



SEPTEMBER 2021

NIC and Dividend Tax increases from April 2022

A summary of the changes announced to
increase funding for the NHS and social care
budgets from April 2022

The National Insurance (NIC) and dividend tax increases announced on Tuesday 7th September will apply from April 2022. This Levy will also affect retired persons still working from April 2023.

NIC changes

- From April 2022, employees, employers and the self-employed will see increases in their Class 1 (employers and employees) and Class 4 (the self-employed and business partners) contributions of 1.25%.
- From April 2023, assuming that HMRC can adapt their system in time, this increase will be renamed the Health and Social Care Levy and will be shown as a separate deduction on payslips and self-assessment statements.
- From April 2023, the new Levy will also be payable by individuals who continue to work above the State Pension Age. Presently, pensioners who fall into this category pay no NIC deductions.
- Class 2 and Class 3 NIC deductions will not be affected by these changes.
- Small employers will not pay the 1.25% increase in their Class 1 employee and employer contributions for 2022-23 or the new Levy from April 2023, as both will be covered by the present employment allowance (£4,000 in 2021-22). It is estimated that 70 per cent of the money raised from businesses will come from the largest one per cent of businesses – those with at least 250 employees.

Dividend tax changes

Director/shareholders should note that a similar 1.25% hike in the rates of tax they pay on dividends will also apply from April 2022.


From April 2022, the dividend tax increases will apply as follows:

- Basic rate taxpayers will see an increase from the present 7.5% to 8.75%.
- Higher rate taxpayers will see an increase from 32.5% to 33.75%.
- Additional rate taxpayers will see an increase from 38.1% to 39.35%.

This change will apply UK-wide. It will be confirmed as part of the next Budget and legislated for in the next Finance Bill.

The present £2,000 tax-free dividend allowance will continue, and due to the £2,000 tax-free dividend allowance and the personal allowance, around 60 per cent of individuals with dividend income outside of ISAs are not expected to pay any dividend tax or be affected by this change in 2022-23.

The change will however affect director/shareholders who receive a high dividend & low salary approach in order to reduce their NIC costs. Maybe it will be worth considering accelerating dividends before the new rate bites on 6 April 2022. The attraction of selling a cash rich company, and paying only 20% capital gains tax, rather than taking dividends will also increase, although there is extensive anti-avoidance legislation which can apply to such a strategy.



Despite the NICs levy also applying to workers over the State Pension Age, the tax rises will fall most heavily on the young (whose income is generally derived from working) rather than pensioners (whose income is generally derived from pensions which are not subject to the NICs levy).

With the backdrop of the pandemic and its economic shocks, the Government has broken its manifesto pledge not to raise taxes with a view to (part) funding health and social care. In view of the Chancellor's admission this week that the only way to raise significant sums to reduce the national debt is through raising taxes, we probably will not have to wait long to find out about further tax rises – it has just been announced that the Autumn Budget will take place on 27 October, in just seven weeks' time!

Need more information?

Please call us on 01737 844 322 or email info@dbeckman.com if you need more information regarding these changes.