

ISA ROUNDUP

TISA'S ISA NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third edition of ISA Roundup. We hope you find it useful, please do give us your feedback and let us know if you have colleagues who would benefit from receiving a copy.

ISA Simplification

A long-held view of TISA and a clear message from our members is that the current ISA landscape is too complex and can result in customers avoiding ISAs, unable to identify which product or type they should use. To address this, we propose a radical overhaul of the ISA scheme to create a simple and understandable ISA landscape for customers where they can confidently select the right ISA for their general savings needs and the Lifetime ISA for focused, incentivised and restricted savings.

Our proposals have been produced reflecting the views of TISA, considering those of our members, following a series of discussions at the Cash & Investment Savings Policy Council and meetings with the wider TISA membership.

ISA Manager Information – Central Database

As covered in the previous ISA Roundup, TISA has been creating a central database of ISA manager information that is not currently available from one source as a useful tool for ISA managers. This has now been published on the TISA website under Technical/Statistics (http://www.tisa.uk.com/hmrc_statistics.html) and can be accessed only by participating ISA managers.

Currently the database represents 18% of authorised ISA managers with details for 98 ISA managers provided and will continue to be updated as more ISA managers take part. To provide information for your firm, please complete the survey via the below link to provide the relevant information <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/isainfo>

Innovative Finance (IF) ISA Manager Statistics

TISA, working in conjunction with AltFi, as part of its Peer to Peer (P2P) Forum, has initiated a monthly snapshot of the progress of the innovative finance (IF) ISA. This is completed by provision of data on a monthly basis through the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ifisastats> to provide:

1. Value of IF ISA assets under administration
2. Number of IF ISAs held (individual accounts)
3. Number of new IF ISAs opened

All IF ISA managers are invited to participate in this data collection and all involved will receive details of the statistics on a monthly basis. This will allow firms to see timely market data on a regular basis rather than waiting for the HMRC annual statistics to be compiled and published. Currently around 20% of all authorised IF ISA managers participate and we hope to continue to grow this number to provide meaningful statistics to the industry.

To maintain confidentiality and ensure no competition issues arise, results are provided in aggregate only with no individual firm data being shared outside of TISA.

Annual Returns of Information - Dummy NINOs

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has now issued the June version of the Annual Return of Information Guidance for ISA Managers. The dummy NINOs have been changed to QQ999999A for ISAs and QQ888888A for JISAs.

HMRC are planning to move away from the existing dummy NINO format (ISA XX999999X/JISA YY888888Y). Ideally if you do not hold the NINO they would prefer ISA managers to space fill the field.

HMRC are expecting ISA managers to adopt the

new approach when completing the 2018/19 annual return of information. The new dummy NINO format should be used for all records included in the return meaning there should be no mix of old and new NINO formats.

The electronic text file specification (now updated to 21 June 2018) can be found [here](#).

Lifetime ISAs – HMRC Approval

ISA managers who want to apply to HMRC for approval to offer Lifetime ISAs no longer need to notify HMRC's Lifetime ISA project team that they want to offer Lifetime ISAs to their investors.

Managers can use the online digital service to apply to HMRC for approval to offer Lifetime ISAs – a new page for managers who want to offer Lifetime ISAs has been published on GOV.uk at; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-become-an-approved-lifetime-isa-manager>

To use the service managers will need to enter their Government Gateway user ID and password. Managers must also [register for a developer account](#) to be able to use HMRC's Developer HUB.

The Lifetime ISA Technical specification documents can now be found on [HMRC's Developer HUB](#).

Currently, the Lifetime ISA approval service can only be used by approved ISA managers who have an HMRC ISA 'Z-reference number'. HMRC will continue to develop and improve the service so that it can be used in the future by Financial Institutions who are not ISA managers but want to only offer Lifetime ISAs to their investors.

HMRC's [guidance for ISA managers](#) who want to offer Lifetime ISAs to their investors will also be updated shortly and will include a link to the new Lifetime ISA approval page.

ISA Guidance Notes – Change in format

It was reported in the last ISA Roundup in March that HMRC has now changed the format of the ISA Guidance Notes on the GOV.UK website. Since the change was made, HMRC have made several amendments to the guidance and this is achieved by simply amending the date relating to the relevant section of guidance that is being amended/updated.

As a service to member firms, TISA is providing a consolidated PDF copy of the guidance on the member area of the TISA website after each change, in addition to issuing a technical bulletin to highlight and summarise the changes/amendments (see [previous bulletins 974, 975, 980 and 981](#)). Should member firms also wish to source a previous version of the guidance, TISA is also maintaining copies of all previous versions to provide at the request of members.

Upcoming ISA Training Dates

- 13 September – ISA APS – Edinburgh
- 20 September – ISA APS – London
- 27 September – Innovative Finance ISA Key Facts – London
- 2 October – Innovative Finance ISA Key Facts – Edinburgh
- 4 October – Flexible ISA – London
- 11 October – Junior ISA Key Facts – London
- 24 October – ISA Repairs/Voids – London
- 1 November – Junior ISA Key Facts – Edinburgh
- 8 November – ISA Transfers – London
- 15 November – Flexible ISA – Edinburgh
- 22 November – ISA Transfers - Edinburgh
- 29 November – ISA Qualifying Investments – London
- 6 December – ISA APS - London

Further details can be found on the TISA website [here](#).

If you have any queries or comments on the Roundup, please email enquiries@tisa.uk.com

Don't wish to receive these emails? Please email nicola.robbins@tisa.uk.com