Friends Provident International

Loan Trust

How does it work?

The Friends Provident International Loan Trust allows an individual to make a loan into a trust, rather than an outright gift. Learn more about the UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) benefits of the Loan Trust in the following document and by reading our separate Guide to Trusts.

How Does It Work?

Mr Smith (the lender) makes a loan to the trustees. ↔ The loan is interest free and repayable upon demand.

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The trust is setup as either a 'Bare' or 'Discretionary' version[1]

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The trustees use the loan to invest into a Friends Provident International policy.

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The trustees repay the loan to Mr Smith through 'ad-hoc' withdrawals. ↔ If UK resident, any loan repayments should be within the 5% tax deferred allowance[2]

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Loan repayments can continue until the loan has been fully repaid.

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Any capital growth is held in trust outside of Mr Smith's estate for IHT. ↔ Only the original loan value can be repaid.

The value of the loan that is not repaid remains inside the client's estate for IHT.

Issues for Consideration

- The Loan Trust is only available for use with new applications. It cannot be set up on an existing policy.
- The lender can request the loan to be repaid at any time.
- Only the outstanding loan amount can be repaid to the lender.
- There are no restrictions on the amount or frequency of repayments.
- Taking more than 5% of the cumulative tax deferred allowance as a withdrawal in a policy year could trigger a chargeable event if UK resident.
- Only the growth is outside of the settlor's estate for IHT planning.
- Any loan repayments that have not been spent will remain inside of the estate.

1 The loan is neither a chargeable lifetime transfer (CLT) nor a potentially exempt transfer (PET). Therefore, it remains inside the estate even after 7 years.

2 If the lender is a UK resident, any repayment of the loan outside of the 5% tax deferred cumulative allowance may be treated as a chargeable event.

Client Scenario

In this case study, Mr Smith would like to carry out UK Inheritance Tax (IHT) planning, but is not willing to give up access to his capital.

The problem

His total wealth of £650,000 exceeds the current nil-rate band (NRB) (£325,000 for 2019/2020).

He is concerned about any potential IHT charge that might befall his estate on death. If he were to die today, there would be a potential IHT liability of £130,000.

The IHT liability is calculated as follows:

- £650,000 less £325,000 (NRB allowance) = £325,000
- £325,000 x 40% (current IHT tax charge) = £130,000

Mr Smith would like a way to retain access to the capital to meet future expenditure needs. At the same time would like to ensure that his family don't pay more IHT than required.

The Friends Provident International Loan Trust solution

Mr Smith, (the lender), makes an interest free loan of £200,000 to the trustees. The trustees use the loan to invest the capital into a Friends Provident International policy. Mr Smith requests that the trustees make a repayment of £10,000[3] each year to supplement his income.

Any amount of the loan that has not been repaid remains inside Mr Smith's estate for IHT. However, any growth on the investment is immediately outside of his estate for IHT.

As illustrated in the chart below, by policy year 21 the whole loan of £200,000 has now been repaid.

Assuming the investment grows at approx. 6% per annum after fees, the growth (approx. £251,000) is outside of Mr Smith's estate for IHT.

Providing that Mr Smith has been spending any loan repayments that have been received the IHT liability should have been reduced.

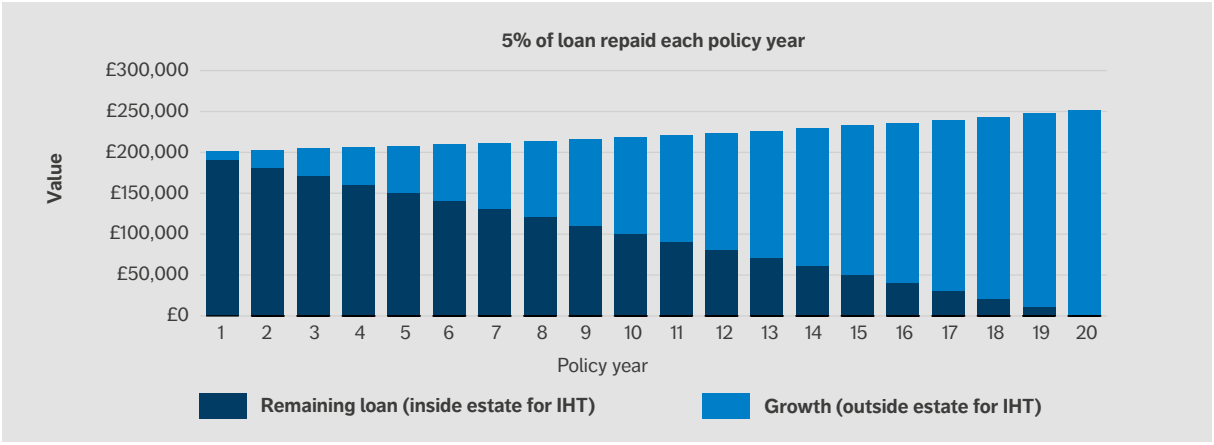
IHT calculation

The IHT liability is calculated as follows:

- £650,000 less £200,000 (value of loan now repaid and spent) = £450,000
- £450,000 less £325,000 (NRB allowance) = £125,000
- £125,000 x 40% (current IHT tax charge) = £50,000

By using the Loan Trust, it has reduced the potential IHT liability by £80,000 (£200,000 * 40%).

3 This represents 5% of the loan (£200,000). For a UK resident, the 5% tax deferred accumulative amount is the maximum that can be withdrawn each policy year without triggering a chargeable event.



Important notes

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