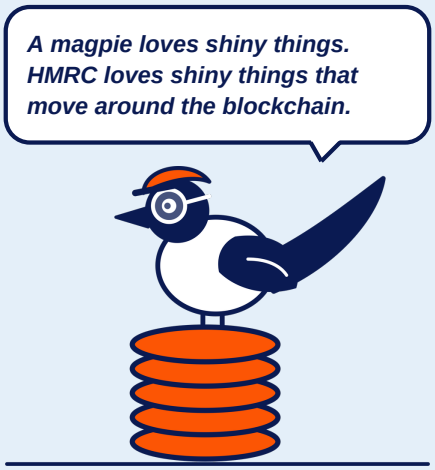
Cranleys
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



CRANLEYS' CLEVER CHECKLISTS · No. 25 · COMPLIANCE AND INTERNATIONAL

Cryptoassets Tax Checklist 2026/27

Tick it, print it, pin it up. Every box you cannot tick is a conversation worth having.



By Colin Davison FCA, Managing Partner, Cranleys Chartered Accountants. In practice since 1998. Reviewed 15 November 2026 against the 2026/27 rules.

THE QUICK ANSWER

Selling, swapping, spending or gifting crypto can be a disposal for capital gains tax. Moving crypto between your own wallets is not. Staking, mining and some airdrops can be income. Platforms now report user data to HMRC under new international rules from 2026, so records matter.

THE KEY FIGURES

2026/27 figure	Amount
Annual exempt amount	£3,000
CGT rates	18% and 24%
Matching rules	same day, 30 day, then pooled cost
Loss claims	within four years
Platform reporting	from 1 January 2026

The checklist, box by box

	The check	What to do	Keep as evidence
☐	**Are all disposals tracked?**	Swaps, spending, gifts and sales are disposals. Keep exchange files and wallet histories.	Exchange CSVs, wallet records
☐	**Is pooling applied with the same day and 30 day rules?**	Cost is pooled per token, with specific rules for same day and 30 day purchases.	Pool calculation
☐	**Are staking, mining and airdrops classified?**	Rewards for services are income. Some airdrops and rewards are gains.	Reward records
☐	**Is DeFi activity reviewed?**	Lending and liquidity pools may involve disposals. Keep pool and transaction records.	DeFi statements
☐	**Are losses claimed within four years?**	Report losses. A token that is worthless can support a negligible value claim.	Loss schedule, evidence
☐	**Are NFTs classified?**	Trading and investing differ. Creator royalties are income.	NFT records

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MY PRO TIP

swapping coins is a taxable event, even if no cash arrives.

A worked example

An investor buys 1 bitcoin for £20,000 and swaps it for ether when it is worth £30,000. No cash arrives, but there is a disposal and a £10,000 gain. After the £3,000 annual exempt amount, £7,000 is taxed at 24% for a higher rate taxpayer, which is £1,680.

The trap to avoid

Assuming crypto is tax free until you cash out. HMRC treats swaps and spending as disposals, and exchanges now report your data.

Test your accountant

One question that tells you if you have the right adviser:

How have you treated my swaps, staking and any DeFi activity, and where is the calculation?

What has changed recently

- UK crypto platforms collect and report user information to HMRC from 1 January 2026.
- Rates of CGT are 18% and 24%. See the capital gains tax checklist.
- Staking and mining income can be taxable. Review the return. See the HMRC compliance checklist.

Questions I get asked

Do I pay tax when I swap crypto for another crypto?

Yes, a swap is a disposal for capital gains tax.

Is moving crypto between my own wallets taxable?

No, as long as you own both wallets and nothing is disposed of.

Is staking income taxable?

Often yes. Rewards can be taxed as income, depending on the facts.

How do I report crypto losses?

Report them to HMRC within four years of the end of the tax year. Unreported losses are lost.

The 9 CAD Keys link: Analysis & Positioning

Analysis & Positioning means knowing your cost, your gain and your holding position at every point, not just at the end of the year.

Colin's 9 CAD Keys. CORE: Clarity, Capability, Consistency. ADVANCED: Analysis & Positioning, Alignment, Acceleration. DYNAMIC: Differentiation, Dexterity, Development. Score each key 1 to 5 in the free Business Value Assessment Scorecard, total out of 45. *Freedom is built. One CAD Key at a time.*

Tick these next

Tax checklist 05
Capital Gains Tax Checklist 2026/27

Tax checklist 22
HMRC Compliance, Enquiries and Penalties Checklist 2026/27

Tax checklist 23
Residence, Domicile and FIG Regime Checklist 2026/27

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Go deeper: my books

For this topic, start with **Business Tax Secrets**, part of The Cranleys Business and Tax Secrets Series: Property Tax Secrets, Inheritance Tax Secrets, Business Tax Secrets, Starting Up Secrets, Business Growth Secrets and Business Exit Secrets. The books are launching soon. Join the launch list at cranleys.online/books and I will tell you the moment each one is released.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Ring me. Free draft plan, no hard sell.

I will build you a free draft tax plan or business plan on my 9 CAD Keys: a scorecard, a 12-month cashflow forecast, a 90-day action plan and a review with me. **1** Get in touch. **2** Short intro call. **3** Your free draft plan in plain English. You decide what happens next.

Keep your records like they are gold.

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Scan to read online, tick it on screen and take the Scorecard



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