



protect yourself

Feature article: Manage your tax

Be savvy about tax – a little bit of nous goes a long way.

Protecting yourself is also to do with making the most of what you have. That means being savvy about tax.

Tax tends to make people nervous. But taxation management's not just for city whiz kids. This isn't about sharp practice – it's simply common sense.

There are four key areas where a little bit of tax nous will go a long way: savings, pensions, home and inheritance.

Protect your savings

So you've started saving. But are you paying tax on your interest? If you've got a standard savings bank account, you probably are provided you have opted for tax document at source.

If you're a higher rate tax payer, it works the same way. The provider will only claim back 22 per cent for you (not 40 per cent, the higher tax rate), so you'll have to claim any higher rate tax relief you're entitled to in your tax return.

These tax reliefs are subject to certain limits.

Benefit from bricks and mortar

Owning your own home is one of the key investments you will make. And it's tax-efficient too. If your house increases in value, you don't have to pay capital gains tax on your windfall.

True or False



Tax considerations should always drive financial investments

False

That's right

Investments should stand up on their own, not because of any tax advantages.

And finally...

Tax allowances aren't some test that you have to pass, they're for your benefit. It's up to you to make the most of them. After all, that's what they're there for.

Tax rules may change in the future.