



The Essential 2025/26  
Year-End Checklist

As the 2025/26 tax year draws to a close on 5th April, taking proactive steps now can significantly impact your financial position. This summary is designed to guide you through the essential actions required to ensure your records are accurate, your compliance is seamless, and your tax efficiency is maximised. By addressing these key areas before the deadline, you can move into the new tax year with total confidence and clarity.

---

## *Key tax actions to consider before 5th April 2026*

---

### 1. Use your ISA allowance (£20,000)

- You can contribute **up to £20,000 across ISAs** (Cash, Stocks & Shares, Innovative Finance, Lifetime ISA).
- **Growth, dividends, and withdrawals are tax-free.**
- Unused allowance **does not carry forward.**

#### Common actions

- Top up ISA before 5th April.
- Use **Bed & ISA** (sell investments outside ISA and repurchase within ISA).
- Fund **Junior ISA (£9,000 per child).**

### 2. Maximise pension contributions

- Annual pension allowance: **£60,000 or 100% of earnings (whichever is lower).**
- Tax relief at your **marginal income tax rate.**
- Unused allowances from the **last 3 years can be carried forward.**

#### Useful actions

- Make personal or employer contributions.
- Use **salary sacrifice** or **bonus sacrifice.**
- Contribute enough to reduce taxable income below thresholds (e.g., £100k).
- Be careful as earnings over £200k can trigger a pension tax charge as you are restricted. Check with your advisor if your income exceeds this level before maximising contributions.

### 3. Use the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) allowance

- **£3,000 CGT exemption per person** for 2025/26.

#### Actions:

- Realise gains up to £3k tax-free.
- Realise losses to offset gains.
- Transfer assets between spouses to use **two allowances (£6k).**

## 4. Use your dividend allowance

- Dividend allowance **£500 for 2025/26**.

If you own shares or a company:

- Consider **taking dividends before 5th April**.
- Review **salary vs dividend mix** if you are a director.

## 5. Consider pension contributions to reduce tax bands

Extra pension contributions can:

- Restore lost **personal allowance** if income > £100k.
- Reduce **higher/additional rate tax exposure**.

This is often one of the **most powerful year-end tax strategies**.

## 6. Make tax-efficient gifts (Inheritance Tax planning)

You can gift:

- **£3,000 per year tax-free** (annual exemption).
- Can carry forward **one unused year (£6,000)**.
- Small gifts **£250 per person** also exempt.

Also consider:

- Gifts out of surplus income.
- Funding family pensions or ISAs.

## 7. Claim Gift Aid donations

Charity donations via **Gift Aid**:

- Extend the **basic rate band**.
- Provide **extra relief for higher-rate taxpayers**.

## 8. Review interest and savings allowances

Check use of:

- **Personal Savings Allowance**
  - £1,000 (basic rate)
  - £500 (higher rate)
- Consider timing of interest payments to use the allowance.

## 9. Use spousal tax planning

Transfers between spouses are normally CGT-free.

Useful strategies:

- Shift investments to a **lower-tax spouse**.
- Use **both CGT and dividend allowances**.

## 10. Business owners / directors

Consider before year end:

- Salary vs dividend extraction.
- Pension contributions via company.
- Timing of bonuses or dividends.

Maximising your available reliefs and allowances is most effective when done early, as many of these opportunities disappear once the clock strikes midnight on 5th April. If you would like to ensure you are making the most of your financial position before the year-end deadline, the WHA tax team is here to help. Please feel free to contact us on 020 8878 8383 or via email [info@whitehartassociates.com](mailto:info@whitehartassociates.com).



**White Hart Associates (London) Limited**

Nucleus House, 2nd Floor  
2 Lower Mortlake Road  
Richmond TW9 2JA

Tel No: 020 8878 8383

Email: [info@whitehartassociates.com](mailto:info@whitehartassociates.com)

Website: [www.whitehartassociates.com](http://www.whitehartassociates.com)