

Relevant Life Plan



Put Life cover on expenses

Our Relevant Life Plan is a cost-efficient way of offering life cover to you or your employees. It's tax efficient and, typically cases, premiums can be treated as an allowable business expense by HMRC. With Corporation tax relief available, no additional income tax or National Insurance to pay, it's good business for both you and your employees.



Added peace of mind tax free

Our Relevant Life Plan offers additional advantages, most notably tax efficiency. The life cover is tailored to you and your employees, yet counts as a business expense so it's tax deductible. It does not count towards annual or lifetime pensions, and if your business is not suited to a group life scheme, Relevant Life Plan is a cost-effective way to offer employee life cover.

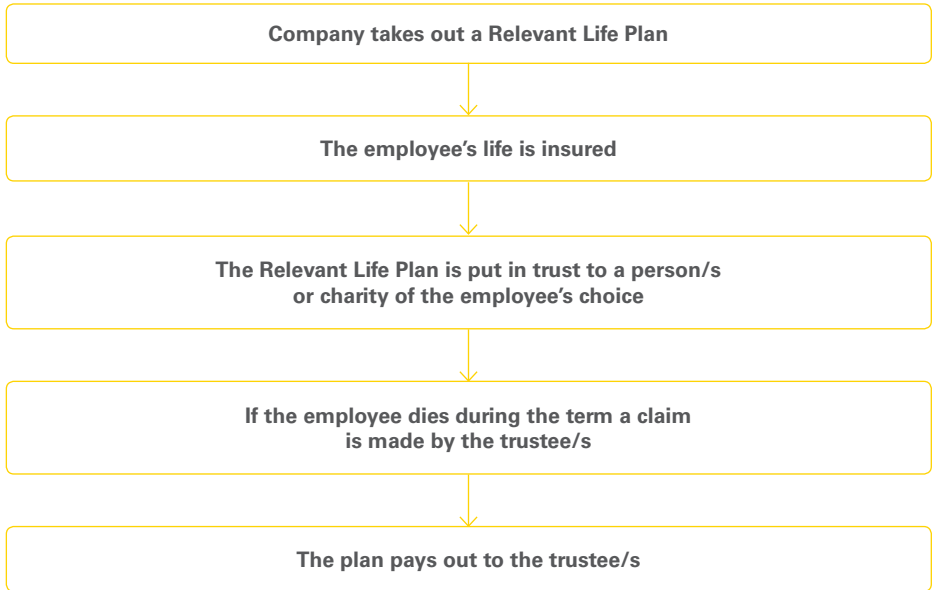
What is the relevant life plan?

- It's designed to provide life cover for an employee while working for you. This may include directors.
- Your business pays regular premiums based on the level of cover.
- During the term, if the employee covered dies or is diagnosed with a terminal illness (with a life expectancy of less than 12 months) whilst in employment during the term, the plan pays a fixed, one-off lump sum.
- The plan is designed to meet certain legislative requirements that mean your premiums, benefits and options should be treated tax efficiently.

Who can take out a relevant life plan?

The person covered must be an employee of a UK business, which can include salaried company directors. Relevant Life Plans are not currently available for sole traders, equity partners of a partnership or members of a Limited Liability Partnership. The rest of this guide assumes that the person covered is an employee of the business.

How it works



If you or an employee leaves the company

There are two options which must be exercised within 90 days of leaving:

- The new employer can apply to continue the policy, with Terminal Illness Cover
- The former employee can continue with the policy without Terminal Illness Cover

There is no need for further medical evidence or underwriting. Full details of the terms and conditions can be found in our Relevant Life Plan technical guide.

Amount of cover

The reason for the policy being taken out is to provide protection for the employees family. The lump sum amount paid would be based on the lost income of the employee. The maximum amount of cover available usually depends on the employee's age and their overall remuneration, including salary, bonuses and regular dividends.

Age 17 to 29	Up to 25x remuneration package
Age 30 to 39	Up to 25x remuneration package
Age 40 to 49	Up to 25x remuneration package
Age 50 to 59	Up to 20x remuneration package
Age 60 to 73	Up to 15x remuneration package

What makes this plan so good?

- Offers a cost-effective way to provide life insurance with terminal illness cover benefits to your employees.
- Effectively make a saving on life cover compared with paying for it personally.
- Premiums are normally classed as a business expense and so are likely to be an allowable deduction for Corporation Tax purposes.
- Keeping the plan in trust offers the potential to plan for Inheritance Tax if your estate is or is likely to be worth more than the current Inheritance Tax threshold.

Additional benefits

The plan automatically includes some additional benefits, at no extra cost:

- While the application is being underwritten, the employee will be covered with Accidental Death Benefit*. If the employee dies in an accident during this time, we'll pay out the amount of cover, up to a maximum of £300,000. The employee is covered for up to 90 days until we accept, postpone or decline the application.
- The employer can increase the level of cover without the need for further underwriting using the 'Changing your policy' option. As the employer, you'll pay the extra premiums for increasing cover and making changes. The option to make changes to your policy is available under certain circumstances if the employee:
 - Receives an increase in remuneration.
 - Increases their mortgage.
 - Gets married or enters into a registered civil partnership.
 - Becomes a parent - whether through birth or legal adoption.

*Terms and conditions apply to these benefits and more information is available in the Policy Summary and Policy Booklet.

Why Legal & General?

The Legal & General Group is one of the UK's leading financial services companies. For over 180 years, we've helped our customers safeguard their families' financial futures through providing life insurance.

- In 2019 we won the award for Moneyfacts Best Business Protection provider for the sixth year in a row, as voted for by financial advisers.
- We offer a Priority Protection service for high sum assured business, which includes immediate cover, a priority medical service and a faster application process.

What can you save?

The unique way in which Relevant Life Plans work mean you can effectively have the taxman help pay for your personal life cover.

Example saving

Andrew Millar is managing director of a furniture design business. He already has a life policy but as his wife is about to have their third child, he wants to increase his cover to help make sure his family would be financially secure if he died. His existing plan doesn't allow him to increase his cover, so he decides to take out further cover by starting a new life policy.

Comparing the two plans that his financial adviser recommends, he doesn't hesitate to choose the Relevant Life Plan. Opposite you can see the sums that made his decision easy.

The Relevant Life Plan is particularly beneficial for Andrew because he's employed as a salaried director and is also a shareholder of the business, so all the savings go to him. If he were to pay for his life cover personally it would cost £1,589.27 every year. By the company using a Relevant Life Plan to provide cover, it only costs £810 each year. That's £779.27 less, which is a saving of almost 50%.

The example assumes that Andrew's Relevant Life Plan gets full tax relief and qualifies as an allowable business expense.

	Non-relevant life plan policy	Relevant life plan
Annual Premium	£1,000	£1,000
Employee National Insurance Contribution (assuming 2%)	£34.48	None
Income Tax (assuming 40%)	£689.65	None
Dividend Tax	None	None
Gross earnings needed	£1,724.13	£1,000
Employer National Insurance Contribution (assuming 13.8%)	£237.93	None
Total gross cost	£1,962.06	£1,000
Less Corporation Tax (assuming 19%)	£372.79	£190
Tax-adjusted total cost	£1,589.27	£810

This example is fictitious and provided for illustration purposes only. Actual premiums will depend on individual circumstances. As with all insurance policies, terms and conditions apply. Your financial adviser will be able to discuss these with you.

Good news at a bad time

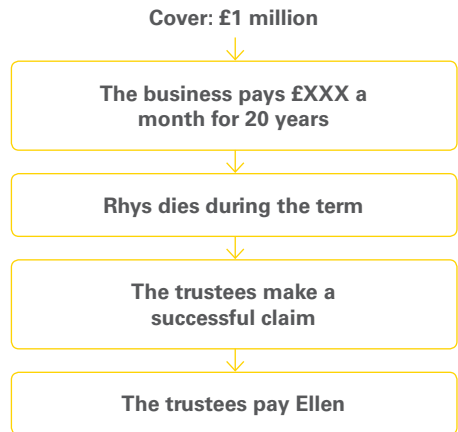
It's reassuring to know that, if the unthinkable ever happened to the employee, the decision to take out a Relevant Life Plan could help secure their family's financial future.

Example of a pay out

Rhys Hughes is employed as a managing director of an automotive manufacturing business. Rhys leads a healthy lifestyle and takes plenty of exercise, but he worries that someday he may not be around to support his wife, Ellen. The company takes out a Relevant Life Plan, setting his cover at £1 million. Rhys nominates Ellen as a beneficiary under the trust.

If the worst did happen and Rhys died during the term, the Relevant Life Plan trustees would receive £1 million. This could then be paid, tax free to Ellen, giving her enough money to hopefully live comfortably for years to come.

The chart below shows how it would work.



The importance of trusts

Writing a policy in trust is one way of helping make sure the benefits of the policy are paid out to those who you want it to go to and without unnecessary delays. Trusts can provide the following benefits:

- Beneficiaries may receive the money at the right time tax efficiently
- Probate is avoided
- Intestacy law avoided
- IHT liability may be avoided/reduced

In our online application process we have included the option to write your policy under trust without the need for signatures. Our simple Online Trust process takes care of all aspects of the trust and will speed up your application. Your adviser will be able to provide you full details.

In a small business

A Relevant Life Plan can be the ideal way to provide life cover benefits to your employees in a practical and cost effective way.

Example for a small business of less than five people

Tom Harris is owner-operator of a tree surgery business. Tom works full-time and employs two others – Amy, another experienced tree surgeon, and David, a trainee. It's a job that carries risks, even for qualified professionals, Tom would like to provide life assurance to cover himself and his employees.

Tom's company is too small to take out a group life scheme, but his financial adviser suggests he takes a look at our Relevant Life Plan, which could offer an affordable alternative. The chart below explains how the costs work, assuming the Relevant Life Plans get full tax relief and qualify as an allowable business expense.

	Sebastian	Amy	David
Premium	£100 a month	£70 a month	£30 a month
Employee National Insurance Contribution	None	None	None
Income Tax	None	None	None
Total company gross cost	£100 a month	£70 a month	£30 a month
Employer National Insurance Contribution	None	None	None
Less Corporation Tax (assuming 19%)	£19	£13.30	£5.70
Tax-adjusted cost	£81	£56.70	£24.30

This example is fictitious and provided for illustration purposes only.

Cover where it's due

Death In Service benefits from registered group schemes can mean the estates of people with large pension funds incur extra tax. That's not true of a Relevant Life Plan because, under the current rules, its premiums and benefits don't count towards the annual or lifetime pension allowances.

Example showing the effect of the lifetime allowance

Andrea Davidson is 45 and lead architect for a civil engineering practice. She earns £100,000 a year. Andrea's dream is to design and build her own home when she retires. After making considerable contributions to her pension, she's amassed a retirement fund of £500,000. Enough, with the sale of her current home, to build her own house and live comfortably in retirement.

As of this year, Andrea's employer has decided they would like to offer all key employees a Death In Service benefit of 10 x salary, with the aim of keeping the longest serving and most talented people at the company.

If her employer decided to use a group life plan, which is a registered pension scheme, Andrea and her family could actually lose out because any claim would put her pension funds over the lifetime allowance, with the excess taxed at 55%. Fortunately, the company director does his homework and, with the help of a financial adviser, opts instead for our Relevant Life Plan.

This means if Andrea dies before she retires and before the policy expires, her family could receive all the money they were due, leaving them potentially £258,500 better off.

	Death In Service	Relevant Life Plan
Size of Andrea's pension fund	£500,000	£500,000
Life Cover	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
Pension funds on death	£1,500,000	£500,000
Lifetime allowance tax year 2018-19	£1,030,000	£1,030,000
Excess above the lifetime allowance	£470,000	None
Tax payable on excess @ 55%	£258,500	None

This example is fictitious and provided for illustration purposes only.

Find out more

To find out more, please contact your financial adviser who can explain the benefits of a Relevant Life Plan in more detail. They will also be able to provide you with a copy of the Policy Summary and Policy Booklet.

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