

Case Study: Taxation on Dividends

How can business owners mitigate increasing dividend taxation?

Mr Wilson is a business owner who pays himself a salary up to the higher rate tax band. He takes dividend income of £50,000.



Capital invested is at risk. Investments in unquoted companies, by their nature, have limited liquidity and are higher risk. Tax treatment is subject to change and depends on individual circumstances. Individuals should seek advice from a regulated financial advisor on whether the product mentioned in this case study is suitable for them. Tax year 2026/27.

How business owners can mitigate increasing dividend taxation

If Mr Wilson invests **£50k** into a VCT, he will receive **£10k** income tax relief, which reduces the **£17,696** liability created from taking the dividend.

Current Situation

Tax Year 2024-25	
Dividend income	£50,000
Gross up tax credit	-
Dividend allowance	£500
Higher rate tax: 35.75% in 2026-27	£17,696
Less tax credit	-
Total tax to pay	£17,696
Effective tax rate	35.4%

Dividend income UK residents will pay tax at following rates:

10.75%
Basic Rate Taxpayers

35.75%
Higher Rate Taxpayers

39.35%
Additional Rate Taxpayers

Mr Wilson's net returns are:

£32,304
(Not invested
into a VCT)

VS

£42,304
(Investing into
a VCT)

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For further information, please contact your Business Development Manager or the Sales Team

Foresight Group LLP
The Shard
32 London Bridge Street
London SE1 9SG
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0)20 3667 8199
e: sales@foresightgroup.eu
w: foresight.group

Important Information

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The opportunities described in this document are NOT suitable for all investors. Key risks are explained in the Information Memoranda/Investor Guides and should be carefully considered before submitting an application to invest.

Foresight cannot provide legal, tax, financial or investment advice. Foresight has taken all reasonable care to ensure that all the facts stated in this document are true and accurate in all material respects. Assumptions, estimates and opinions contained in this document constitute our judgment as of the date of the document and are subject to change without notice. Any forward-looking statements or projections are based on a number of assumptions as to market conditions and there can be no guarantee that any projected results will be achieved.

Tax reliefs are dependent on the VCT maintaining its qualifying status and on investors' individual circumstances. If a VCT loses its qualifying status, tax advantages will be withdrawn from that point. VCTs usually trade at a discount to their net asset value. It may be difficult to exit VCTs and they should be considered as long-term investments.

Investments will be made in small unquoted companies, which carry a higher risk than many other forms of investment. The VCT investments are likely to be illiquid and difficult to realise. The value of shares and income from them may go down as well as up, and past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance and may not be repeated. Your capital is at risk and you may lose all the money you invest.

If you are in any doubt about the content of this document and/or what action you should take, you should seek advice from an independent financial adviser authorised under FSMA who specialises in advising on opportunities of this type.