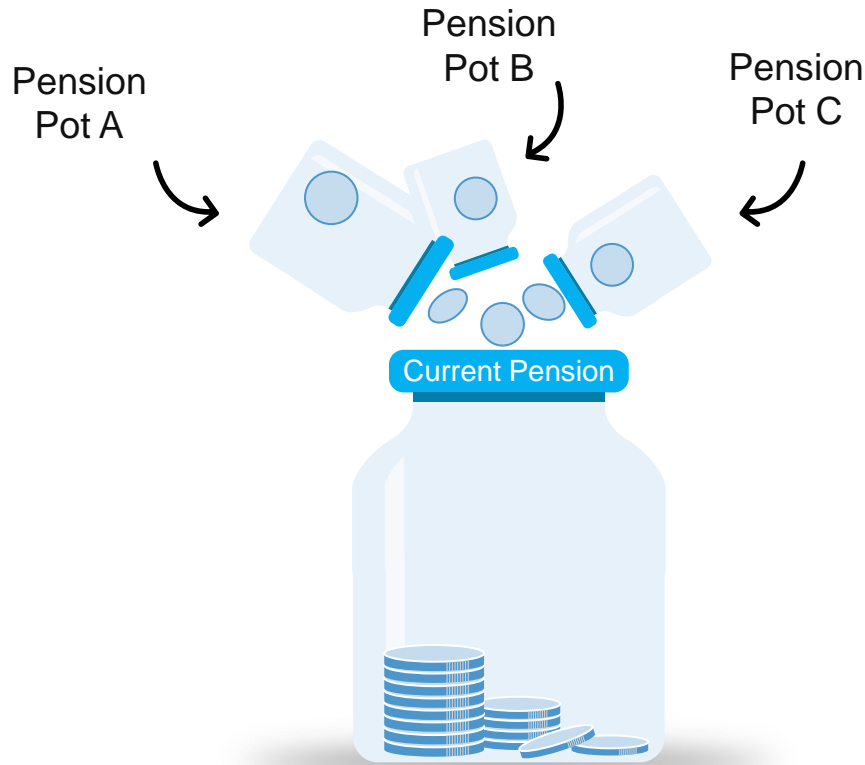
You can manage your exposure to risk as you approach retirement



Visit the Scheme website for further information

# Pension Consolidation

It is common to build up a number of 'pension pots' from previous employment.



You can keep these as separate pots

OR

Transfer them into your current  
workplace pension plan

# Pension Consolidation

Make sure you have reviewed any benefits and drawbacks before taking action.

## Potential benefits:

Lower costs?



Investment choice?



Convenience?



Improved administration?



## What to look out for:



Penalty charges



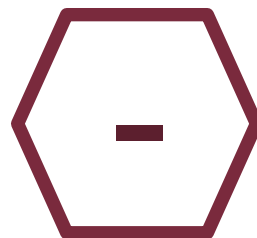
Protected retirement age



Any link to a defined benefit pension



Any guaranteed benefits or added benefits



If you are unsure, you should always seek regulated advice before transferring a pension



**finding lost pensions:**

[gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details](https://gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details)

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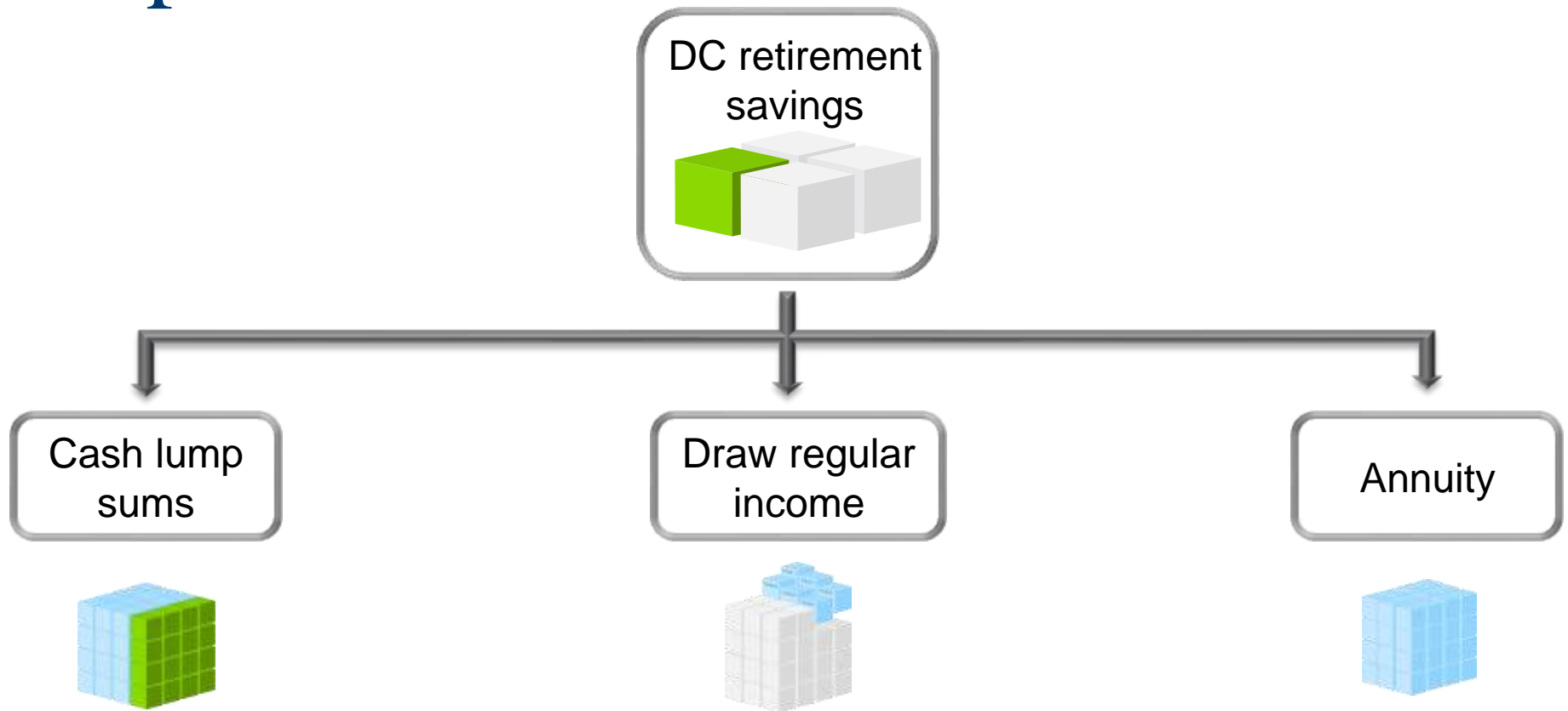
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# Receiving Your Pension At Retirement

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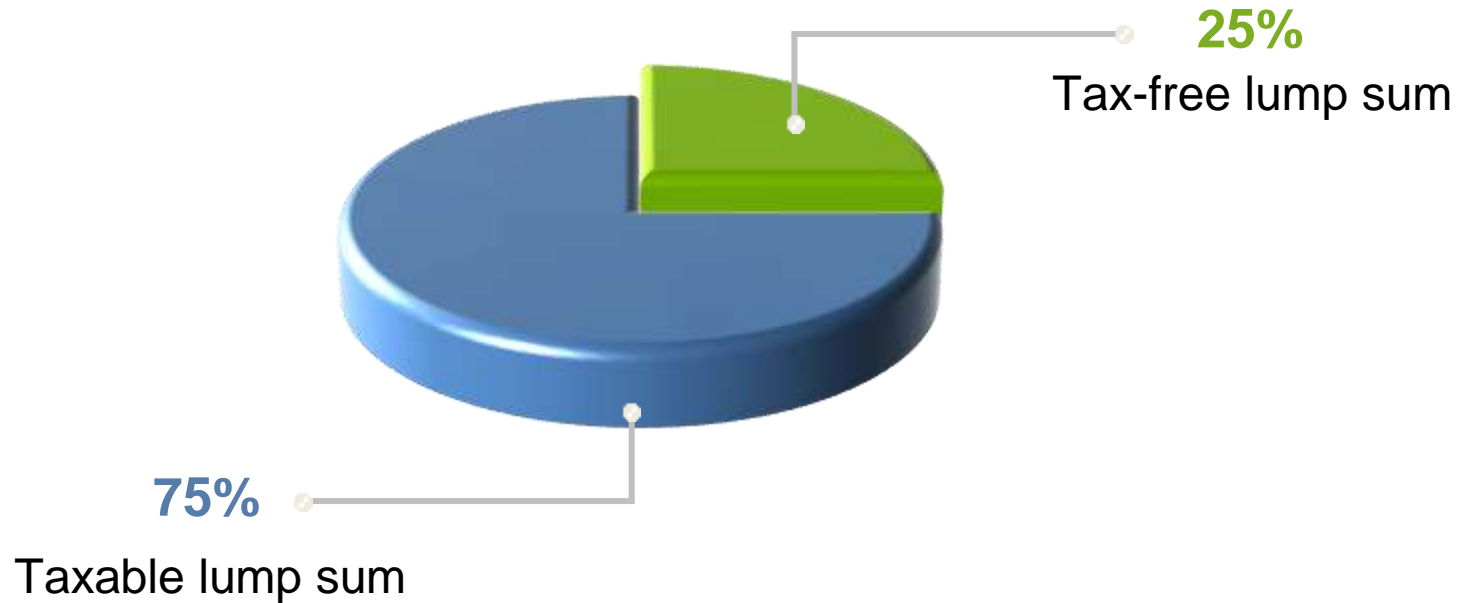
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# Defined Contribution Income Options



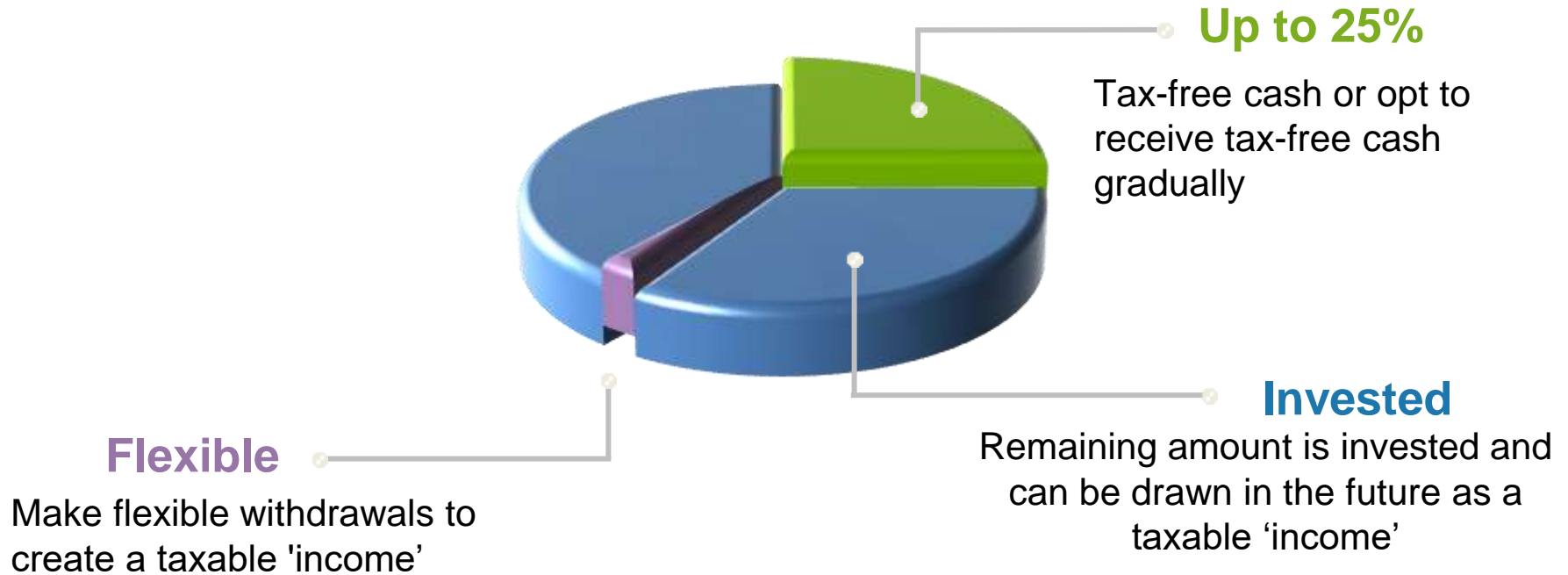
You may need to transfer your benefits to an alternative arrangement to access your chosen income route

# Cash Lump Sum



- The taxable lump sum is taxed in the year of receipt
- This could lead to a significant tax charge
- There is the option to receive a series of lump sums

# Flexi Access Drawdown



Remember – the MPAA will apply if you receive taxable money flexibly from any DC pension pot.



# Buying An Annuity

Receive up to 25% as a tax-free lump sum

Options include

- A guarantee period
- Inflation linking
- Spouse/partner income

Buy an annuity with the remainder



The income level is determined by your circumstances

Provides a secure income throughout your retirement

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# The State Pension

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# Your State Pension Age

DoB from:  
6 Apr 1978

DoB between:  
6 Mar 1961 &  
5 Apr 1977

gradually  
increases

**68**  
birthday

DoB between:  
6 Oct 1954 &  
5 Apr 1960

gradually  
increases

**67**  
birthday

Born before 6 Oct  
1954? You've  
already reached  
State Pension age

**66**  
birthday



[www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age)

The Government intends to bring forward the State Pension age transition from 67 to 68 affecting those born between 6<sup>th</sup> April 1970 and 5<sup>th</sup> April 1978 - if adopted those affected will reach State Pension age between their 67<sup>th</sup> & 68<sup>th</sup> birthdays

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# State Pension Forecast

## Your State Pension summary

You can get your State Pension on 25 June 2035.  
Your forecast is

**£221.20 a week**  
£961.82 a month, £11,541.90 a year

Your forecast

- is not a guarantee and is based on the current law
- does not include any increase due to inflation

**You need to continue to contribute National Insurance to reach your forecast**

Estimate based on your National Insurance record up to 5 April 2024

**£158.00 a week**

Forecast if you contribute another 10 years before 5 April 2035

**£221.20 a week**

## Get help

Helpline: 0800 731 0181

Textphone: 0800 731 0176



[www.gov.uk/check-state-pension](https://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension)

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# Other Savings And Investments

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# Your Goals



## Short Term

- 0 to 5 years
- Typically cash holdings



## Medium Term

- 5 to 15 years
- Consider your risk / return approach

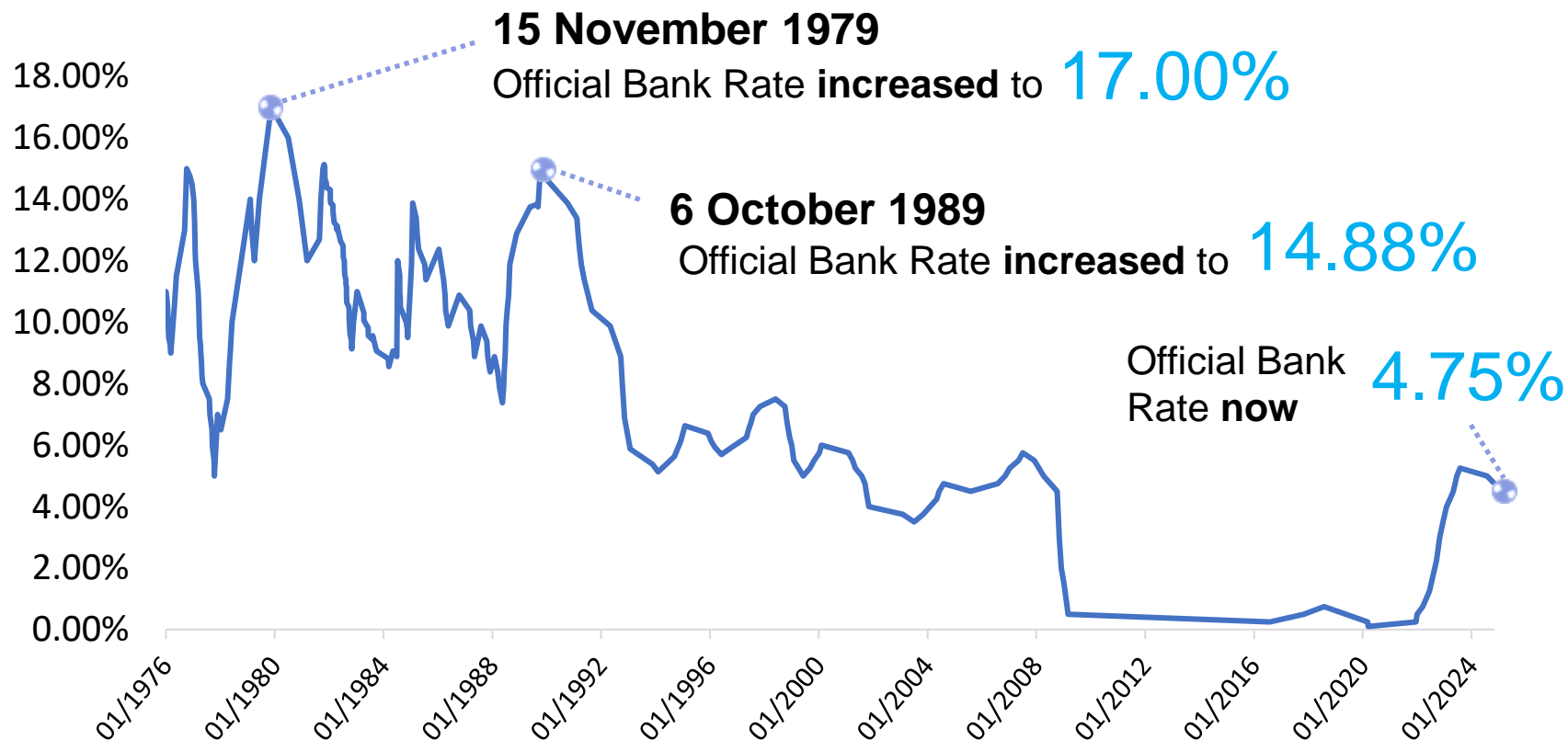


## Long Term

- More than 15 years
- Consider your retirement approach

# Changing Interest Rates

If you have longer term savings you may consider investments rather than cash.

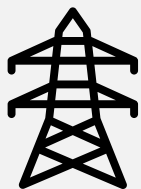


[www.bankofengland.co.uk/boeapps/database/Bank-Rate.asp](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/boeapps/database/Bank-Rate.asp)

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# Inflation: Average Over 10 Years



Electricity  
7.6%pa



Insurance  
5.5%pa



Household  
Gas  
4.8%pa



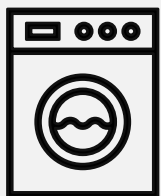
**Above CPI**



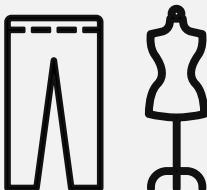
**Consumer Price Index (CPI) = 2.9%pa**



**Below CPI**



Household  
Appliances  
2.1%



Clothing  
1.8%



Alcohol  
1.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics – January 2014 vs January 2024

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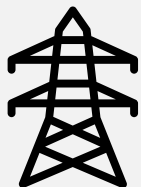
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# Inflation: Over 10 Years

The price of electricity  
has risen

108%



Electricity  
7.6%pa

The price of insurance  
has risen

71%



Insurance  
5.5%pa

The price of household  
gas has risen

59%



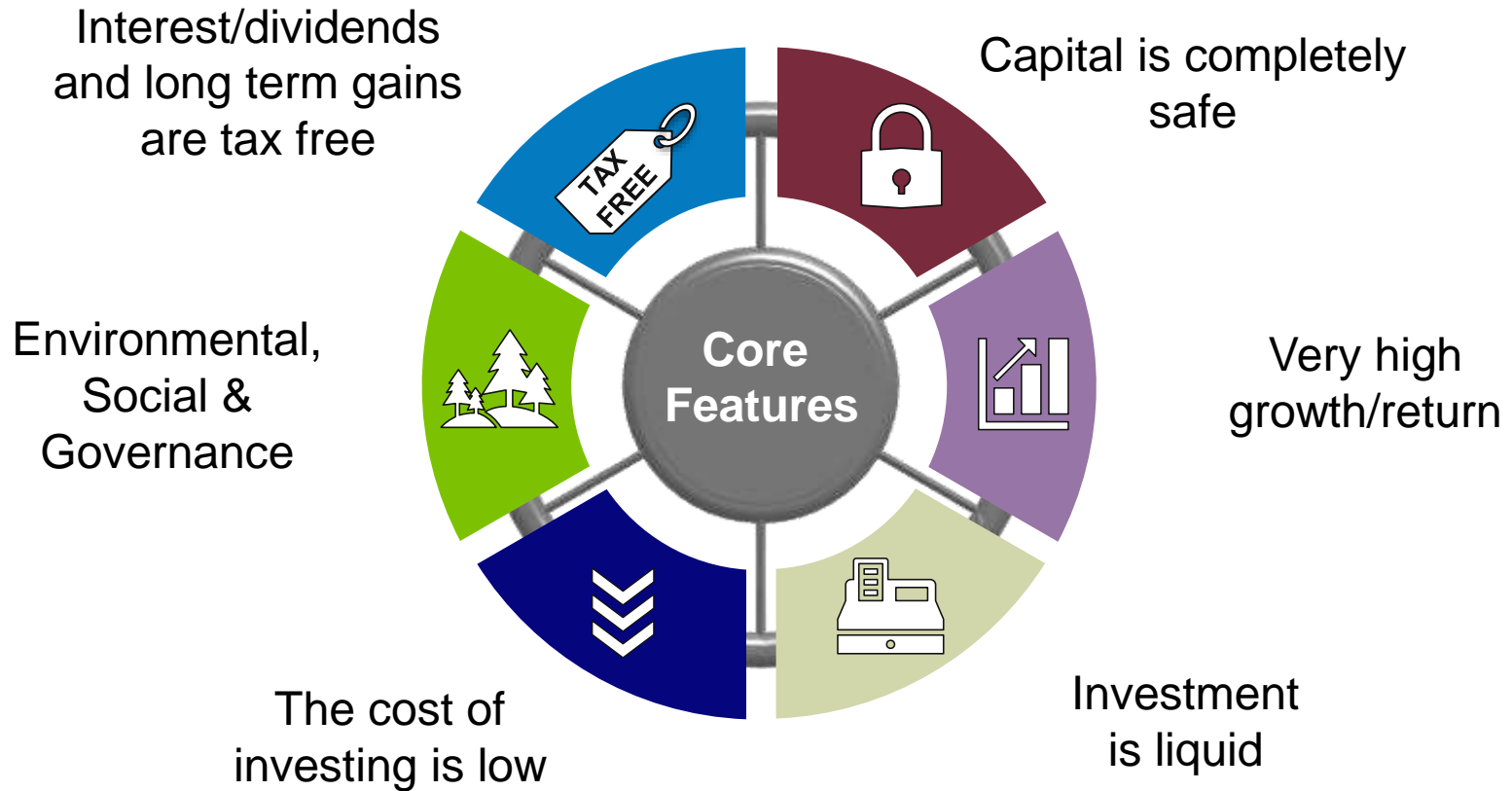
Household  
Gas  
4.8%pa

Source: Office for National Statistics – January 2014 vs January 2024

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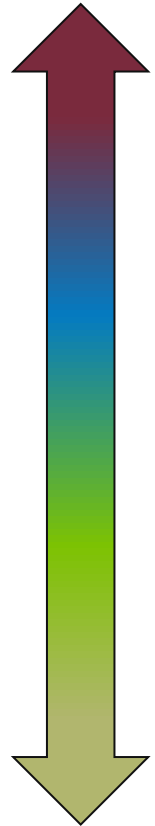
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# Investment Principles



# Investment Risk And Returns

High



Low



## Equities

Volatility, Timing,  
Concentration



## Property

Liquidity, Negative Equity,  
Taxation, Tenants



## Bonds

Default, Credit,  
Inflation

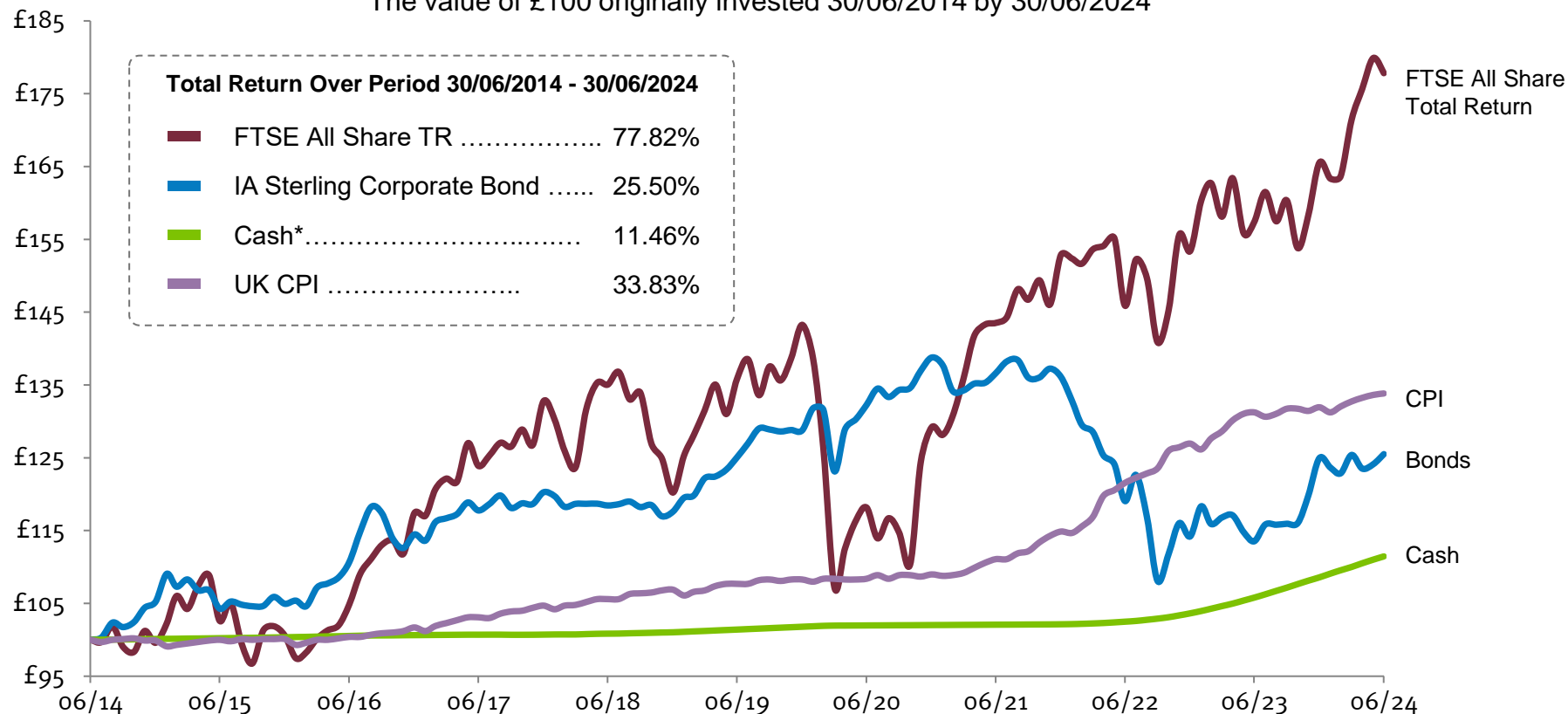


## Cash

Inflation, Interest Rates,  
Currency Exposure

# Risk And Returns: The Real World

The value of £100 originally invested 30/06/2014 by 30/06/2024



**This chart shows past performance which is not a reliable guide to the future**

Source: Financial Express & Bloomberg

\*Cash is calculated using: FE FER Cash Proxy from 30/06/2014 to 31/12/2018 and the UK Bank of England Base rate from 31/12/2018 to 30/06/2024.

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# Directshare

- Invest between £10 and £1,800 in a tax year (or 10% of your salary if lower)
- Pay monthly or make lump sum contributions if you'd prefer
- Contributions taken from your gross salary
- No income tax or National Insurance providing you:
  - Keep the shares in the plan for at least 5 years, or
  - Leave employment due to retirement, redundancy or ill-health
- After 5 years, you can keep the shares in the plan and any growth will not be subject to CGT when they are sold
- If you retire or leave employment the shares must be removed from the plan

# Directshare

Example based on contributing £100 per month from gross salary.



# Directshare



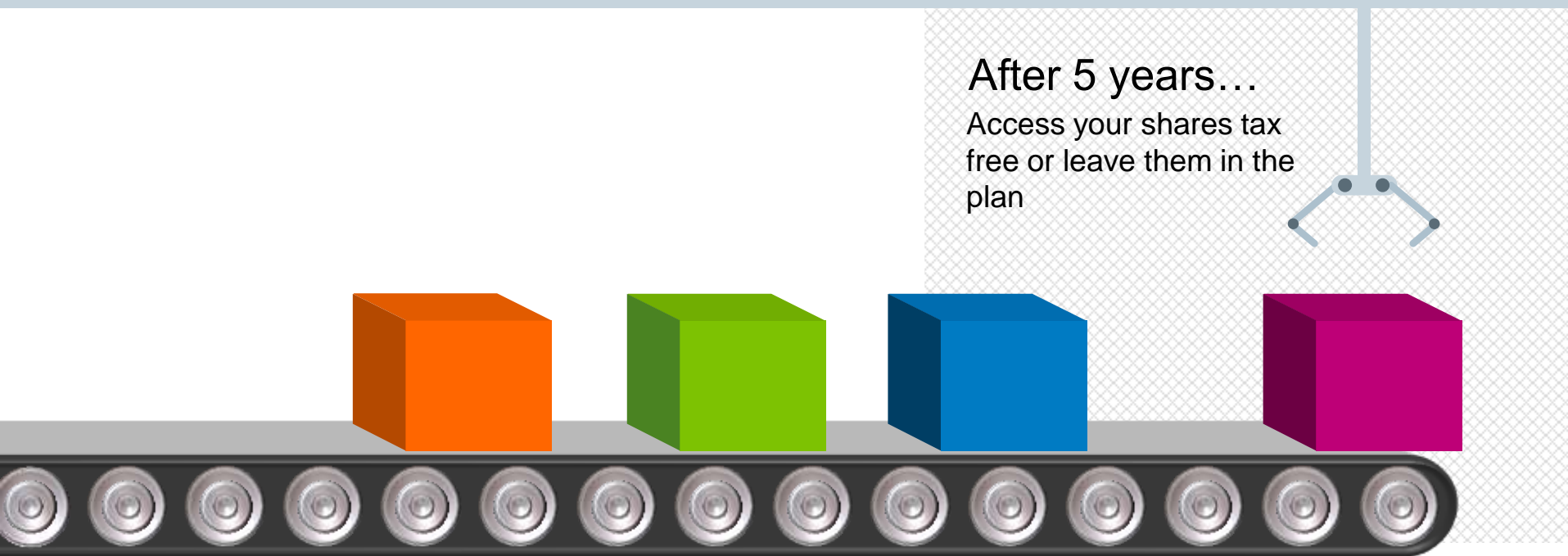
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# Directshare

After 5 years...

Access your shares tax free or leave them in the plan



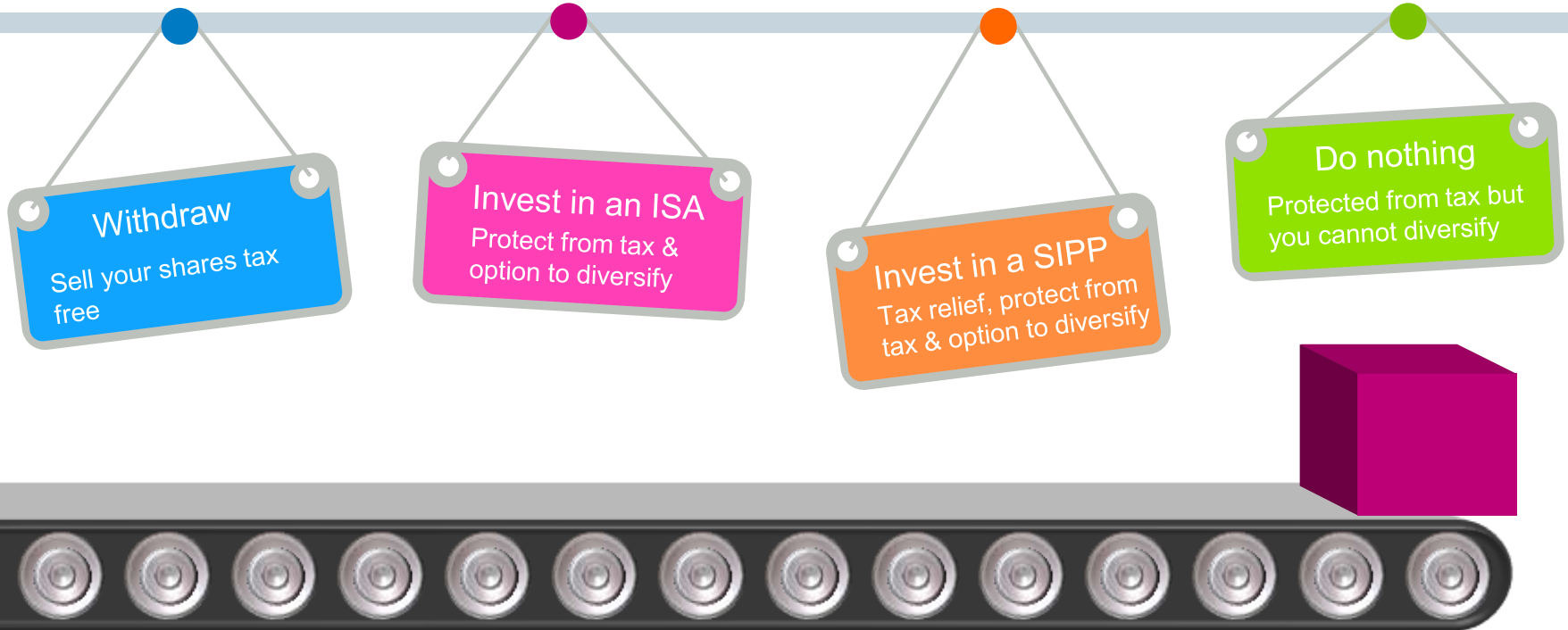
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# Directshare

Your options after 5 years...

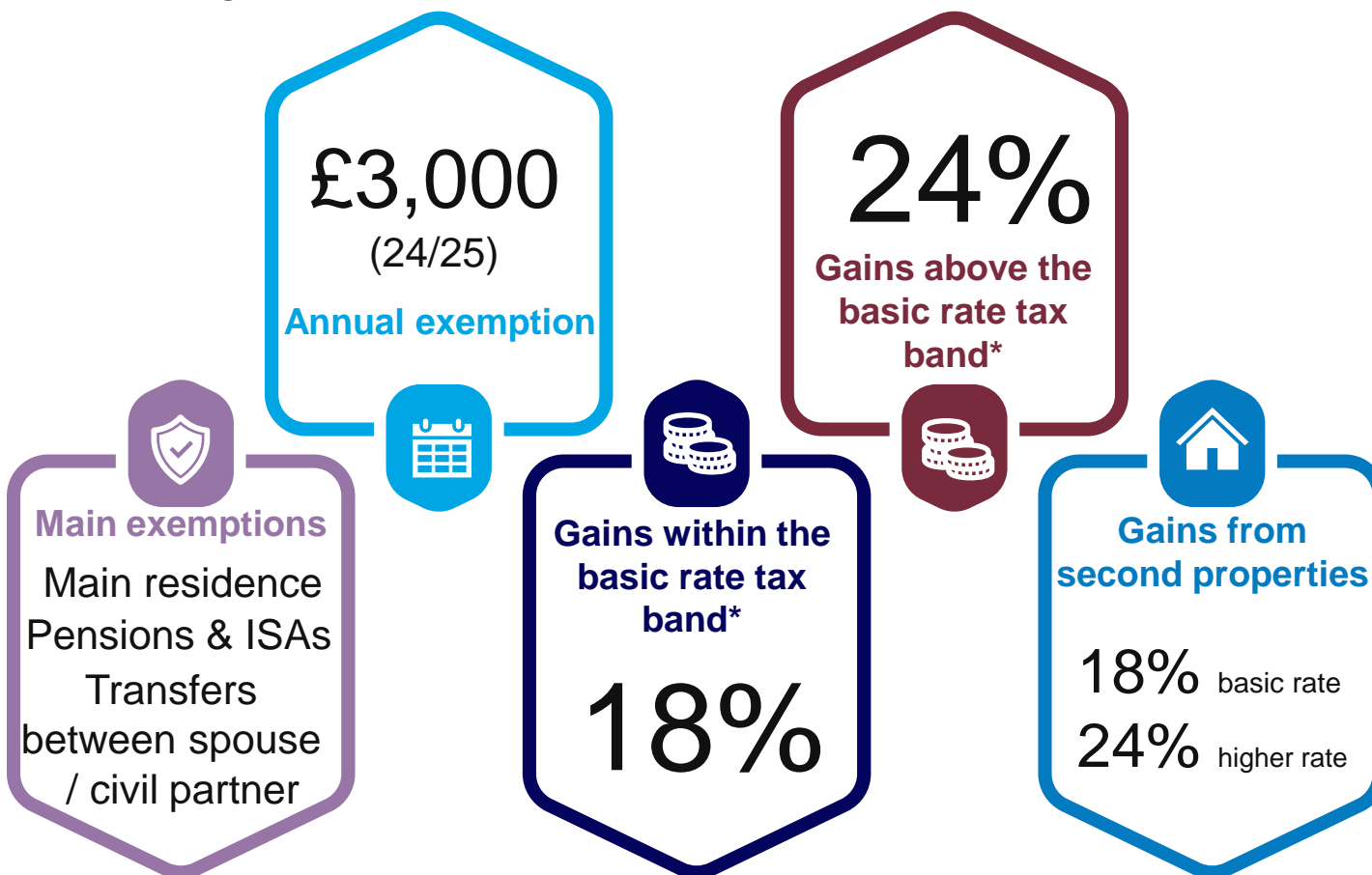


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# Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

CGT is a tax on gains when certain investments are disposed of.



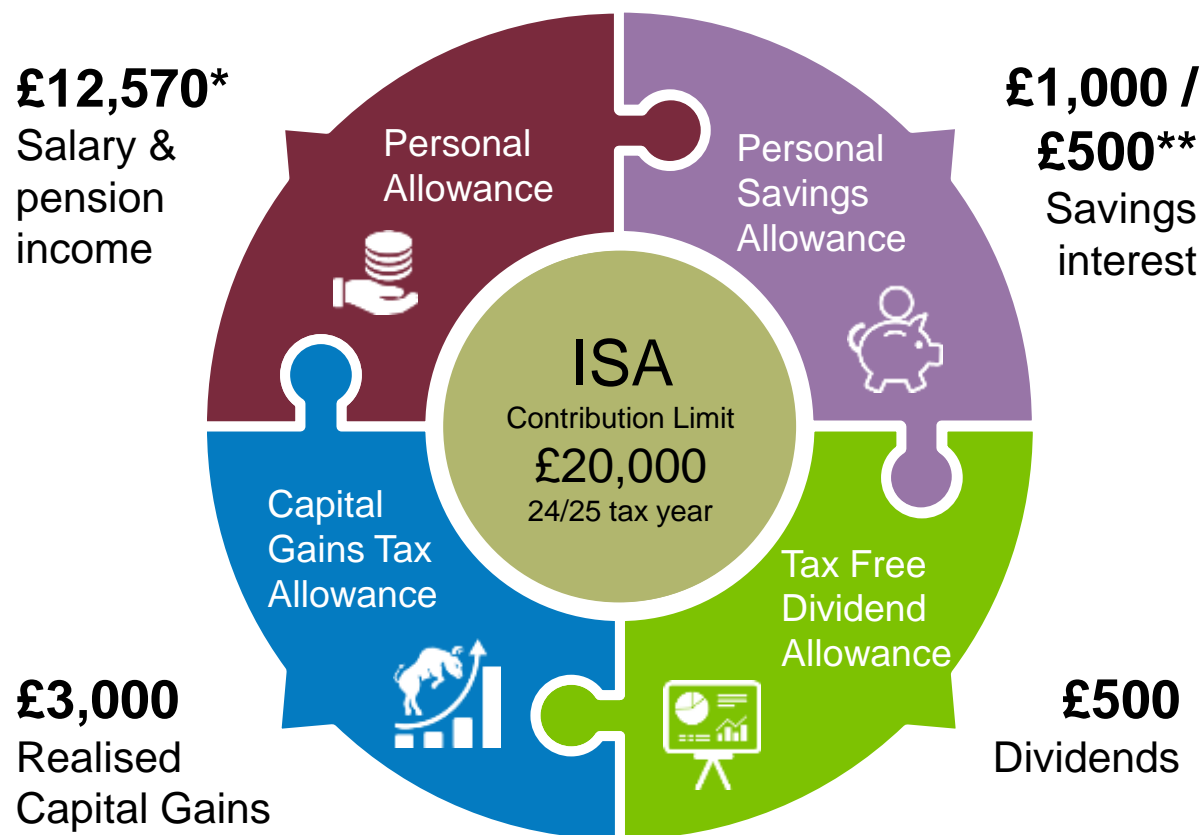
\*Gains realised prior to 30 October 2024 are charged at lower rates of 10% and 20%.

# Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs)

- An ISA protects your savings from taxation
- Interest and dividends are tax-free
- Growth is free of Capital Gains Tax



# Tax Allowances Summary



\*Reduced for those with income over £100,000

\*\*£1,000 for basic rate and £500 for higher rate tax payers. Additional rate tax payers do not have a Personal Savings Allowance

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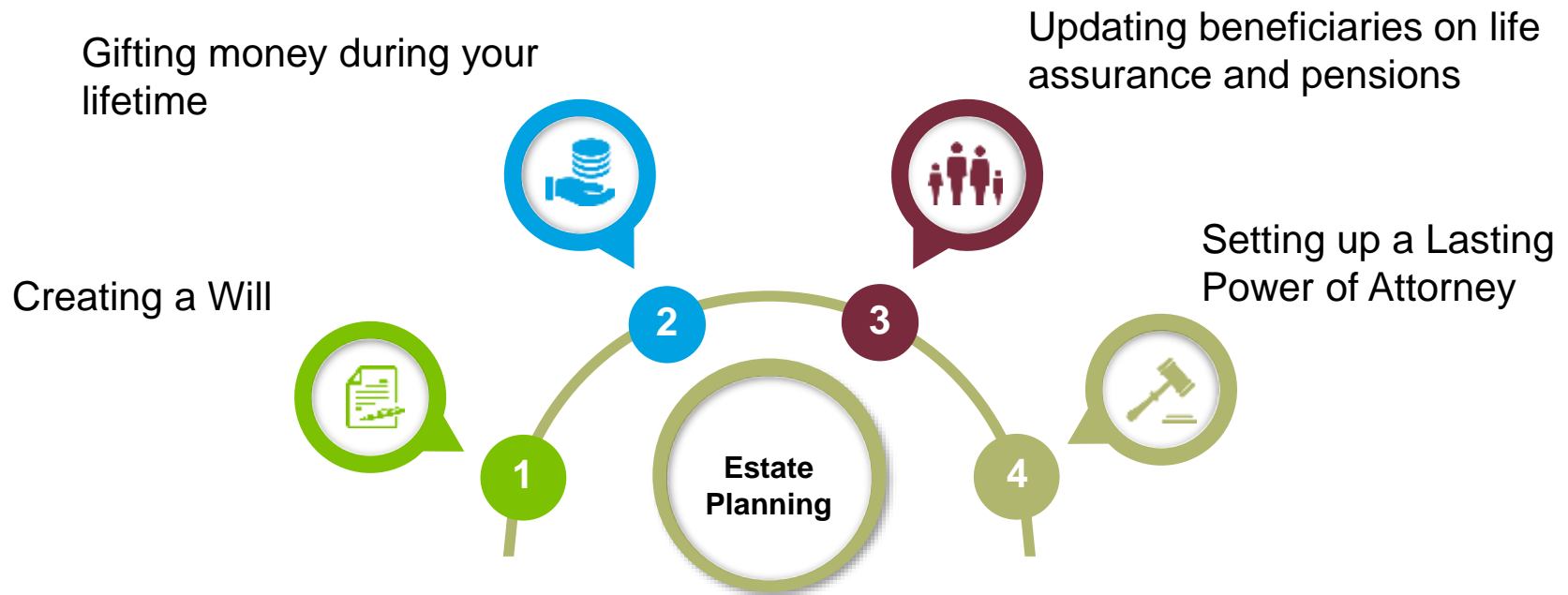
# Estate Planning

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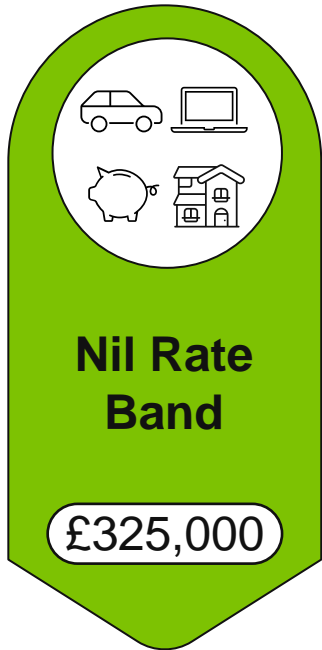
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# Estate Planning

- During your life you build up personal wealth, your 'estate'
- Estate Planning involves protecting your wealth and ensuring it passes to the people you want it to
- It's an evolving process and may include:



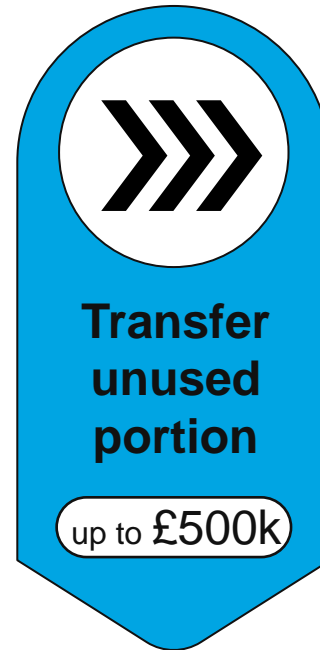
# Inheritance Tax (IHT)



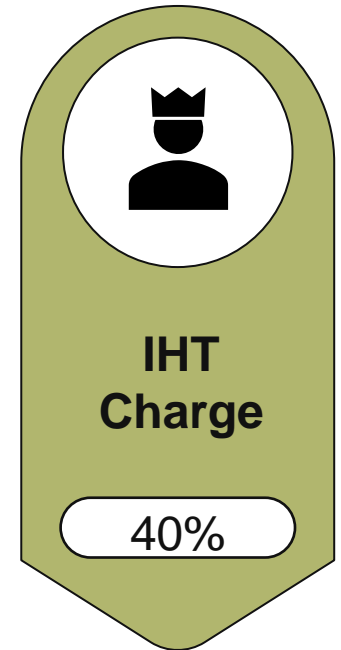
Applied to any part of an estate that is chargeable to IHT



Only applied to a home that is left to a direct descendant

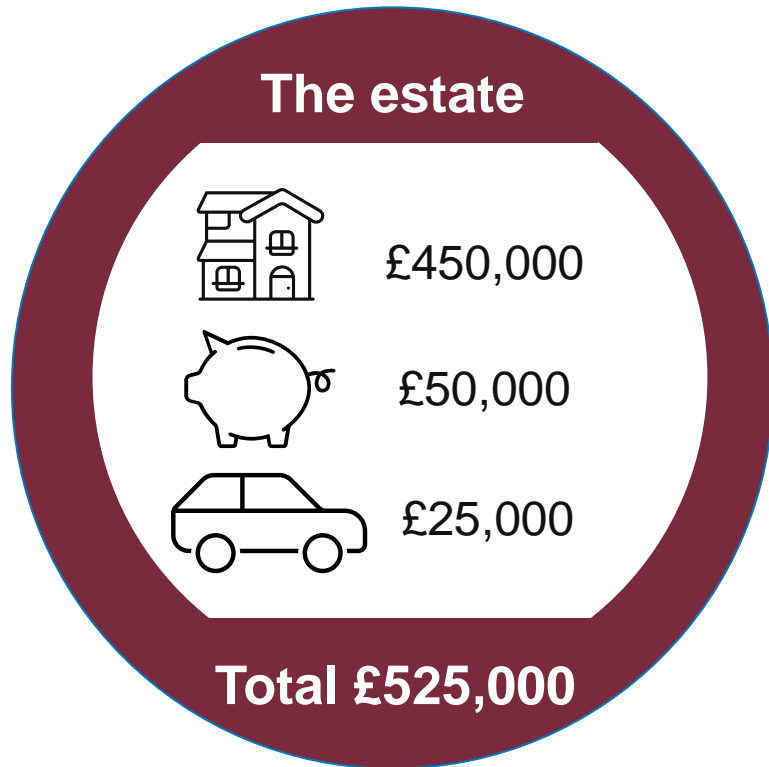


A couple could potentially pass on up to £1m before IHT becomes due\*

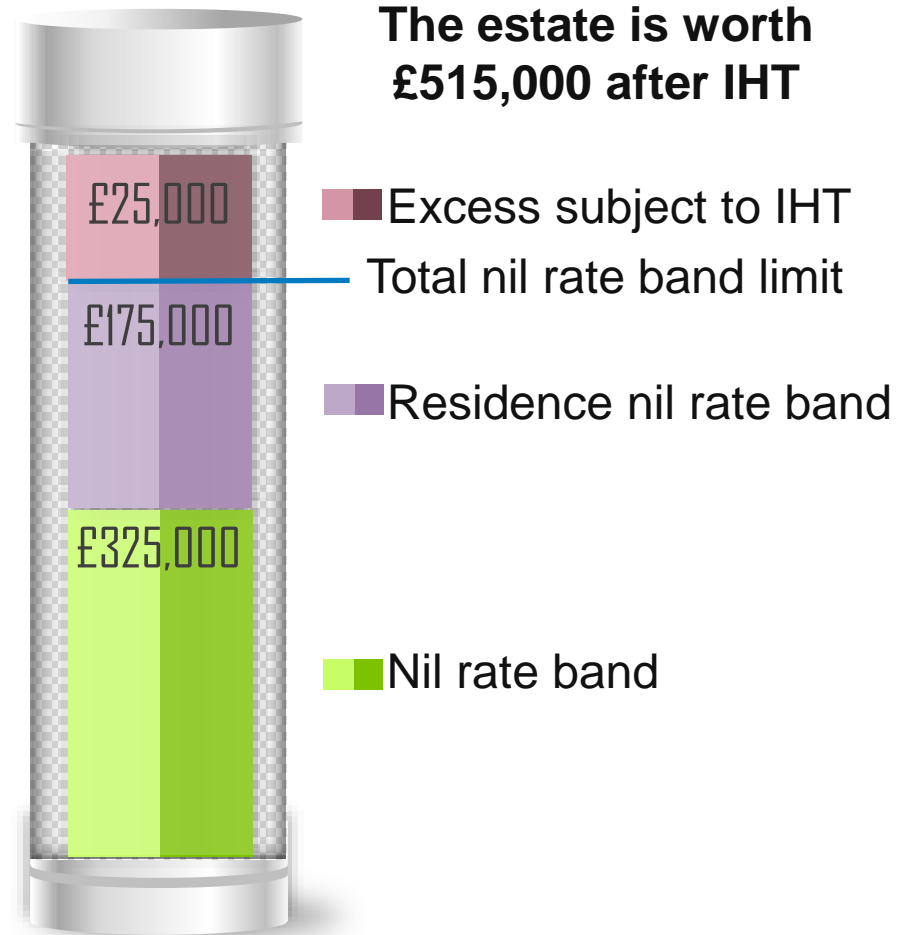


\* A couple in this context is a spouse or civil partner

# inheritance tax (IHT) - example.

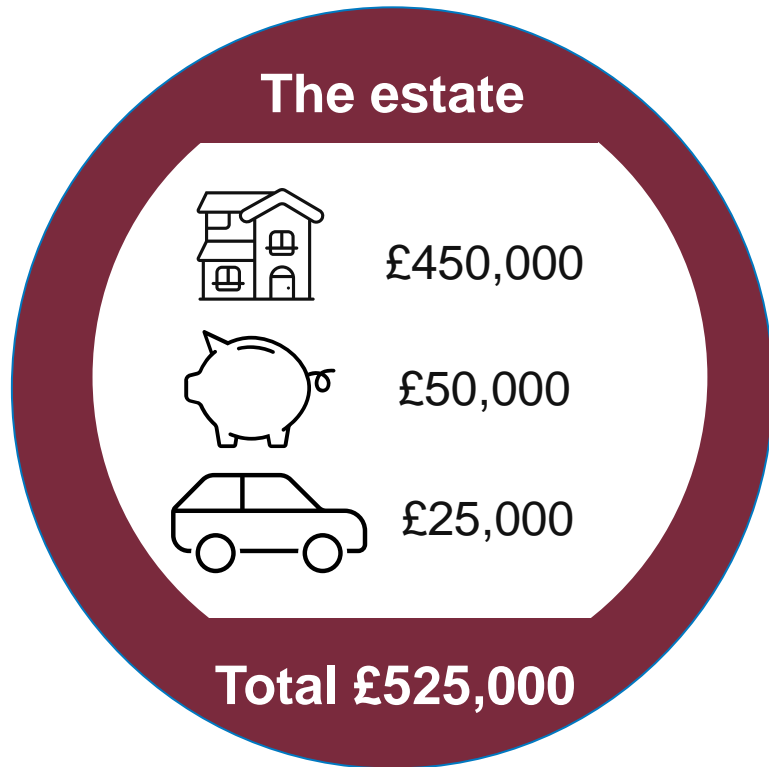


The estate is being passed to a direct descendant

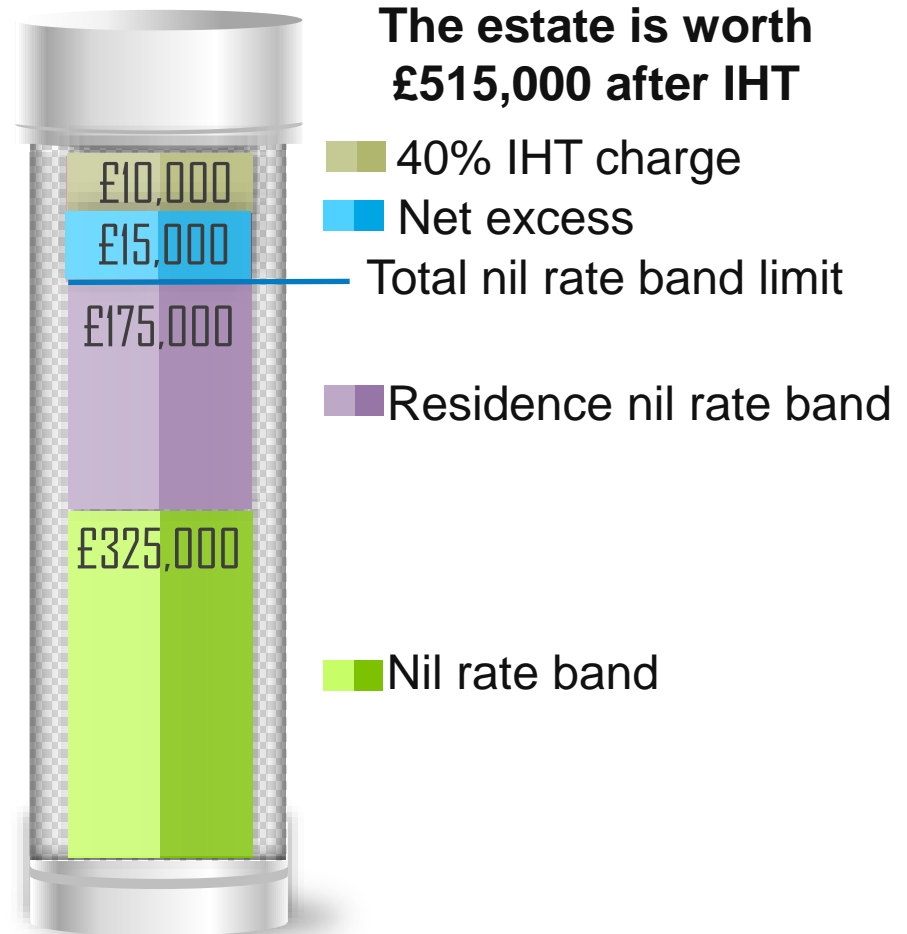




# inheritance tax (IHT) - example.

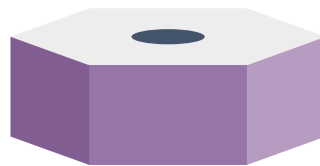
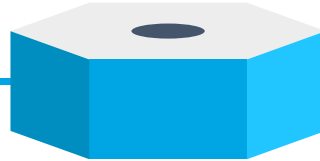


The estate is being passed to a direct descendant



# Writing A Will

A solicitor will write a Will that reflects your wishes or intentions



Only consider writing a Will yourself if you're confident that it reflects your wishes or intentions

Keep your Will up to date



Divorce automatically removes any entitlement to the ex-spouse\*

A Will is automatically revoked on marriage\*



Regularly review your nomination forms for life assurance and pensions

\* Unless your Will specifically states otherwise

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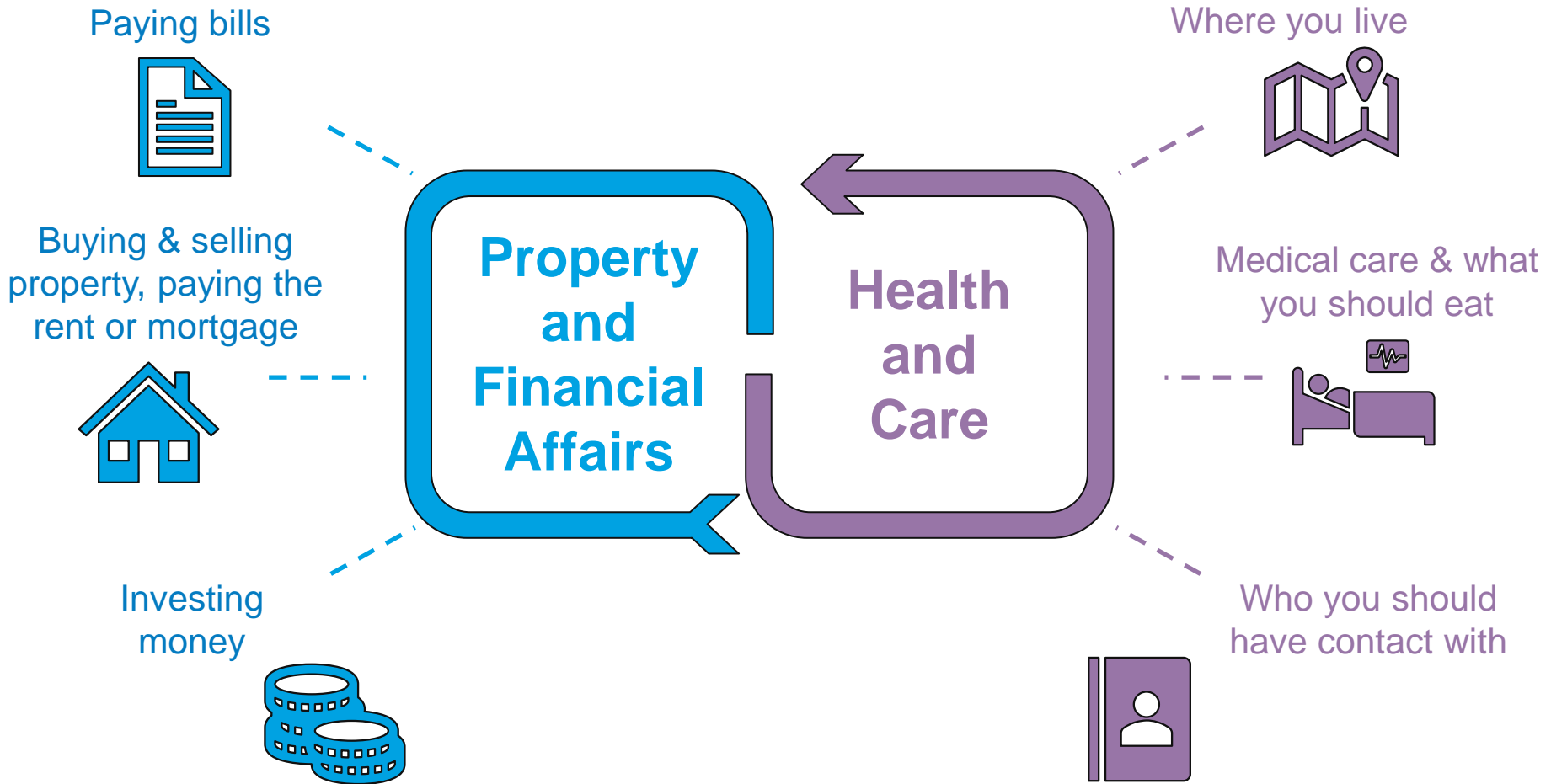
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# Writing A Will - Red Apple Law

A will writing service is available from Red Apple Law through My Benefit provided by BT Group



# Lasting Power Of Attorney



# Taking Action

1. Carry out a budget plan and look for where you could reduce costs
2. Check that you have sufficient financial protection
3. Review any debt you have and consider making overpayments
4. Check the value of your pensions savings and consider increasing contributions
5. Review the way your BTRSS is invested
6. Check your State Pension entitlement
7. Consider if DirectShare could be part of your other savings and investments
8. Check your IHT position and make sure your DIS and pension nomination forms are up to date

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# Next Steps

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# Useful Contacts

01

## **BT Retirement Saving Scheme (BTRSS)**

[www.btretirementsavingscheme.com](http://www.btretirementsavingscheme.com)

02

## **Money Helper pension calculator**

[www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pensions-basics/pension-calculator](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pensions-basics/pension-calculator)

03

## **Money Helper credit card calculator**

[www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/credit-and-purchases/credit-card-calculator](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/credit-and-purchases/credit-card-calculator)

04

## **General tax and National Insurance information**

[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

05

## **Pension Tracing Service**

[www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details](http://www.gov.uk/find-pension-contact-details)

# Seeking Advice

An adviser will assess your circumstances, objectives and risk profile and provide you with a personal recommendation to meet your objectives.

All regulated firms are listed on the Financial Services Register, this provides confirmation that the firm is authorised, the specific services they are authorised to provide and details of the advisers who work for them.

Financial Services Register link:

- <https://register.fca.org.uk>



# contact us.

We provide a telephone helpline and a regulated investment advice service through **my wealth** - a trading name of Wealth at Work Limited which is part of the Wealth at Work group.

It helps individuals to understand their personal financial situation especially when selecting their retirement income options.

• Telephone **0800 028 3200**

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# thank you.

0800 028 3200

[www.wealthatwork.co.uk/mywealth](http://www.wealthatwork.co.uk/mywealth)

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