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.

Example of how business owners can mitigate increasing dividend taxation

If Mr Wilson invests £50k into a VCT, he will receive £15k income tax relief, which reduces the £16,706 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: 33.75% in 2024-25	£16,706
Less tax credit	-
Total tax to pay	£16,706
Effective tax rate	33.4%

Dividend income UK residents will pay tax at following rates:

8.75%

33.75%

39.35%

Basic Rate Taxpayers

Higher Rate Taxpayers

Additional Rate Taxpayers

Mr Wilson's net returns are:

£33,294

VS

£48,294

(Not invested into a VCT)

(Investing into a VCT)

Capital invested is at risk. Tax treatment is subject to change and depends on individual circumstances. Tax year 2024/25.

Foresight

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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.

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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 If a VCT loses its qualifying status, tax advantages will be withdrawn from that point.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.