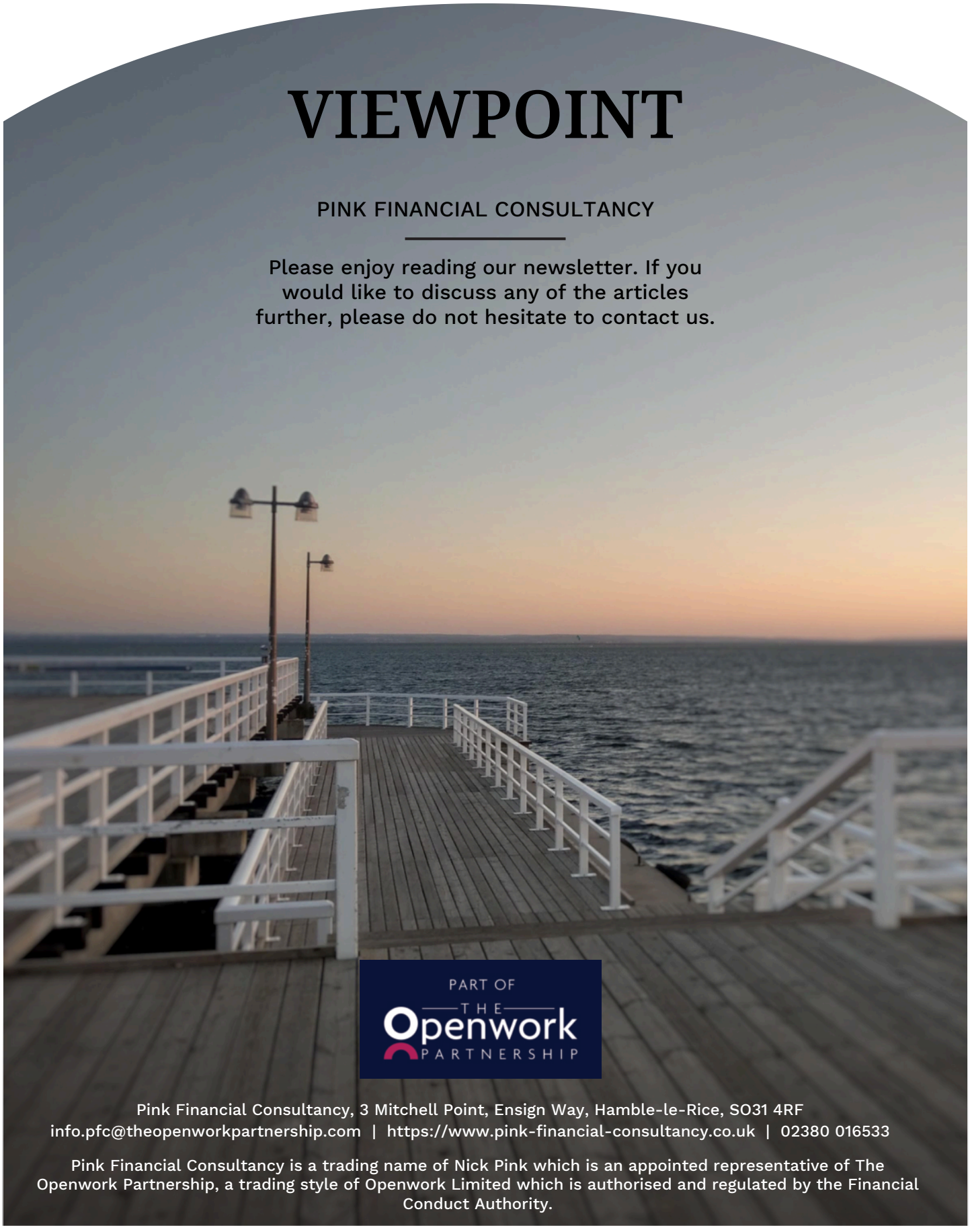
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VIEWPOINT

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Please enjoy reading our newsletter. If you would like to discuss any of the articles further, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Make the most of your ISA, pension and gifting opportunities



As the end of the tax year approaches, maximising your annual allowances can provide a welcome boost to your long-term financial plans. Here are the key opportunities to consider.

With 5 April on the horizon, now is a good time to take stock of the allowances available for you to grow your wealth more efficiently, plan for retirement, and support your family.

But be aware, most of these allowances operate on a 'use it or lose it' basis. Use them before the end of the tax year, or they'll be gone forever.

Your ISA allowance

Each tax year you can invest up to £20,000 in an ISA with any interest, dividends or capital gains free from UK income tax and capital gains tax.

From April 2027, the annual Cash ISA allowance will fall from £20,000 to £12,000 for under-65s. The aim is to encourage greater investment into stocks and shares to boost the UK economy.

Whether you're building long-term investments through a Stocks and Shares ISA or setting aside shorter-term savings in a Cash ISA, using your ISA allowance before the deadline is a sensible strategy. If you hold ISAs from previous years, this can also be a good time to review whether they're working hard enough to reach your financial goals.

Junior ISAs

Parents, grandparents, family, and friends can contribute up to a total of £9,000 each year into a Junior ISA (JISA) on behalf of a child under the age of 18. The money grows free from income tax and capital gains tax. Often forgotten, JISAs are a tax efficient way of building a valuable financial headstart to support future education costs or a deposit for a first home. You can invest a lumpsum to maximise the allowance, but small, regular contributions can build up significantly over time.

Boost your pension contributions

Pensions remain one of the most tax-efficient long-term planning tools. Most people can contribute up to £60,000 a year, depending on earnings, and benefit from tax relief on contributions. This significantly increases the value of each pound you invest.

If you're part of a workplace pension scheme, employer contributions can further boost your savings. As the tax year ends, it's worth checking how much you've paid in and whether an extra contribution could help provide a boost to your long-term retirement plan, and an immediate reduction to your income tax bill.

Junior pensions

For families looking to plan even further ahead, a Junior Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) allows you to contribute up to £3,600 a year into a pension for a child, including basic-rate tax relief. The funds cannot be accessed until the child reaches retirement age, which is currently set at 55 but increasing to 57 in 2028. Starting to invest early gives the investments many years to grow, making a Junior SIPP a thoughtful long-term gift.

Gifting to support loved ones

If helping family is a priority, the annual gifting allowance enables you to give away up to £3,000 each tax year (or £6,000 between a couple) reducing the size of your estate – and IHT liability. You can also make smaller gifts of up to £250 per person, along with certain wedding or civil partnership gifts.

Why an adviser can help

With a range of allowances to consider, it's not always obvious which ones will have the greatest impact for you. A financial adviser can help you understand the rules, decide which options best suit your goals and create a plan that makes the most of each tax year without feeling rushed.

An ISA is a medium to long term investment, which aims to increase the value of the money you invest for growth or income or both. The value of your investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise. You may not get back the amount you invested. HM Revenue and Customs practice and the law relating to taxation are complex and subject to individual circumstances and changes which cannot be foreseen.

Key allowances to consider before 5 April

- ISA allowance of up to £20,000 per adult.
- Junior ISA allowance of up to £9,000 per child.
- Pension contributions with potential tax relief.
- Junior SIPP contributions of up to £3,600 a year.
- Annual gifting allowance of £3,000.
- Small gifts of up to £250 per person.
- Wedding and civil partnership gift allowances.

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Start investing by building good habits from day one

Taking your first steps into investing is easier than you might think. With a clear plan and a sensible approach, you'll give your money the best chance to grow over time.

If you're new to investing, it's completely normal to feel unsure about where to begin. There's a lot of information out there, and it can sometimes feel as though you need to know everything before you start. In reality, the most important step is simply taking that first small action. Good habits built early on can set you up for years to come.

Set clear, realistic goals

Before putting any money into the market, think about what you're investing for. Are you building a pot for the future, saving for a home or simply wanting your money to work harder than it would in cash? Clear goals help you judge how long you want to invest for and what level of risk feels comfortable. When you know the "why", the "how" becomes much easier.

Start small and build gradually

You don't need a large lump sum to begin investing. Many people start with modest amounts, invested regularly, and increase contributions over time. Beginning small takes the pressure off and gives you time to understand how it all works. It also helps you get used to seeing your investments move up and down.

Invest regularly to smooth the journey

One of the simplest and most effective habits is investing little and often. Whether that's monthly or quarterly, regular investing helps you build up your portfolio steadily and avoids the worry of trying to 'time' the markets. When prices are lower, your regular payments buy more; when they're higher, they buy less. Over time, this can smooth out the ups and downs.

Stay focused on the long term

Investing is a long-term activity. Markets can rise or fall over short periods, but history shows that staying invested for longer gives your money more time to grow. It's easy to feel unsettled by market headlines, but having a clear plan and sticking to it usually leads to better outcomes than reacting to every twist and turn.

Why an adviser can help

Getting started is easier when you have someone to guide you. A financial adviser can help you choose suitable investments, explain how much risk is right for your goals and build a plan that grows with you.

For new investors, this support can make the whole experience feel less daunting and far more rewarding. Starting early and building good habits can give your money the chance to grow and help you feel more confident as an investor.



Good investing habits for beginners

- Set clear goals to guide your decisions
- Start with small amounts and build gradually
- Invest regularly to smooth out market ups and downs
- Stay focused on the long term
- Ask an adviser for help if you're unsure where to begin

The value of your investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise. You may not get back the amount you invested.

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Inheriting ISAs: explained

Planning on leaving your ISA to a loved one? Here's what you need to know.

Individual savings accounts (ISAs) are a great option for tax-free saving, but it's important to understand the rules around inheriting ISAs if you want your beneficiaries to make the most of your legacy.

What is an ISA?

A savings account in which your earnings are tax-free. Every year, the government sets a limit on tax-free savings. This is your ISA allowance, and it's £20,000 for the 2025/26 tax year.

Who can inherit an ISA

Anyone can inherit the funds in an ISA, but only a spouse or civil partner can retain the tax benefits thanks to the additional permitted subscription (APS), also known as an 'inherited ISA allowance'.

How does the APS work?

An APS is an extra allowance that your spouse or civil partner can add to their existing ISA allowance. It's based on the value of an open ISA held in your name when you pass away or the value as at date of transfer. Your spouse or civil partner must be living with you at the time of your death.

For example, if you have £20,000 set aside in an ISA when you die, your spouse or civil partner's ISA allowance increases to £40,000 (their £20,000 allowance plus the additional £20,000 from the ISA they've inherited). This means they can pay the money from the inherited ISA into another account without paying tax on it.

An APS must be claimed within three years of the death of the account holder or up to 180 days after administration of the estate is complete, depending on the assets held in the account(s) and whichever deadline is sooner.

Can someone else inherit an ISA?

If you leave money in an ISA to a beneficiary that isn't your spouse or civil partner, the funds will form part of your estate and be subject to inheritance tax (if the value of your estate exceeds £325,000, in the 2025/2026 tax year).

What can my spouse or civil partner do with their APS?

They're under no obligation to stay with the same provider of the inherited ISA. They can transfer up to the value of their APS in any type of ISA if the provider accepts transfers from inherited ISAs. As with any saving decision, it's worth shopping around to find the best deal.



Get in touch if you want tailored support with your estate planning.

An ISA is a medium to long term investment, which aims to increase the value of the money you invest for growth or income or both. The value of your investments and any income from them can fall as well as rise. You may not get back the amount you invested.

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