



INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS LTD



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Newsletter Winter 2009

It is hard to believe that over 12 months has elapsed since the near collapse of the banking system. October 2008 was a truly terrifying time for us all and the fallout from the measures taken to save and hopefully repair the financial system will be felt for some time.

Despite the obvious headwinds, 2009 has been an excellent year for investors. From a low of just over 3400 in March, the FTSE has rallied to around 5300 at the time of writing. Investors have been rewarded this year for holding on to, or purchasing shares and fixed interest stock. Whilst we feel that the UK as an economy will take some time to recover, the markets do now look a less treacherous place.

TIME TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

As we approach the end of the year, we feel that there are a number of planning areas that our clients should be looking at in 2010. Here are some of the ideas you should be considering:

Maximise your ISA allowance

For the people aged 50 or over within the current tax year and all investors over 18 by April 2010, the ISA allowance will be £10,200. This means that a couple can place £20,400 per annum into tax-favoured investments. As we feel that increases to NI, Income tax and possible CGT are

on the horizon, it is an area that everyone would be wise to consider.

Make pension contributions

2009 has seen the first indication that high rate tax relief may gradually disappear on pension contributions. Currently, for a high rate tax-payer (earning under £150,000) the net cost of investing £1 into pension is just 60p. Even cash investors are therefore getting a 40% uplift on their investment without taking any risk.

Keep an eye on your cash deposits

Whilst we don't expect interest rates to be increased in the near future, there is a huge disparity between the best and worst deposit accounts. Even accounts run by the same institutions can offer vastly different rates of interest and we would urge all of our clients to check how much their cash is earning.

Take Retirement Planning Advice

If you are looking to retire in the near future it is essential that you take independent financial advice. There have never been so many options available for those taking retirement benefits from their pension funds. There is now a wide range of flexible, impaired life, guaranteed, temporary and lifetime annuities available on the market along with Unsecured and Alternatively secured

income. If you receive a retirement pack from your pension provider, please contact us before making your decision to ensure you make the right one. Don't forget we can look at the whole of the market for you and find the most advantageous rate for your particular circumstances.

Take advantage of your annual review

After the turbulence of 2008 and 2009, when you receive your annual review invitation – please take us up on it! It has never been more important to ensure that your investment and pension funds are invested in the correct areas. Leaving your funds to drift along could be very costly.

Client Satisfaction Survey

We all get tired of being bombarded by junk mail and we do not think most of our clients would thank us for sending them a lengthy questionnaire

in the post. Nonetheless, we would like to know if there are ways we could improve our service.

Included on our Freepost slip this time is a section you may complete if you have any comments on our service, good or bad. Your feedback will be very welcome, and of course will be treated confidentially.

Christmas Greetings

Finally, as we did last year, we have decided this year not to send out Christmas Cards but to make a donation to Bolton Hospice instead.

We hope that you will agree that this is a worthwhile cause and that every penny will be put to good use.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2010!

Please cut off the slip below and return to us at Leedham IFA Ltd, FREEPOST BL5244, Stafford House, 23 Chorley Old Road, BOLTON BL1 3YZ

CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY		
Do you feel that you enjoy a positive relationship with Leedhams?	YES	NO
<i>If YES, please note below what you most value If NO, please let us know below what we can do to improve</i>		
Comments:		
Name		
Address, telephone or email address:	Please contact me about:	
	ISAs	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pensions or Retirement	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cash deposits	<input type="checkbox"/>
	A free financial health check	<input type="checkbox"/>