



Law Society
of Scotland

Written evidence

Tax Reliefs

September 2022



Introduction

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for over 12,000 Scottish solicitors.

We are a regulator that sets and enforces standards for the solicitor profession which helps people in need and supports business in Scotland, the UK and overseas. We support solicitors and drive change to ensure Scotland has a strong, successful and diverse legal profession. We represent our members and wider society when speaking out on human rights and the rule of law. We also seek to influence changes to legislation and the operation of our justice system as part of our work towards a fairer and more just society.

Our Tax Law Sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to respond to the House of Commons' Treasury Committee's Call for Evidence on *Tax Reliefs*¹.

We do not seek to provide a full response to the Call for Views due to resource constraints, but we have the following general comments for consideration.

General comments

We consider that having a partially devolved tax system, for example where rates are devolved but reliefs are not, can create complexities in the tax system and has an impact on the availability and use of tax reliefs.

The totality of available tax reliefs means that the relief framework is complex and many taxpayers are unlikely to be aware of the full suite of possible reliefs. Many reliefs themselves are incomprehensible for taxpayers due to their complexity. For example, Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is very technical in nature and so, despite being aimed at helping start-up businesses, it generally requires expert advice. We consider that the framework of tax reliefs would benefit from simplification and consolidation so as to make the tax system easier to operate for taxpayers.

For further information, please contact:

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¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6876/>