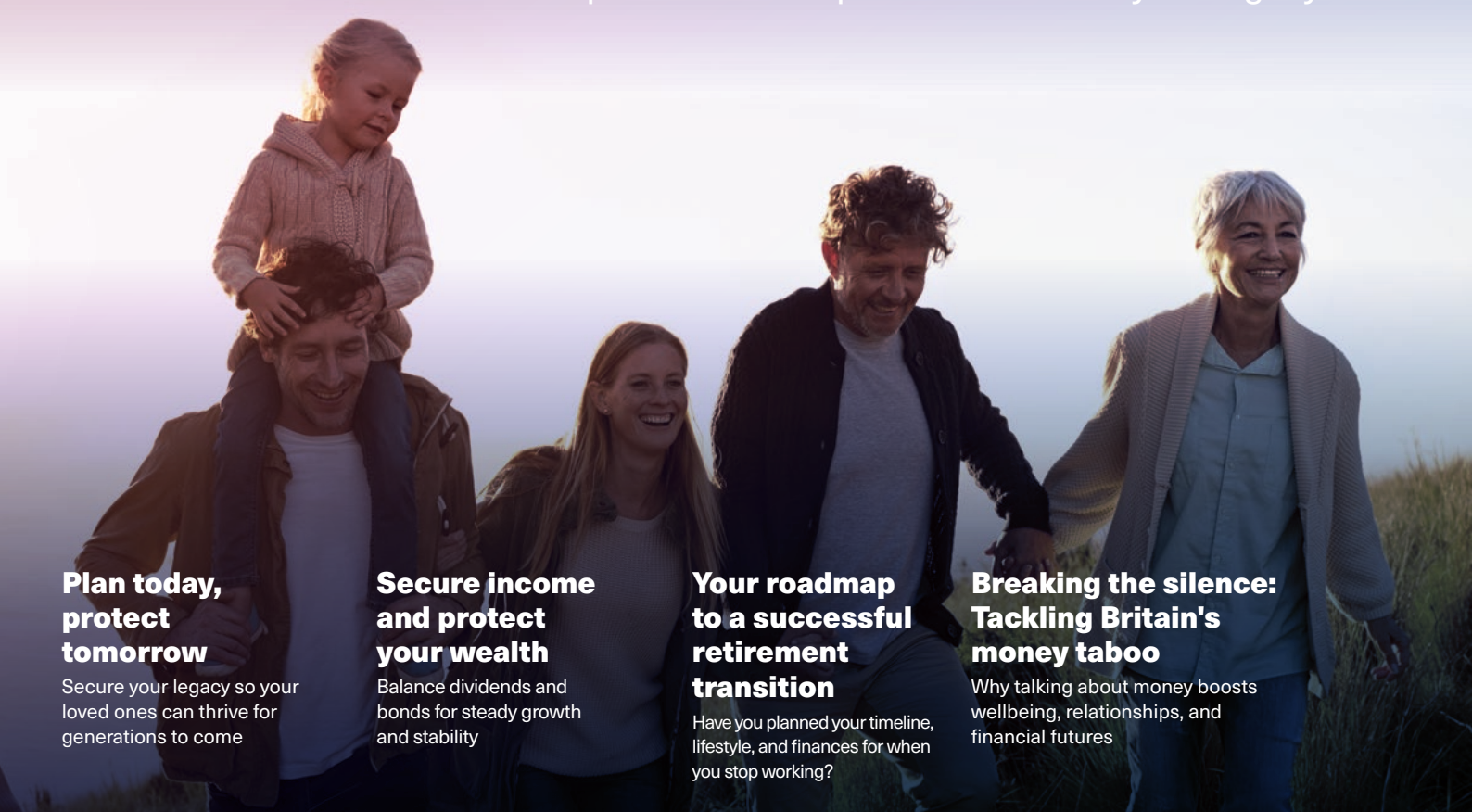


# WealthWise

MAY / JUNE 2026

## Pensions and Inheritance Tax: Big changes coming in 2027

Understanding how removing the pensions exemption could affect your legacy



### Plan today, protect tomorrow

Secure your legacy so your loved ones can thrive for generations to come

### Secure income and protect your wealth

Balance dividends and bonds for steady growth and stability

### Your roadmap to a successful retirement transition

Have you planned your timeline, lifestyle, and finances for when you stop working?

### Breaking the silence: Tackling Britain's money taboo

Why talking about money boosts wellbeing, relationships, and financial futures

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**Bluewater**  
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# Welcome to WealthWise

Welcome to *WealthWise* magazine. Our cover story in this issue looks at a major shift in pension taxation that is set to reshape wealth-transfer planning in the UK. From 6 April 2027, unspent pension pots will no longer be exempt from Inheritance Tax (IHT) and may be taxed at 40% if your estate exceeds the IHT threshold. On page 06, we explain how this change challenges traditional strategies and why families should rethink how they draw down their retirement assets. Early preparation, including estate valuation and exploring tax-efficient options such as gifting or trusts, will be essential to protect your legacy.

A complete list of the articles featured in this issue appears on page 04. ◀

## Start Your Journey Today

Let us help you grow your wealth, protect your assets, and secure your future. We hope you enjoy reading this issue. If you would like more information, please contact us.

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Visit [bluewaterfp.soderbergpartners.co.uk](http://bluewaterfp.soderbergpartners.co.uk), call **+442890244288** or email [mark.burns@soderbergpartners.co.uk](mailto:mark.burns@soderbergpartners.co.uk) to book your consultation.

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# WealthWise

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# How to approach risk as an investor

Understanding risk tolerance and the capacity to make smarter investment decisions

**N**o matter what risk looks like to you, it plays a foundational role in shaping your financial strategy. Before you commit your money to the markets, it helps to pause and ask yourself a few key questions. You are much more likely to stay invested and weather market storms when you find an exposure level that suits your personal circumstances.

## Evaluating your personal comfort with market swings

Your risk tolerance reflects your emotional and psychological willingness to accept losses in pursuit of your goals. It is closely linked to your beliefs, personality, and past experiences with money. Think of it as your mental capacity to handle volatility. Are you someone who embraces uncertainty because it opens the door to greater opportunity, or are you more risk-averse and likely to lose sleep when the market falls?

This emotional baseline determines the types of assets you might choose. If you are comfortable with market fluctuations, you might select investments that offer faster growth and higher potential returns, accepting that your portfolio may decline in value at times. Conversely, a risk-averse investor will opt to protect their capital against losses, even if that means accepting lower long-term returns.

## Understanding how much risk you can actually afford

While tolerance is about your feelings, your risk capacity is an entirely objective measure. It is not based on your emotions or any specific asset class, but rather on how much financial risk you can genuinely afford to take. This capacity is determined by your current financial situation, your age, and the specific goals you are working towards.

You must ask yourself how potential losses would affect your ability to reach those milestones. For instance, if your retirement fund falls by 10% just months before you plan to stop working, that would be a significant blow to your plans. However, if you are saving for a goal that is decades away, time is on your side. A longer time horizon significantly reduces the likelihood of poor outcomes, giving your portfolio the time it needs to recover from short-term dips.

## Striking the perfect balance for your financial future

Ideally, the investments you choose should align perfectly with both your emotional tolerance and your financial capacity. If they do not, you might end up taking on more risk than you can safely afford, or you might sit in cash to such an extent that your savings grow far too slowly. Either extreme makes it incredibly challenging to achieve your long-term life goals.

Finding your unique approach to market volatility requires careful consideration and an honest review of your finances. Many

investors find that working with a professional adviser helps them gain an objective understanding of their position. If you would like to explore your risk profile or need guidance on building a balanced portfolio, please contact our team of experts today for a personalised consultation. ◀

## Time to discover the right investment balance?

Every investment requires an understanding of your risk tolerance and capacity. We'll help you balance emotional comfort with your financial goals to build a portfolio tailored to your needs. Contact us to start building a confident financial future.

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute tax, legal or financial advice. The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go up or down, which would affect the level of pension benefits available. You may get back less than you invest.



# Pensions and Inheritance Tax: Big changes coming in 2027

Understanding how removing the pensions exemption could affect your legacy

For decades, UK savers have relied on pensions not only for retirement income but also as a highly tax-efficient way to pass on wealth. Under current rules, pension pots generally fall outside your estate for Inheritance Tax (IHT) purposes. However, a significant shift is on the horizon. From 6 April 2027, the government will remove this long-standing exemption, bringing unspent pension wealth within the scope of IHT.



**For the 2026/27 tax year, the standard IHT threshold is £325,000, with an additional £175,000 allowance if you pass your main residence to direct descendants. Adding a substantial retirement pot to your estate could easily push many families over these thresholds, leading to unexpected tax bills for grieving loved ones.**

**T**his policy change marks a fundamental overhaul of the wealth-transfer system. The government announced that it was introducing this measure to create a fairer tax framework and address wealth inequality. For many families, this means that the money accumulated over a lifetime of hard work may suddenly be subject to a substantial tax burden when passed on to beneficiaries.

### How the forthcoming tax framework operates

Research indicates that 9 in 10 (89%) UK adults have little or no awareness of the change<sup>[1]</sup>. When the new rules take effect, your remaining pension funds will form part of your estate's total value on your death. If the combined value of your assets, including property, cash savings, investments and pensions, exceeds the standard nil rate band, the excess will typically be taxed at 40%.

For the 2026/27 tax year, the standard IHT threshold is £325,000, with an additional £175,000 allowance if you pass your main residence to direct descendants. Adding a substantial retirement pot to your estate could easily push many families over these thresholds, leading to unexpected tax bills for grieving loved ones.

### Rethinking your long-term wealth strategy

Historically, most people have spent other taxable assets first, leaving their pension funds untouched as an effective wealth-transfer tool. Because pensions were shielded from IHT, they provided a safe harbour for inheritance, allowing funds to grow in a tax-advantaged environment.

The 2027 deadline forces a complete rethink of this conventional wisdom. You may need to reassess the order in which you

draw down your retirement assets. Using your pension to fund your lifestyle earlier in retirement, while preserving other assets that may benefit from different tax treatments, could soon become the standard approach for many households.

### Practical steps to protect your legacy

Although the changes do not take effect until April 2027, early preparation will put you in a much stronger position. Initially, it's important to calculate the projected value of your entire estate, including your current pension balances, to give you a clear picture of your potential IHT exposure under the new regime.

You might also consider alternative ways to reduce the taxable value of your estate before the deadline. Making lifetime gifts to your family, utilising annual exemptions or exploring trust structures can help mitigate the impact of these changes. Each situation requires a tailored approach based on personal goals and family circumstances.

### Securing your family's future

Pensions and tax legislation are inherently complex, and their intricacies often pose challenges for individuals and businesses alike. They are also frequently subject to subtle yet significant adjustments before reaching their final stage of implementation. Navigating these changes can be daunting, but staying informed is crucial to making sound financial decisions.

We are committed to keeping you up to date on the latest developments, including updates to official guidance, new consultations and proposed amendments. By providing timely, accurate information, we aim to help you make well-informed decisions that protect and optimise your hard-earned wealth. With our support, you can approach

these changes with confidence, knowing you have the insights to adapt and thrive in an ever-evolving tax landscape. ◀

### Time to discuss how the new pension rules could affect your family's inheritance?

The upcoming changes require careful planning and a thorough understanding of estate planning and preservation. If you want to know exactly how the April 2027 pension rules could affect your family's inheritance, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange a comprehensive review of your retirement strategy.

#### Source data:

[1] Standard Life research IHT research was conducted among 2,000 UK adults in February 2026. Findings are weighted to be nationally representative.

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute tax, legal or financial advice. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change in the future. A pension is a long-term investment not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028, unless the plan has a protected pension age). The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go up or down, which will affect the level of pension benefits available. Investments can rise or fall in value, and you may get back less than you invest. Inheritance tax, estate planning and trusts are not regulated by the financial conduct authority.

# Breaking the silence: Tackling Britain's money taboo

Why talking about money boosts wellbeing, relationships, and financial futures

We happily discuss our health, our relationships, and even our most embarrassing mistakes with friends and family. Yet when the topic turns to personal finances, the room often falls silent. Money remains one of the last great taboos in British society. As household budgets stretch and the economic landscape shifts, open communication about wealth, debt, and spending is more critical than ever. Yet a deep-seated reluctance leaves many of us suffering in silence.



***Avoiding these crucial discussions carries a heavy price. When we keep our money worries hidden, we isolate ourselves from potential help and practical solutions. Financial stress breeds quickly in the dark, often leading to poor decision-making and mounting debt.***

**R**ecent research reveals a startling reality: a third of Britons feel entirely uncomfortable discussing their finances<sup>[1]</sup>. This hesitation spans all age groups and income brackets, highlighting a cultural hurdle we have yet to overcome. Whether it involves admitting to debt or simply sharing salary details, the very thought of discussing finances triggers significant anxiety among millions across the UK.

### Hidden money worries

Avoiding these crucial discussions carries a heavy price. When we keep our money worries hidden, we isolate ourselves from potential help and practical solutions. Financial stress breeds quickly in the dark, often leading to poor decision-making and mounting debt. For many, the fear of judgement outweighs the need to seek advice or to share the burden with a trusted confidant.

This secrecy also takes a profound toll on mental wellbeing and relationships. Couples who avoid discussing money often face deep-rooted trust issues down the line. Hidden debts or mismatched spending habits can fracture partnerships, while the internal pressure of carrying financial burdens alone often manifests as anxiety, sleepless nights, and depression.

### Breaking the stigma

Changing this ingrained behaviour requires a gentle, deliberate approach. You do not need to lay out your entire financial history in one sitting. Instead, start small. Initiate casual conversations about financial goals, everyday

budgeting, or general economic news to gauge the response. Creating a safe, non-judgemental space helps everyone involved feel more at ease.

It's also important to normalise these conversations at home. Parents who speak openly and constructively about money set a healthy precedent for their children. By treating budgeting and saving as routine household topics rather than stressful, closed-door matters, we equip the next generation with the confidence to manage their finances without fear.

### Finding professional guidance

Discussing money matters with family and friends can be a first step towards managing your financial wellbeing. However, relying solely on your personal network can be limiting, as your loved ones may lack the technical expertise to address complex financial challenges. Ultimately, recognising that you need assistance is a clear sign of financial maturity, not a personal failure.

Engaging with a financial professional provides objective insights tailored specifically to your unique circumstances. The research shows that nearly 40% of people who seek professional financial advice report feeling significantly less stressed about their future. This reduction in anxiety stems from having a clear, structured plan guided by someone who understands the financial landscape.

### Taking the next step

Opening up about your finances can feel

daunting at first, but the relief that follows is immense. By breaking the silence, you take control of your financial narrative and ease the burden of money worries.

Sharing the load not only reduces stress but also creates opportunities for better planning, stronger relationships, and a more secure future. We all deserve peace of mind about our finances. ◀

### Ready to secure your financial future?

If you feel overwhelmed by your finances or simply want to start planning for the future, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

#### Source data:

[1] Research conducted by Opinium Research on behalf of Barclays between 6th and 10th March 2026. The sample comprised 2,000 respondents, providing a representative sample of UK consumers by age, gender, region, and income group. Opinium adheres to Market Research Society (MRS) standards for respondent verification and transparency.

All respondents were verified through Opinium's rigorous identity validation and data quality processes.

This article does not constitute financial advice and should not be relied upon as such.

For guidance, seek professional advice.



# Your roadmap to a successful retirement transition

Have you planned your timeline, lifestyle, and finances for when you stop working?

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Regardless of when you plan to retire, there are several key considerations that can help make the transition to life after work smoother and more manageable. Taking time to prepare in advance will reduce stress and ensure you are ready for this significant life change.

**A** well-thought-out retirement checklist is a valuable tool that helps you stay organised, track key details, and focus on the critical decisions you need to make.

To help you get started, here are some essential factors to consider as you approach retirement:

### Planning your retirement timeline

The first crucial question to ask yourself is: at what age do you plan to retire? While you might have a specific timeline in mind, it is equally important to consider whether you are prepared for an unexpected retirement date due to health changes or company changes. Having a flexible timeline ensures you are not caught off guard if your working life ends sooner than anticipated.

### Envisaging your post-retirement lifestyle

Once you have a timeline, consider your primary focus in retirement. You should rank your priorities across categories such as home, travel, leisure, family, business, and health. Understanding what matters most to you will determine how you spend your time and money.

You also need to decide whether you plan to stop working entirely. Many people now opt for a phased approach, perhaps stepping down to a part-time role or taking on consulting work. This transition can provide a sense of purpose while supplementing your income in the early years of your retirement.

### Evaluating your financial preparedness

A clear vision of your lifestyle naturally leads to the practicalities of finance. Have you determined exactly how much you will need to live the life you want? You must consider all your sources of income, including your employer pension, government benefits, registered plans, personal savings, and investments. Knowing where your money will come from is just as important as knowing how much you have.

Against this income, weigh your projected day-to-day expenses. Your budget should cover basic necessities, housing costs, taxes, and any outstanding debt. Do not forget to factor in discretionary spending for philanthropy, travel, and family support, which often make up a large share of a fulfilling retirement.

### Safeguarding your wealth and wellbeing

Preserving your hard-earned money requires careful planning. Have you considered whether you can withdraw your retirement income in a more tax-efficient way? Even a 5% reduction in your tax burden can make a significant difference to your long-term wealth. Alongside this, you must plan for the unexpected, ensuring you have a financial buffer for sudden health issues, urgent home repairs, or a vehicle replacement.

Your wellbeing is also paramount, so check whether you have reviewed your employer's retirement benefits or whether you need additional health insurance. Furthermore, your planning need not stop at retirement. Through effective estate planning, you can protect the assets you worked so hard to build and provide for your family in the future.

### Seeking professional guidance for a secure future

Navigating pensions, tax rules, and estate planning can be complex. Have you sought professional advice on your retirement planning? A financial expert can help you create a robust strategy tailored to your circumstances and ensure your retirement plan is securely in place. ◀

### Need to check whether your retirement plans are on track?

If you require further information or wish to discuss your retirement options, please contact us to begin securing the lifestyle you deserve and have worked hard for after you stop working.

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# Secure income and protect your wealth

Balance dividends and bonds for steady growth and stability

For many investors, securing a steady stream of income from their portfolios is a common goal, whether to supplement their salary or to fund a comfortable retirement. The challenge is finding the right balance between generating cash now and protecting the future purchasing power of their wealth.

**F**ortunately, the financial markets offer distinct avenues to achieve this balance. By focusing on quality assets that pay cash directly to investors, you can build a resilient portfolio. Two of the most effective tools for achieving this are dividend-paying shares and fixed-income bonds.

## Understanding how dividends actually work

Dividends are regular payments that certain companies make to their shareholders, usually drawn from their profits. These payments reward investor loyalty and often signal underlying financial strength. When a business consistently shares its success, it provides investors with a reliable income stream that requires no selling of the underlying shares.

However, not all dividends are created equal. The most attractive opportunities come from companies with a track record of reliable profits and consistent dividend growth. A strong business will have more than enough earnings to comfortably cover its payments, ensuring you receive a steady, long-term income even during challenging economic conditions.

## Protecting your wealth against rising inflation

One of the biggest threats to any income strategy is the rising cost of living. Dividends can play a vital role in helping investors beat inflation. Because successful companies tend to grow their profits over time, they often increase their dividends accordingly.

Historically, these growing payouts have risen faster than inflation, helping to protect the real value of your money. If a company

increases its dividend by 5% in a year when inflation is 3%, your purchasing power improves. This dynamic makes dividend-paying shares a powerful engine for maintaining your lifestyle over the decades.

## Securing predictable income with bonds

While shares offer growth, bonds provide stability. When you buy a bond, you are essentially lending money to a government or a corporation. In return, the bond pays regular interest, giving investors a steady, predictable income, with the amounts known well in advance.

This predictability is invaluable for planning your finances. Because the interest payments are fixed, bonds provide a reliable anchor for your portfolio. This stability is especially important when stock dividends fluctuate or when the broader equity markets experience periods of volatility.

## Timing your investments in the bond market

Knowing when to allocate your money to different types of bonds depends heavily on the current economic cycle. Government and high-quality corporate bonds tend to perform exceptionally well when economic growth slows, as investors flock to the safety of guaranteed returns.

Conversely, the strategy shifts during periods of economic expansion. Higher-yielding corporate bonds may be a better choice when interest rates rise and businesses are thriving. These bonds offer higher yields to compensate for slightly higher risk, making them attractive when corporate default rates are low.

## Building a reliable income portfolio

Combining the inflation-beating potential of dividends with the dependable stability of bonds offers a powerful investment strategy. By focusing on reliable dividend-paying companies and carefully selected bonds, we help clients achieve a steady income stream while balancing growth and inflation protection.

Our approach ensures that investments are not only secure but also positioned to generate consistent returns. With expert guidance, we build a portfolio that blends the best of both worlds, combining growth opportunities through dividends with the stability of bonds, providing a solid foundation for financial success. ◀

## Looking for expert guidance to help you achieve your financial goals?

If you require further guidance on structuring your investments or would like to explore which assets best suit your personal financial goals, please contact us.

This article does not constitute financial advice and should not be relied upon as such.

For guidance, seek professional advice. The value of your investments (and any income from them) can go down as well as up. Investments can fall as well as rise in value, and you may receive back less than you invest.

***Combining the inflation-beating potential of dividends with the dependable stability of bonds offers a powerful investment strategy. By focusing on reliable dividend-paying companies and carefully selected bonds, we help clients achieve a steady income stream while balancing growth and inflation protection.***



# Your health could be the key to a larger pension

Maximise your pension by sharing your health story



**T**his confusion often centres on everyday health issues. For example, over 40% of people in this age group are unsure whether conditions such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes or smoking habits affect their annuity income. Surprisingly, only 17% believe smoking could increase their income, and even fewer associate high blood pressure (13%) or type 2 diabetes (12%) with higher payouts.

## Closing the gap on enhanced annuities

Contrary to common assumptions, poor health or lifestyle choices can work in your favour when it comes to annuities. These financial products provide guaranteed lifetime income, and providers use your medical history to calculate payouts. If a health condition or lifestyle factor reduces your life expectancy, you may receive a higher annual income as compensation.

Being fully transparent about your medical

history is the most effective way to maximise your retirement income. Omitting seemingly minor health details could cost you significantly over time. Although 57% of UK adults report being honest with professionals about their health, only 48% of annuities purchased in 2024/25 were enhanced, highlighting a gap between eligibility and uptake.

## Seeking the right support and guidance

Reluctance to discuss health in a financial context often prevents people from securing the most competitive rates. Many feel uncomfortable sharing sensitive medical data by phone with advisers. To address this, some providers now offer online health declarations, which provide a private and straightforward way to ensure all details are accurately recorded.

Enhanced annuities are tailored to your circumstances, ensuring your retirement income aligns with your health and lifestyle. Total transparency ensures you receive the best financial arrangement for your situation.

Many UK adults approaching retirement may be missing out on thousands of pounds due to misunderstandings about how their health affects their pension options. Research shows that two in five adults over 50 are unaware that common medical conditions could significantly increase their retirement income<sup>[1]</sup>. Despite the potential for higher guaranteed income through enhanced annuities, 40% of those over 50 do not understand how health disclosures affect their final rate.

## Take control of your retirement income

Understanding how your health affects your pension options is crucial. By being open about your medical history and seeking professional advice, you could secure a higher guaranteed income and make the most of your retirement. Don't let misunderstandings or discomfort hold you back; explore enhanced annuities to ensure your financial future meets your individual needs. ◀

## Want to discover whether you could increase the income you receive for the rest of your life?

If you are approaching retirement and want to understand how your medical history could affect your guaranteed income, speak to us. We'll explore your options and help you secure the maximum retirement income you deserve.

### Source data:

[1] Research conducted by Opinium with a nationally representative sample of 2,000 UK adults aged 50 and over, carried out between 27 August and 1 September 2025.

This article does not constitute tax, legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as such. For guidance, seek professional advice. A pension is a long-term investment not normally accessible until age 55 (57 from April 2028, unless the plan has a protected pension age).

# Navigating your finances through a divorce

Taking the right initial steps lays the foundation for a fair settlement

**E**very situation is unique, and taking the right initial steps lays the foundation for a fair settlement. The legal and financial decisions involved can be highly complex. Your immediate priority should be to obtain tailored professional advice to ensure you fully understand your current position and your future options.

## Taking control of your assets and budget

If you find yourself in this unfortunate situation, we will help you compile a comprehensive list of joint and individual assets, ensuring you have up-to-date valuations. You'll need to account for properties, pension pots, investment portfolios, and any business interests. Documenting your joint and individual income and outgoings is equally vital, as it ensures your legal adviser works with accurate data and saves you valuable time and money.

Once you have a clear picture of your current wealth, you must budget for the life you want to lead after divorce. Your circumstances will likely change, so preparing in advance gives you a realistic view of what you can afford. Obtaining a copy of your credit report is a sensible early step, especially if you plan to apply for a new mortgage or need to untangle joint lending liabilities.

## Making decisions about property and pensions

Dividing the family home offers several viable options. You might choose to sell the property

so both parties can use the proceeds to buy new homes. Alternatively, one partner could buy out the other's share, or you might agree to keep the home until your children finish their education. While keeping the family home offers emotional stability, you must carefully assess whether you can comfortably manage the mortgage repayments on a single income.

Splitting pensions often has the most long-lasting impact on your financial security. Pension sharing is frequently the preferred method, as it splits the assets immediately and allows a clean break. Each person can then manage their share independently. Another option is pension offsetting, where one party retains their pension fund while the other receives an asset of equal value, such as the family home.

## Managing savings, investments and tax

Beyond property and pensions, your divorce settlement will also cover your broader savings and investments. Dividing cash accounts is usually straightforward, typically involving a simple transfer of funds. However, Individual Savings Accounts require that funds be withdrawn before they can be transferred to an ex-spouse. Dividing investment portfolios can trigger tax implications and additional charges, underscoring the need for expert professional financial and tax advice.

You must also account for capital gains tax liabilities when transferring assets.

Money matters might not be your primary focus when a marriage ends. However, given the significant impact a separation can have on your financial wellbeing, it is crucial to safeguard your future security early on. Understanding your assets, from property and pensions to savings and investments, makes the entire process much less daunting.

Separating couples can transfer assets between them without incurring a capital gains tax charge, provided the transfer is completed within three years of the tax year in which they separate. This extension offers flexibility, but if you sell an asset later, you might still face a tax bill on the profits.

## Securing your financial future today

Once your divorce is finalised, you should regularly review your financial plan. Your new lifestyle will require a fresh approach to saving, spending, and investing. Adapting your strategy ensures your arrangements remain suitable for your changing needs and long-term objectives.

Rebuilding your life after a separation can feel overwhelming, but the right support makes the journey much smoother. We can help ease the burden by helping you budget, setting up new investment accounts, and building a plan tailored to you. ◀

### Need to talk about financial planning advice on divorce?

If you require further information or need help securing your financial future, please contact us to discuss your next steps.

This article does not constitute financial or legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. For guidance, seek professional advice.



# Plan today, protect tomorrow

Secure your legacy so your loved ones can thrive for generations to come

Wealth succession planning should be at the heart of your financial strategy. Discussing money matters with loved ones can feel awkward, but attitudes are shifting as more people recognise the value of open communication. Leaving your legacy to chance can cause unnecessary stress and confusion for those you leave behind.

***Calculating the exact amount to pass on requires a careful review of your financial position. Giving away too much too soon could compromise your lifestyle or future care needs. It is vital to maintain sufficient capital to comfortably support your retirement plans over the long term.***

**A**dopting the right approach means answering key questions about your assets. Building a solid plan ensures your wishes are respected and protects your loved ones from avoidable financial burdens. Exploring the core elements of wealth transfer enables you to make informed, confident choices.

### **Why discuss your wealth transfer matters**

Sitting down with your family to discuss the transfer of wealth provides much-needed clarity. Open conversations eliminate guesswork and help prevent conflicts during an already difficult time. When everyone understands your intentions, it brings you and your beneficiaries peace of mind.

Clear communication also plays a vital role in reducing the overall tax burden. Without a solid plan, Inheritance Tax, depending on the value of your estate and how it is structured, could take up to 40% of your taxable estate. By structuring your finances properly, you ensure your family retains a larger share of your hard-earned money.

### **Choosing the right time to pass on assets**

Deciding when to transfer your wealth depends largely on your personal goals and financial comfort. Gifting assets during your lifetime offers the distinct joy of seeing your loved ones benefit from your generosity. This proactive approach can also be highly tax-efficient under current UK regulations.

Alternatively, you may prefer to transfer wealth through a well-structured, regularly updated Will. A Will ensures your estate is distributed exactly as you wish and in

accordance with legal requirements. Many individuals find that a blended approach, combining lifetime gifts with a solid Will, strikes the right balance.

### **Determining how much wealth to give away**

Calculating the exact amount to pass on requires a careful review of your financial position. Giving away too much too soon could compromise your lifestyle or future care needs. It is vital to maintain sufficient capital to comfortably support your retirement plans over the long term.

Cashflow stress testing is an excellent tool to help you gift with confidence. By mapping out various financial scenarios, you can determine exactly what proportion of your estate you can afford to release. Finding this sweet spot means you can support your family without jeopardising your independence.

### **Selecting beneficiaries and effective transfer methods**

Deciding who receives your wealth is a deeply personal decision. You might choose to support immediate family, set up trusts for your grandchildren, or leave a lasting impact through charitable donations. Taking a tailored approach ensures your assets provide long-term protection for the causes and people you care about most.

Transferring your wealth requires equally careful thought. You can use direct lifetime gifts, formal trusts, or specific provisions in your Will. Evaluating the timing, affordability, and the potential benefits of trusts will help you choose the most effective strategy for your circumstances.

Take the next step to secure your legacy. Building a solid succession plan takes time, but the rewards are immense. Securing your family's future means taking control of your financial legacy today. With expert guidance, you can simplify estate planning, ensure smooth asset transfer, and reduce tax burdens. Clear instructions give your loved ones certainty and help prevent disputes.

A strong succession plan does more than distribute wealth; it safeguards your business, protects vulnerable family members, and preserves your values. With professional financial guidance, you can identify gaps in your strategy and stay up to date with legal changes, ensuring your life's work remains protected. ◀

### **Want to ensure your wealth remains in the right hands?**

If you want to ensure your wealth is preserved and passed on efficiently, our advice will make all the difference. Please contact us to discuss your family succession planning options and to begin securing your family's financial future.

This article does not constitute tax, legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as such. Tax planning is not regulated by the financial conduct authority, depends on the individual circumstances of each client, and may be subject to change in the future. For guidance, seek professional advice.

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