

Introduction

This report was delivered in January 2007, the core data and analysis relates to the 2005/06 tax year and was correct at the time of publishing.

This is the Fifteenth edition of IFA Promotion's annual investigation into the ways in which the returns from savings and investments could be increased by using allowances available from the tax system. Since the first report was produced there has been a shift in responsibility for the management of personal tax away from HMRC to the individual. This shift has moved beyond self assessment which has been steadily bringing more and more individuals into its net and now includes tax credits which require the individual to apply for a tax rebate or an additional allowance to reduce their tax liability. The potential losses to the tax system, which once only placed the higher net worth individuals at risk of paying too much tax, now also places the lower earners at risk of paying unnecessary income tax.

This year has been a neutral year for the tax system as political events have taken more of a central stage, although there have been a number of additional taxes introduced under the environmental banner, they have been targeted at consumption rather than income and as such fall outside the remit of this report. However, the proportion of income used to pay our tax liability has increased to its highest levels since the 1980's, while income from property has equalled half the income received from banks and building society savings accounts. The report examines the ways an individual taxpayer could increase the value of gifts and bequests made as well as income from employment and investment/savings, it also highlights some of the allowances available to parents and their working partners. The estimated number of individuals who could share in these savings will be shown, as will the approximate savings by region.

Two distinct categories of waste have been identified and for the purpose of this report have been identified as:

- * Error waste refers to that tax, which is only paid as a result of consumers' error or omission - much of this can be reclaimed, once the individual has identified the waste.
- * Avoidable waste is our estimate of that tax which individuals would save if they made changes to the way in which they manage their finances. Savings can either be made by simply changing the product used to a more tax efficient alternative or by changing the way in which the money is managed.

We add these waste areas together and show a total of the possible wastes. However, it should be noted that not all of them would realistically apply in full and at once, even to those who would be regarded as High Net Worth Individuals.

The number of ordinary individuals involved is very large; RAKM estimates that almost every adult has a potential tax waste. In most individual cases, the annual sums are in tens or low hundreds of pounds rather than more, but important to the individuals concerned, and in many cases more than they may gain from the changes in personal allowance announced in the budget tax changes. The document is not a guide to esoteric tax-dodges aimed at the rich in order to shelter their wealth; it is an

Introduction

indication of the ways ordinary taxpayers lose out, to the extent that many of the waste headings discussed will apply to millions of individuals.

The analysis is largely based on information published by the HMRC - the main source for tax matters - combined with analysis from other sources. Among these are analysis of data collected for the Family Resource Survey carried out for the Department for Work and Pensions.

This document is not a technical guide. We give details of the kind of individuals to whom each type of waste is likely to apply, although most ways of eliminating waste are subject to conditions hence, the report is a commentary not a handbook. **An individual's tax position comes out of the details of their own personal situation and what may seem to apply to a category of individuals may not be appropriate for all individuals within it. No statement within the document constitutes a recommendation for any particular investment or course of action.**

Abbreviations

AVC	Additional Voluntary Contributions
BMRB	British Market Research Bureau
CAF	Charities' Aid Foundation
CGT	Capital Gains Tax
CRT	Composite Rate Tax
CTC	Children's Tax Credit
CTF	Child Trust Fund
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
FRS	Family Resource Survey
FSAVC	Free Standing Additional Voluntary Contribution
HMRC	Her Majesties Revenue & Customs
IFAP	Independent Financial Adviser Promotion Ltd
IHT	Inheritance Tax
IR	HMRC
ISA	Individual Savings Account
NS	National Savings
NSSR	National Savings Stock Register
PAYE	Pay As You Earn
PEP	Personal Equity Plan
PRP	Profit-Related Pay
SERPS	State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme
TDSI	Tax deduction Scheme for interest
TESSA	Tax-Exempt Special Savings Account
UCITS	Undertaking for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities

D
R
A
F
T
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

Headline results; the wasted tax totals

		Error	Avoidable	Total
		£m	£m	£m
1	Tax & personal allowances	322	224	546
2	ISA's	249	133	382
3	Gilts/National Savings	26	58	84
4	Capital Gains Tax*	17	493	510
5	Charities and gifts	450	587	1,037
6	Pensions	-	739	739
7	Inheritance	197	1,356	1,553
8	Self assessment	302	161	463
9	Share Incentive Plans	-	171	171
10	Tax Credits	2,296	-	2,296
11	Childs Trust Fund	125	-	125
Totals		3,989	3,922	7,911

* CGT error could be mitigated, but only by action before disposal

Source: RAKM for IFA Promotion

Headline results; the wasted tax totals

	Error	Avoidable	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Greater London	498	533	1,031
Rest of South East	542	499	1,041
East Anglia	367	349	716
South West	335	361	696
Wales	195	176	371
East Midlands	287	349	636
West Midlands	355	300	655
North West	455	341	796
Yorks/Humberside	335	390	725
North	168	180	348
Scotland	339	313	652
Northern Ireland	116	132	248
Totals (rounded)	3,989	3,922	7,911

D
R
A
F
T
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

Note: figures may not always add up to the totals owing to the effect of rounding of underlying amounts and percentages

Source: RAKM for IFA Promotion

Headline results; the wasted tax totals

Tax waste per person by region

Waste per head, by region, 2005

Base: adults

	Tax wasters region m	population that waste tax %	Waste per taxpayer £
Greater London	6.0	79.6	172
Rest of South East	6.8	83.0	153
East Anglia	4.5	81.7	159
South West	4.2	82.9	166
Wales	2.4	82.4	155
East Midlands	3.5	80.9	182
West Midlands	4.4	81.6	149
North West	5.7	84.3	140
Yorks/Humberside	4.2	83.7	173
North	2.2	85.3	158
Scotland	4.2	82.1	155
Northern Ireland	1.4	80.4	177
Totals	49.3	82.3	160

D
R
A
F
T
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

Note: sums are quoted with precision but there is some rounding of underlying amounts and percentages, which render them, approximate; they may not always add to totals due to the effect of this rounding

Source: RAKM for IFA Promotion

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

Tax Legislation

- Every Individual has an entitlement to earn a certain amount of their income free of tax, their personal allowance.

Figure 1 Income tax personal allowance amounts, 2001/02 –2005/06

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£	£	£	£
Personal allowance	4,615	4,615	4,745	4,895	5,035
Children's Tax Credit*	5,290	#	#	#	#
<i>Baby Rate</i>	10,490	#	#	#	#
Age allowances					
Personal (age 65-74)	6,100	6,610	6,830	7,090	7,280
Personal (age 75+)	6,370	6,720	6,950	7,220	7,420
Married couple's (one born before 06/04/1935 but aged under 75)	5,465	5,565	5,725	5,905	6,065
Married couple's (either 75+)	5,535	5,635	5,795	5,975	6,135

*Child tax credit from April 2003

abolished and replaced with tax credits below:

Child Tax Credit

	2006/07	2007/08
	£ per year	£ per year
Family element ¹	545.00	545.00
Family element, baby addition ⁽¹⁾	545.00	545.00
Child element ⁽²⁾	1,765.00	1,850.00
Disabled child additional element ⁽²⁾	2,350.00	2,440.00
Enhanced disabled child additional element ⁽²⁾	945.00	980.00

Notes

1. Only one family element is available per family. Families are entitled to the family element and the baby addition in the first year of a child's life.

2. As well as one family element, a family will be entitled to a child element for each child for whom it has responsibility. For each child, the child elements which are appropriate may be added together to arrive at the maximum amount available for that child.

Source: HMRC

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

- Individual's may receive many different types of income but not all types are taxable. The main types of income which tax may be payable are:
 - ♦ Income from employment
 - ♦ Profits from Business
 - ♦ Occupational pensions
 - ♦ Interest from building societies and banks
 - ♦ Dividends from shares
 - ♦ Income from property
 - ♦ Some social security benefits (retirement pension, jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit.)
 - ♦ Some national savings products
- An individual's taxable income is calculated by adding together all of their sources of liable income and then subtracting any allowances and relief's that are available to the individual. The net amount is then subject to income tax, with starting rate (10%) being applied to taxable income £1-2,150; basic rate (22%) being applied to taxable income of £2,150 to £33,300; and higher rate (40%) being applied to taxable income of £33,401+.
- In addition to an individual's personal allowance there is an allowance available to married couples. For the majority of tax payers this allowance has been phased out, being replaced with the Children's Tax Credit from April 2001 (which in turn has been superseded by the Childs tax credit and Working tax credit from April 2003) . However, married couples with one member born before 6th April 1935 will still receive a married persons allowance (see Fig 1).
- Married persons allowance reduces tax liability by 10% at the starting and basic rate.

Income Tax Collected

- The majority of income tax is collected directly from individuals' wages through PAYE.

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

- Self-assessment now generates nearly 14% of net personal income taxes and has all but replaced assessed income tax. The potential waste associated with Self-assessment is dealt with in greater detail later in this document.

Figure 2 Income tax; gross receipts by source of income, 1999/00- 2005/06

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	% change
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	2001/06
PAYE*	91,937	94,243	107,381	114,992	113,894	+23.9
Assessed income tax	295	231	183	194	174	-41.0
Self assessment**	15,281	16,059	15,772	17,141	18,077	+18.3
Tax deduction scheme for interest (TDSI)	2,772	2,122	2,092	2,266	2,969	+7.1
Other tax deducted at source	1,389	1,160	1,081	1,188	1,400	+0.8
Other receipts	2,123	1,938	2,637	2,645	3,416	+60.9
Total receipts	113,797	115,753	123,153	132,137	141,930	+24.7
Repayments other than self assessment	-5,803	-6,247	-9,185	-9,213	-9,450	-62.8
Total net receipts	107,994	109,506	113,968	122,924	132,480	+22.7

* net of tax credits

** net of repayments following analysis of individuals returns

Source: HMRC Statistics/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- From 1996/97, banks and building societies deduct tax (at the rate of 10% for the first £2,150 of income from savings and 20% from income over this amount of taxable income) from interest paid on accounts held with them (TDSI) unless the investor is not liable to pay tax and has registered to receive interest gross. Higher rate taxpayers, however have to declare interest earned and face an additional tax charge on all liable savings interest.
- Account holders not liable to tax who have not registered this fact, and those who have had more tax deducted than they are due to pay (ie their incomes less personal allowance produces only a small taxable charge that is less than the tax taken from their interest), can claim a repayment from the HMRC of the

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

excess tax deducted. Form R85 is used to claim interest gross from a bank or building society and a separate form must be used for each institution/branch that holds an account that is liable for tax on interest paid.

Tax Payers

Figure 3 Numbers of income taxpayers, 1989/90-2005/06

	Individuals	Males	Females	Higher rates
	000	000	000	000
1990/91	26,100	15,400	10,700	1,700
1996/97	25,700	14,900	10,800	2,080
1997/98	26,200	15,200	11,000	2,120
1998/99	26,900	15,600	11,300	2,350
1999/2000	27,000	15,500	11,700	2,480
2000/01	29,300	16,900	12,400	2,880
2001/02	28,600	16,400	12,200	3,000
2002/03	28,900	16,500	12,400	3,040
2003/04	28,500	16,100	12,400	3,220
2004/05 (prov)	28,900	16,300	12,600	3,360
2005/06 (est)	29,300	16,600	12,700	3,160
2006/07 (est)	29,700	16,800	12,900	3,250
Change 1990/91 2006/07				

*Estimates based on the 1999-2000 Survey of Personal Incomes have been withdrawn temporarily. The extraction of information for that survey from the Self Assessment business system was incomplete leading to some components of income being missed.

Source: HMRC Statistics/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- The average income tax liability for 2006/07 is estimated to be £ 4,220; this compares with an average income tax liability of £2,139 in 1989/90, an increase of 97.3%.
- The total number of taxpayers has increased by nearly 14%, while the tax liability has increased by over 171% since 1989/90. The increase in the number of higher rate taxpayers is a reflection of the increase in the average earnings and the tendency of the government to increase personal allowances in line with the RPI rather than the Average Earnings Index.

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

Calculating the waste

- The overpayment of any tax is unnecessary.
- The failure to reclaim tax that has been deducted erroneously because of the non-completion of a form can be quickly rectified. HMRC, used to run a special publicity campaign during November "taxback week", the last week run in 2000 estimated that there was approximately £300 million due to be claimed under the R85 form scheme. We believe that since this campaign has been dropped the amount available will have increased, although only slightly, to **£322 million**. This we describe as an **error waste**. Tax overpaid in the previous 5 years can also be reclaimed from the HMRC using form R40(2000); examples of how "taxback" works are found in http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/taxback/examples01_02.htm
- The transfer of assets between partners subject to different tax rates can also result in the reduction of tax liability and therefore recover an overpayment. The recent changes in married persons allowance makes such transfers between members of couples with an individual born before 6th April 1935 more beneficial.
- If only one partner in a marriage is a non-taxpayer/pays a lower rate than the other, they should consider whether any income from sources other than employment could be redistributed by transferring the title of the underlying asset. If savings generating interest are held by the higher-earner, this is taxed at that partner's rate while the other would pay less, or no tax on the same income. This obviously has more important where one partner is liable to be taxed at 40% and the other only liable to be taxed at 10% or nothing.

D
R
A
F
T
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

TAX AND PERSONAL ALLOWANCES

Figure 4 Non-taxpaying partners in households liable to tax at basic and higher rates, 2006/2007

	No 000	% of all adults
Aged under 65, income £5,035 or less; household income £11,810	1,701	3.5
Aged 65+ income £7,280 max, household income £16,200+	341	0.7
Aged 65+ income £7,280 max, married income £22,105 (one partner born before 06/04/1935)	83	0.2

Source: DWP, FRS/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- The Bank of England shows time deposits of £531 billion held by non-businesses (households).
- The average deposits held by individuals are £8,902.
- If two thirds of this was transferred to a non tax-paying partner (£5,968) and invested in an instant access account paying 3.9% gross a saving of £140 in tax could be made if income tax was paid at 40%.
- In the lower-interest rate environment that now exists, we believe that most of the 1.6 million non-taxpaying wives in higher-income households would be able to have an extra slice of savings income in their own name, entirely tax-free, and thus save some **£ 224 million in tax**. We class it all as avoidable since it would require a gift between partners.

INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Tax Legislation

- ISA's were introduced in April 1999 as a replacement for the TESSA and PEP, which ceased to be available to new investors.
- ISA's allow tax favoured investments and savings to be made in three main areas:
 - Cash
 - Stocks and Shares (including Unit Trusts, Investment Trusts and UCITS)
 - Life insurance.
- As with its predecessors the ISA has annual limits for overall investment but has the additional restriction that limits annual investments into Cash deposits and Life insurance policies.
- The investment limits for the initial year of ISA's (1999/2000) are:
 - Overall £7,000
 - Cash £3,000
 - Life Insurance £1,000
- Unused investment allowances may not be carried over into subsequent years.
- There are two types of ISA wrapper; the maxi ISA that requires all money to be placed with a single provider who may offer only stocks and shares based investment or a combination of the three ISA elements. The second wrapper is the mini ISA that allows separate providers to be used to supply each of the three ISA elements.

Value of Market

- In addition to new funds invested in ISA funds, funds are still held in PEPs. PEP's may be held indefinitely.

INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Figure 5 The number of ISA's and the value of investments made each year, 2000 and 2005

	No. of accounts		Stocks and Shares		Cash		Life Insurance		All elements		Average investment	
	000		£m		£m		£m		£m		£	
Mini ISA	04/00	04/06	04/00	04/06	04/00	04/06	04/00	04/06	04/00	04/06	04/00	04/06
Stocks and shares	1,278	1,523	1,587	2,311	-	-	-	-	1,587	2,311	1,240	1,510
Cash	4,591	9,939	-	-	11,575	21,823	-	-	11,575	21,823	2,520	2,220
Life Insurance	116	232	-	-	-	-	56	135	56	135	480	580
Total	5,985	11,694	1,587	2,311	11,575	21,823	56	135	13,218	24,269	-	-
Maxi ISA	3,293	1,543	14,467	6,859	731	112	15	18	15,213	6,971	4,620	4,520
Total	9,278	13,005	16,054	9,170	12,306	21,935	71	153	28,431	31,105	-	-

Totals may not agree because of rounding

Source: HMRC/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- The number of ISA's have continued to grow with the numbers of mini ISA's almost double those seen in April 2000, the number of new maxi ISA's has increased by nearly 30% reversing the trend seen last year, although the average subscriptions, on all areas apart from Life Insurance, is still below that seen in April 2000.

Calculating the Waste

- ISA accounts investments as at 5th April 2006 are provisionally valued at £181.4bn.
- Data gathered by DWP on the ownership of equities, deposit and savings accounts suggest that approximately x.x million adults held bank or building society savings accounts and stocks and shares but no ISA's. The same research showed that only an estimated xxx,000 adults held a PEP, and an ISA.

INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

- Further analysis of the Family Resource Survey data shows that some x.x million adults held a savings or deposit account, and no ISA. Over x.x million of these savers are estimated to have added to their accounts during the financial year.
- Some 3.9 million taxpaying adults hold equities, but no ISA. Of those investors 273,000 are estimated to have increased their investment in the previous year.
- The Bank of England recorded additions to savings of £37.8 billion pounds in the 12 months to Dec 2006, an average of £6,500 per individual saver (based on the estimate of 5.8 million individuals increasing their savings). If £2,000 had been invested in cash ISAs returning 4.77% (source: Bank of England) per annum, the average saving in tax would be £55.00 per investor, giving a total of **£249 million error waste**.
- Investment in equities has fallen over the past 12 months as a result of very volatile markets. A large proportion of the remaining activity has been speculative and as such the ISA is not a suitable product for such investment. There is, however, a large proportion of investment made for the long term, which could be effectively wrapped up in an ISA.
- Using the same formula that we have used for PEP's in previous years, an investment of half the maximum (£3,500) into a maxi ISA would produce a notional average return of 5% which would be subject to an estimated average tax charge of 17.9% (outside the ISA Wrapper) generating a saving of £31.33 per individual. ($£3,500 @ 5\% = £175.00$ taxed at 17.9% = £31.33) If 60% all who had added to their shareholdings last year made the decision to use an ISA this year the waste would be: $£31.33 \times 164,000$ or **£5 Million error waste**.
- If the other 3.8 million holders of shares outside ISA's took the decision to transfer an average of £4,000 of their holdings into an ISA, the tax saving generated would be £12 per head ($£4,000 @ 5\% = £200$ taxed at 17.9% = £35), which is equivalent to **£82 million avoidable waste**.

GILTS/NATIONAL SAVINGS

Tax Legislation

- Investments in Savings Certificates, Children's Bonus Bonds, and Yearly Plan certificates are exempt from income and capital gains tax tax, as are Premium Bond prizes.
- Most NS products; namely Capital Bonds; Income Bonds; Investment Account; the Pensioners Bond; as well as Gilts on the National Savings Stock Register all pay interest gross, but are subject to tax.
- Interest on the NS Ordinary Account is subject to tax, although the first £70 per holder (£140 for a couple) is exempt. The First Option Bond follows the pattern of other deposits, in that interest is paid after tax at basic rate, subject to self-certification permitting gross payment and top-ups from high rate taxpayers.

Figure 6 Estimated cost of exemptions on National Savings returns, 2000/01-2006/07

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
NS certificates	170	120	120	120	110	150
Premium Bond prizes	110	100	150	150	170	200
Save As You Earn	30	15	20	20	20	20
Total	310	260	290	290	300	370

Source: HMRC Statistics/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- Gilts other than on the NSSR (those normally bought and sold through stockbrokers) are potential sources of error waste by those not reclaiming all of their tax allowance.

Individuals Incurring Waste

- Detailed owner profiles are not available for all NS products. We have grouped those, which are available by their broad tax treatment.

GILTS/NATIONAL SAVINGS

Figure 7 National Savings product holders by probable tax status, 2002/03

	Premium Bonds	National savings Bonds
	%	%
All	19	3
Non-taxpayers	16	4
Starting rate	16	3
Basic rate	20	2
Higher rate	27	3

Source: FRS, DWP/RAKM/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- There are in excess of 750,000 individuals whose tax position indicates that they may be losing out by using exempt products. The numbers of non- (or starting rate) taxpayers who may be losing out by not reclaiming tax paid on the interest on Gilts and Capital Bonds cannot be calculated with precision but is most unlikely to have reduced by a larger margin than other un-reclaimed deposit waste.

Calculating the Waste

- The same basic assumptions that apply to the other savings related calculations apply to Gilts and National Savings. However, the returns offered by these products reflect the need of the Government for liquidity rather than the performance of the underlying financial markets; as such, returns may be less volatile than those that can be obtained from other institutions.
- Analysis of the ownership data derived from the Family Resource Survey and detailed in Figure 7, shows over one million non taxpayers holding exempt national savings products, money that could be reinvested elsewhere to produce a higher return. Similarly over a million tax payers are holding on to products which pay interest gross and therefore require a payment of tax due to the revenue.
- We estimate that in the current environment some **£26 million error waste** is generated by overpaid tax (this as always is a very tentative estimate of the situation), with a further **£58 million avoidable waste** being generated through the use of products that are inappropriate for their tax status.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Tax Legislation

- Capital Gains Tax like Inheritance tax (covered elsewhere in this document) is a tax charge that arises from the disposal of assets. CGT has some features in common with income tax; it is charged on the profits made, although the profit is calculated after indexation for periods between 1982 and April 1998, and a taper relief for profits accrued after April 1998. These allowances are designed to eliminate the effect of inflation enabling individuals to offset any actual losses against profit made.
- Capital gains tax is charged at the rate that would apply if it were added to taxable income (currently 40%), but each individual may have some gains (£8,800 in 2006/7) free of tax.
- At present the assessment and collection of CGT is based on a calendar at some variance with income and other taxes; it works according to a collection year to October, after taxpayers have declared gains to 5 April of that year, usually in their tax return.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

What is the value of CGT

- In 2004/05, 171,000 individuals paid CGT on profits above their exemption amounting to £2,608 million; paying an average tax of over £15,251 each.

Figure 8 CGT charged to individuals on disposals 1988-2005

	Number	Gains	Tax
	000	£m	£m
1988/89	135	5,366	1,637
1989/90	127	4,832	1,495
1990/91	96	2,912	869
1991/92	75	2,634	804
1992/93	60	1,885	539
1993/94	77	2,740	809
1994/95	64	2,212	651
1995/96	86	3,131	890
1996/97	97	3,902	1,205
1997/98	142	5,444	1,657
1998/99	135	5,958	1,936
1999/00	185	8,761	2,821
2000/01	178	7,732	2,425
2001/02	122	4,556	1,324
2002/03 (provisional)	133	6,604	2,060
2003/04 (provisional)	155	6,896	2,048
2004/05 (provisional)	171	8,596	2,608

Source: HMRC/RAKM for IFA Promotion

Calculating the Waste

- There is an error waste in CGT, though its amount is a matter of debate. We believe that few individuals are competent to perform their own indexation and taper relief calculations, let alone relate it to their income tax so that the amount owed is known.
- It is likely to be true that a professional adviser who is acting as intermediary between individuals and the revenue will carry out the majority of calculations.

CAPITALS GAINS TAX

Figure 9 CGT; Assets giving rise to CGT, 2002/03 and 2003/04

	Disposal numbers		Disposal values		Chargeable net gain		Net chargeable gain as % of disposal	
	%		%		%		%	
	02/03	03/04	02/03	03/04	02/03	03/04	02/03	03/04
UK listed shares	48	46	13	14	9	14	42	45
Fixed interest investments	2	2	1	1	1	1	48	50
Other shares and securities	24	29	44	48	56	48	73	90
Financial assets total:	73	76	58	64	67	63	66	45
Agricultural property	1	1	2	2	2	2	55	58
Commercial etc property	2	2	5	4	3	4	42	47
Residences (eg let property)	17	15	25	21	15	17	34	36
Other land and buildings	2	2	3	3	2	4	48	63
Antiques, etc, other misc.	5	5	8	6	11	10	72	77
Tangible assets:	27	24	42	36	33	37	48	47

Source: HMRC/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- There may be a small waste involved within married couples. Both partners have annual exemptions, and they pay CGT as if it were a top slice of income, at their personal rate. We suspect that there is some CGT incurred unnecessarily on disposals by one partner. When it would be perfectly in order for a gift to be made of some of the assets, with the unrealised gain still attached, to the other partner whose exemption may not be used up/would pay lower rates.
- Shares in ISA's are free of CGT when they are sold. Though, in the context of the tax sums charged, a maximum total ISA investment of £50,000 (not gain), might be thought to make little difference to a wealthy taxpayer, but successive annual ISA investment of £7,000 will allow significant savings.
- Cashing in a £2,000 PEP after ten years, would have saved tax on an average £800 gain, even where the person had no other gains against which to set any of his or her exemption; this would be £176 for the basic rate and £320 for a high rate taxpayer.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

- We do not know error by failure to apply taper relief correctly, but if the estimated £5.4 billion value of disposals on Ordinary shares alone were overstated by 0.5%, and the - mainly wealthy - owners paid CGT at 40% on this, there would be a **£11 million error waste** on the last data available.
- We place an arbitrary value of **£6 million error waste** on the saving that could be made by a lower-income partner paying a lower rate of CGT.
- The absolute amount of CGT fluctuates, but in the latest year over £986 million was charged on tradable, and shelterable, stocks and shares. We repeat our estimate that half of this could have been saved by the systematic use of ISA's and the annual exemption. It cannot be done retrospectively, but individuals may have "wasted" an **avoidable £493 million**.

CHARITIES AND GIFTS

Tax Legislation

- Everyday donations to charity (for example in response to a street collection or making a purchase from a charity shop), are generally made in cash and are almost always made from post tax income. The overwhelming responses to the raft of natural disasters that occurred in the 12 months following the Boxing Day Tsunami in the Far East have seen considerably more donated to charities than in previous years, much without the benefit of the additional tax reward that could have been provided through Gift Aid.

- Donations made to registered charities qualify for tax relief, however, these donations must be made through one of the following schemes:

- Deed of Covenant
- Gift Aid
- Payroll giving
- Inheritance tax relief (covered in later section).

- Deeds of Covenant are legal documents by which an individual or a company agrees to pay a fixed sum to a specific charity each year for a minimum of three years. There are no restrictions on amounts donated by covenants.
- Gift Aid covers larger amounts (the lower limit was reduced from £400 to £250 in 1993 and finally abolished in April 2000).
- Payroll giving (Give as You Earn) asks employees to dedicate a regular sum, taken out of their pay by their employers and given to their own chosen charity/ies via an agency. Schemes may accept amounts ranging from £2.50 per month to a maximum, which rose to £1,200 pa in April 1996, however the upper limit on donations was finally abolished in April 2000.

Details of the amounts given under these various schemes and the amount of tax relief they generate are shown in the appendix of this document.

Calculating the Waste

- Most of those individuals who do not have large amounts to give or who are not prepared to make a long-term commitment, could still follow a more tax-efficient route.

CHARITIES AND GIFTS

- Even those who prefer to contribute only one-off amounts, almost on impulse, to charities are "wasting" a further 28% of what they give if their contributions add up to the average donation of £183.36 (source: CAF), they could give another £51 at no extra cost.
- The Charities Aid Foundation has been in existence for over 70 years, and now operates fully flexible schemes where consumers set up a "credit balance" (with tax relief added) and then draw against it by means of "cheques"(vouchers) or telephone instructions.
- The waste is only to a small degree incurred by individuals on their own account; that avoidable element is restricted to those paying high rate tax who make gifts and then fail to reclaim the 15% difference between the 25% they have deducted (and charities reclaimed) and the 40% they are taxed
- There is, however, a little-known downside to this; if non-taxpayers make donations in this way then they are liable to pay the 28% back to the Revenue, as it has been reclaimed but not paid in the first place. We believe this liability is rare; few non-taxpayers are in a position to make regular commitment to charities or donate large sums.
- Inheritance Tax does not apply to bequests to charities; the IR estimates that £520 million will be saved in IHT on gross bequests of some £1,300 million in 2006/07 (IHT is charged at 40%).
- The CAF suggests that if all employees were to become members of payroll schemes contributing up to the former maximum of £1,200 pa, they would force the Exchequer to donate another £4 billion to charities. This is an exaggerated estimate, but it makes a forcible point.
- A realistic amount, we believe, would be for payroll giving to apply to 20% of those identified as working and donating more than £5 per annum. At present average donation amounts (£318; source Charities Aid Foundation), this would multiply the tax refunds to **£337 million** an amount that we classify as **an avoidable Waste**.
- Despite the value of donations through gift aid nearly trebling between 2000/01 and 2004/05, we remain convinced, although without firm evidence

CHARITIES AND GIFTS

for this, that with more work to promote public awareness, the amounts for Gift Aid could easily grow by a third of the amount again. This would generate an **avoidable waste of £250 million** more for the charities.

- Research carried out for the CAF and NCVO in 2006 found that 57% of donors who give more than £100 or more per month use Gift Aid to wrap up their donation. This group represent only 6% of all donors to charity – approximately 1.7 million people – yet they donate around 42% of the total amount given, which in 2005/6 was estimated as £8.9 billion. The average donation of this group is £2,199, with approximately 731,000 not taking advantage of gift aid, the waste is **£450 million, which we classify as an Error Waste.**

PENSIONS

Tax Regulations

- Amounts paid into approved pension funds - run by employers or individually arranged – currently receive full income tax relief. The investments made are exempt from tax on capital gains in their accumulation. There is no CGT to pay when a personal fund matures and switches to its long-term function, namely providing income at retirement.
- These concessions are granted in return for very strict rules on the amounts that may be paid into a pension and the use which, may be made of the accumulated funds.
- The amount that may be paid by an individual into their occupational pension scheme is limited to 15% of earnings.
- The Finance Act 1989 also placed limits on contributions into Personal Pension Schemes. There is currently an “earnings cap”, (i.e. the level of earnings from which contributions into the scheme attracts tax relief), of £95,400 in 2001/02. In addition to the earnings cap there are limits on the amount of earnings that can be paid into a personal pension scheme, these limits increasing with age, as shown below:
- Stakeholder pensions were introduced on 6 April 2001, in association with a simple integrated tax regime for personal and stakeholder pension schemes. The main features of this are:
 - contributions are allowed into personal and stakeholder pension schemes up to the higher of £3,600 or the existing income and age related personal pension limits;
 - no link with earnings where contributions are less than £3,600 a year. Contributions in excess of £3,600 allowed by reference to the existing person pensions limits for up to 5 years after earnings have ceased;
 - all contributions by a scheme member to be paid net of basic rate tax. Pension providers will recover tax at the basic rate from the HMRC with the contributor recovering, if appropriate, higher rate tax through their self assessment return;

PENSIONS

- the maximum permitted annual level of charges for stakeholder pensions will be 1 per cent of the member's accumulated funds;
- stakeholder pension schemes will allow members to stop and re-start contributions or transfer into or out of a stakeholder pension without facing any extra charge;
- stakeholder pension schemes which require minimum contributions cannot set this above £20, although some may accept less than this;
- concurrent membership of a personal or stakeholder pension scheme will be permitted for active members of occupational schemes if they are not controlling directors of a company and if in at least one of the previous 5 tax years their earnings did not exceed the remuneration limit (set at £30,000).

Figure 10 Limits for contributions to PPP's by age, 1989 onwards

Age	maximum % of earnings
35 or less	17.5
36 to 45	20
46 to 60	25
51 to 55	30
56 to 60	35
61 to 74	40

Source: HMRC Statistics/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- In addition to Stakeholder, occupational pension scheme and PPP's, there are also the state pension schemes, currently the National Insurance linked Basic State Pension, or SERPS
- Employees are either contracted into or out of SERPS either by their employer on a scheme wide basis or by the individual using a special Personal Pension Called an "Appropriate Pension Scheme". Individuals aged over 30 who contract out of SERPS using an APP currently receive an incentive of 1% on top of their contribution from SERPS.

PENSIONS

Calculating the Waste

- The wastes in terms of under-contribution to pensions are almost incalculable. Few individuals, even with high incomes, have provided for retirement to the maximum that they could have done. In almost all cases, extra provision would have attracted tax incentives - though individual circumstances differ and concentrating all investment into a pension fund at the expense of all other savings or investments would not be advisable.
- A key waste is generated by savings and investments held by those nearing retirement age, intended to provide more comfort in old age/income on top of the pension. If income in retirement is the key objective, using any medium with lesser tax privileges can be described as a waste (voluntarily forgoing the refunds which could be added to the same money contributions) where there is less than the maximum allowable contribution being made from earnings. The only immediate refunds would be of 17% for top-rate taxpayers, but the tax amount would be working to gear up the amount invested.
- Under provision is the worst problem, given shorter/more disrupted working lives/longer life thus a longer time in retirement, and demographic change in the developed world leading towards fewer workers/more pensioners, there are strong arguments for starting provision at an earlier date.
- A further waste is incurred, at least potentially, by those who hold a PPP already (or are self-employed but without a pension) taking out a mortgage. A pension mortgage would generate tax relief on premiums designed to repay the lump sum at the end of the loan, not currently available to an endowment policy. Again, however, assessment of priorities and the balance between the tax saving and other uses anticipated for the lump sum at retirement/the cost of extra premiums, must be made on an individual basis.
- Our calculation is derived from just one aspect of pension waste, the failure of higher rate taxpayers to make additional contributions to their company Pension scheme.

PENSIONS

- HMRC analysis shows in 2004/05 that nearly 1.6 million individuals who were covered by company pensions who are likely to have a liability to high rate tax, with around 70% of whom have not made an AVC.
- If all the high-rate taxpayers covered by company schemes could make an AVC or FSAVC of £1,650 (or half of them £3,300) then **£739 million of avoidable waste** would be due in reclaim from the Exchequer.

INHERITANCE

Tax Legislation

- IHT is very different from the other taxes covered in this document; it is charged on a deceased's estate, after certain approved liabilities have been met, where the value of that estate exceeds £285,000.
- IHT is charged at 40% on the total value of liable estates. Some inheritances are exempt; those by spouses and bequests to charities are subtracted from the estate before tax is calculated and thus can be made gross. Gifts during life fall out of the estate according to a sliding scale; if the donor survives for seven years, then the gifts are no longer count in the taxable value of the givers estate.
- As an extension of IHT, there is a further form of tax on death, which applies when individuals have a) not made a Will or, worse, b) lost touch with all known relatives. If there is no Will, it is rarely realised that while inheritances follow set patterns, these are not automatically (as most individuals think) "spouse (if any) inherits all". The law is different in England and Scotland, but spouse, children and parents can all be involved, as well as any other dependants who might make a claim. If unwelcome heirs take part of the estate (for example, estranged parents or children) it must be an unsatisfactory result; almost a perverse form of tax.

Value of the Market

- In 2006/07 over £3.5 billion was collected in Inheritance tax. Inheritance tax is charged on all assets of the deceased not just the financial assets, and as such time is given for the beneficiaries to liquidate assets such as property so that the tax charge may be paid. If the beneficiary does not sell the asset, the revenue allows the payment of the tax charge to be staged over a period of up to 10 years.
- There are several important ways in which IHT is incurred unnecessarily. Probably most widespread, though not necessarily of most value, is the inclusion in estates of the proceeds of life assurance policies. Where the estate is below the limit/the spouse is the beneficiary, this is not taxed but in

INHERITANCE

most other cases the policy could have been written in trust so that it was not part of the estate on death.

- Another major element in IHT is the pattern, which inheritances take. If an elderly widow/er inherits a very large estate under the spouse's exemption, then there is a likelihood that in due course, there will be a tax bill to be paid on that spouse's death. Diverting up to £285,000 out of the first estate (using if necessary a deed of family arrangement) would have cut the value of the second by a similar amount, without leaving the survivor destitute.
- Without a Will, the administration of the estate must be handled through more cumbersome channels which are more time-consuming and often more expensive (even before IHT) than execution of a Will. There is a clear and absolute need for all individuals with any assets, urgently to make a Will. Even if they have no relatives, most would prefer to see charities inherit than the Crown - and charitable donations attract no tax.
- Almost a third of adults say that they have made a Will - near two thirds of those over 65. This proportion has consistently crept up over recent years but there is no sign of a real breakthrough. It is also impossible to know whether the Wills are valid and if they would be effective in carrying out their authors' wishes in the event of death.

INHERITANCE

Calculating the Waste

- All IHT could be classed, at least in theory, as a waste as the tax applies to few estates and advance planning would enable almost all of these to bear a nil charge. However, this is not realistic; the house in which individuals live is often a large part of their wealth, IHT planning by gifting assets away can backfire to leave them all but destitute in later years, and in most couples the desire to see the survivor provided for takes priority over later tax implications.
- As in previous years, we classify half of the life insurance payments into estates above the IHT limit as error, unnecessary waste. In the latest year this was over £394 million; **an error waste of £197 million**. Further, we believe that up to half of the tax on estates in any one year could have been saved by some basic planning; as a result a further **avoidable waste of £1,356 million** was incurred.

SELF ASSESSMENT

Tax Legislation

- Self-assessment applies to the self employed, company directors and higher rate taxpayers who previously received a tax return
- If we are informed of tax we owe and fail to pay the amount demanded within a month, then interest will be charged. If we fail to tell the Revenue about earnings not already taxed and the allowances we are claiming for the current year within a reasonable time, then penalties may be incurred and interest charged on any tax we are then found to owe. A reasonable time is, in theory, within a month of receiving a tax return but it is Revenue practice to allow until 31 October of the tax year then in progress.
- If returns are not sent in to the revenue by 31st January, the revenue will apply a fixed penalty of £100, if the return is still outstanding six months later there is a further penalty of £100. If, despite these penalties the revenue still receives no returns they are able to apply a daily penalty of up to £60 per day. However, if a return is submitted late and the amount of self-assessed tax is less than the penalty applied, the revenue will reduce the penalty applied.
- If the tax payment made to the revenue on account or as a balancing item is found to be too low, then interest will be applied to the amount of under-payment. However, if there was an over-payment by the taxpayer then the revenue will pay interest on the amount of over-payment.
- If tax is still outstanding after the 31 January final payment date, a range of different surcharges will apply
 - A 5% surcharge on any tax for the previous tax year which is unpaid by 28 February after the end of the tax year (one month after it was due).
 - A further 5% surcharge on any of those amounts still unpaid by 31 July (six months after the tax was due).
 - If returns are not sent in by 31st January, and taxes not paid, the HMRC can determine the amount of tax they believe is due, plus surcharges and penalties, and collect that amount, although this tax charge can be amended when the completed tax return is finally sent in.

SELF ASSESSMENT

- In addition to these penalties for late return a further penalty of up to £3,000 may be charged for each year in which adequate records of the taxpayers different incomes are not kept. Normally records should be kept for a period of 22 months after the tax year to which they relate. If the taxpayer is self-employed however, the records must be kept for a period of five years after the tax year to which they relate.

Calculating the Waste

- In 2005 some 876,000 self-assessment forms were received after the 31st January deadline and the majority incurred a penalty of £100. If only 1% increase occurs in 2004 there will be over 885,000 late returns incurring an **avoidable waste of £89 million**.
- The revenue issued some 578,051 notices of 1st surcharge to taxpayers(547,307- 2005), with a further 359,334 2nd surcharge notices being issued in July 2005 (224,545 – 2004). A 5% surcharge could be made against all of these individuals and if the tax unpaid were an average of only £2,500 the resulting penalty would represent **an avoidable waste of over £72 million**.
- If errors were made by 5% of those returning their forms (9.3 million), which resulted in a penalty of £650 being imposed, a further waste of **£302 million** under the **error waste** category could be made.

SHARE SCHEMES

Tax Legislation

- Although various share option schemes already exist, they are already linked to either a tax efficient savings vehicle (SAYE), an approved profit sharing schemes or share option schemes with set limits and well defined rules on exercising the option. However, not all employees in a company would be eligible to benefit from such schemes.
- The New Share Incentive Scheme, launched in 2001, is described by the HMRC as “the most tax-advantaged all employee share scheme ever introduced into the UK”. The main features of this new scheme are:
 - Employers can give up to £3,000 worth of “free shares” a year to employees free of tax and national insurance.
 - Employees can buy up to £1,500 of “partnership shares” from their pre-tax monthly salary or weekly wages, free of tax and National Insurance Contribution liability.
 - Employers can give employees up to 2 free “matching shares” for each partnership share the employees buy.
 - Employees who keep their shares in the scheme plan for five years pay no income tax or NIC on profits made on their sale.
 - Employees who take their shares out of the scheme plan after three years will pay income tax and NIC on no more than the initial value of the shares. Any increase in value recorded while the shares were held in the plan will be free of income tax and NIC liability. As will be any dividends reinvested in more plan shares, provided those shares are held for at least 3 years.
 - Companies must offer all employees whose remuneration is within Case 1 of schedule E income tax, the opportunity to participate in the plan whether they work full or part time.

SHARE SCHEMES

- The Scheme plans are to operate through UK resident Trusts. The Trust will buy or subscribe to shares that are subsequently awarded to the employees. The money to buy the shares either comes from the company itself or – if the plan incorporates partnership shares – from the employees.

- Enterprise Management Incentives (EMI) are tax advantaged share options designed to help small higher risk companies recruit and retain employees with the skills that will help them grow and succeed. They are also designed to reward employees for taking a risk by investing their time and skills in helping small companies achieve their potential.
 - Tax advantaged options over shares with a market value of up to £100,000 may be granted to any number of employees of a company, subject to a maximum share value of £3 million under EMI option to all employees. The shares must be in an independent trading company that has gross assets of less than £30 million. For options granted before Royal Assent of the 2001 Finance Bill, EMI options could be granted to each of up to 15 key employees.
 - The grant of the option is tax-free and there will normally be no tax or National Insurance Contributions for the employee to pay when the option is exercised
 - There will normally be no National Insurance Contributions charge for the employer
 - When the shares are sold at a gain any Capital Gains Tax charge may be reduced because taper relief will normally start from the date that the option is granted

SHARE SCHEMES

The potential for waste

- Currently there are only 6,427 companies running a tax-advantaged employee share scheme, of these only 744 are listed, 55 are overseas companies and 4,563 are smaller unlisted companies.

Figure 11 Employee share schemes in operation 04/04 and 04/05

	Number of schemes		% change
	04/04	04/05	
Savings related share option scheme (1980)	689	638	-7.4
Company Share Option plans (1996)	1,969	1,847	-6.2
Share Incentive Schemes	467	551	+18.0
Enterprise Management Incentives	4,414	6,819	+54.5
Total Companies with tax-advantaged Employee Share Schemes	6,427	8,608	+33.9

Source: HMRC/RAKM for IFA Promotion

- If the half of the level of investment allowed under the Share Incentive Plan (£1,500) was made for/by the estimated 570,000 staff currently in savings related share option schemes a tax cost of **£171 million** would be accrued; this we would class an **avoidable waste**.

TAX CREDITS

- The whole regime of Tax Credits have been subject to considerable change. In April 2003 Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC), Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) and Children's Tax Credit will be replaced by two new tax credits. These will be called Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. These new tax credits will provide support to a wider range of people through a single framework.
- In addition to the changes to HMRC sponsored tax credits, the Department of Work and Pensions have introduced have introduced a Pension Credit, designed to provide additional help for the retired. This Credit becomes available in October 2003. Although not an income tax based credit it has been included in this edition of Tax Action as it is an area where waste can easily occur.

Tax Legislation

Child Tax Credit

This is for families with at least one child. It is made up of the following elements

- A family element that is payable to any family responsible for a child. It is paid at a higher rate to families with at least one child under the age of one. This is known as the baby element
- A child element for each child that you are responsible for. This is paid at a higher rate if the child has a disability and at an enhanced rate for a child with a severe disability. This is known as the disabled child element

Working Tax Credit

This is a tax credit for people who are in paid work. You may be eligible if

- You are a single person

or

- You are a married couple living together

or

- You are a man and woman living together as if you are married

TAX CREDITS

and

- You are in paid work (including working as a self-employed person) for the required number of hours

The amount you receive will depend on your annual income, and you must be 16 years of age or over, to be able to apply for the tax credits.

Elements of Working Tax Credit

- A basic adult element which is paid to you if you meet the above criteria
- An extra element which is paid to single parents and couples
- An extra element which is paid if you and your partner, if you have one, work a total of 30 hours or more a week
- An extra element which is paid if you (or your partner) are working and have a disability
- An extra element which is paid if you (or your partner) are working and have a severe disability
- A child care element which is paid to help households who are working and have to spend money on childcare
- income they receive from their savings ignored entirely;

Pension Credit

- Pension Credit is an entitlement for people aged 60 or. It guarantees everyone aged 60 and over an income of at least:
 - £109.45 a week if they are single; or
 - £167.05 a week if they have a partner.
- For the first time, people aged 65 and over will be rewarded for some of their savings and income they have for their retirement. Pension Credit will change this by giving new money to those who have saved – up to:
 - £16.44 if you are single; or
 - £21.51 a week if you have a partner.
- The person who applies for Pension Credit must be at least 60; it does not matter if their partner is under 60. *We use 'partner' to mean your husband or wife, or a person you live with as if you are married to them.*

TAX CREDITS

Where is the waste?

- In theory there should be no waste arising from the availability of these tax and pension credits, however, the same was true of Married persons allowances, and as previous editions of the Taxaction report showed considerable waste can occur. For this exercise the following assumptions are made before the waste calculation can take place:
 - No waste will occur among high rate taxpayers (the vast majority will not be able to claim these benefit because they are income related);
 - All parents with children (over whom they have parental responsibility) will have them resident at their homes for at least part of the tax year.

Calculating the Waste

- When first launched the take up of tax credits were patchy with certain groups, such as lone parents showing a higher level of take up than families with both parents present in the household. The streamlining of the credits for 2003 will RAKM believes result in a higher take up by all qualifying families, however we still believe as many as 12% of entitled families will miss out. The HMRC estimates weekly amounts per family will average of £2,746 per annum if this average remains the same RAKM estimates that **around £788 million will remain unclaimed this we count as an error waste.**
- The pension credits are administered by the DWP rather than the HMRC and are designed to support the Minimum Income Guarantee that is available to all Pensioners. The DSS monitors the take up of minimum Income guarantee for pensioners and has found that the rate of take up has declined slightly with the DWP estimating that between 17-22% of pensioners have failed to

TAX CREDITS

claim entitlement with a result that somewhere between £1,630 million and £2,370 million remained unclaimed. We have therefore taken the mid point of this estimate as the basis for our waste figure and allocate the sum of **£1,508 million which we classify as error waste.**

D
R
A
F
T
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

CHILD TRUST FUND

The Child Trust Fund is a new long-term savings and investment vehicle developed by the government to encourage saving for children. The Government has introduced the Child Trust Fund to:

- ensure that children have accrued some savings by the time they reach the age of 18;
- encourage children to get into the habit of saving;
- teach children about the benefits of saving; and help them to understand something about personal finance.

Children currently living in the UK and whose parents are in receipt of Child Benefit and who were born on or after 1st September 2002 are entitled to open a Child Trust Fund account. To get the account started, the Government will send the a voucher for £250 to open up the account, an additional £250 will also be contributed by the government for children in families on lower incomes and then more when the child reaches the age of seven. (The amount of the 7th birthday contribution is yet to be decided). The account belongs to the child and when they turn 18, they are allowed to access the funds and use them in any way they like.

Key facts about the Child Trust Fund

- **a long-term savings and investment account** where the account holding child (and no-one else) can withdraw the money when they turn 18
- **neither the contributor nor the beneficiary child will pay tax** on income and gains in the account
- **£250 voucher to start each child's account**
- children in families receiving **Child Tax Credit (CTC)**, with a household income below the CTC limit, will receive an extra payment
- a **maximum of £1200 each year** can be saved in the account by parents, family or friends
- money cannot be taken out of the CTF once it has been put in – once your child is 18 they will be able to decide how to use the money
- children can start to make decisions about how the money is managed when they are 16

CHILD TRUST FUND

- the Government will make a **further contribution when your child is seven** - the amount has not been decided yet
- **not just one type of CTF account** – you choose the type of account you want for your child
- it will not affect any benefits or Tax Credits you receive
- learning about how to make the most of your money is a key part of the CTF .

Parents have 12 months to open an account for an eligible child - after that the HMRC will automatically open a stakeholder account for the child. The parent can move the account to another provider, or change the type of account. The parent will need to be the registered contact to do this. There's no charge for doing this but where it is necessary to buy or sell investments to transfer the account there may be a charge for the costs involved. The new provider will notify the HMRC about the change so that the individual child's records are kept up-to-date.

There are three types of accounts available under the child trust fund scheme:

- **Savings accounts**

With a savings account any money you invest is secure. For example if an investment of £500 is made, the child will get that sum of money back as well as earning some interest. As with all accounts the provider will charge for the cost of running it. It might not be possible to identify this cost as it will not appear on the trust fund statement, but providers cover these costs when deciding how much interest to pay on savings.

- **Accounts that invest in shares**

These accounts invest the child's money by buying shares in companies. This type of account has the potential to do well when money is invested for a long time. The charge on this type of account is usually a percentage of its value. You should check how much this would be with your chosen CTF provider.

TAX CREDITS

- **Stakeholder CTF account**

Stakeholder accounts invest the child's money in shares in companies when the account is opened. The Government has made certain rules for these accounts to reduce the risk of investing in shares.

The child's money is not put into just one company, as they could lose out if that company does badly. Instead, it is invested in a number of companies in order to reduce the risk.

Once the child is 13, money in the account starts to be moved to lower risk investments or assets. CTF providers will consider how well shares are performing to decide how much to move over into safer assets and how quickly. This means that although the child's money may not benefit if the stock market is performing well, it is protected from stock market losses as they approach their 18th birthday.

Once the account is open, all providers must accept a minimum contribution of £10 into a stakeholder account – but they can accept less if they wish.

The charge on the stakeholder account is limited to no more than 1.5 per cent a year – which means the charge can be no more than £1.50 for every £100 in the account. The charges on all other types of CTF account are not limited in this way.

The stakeholder account is the one the HMRC will open if you don't use the CTF voucher before it expires

All CTF providers are required to publicise their policy about social, ethical and environmental investments, if they have one.

Only one Child trust Fund may be opened per child, however, once opened any person can deposit money into the fund up to the annual limit applying. The start date for each year is the child's birthday.

Currently the limit of £1,200 applies to each year separately. Contributors can't 'carry forward' any unused amounts to the following year. Apart from the contribution rules

CHILD TRUST FUND

for stakeholder funds, there are no rules about minimum contributions for other types of account – however, the provider may apply their own rules about how payments are made, e.g. whether by cheque , cash or both.

The child will get statements about their account every year. These will be addressed to the registered contact and will show the total amount in the account.

Calculating the Waste

Since the introduction of Child Trust Funds some 2.7 million vouchers have been issued to eligible children, however, in the same period only 1.9 million accounts have been opened. Parents have one year to open the account from the date that the voucher is issued, if they do not open an account in this time HMRC will arrange for a stakeholder account to be opened for the child; HMRC has a list of suppliers who have agreed to open such accounts and the vouchers will be shared out between these providers – this is likely to generate a significant waste in the future as parents who have not bothered to open a CTF account are unlikely to keep details of the default accounts in a safe place for their children.

In the first quarter that vouchers were issued only slightly more than 28%of parents opened an account, since then the proportion has risen to 71% of eligible children having an account opened for them. RAKM believes that only half of the accounts opened will receive their full funding and at least 25% of all accounts will receive no funding beyond that given by the Governments initial voucher. We believe that this will result in **£125 million that we would describe as an error waste.**

APPENDIX

obtained from the HMRCs published statistics

Figure A1 Personal taxes within net revenue receipts, 1986/87-2004/05

	Income Tax	Capital gains tax	Inheritance tax	Total personal tax	As % of inland revenue income
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
1986/87	38,499	1,064	995	40,558	70.9
1987/88	41,402	1,379	1,078	43,859	68.1
1988/89	43,433	2,323	1,071	46,827	67.9
1989/90	48,801	1,854	1,232	51,887	67.8
1990/91	55,287	1,852	1,262	58,401	70.8
1991/92	57,493	1,140	1,299	59,932	73.3
1992/93	56,797	982	1,211	59,010	77.5
1993/94	58,442	710	1,333	60,485	78.1
1994/95	63,100	926	1,411	65,437	74.9
1995/96	68,049	796	1,518	70,363	72.6
1996/97	69,071	1,131	1,558	71,760	69.1
1997/98	76,838	1,435	1,684	79,957	68.1
1998/99	86,507	2,002	1,786	90,295	70.5
1999/2000	93,910	2,122	2,047	98,079	70.0
2000/01	105,177	3,236	2,221	110,634	72.4
2001/02	107,994	3,034	2,355	113,383	73.8
2002/03	109,507	1,596	2,354	113,457	75.0
2003/04	113,968	2,225	2,504	118,697	76.3
2004/05	122,920	2,283	2,922	128,125	34.5*
2005/06	130,481	3,042	3,259	136,782	34.3*
2006/07 (prov)	141,432	4,020	3,560	149,012	35.1*

*Inland Revenue merged with Customs & Excise to produce HM Revenue & Customs responsible for collection of direct & indirect taxes.

Source: HMRC Statistics/RAKM for IFA Promotion

APPENDIX

Figure A2 Numbers of individual taxpayers, 1988/89-2004/05

	Income tax	CGT*	IHT*
	000	000	000
1988/89	25,200	151	30
1989/90	25,000	144	31
1990/91	26,100	108	28
1991/92	25,700	85	25
1992/93	25,400	70	24
1993/94	25,000	90	23
1994/95	25,300	70	24
1995/96	25,800	100	25
1996/97	25,800	120	18
1997/98	26,200	170	20
1998/99	26,900	160	20
1999/2000	27,200	210	23
2000/01	29,300	200	24
2001/02	28,600	140	25
2002/03	28,900	145	27
2003/04	28,500	170	32
2004/05 (est)	28,900	185	36
2005/06 (est)	29,300	240	36
2006/07 (est)	29,700	270	38

* these taxes suffer an assessment and reporting "lag".

Source: HMRC Statistics /RAKM for IFA Promotion