Cranleys
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS




CRANLEYS' CLEVER CHECKLISTS · No. 07 · PERSONAL TAX

# ISA, Junior ISA and Lifetime ISA 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**

The ISA allowance is £20,000 for 2026/27, across any mix of cash, stocks and shares and other ISAs. The planned cut to the cash ISA limit has been scrapped. Lifetime ISAs add a 25% bonus but charge a penalty for non-qualifying withdrawals. Junior ISAs allow £9,000.

**THE KEY FIGURES**

| 2026/27 figure | Amount |
|---|---|
| **Adult ISA allowance** | £20,000 |
| **Cash ISA limit** | £20,000 (planned cut to £12,000 scrapped) |
| **Junior ISA** | £9,000 |
| **Lifetime ISA** | £4,000, counts inside the £20,000, 25% bonus |
| **Lifetime ISA home price cap** | £450,000 |

## The checklist, box by box

| | The check | What to do | Keep as evidence |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | **Is the £20,000 limit split and not exceeded?** | You can pay into several ISAs of the same type in a year. The total must not exceed £20,000. | ISA statements, subscription records |
| ☐ | **Are Lifetime ISA conditions met?** | First home up to £450,000 or from age 60. A non-qualifying withdrawal costs 25% of the amount taken, which can eat into your own money. | Account opening date, completion statement |
| ☐ | **Does the Junior ISA belong to the child?** | The child owns it and cannot withdraw until 18. A parent manages it. Child Trust Funds can be transferred. | Account details, transfer confirmation |
| ☐ | **Have you used Bed and ISA to shelter gains?** | Selling and rebuying inside an ISA is a disposal for CGT. Use the £3,000 exemption first. | Contract notes |
| ☐ | **Are flexible ISA rules understood?** | Only some providers let you replace a withdrawal in the same year. Otherwise it counts against your £20,000. | Provider terms |


Cranleys is a trading style of Cranleys Partnership LLP, registered in England OC358781. Winton House, Winton Square, Basingstoke RG21 8EN · 01256 830000 · www.cranleys.online



**MY PRO TIP**

***use the allowance before 5 April. It does not roll over.***

### A worked example

A Lifetime ISA receives £4,000 from you and a £1,000 bonus, so £5,000. Withdraw it for a non-qualifying reason and the 25% charge is £1,250 of the £5,000, so you receive £3,750. That is £250 less than you paid in. The bonus was never free.

### The trap to avoid

Exceeding £20,000 across two providers. HMRC data matching spots this and recovers the tax on the excess. Keep a running total yourself.

### Test your accountant

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

**How much ISA allowance did I use this year, and which type of ISA is right for each pot of money I have?**

## What has changed recently

- The announced cut of the cash ISA limit to £12,000 for under 65s has been scrapped. The full £20,000 stays.
- From 29 October 2026 the Lifetime ISA charge falls from 25% to 20% on withdrawals to buy a home above £450,000.
- Interest outside ISAs counts against allowances. See the savings and dividends checklist.

## Questions I get asked

### What is the ISA allowance for 2026/27?

£20,000 per person. You can put it all in one ISA or split it across cash, stocks and shares, and other types.

### Is the cash ISA limit being cut to £12,000?

No. That plan was scrapped. The cash ISA limit remains £20,000.

### What is the Lifetime ISA bonus?

The government adds 25% to what you pay in, up to £1,000 a year on £4,000. There is a charge if you withdraw for non-qualifying reasons.

### Can I open an ISA for my child?

Yes, a Junior ISA, up to £9,000 a year. The money belongs to the child and is locked until 18.

### The 9 CAD Keys link: Clarity

Clarity is knowing which pot of money does what job. An ISA is a tax wrapper, so the question is what you are wrapping and why.

**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 04**
Savings, Dividends and Investment Income Checklist 2026/27

**Tax checklist 05**
Capital Gains Tax Checklist 2026/27

**Tax checklist 06**
Pensions Checklist 2026/27: Allowances and Tax Relief


Cranleys is a trading style of Cranleys Partnership LLP, registered in England OC358781. Winton House, Winton Square, Basingstoke RG21 8EN · 01256 830000 · www.cranleys.online

## 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.

***Tuck your treasure in the ISA, not the open nest.***

**WhatsApp** 07999 900000 | **Office** 01256 830000
**Email** colin.davison@cranleys.co.uk
**Web** cranleys.online

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



General information on UK tax only, not advice for your specific circumstances. Tax rules change. Free draft plans are offered at my discretion and subject to availability; putting a plan into effect is chargeable. Cranleys is a trading style of Cranleys Partnership LLP, registered in England and Wales (OC358781). Registered office: Winton House, Winton Square, Basingstoke RG21 8EN. © Colin Davison FCA, Cranleys Chartered Accountants.

