

TAXATION OF FOREIGN DOMICILIARIES

FOURTH EDITION

by

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To my Jane

doch ohne die Liebe

Wäre die Welt nicht die Welt

(GOETHE)

INTRODUCTION

This book is concerned with the taxation of individuals resident but not domiciled in the UK. Some tax rules are unique to the foreign domiciliary. I deal with these in full. More often the problems apply to both UK and foreign domiciled individuals. I address these with an emphasis on the aspects likely to concern the foreign domiciliary. The difficult topic of transfers of assets abroad is covered in full detail. I hope much of the discussion will be also helpful to those advising UK domiciled individuals.

My book covers tax and tax planning. With care and foresight direct taxation in the United Kingdom may be largely avoided; or at least, a UK resident foreign domiciled individual need not pay much more tax than if he were not resident. The United Kingdom is tax friendly to the foreign domiciliary. It is sometimes called a tax haven (particularly in advertising material) but that is an exaggeration. A foreign domiciliary does not enjoy blanket tax exemption: there are convoluted paths to tax exemptions through the tangled jungle of UK tax legislation. To any problem there may be a choice of possible solutions with advantages and disadvantages. Tax avoidance in the strict sense is not covered, a foreign domiciliary should rarely have need of it.

It is only a year since the last edition, but at present we have a frenetic pace of tax reform whose slogan could be: “legislate first and think later”.¹ The most important developments are the following:

- (1) Parliament has passed the FAs 2005 and ITTOIA.
- (2) The Courts have decided *Sillars v IRC* (IHT on joint account); *Green v IRC* (IHT deduction for debt); *Chandrasekaran v Deloitte & Touche*

1 SDLT is the textbook example. The problem of “act in haste, repent at leisure” Bills is not limited to tax: see “Parliament and the Legislative Process” (House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution) 2004 accessible www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200304/ldselect/ldconst/173/17302.htm.

(negligence in foreign domiciliary CGT planning); *Wilson v Clayton* (meaning of ‘benefit’).

- (3) The Revenue have published a new IHT Manual and Tax Bulletin 76 (dual employment contracts).

As a result this book has put on more weight in the last 12 months than the author.

In tax planning matters the advisor’s duty is not merely (merely?) to understand the law. He/she must explain it, clearly, record it in writing,² and identify the risk factors. Bizarre decisions such as *Rysaffe* and *Grimm* (happily corrected on appeal) well illustrate the uncertainties of law – or (which comes to the same thing) the lottery element in litigation. Of course, that is true of life generally:

dass eine preiswürdigere Wahrhaftigkeit in jedem kleinen Fragezeichen liegen dürfte, welches ihr hinter eure Leibworte und Lieblingslehren (und gelegentlich hinter euch selbst) setzt, als in allen feierlichen Gebärden und Trümpfen vor Anklägern und Gerichtshöfen!³

I am very grateful to Peter Vaines my co-author on an earlier book on this topic, to Robert Venables QC and Stephen Brandon QC for discussions on many aspects of tax and to David Hole, Andrew Goldstone, Ray Magill and Desmond Parte for helpful comments. I owe a great debt to Jane Hunt who types and re-types with patience a manuscript as intractable as its subject matter.

Comments from readers would be of the greatest value and interest to the author. The pleasure in writing this book consists in the interest of the questions which it raises and the success which it may have achieved in

2 Is this so obvious that it is unnecessary to say? It is not: *Chandrasekaran v Deloitte & Touche Wealth Management* [2004] EWHC 1378 para 72.

3 “that a more praiseworthy veracity may lie in every little question-mark placed after your favourite words and favourite theories (and occasionally after yourselves) than in all your solemn gesticulations and smart answers before courts and accusers!”
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, chapter 25.

answering them.

This book seeks to state the law as at 1 August 2005.

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Trusts Discussion Forum

Readers are invited to join the Trusts Discussion Forum, an internet discussion group dedicated to discussion of trusts and related private client topics, initiated by the author in association with STEP and the Chancery Bar Association.

For further information on the forum and to subscribe visit www.trustsdiscussionforum.co.uk
There is no charge.



A Note to the Lay Reader

This book is not intended as a self-help guide, and is addressed to professional practitioners, but it is readable for a lay person. Initiation in these matters must often be by the taxpayer. If you wish to research this subject in depth, and so take more control of your own tax affairs, read on. But for implementation you will need to find competent professionals to advise you. Self-help guides extol “the benefit of bypassing expensive lawyers”; but the bypass may prove the more expensive route in the long run.

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

Statutes

CA	: Companies Act
FA	: Finance Act
ICTA	: Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988
IHTA	: Inheritance Tax Act 1984
ITEPA	: Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003
ITTOIA	: Income Tax (Trading and Other Income) Act 2005
TCGA	: Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992
TLATA	: Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996
TMA	: Taxes Management Act 1970

Periodicals

BTR	: British Tax Review
OITR	: Offshore & International Taxation Review
OTPR	: Offshore Tax Planning Review <i>Renamed Offshore Taxation Review in 1997 and renamed (again) as OITR in 1999</i>
PCB	: Private Client Business
PTPR	: Personal Tax Planning Review

HMRC Manuals and Publications

CG Manual	: Capital Gains Manual
EI Manual	: Employment Income Manual
IR20	: Residence and Domicile
TS&E	: Trusts Settlements and Estates Manual

Other

A&M	: Accumulation and Maintenance (Trust)
AUT	: Authorised Unit Trust
BPR	: Business Property Relief (for IHT)
CGT	: Capital Gains Tax
DRs	: Depository Receipts
DT	: Discretionary Trust
ESC	: Extra-Statutory Concession
GWR	: Gift with Reservation of Benefit
HMRC	: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
IHT	: Inheritance Tax

IOV	: Instrument of Variation
IP	: Interest in Possession (Trust)
IT	: Income Tax
OEIC	: Open-Ended Investment Company
OIG	: Offshore income gain
PET	: Potentially Exempt Transfer
POA	: Pre-owned assets
PRs	: Personal representatives
RFI	: Relevant foreign income
RI	: Revenue Interpretation
SDLT	: Stamp Duty Land Tax
SP	: Statement of Practice



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CHAPTER ONE

FOREIGN DOMICILE TAX REFORM AND PROTECTIVE ACTION

1.1 Policy issues in foreign domiciliary taxation¹

There are some strong policy arguments in favour of a lighter fiscal regime for foreign domiciliaries. One is the effect of tax competition:

- (1) Foreign domiciled individuals may have a choice where to set up their home. If their tax burden was as great as that of a UK domiciliary fewer would live in the UK, and the UK economy might be the loser. Wealthy entrepreneurs, wherever domiciled, find there is no shortage of low-tax jurisdictions or preferential tax regimes to which they can move. Switzerland, for instance, has a lump sum taxation regime for non-Swiss citizens specifically targeted for this purpose.
- (2) UK firms competing for expertise in the international labour market will find recruitment easier if the tax regime for foreign domiciled employees is lighter. Some potential employees could not afford to come at all if the UK tried to tax them as it does its own domiciliaries.

In other areas where the UK faces international tax competition, those framing the law accept the need for pragmatism:

Overseas investors are in theory liable to inheritance tax on their OEIC and AUT holdings, because they are regarded as being situated in the UK for tax purposes on the investors' death. Competing centres do not

¹ For discussion on policy issues, see Residence and Domicile: Response to Background Paper from STEP (16 June 2003); Reviewing the Residence and Domicile Rules (CIOT, 1 August, 2003); both accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

charge tax in parallel circumstances. This very rarely generates any significant yield, because UK assets still have to exceed the inheritance tax threshold ... before any tax is due. But it is a deterrent in marketing terms. Removing the potential inheritance tax charge will help UK managers compete on an equal footing with overseas fund providers.²

Another consideration is fairness. It seems fair that those whose links with the UK are less should be taxed less heavily on foreign source income. This is especially so bearing in mind that “residence” does not involve a very close connection to the UK – merely passing the 183 or 91 day tests. Further, a foreign domiciliary may not have had a fair opportunity to arrange his affairs with UK tax in mind; for instance creating settlements from which he was completely excluded. Another consideration is the impracticality (both for taxpayers and for HMRC) of untangling ownership of assets, especially in family ownership arrangements which are common in third world countries.

There are counter-arguments:

- (1) Loss of tax to HMRC.
- (2) Unfairness as compared with UK domiciled taxpayers.
- (3) Unfair tax competition as against other countries.

Argument 1 is crucial but what will be the overall effect of any reform is very hard to tell. Argument 2 is ultimately a political issue on which views may differ. Argument 3 assumes a level of international fiscal co-operation that does not yet exist, though it may come about in the future. Effective low tax is often achieved in other countries by formal or informal concession rather than by law, but the reality is that an individual domiciled in the UK who is prepared to move to find a favourable tax

2 Press Release 16 October 2002 (OEICs and AUTs) para 6. Another example: “The location of ownership, flagging (registration) and management activities is very ‘footloose’, since it can easily be transferred from one country to another. This makes it vital to have regard to the fiscal regimes in other countries if we want to maintain a successful shipping industry in the UK. The modern armoury in the battle for success invariably includes a virtually tax-exempt fiscal regime.” (Independent Enquiry into a Tonnage Tax, Lord Alexander, HM Treasury 1999.)

regime can find one. In short he is no worse off than the foreign domiciliary who moves from his original home country to the UK. The British system is largely³ based on the rule of law rather than informal practice and discretion.

1.2 History of reforms of foreign domiciliary taxation

For those who think the present system is too generous, there are two ways to proceed:

- (1) alter the definition of domicile for general purposes and so restrict the class who qualify for foreign domicile tax treatment;
- (2) (a) alter the definition of foreign domicile for tax purposes, or
(b) alter tax laws applying to a foreign domiciliary.
(One can of course achieve the same result by either technique.)

It is certainly a fair criticism of the current system that the adhesive quality of a domicile of origin, and the restrictive rules for the acquisition of a domicile of choice, allow some fortunate individuals to enjoy foreign domicile tax treatment, despite very close UK links and only tenuous, historical and fortuitous links to their domicile of origin.

The IHT code has always recognised this with its deemed domicile rule, but to a large extent neutralises its effect by a generous treatment of trusts.

This suggests that the way forward should be or include an alteration of the definition of domicile, at least for tax purposes.

The 1974 Finance Bill included a provision (clause 18) that an individual ordinarily resident in the UK for five out of the preceding six years of assessment should be regarded as domiciled here for IHT and CGT purposes. This was withdrawn from the Bill.

In 1987 the Law Commission published recommendations for mild reforms of the general law of domicile but despite initial acceptance by the Government, there was no change in the law. In 1996 the proposals were formally abandoned.⁴

3 But see 7.50 (Forward tax agreements).

4 Law Com. No. 168: *The Law of Domicile*; Hansard, 16 January 1996: "The Government have decided not to take forward these reforms on the basis that, although they are desirable in themselves, they do not contain sufficient practical

The 1988 Consultative Document (Residence in the UK) made radical proposals. The remittance basis would be abolished. Those not resident here for seven out of 14 years (and, perhaps, who are also not UK domiciled) would qualify for a new “intermediate basis” of taxation. This would require disclosure of worldwide income (applying our extraordinarily complex rules) in order to tax it at an effective rate of 2% or less. A proposal which seemed sensible on the drawing board, but scarcely workable in practice, it was not surprisingly abandoned.

In the first edition of this book (2001) I said:

It seems more likely than not that, apart from tinkering changes, the present regime will continue for the foreseeable future. But “the major distinguishing feature of the British tax system is its instability”.⁵ There is also the possibility of EU pressure for reform.⁶ If what has been a backwater acquires political prominence, perhaps due to no more than a campaign by a single newspaper, there will certainly be major changes.

1.3 The background paper on residence and domicile

After that a newspaper campaign emerged⁷ which pressed the Government into action, or at least into the appearance of action.

The Budgets of March and November 2002 promised, and the Budget of April 2003 has delivered, a “background paper” called “Reviewing the Residence and Domicile Rules as they affect Taxation”. Its omissions are more interesting than its content:⁸

(1) It recites the principles that taxation of foreign domiciliaries:

benefit to outweigh the risks of proceeding with them and to justify disturbing the present long established body of case law on this subject.”

This was the right decision for the right reason.

5 *Taxation and Democracy*, Sven Steinmo, Yale University Press, 1993, p.44.

6 See for instance the EU Code of Conduct for Business Taxation www.europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/harmful_tax_practices/index_en.htm.

7 *The Sunday Times*, 1 March 2002; *The Guardian*, 11 and 12 April 2002.

8 An outline of the present law (a rehash of IR20 but why reinvent the wheel?); one paragraph summaries of the law of 29 other countries (of insufficient detail to be of any use and generally said to be misleading).

See www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2003/residence_domicile.pdf.

- should be fair;
- should support the competitiveness of the UK economy; and
- should be clear and easy to operate.

The paper might have cited (though it did not) Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (1776); these observations are over two centuries old. The paper does not point out (though Adam Smith did) that these objectives are to a substantial extent irreconcilable.

- (2) It does not consider any proposals and their possible impact. In particular, it (consciously?) ignores every earlier reform proposal: the 1974 Finance Bill, the 1987 Law Commission Report, 1988 Consultation Paper, the 1936 Codification Committee, the Royal Commissions of 1920 and 1955, and the rest of them, might never have been.

It may be unfair to criticise the (unnamed) authors of this facile document. Their instructions may have been to be totally uncontroversial; by saying nothing, there is nothing in the document to which anyone of any political view could possibly object. Whatever future developments occur, they will not occur as the result of this background paper.

In the depths of the Budget Report 2005 is this paragraph:

The Government is continuing to review the residence and domicile rules as they affect the taxation of individuals, and will proceed on the basis of evidence and in keeping with its principles. It would welcome further contributions to the debate, which will then be taken forward by the publication of a consultation paper setting out possible approaches to reform.

This statement has now been made four times over the last two years.⁹ The first two times it was credible, though with the benefit of hindsight it is difficult to believe it was true. In any case, one must be credulous to

9 Para. 5.116 Budget Report 2005 (16 March 2005); para.5.101 Pre-Budget Report 2004 (2 December 2004); para.5.103 Budget Report 2004 (17 March 04); para.5.108 Pre-Budget Report 2003 (10 December 2003). In order to avoid patent absurdity the most recent version deleted the claim that the Government "is considering various aspects of this issue in the light of the response to the paper published at Budget 2003".

believe it now.¹⁰ The likely explanation is that the Government is inclined to do nothing, but is prevaricating to avoid announcing that decision, and/or to keep the freedom to make any reforms it chooses in the future. How many more times can this statement be repeated before even the Government is embarrassed to do so again? The answer probably depends on media action or inaction. (Another possibility is that the Government does propose to change the law but wished to postpone making a politically contentious announcement until after the 2005 election: if that is right some developments can be expected in the 2006 Budget.)

1.4 Protective steps in anticipation of law reform

It is impossible to guess what (if anything) will come out of the *soi disant* review of the taxation of foreign domiciliaries. It is also impossible to know what transitional rules there might be or when the new rules (whatever they are) will take effect.

The worst case scenario is no transitional relief and:

- (1) abolition¹¹ of the remittance basis for foreign income and capital gains accruing to UK resident foreign domiciled individuals, so these would be taxed on an arising basis;
- (2) abolition of the s.624 ITTOIA foreign domicile defence, so that a settlor would be taxed on income accruing to the trustees if he had an interest in the settlement;
- (3) abolition of the foreign domicile defence to s.86 TCGA, so that a settlor would be taxed on gains accruing to the trustees (or underlying companies) if he had an interest in a non-resident settlement;
- (4) abolition of the foreign domicile defence to s.87 TCGA, so that capital payments from a trust to UK resident beneficiaries would give rise to CGT to the extent that the trust has realised “trust gains”;

10 See *The Rise of Political Lying* Peter Osborne, 2005, The Free Press.

11 Alternatives are severe restriction; or abolition for those who have been UK resident for a substantial period of time (perhaps 17 years, in line with the IHT deemed domicile rule).

- (5) abolition of the foreign domicile defence to ss.739 and 740 ICTA. This would probably not affect trusts to which the tax motive defence in s.741 applies;
- (6) abolition of the foreign domicile defence to s.13 TCGA, so a UK resident foreign domiciled individual would be subject to tax on gains of non-resident close companies in which he is a participator.

The best case scenario is tightening the RFI remittance basis by:

- (1) abolition of the source ceasing rule;
- (2) abolition of the rule that a remittance *in specie* (as opposed to a remittance of money) is not taxed.

It seems that the end result is likely to be closer to the best case than the worst.

1.5 Planning in anticipation of reforms

The following planning may be considered for a UK resident foreign domiciled individual ("F").

Consider disposing of foreign situate assets on which a substantial chargeable gain would accrue. A disposal to a trust may be an appropriate way to trigger a disposal if a market sale is not desired. Likewise trustees of non-resident trusts of which F is a settlor and has an interest should consider disposals of assets in order to crystallise unrealised gains. Likewise if F or his trusts hold underlying companies, it may be desirable for these companies to dispose of assets giving rise to a chargeable gain.

Trustees of non-resident trusts should consider making capital payments to foreign domiciled UK resident beneficiaries equal to the outstanding trust gains of the trust.¹²

Consider arranging for foreign income to accrue to F, by:

- (1) procuring dividends from companies owned by F or his trust;

12 On balance it seems better not to make capital payments in excess of the trust gains.

- (2) making income payments to F from trusts of which he is a settlor;
- (3) paying F chargeable overseas earnings before the year end.

Terminate sources of RFI income in order to be able to remit in the following year. Remit RFI income where the source has ceased in an earlier year. Remit assets *in specie* purchased out of RFI income.

F may if he desires settle or re-settle assets transferred to him. He should take independent legal advice on this. Watch *Furniss v Dawson*.

All these steps would ideally take place before the next Budget. If there is insufficient time, it would be possible to arrange that a disposal takes place before the Budget by entering into an unconditional contract. The date of disposal is of course the date of the contract: section 28 TCGA. The contract would need to be drafted so that it was unconditional and did not fall within the scope of *Marren v Ingles* 54 TC 76.

CHAPTER TWO

DOMICILE

2.1 Why does domicile matter?

Domicile is fundamental for many tax purposes, of which the most important are:

- (1) Income tax on foreign source income; see 6.1 (RFI) and 8.1 (Employment income).
- (2) CGT on foreign situate assets; see 18.1 (CGT).
- (3) IHT on foreign situate assets; see 25.1 (IHT).

Domicile is also important for many non-tax purposes.

2.2 The concept of domicile

Domicile is a concept of private international law which has been adopted for tax purposes. The rules are laid down by common law, but modified by statute. These rules apply for tax except so far as modified by tax law.

The reader seeking a further discussion of the general law of domicile is advised to turn to Dicey and Morris, *Conflict of Laws*, 13th edition, 2000 (“Dicey”). This is the book that HMRC always cite. The discussion of domicile in IR20 is brief and sketchy so as to be not worth setting out here.

“Domicile” has a technical meaning in UK law and should not be confused with:

- (1) the French or German *Domicil*; or
- (2) the meaning of “domicile” in ordinary English usage, which is

broader.¹

Everyone has one and only one domicile.

For IHT domicile rules see 25.1 (Deemed domicile for IHT).

2.3 Domicile of origin

Dicey states:

Rule 9 – (1) Every person receives at birth a domicile of origin:

- (a) A legitimate child born during the lifetime of his father has his domicile of origin in the country in which his father was domiciled at the time of his birth;
- (b) A legitimate child not born during the lifetime of his father, or an illegitimate child, has his domicile of origin in the country in which his mother was domiciled at the time of his birth; ...

(2) A domicile of origin may be changed as a result of adoption, but not otherwise.

(*Conflict of Laws*, 13th ed., para. 6R-025).

2.4 Acquisition of domicile of choice

Dicey states:

Rule 10 – Every independent person can acquire a domicile of choice by the combination of residence and intention of permanent or indefinite residence, but not otherwise.

(*Conflict of Laws*, 13th ed., para. 6R-033).

“Permanent” residence is straightforward but the concept of “indefinite” residence needs comment. *Indefinitely* is understood to mean that the individual intends to reside in a country for the foreseeable future. To put it another way, he may not have the positive intention to reside there

1 e.g. in the lines from Walt Disney’s *Lady and the Tramp*:
“Now we lookin’ over our new domicile
If we like we stay for maybe quite a while”(!)

permanently, but he has no positive intention of leaving. “Unlimited” would be a better word but even this needs clarification. *IRC v Bullock* 51 TC 522 commented on the classic dictum that a domicile of choice is acquired when:

a man fixes voluntarily his sole or chief residence in a particular place with an intention of continuing to reside there for an *unlimited* time.

Buckley LJ said at p.540:

I accept that statement...with this qualification only that the expression “unlimited time” requires some further definition. A man might remove to another country because he had obtained employment there without knowing how long that employment would continue but without intending to reside there after he ceased to be employed. His prospective residence in a foreign country would be indefinite but would not be unlimited in the relevant sense.

2.5 Acquisition of a UK domicile of choice

The concern of the person with a foreign domicile of origin will usually be that he might acquire a domicile of choice in the UK. The key to the acquisition of a domicile of choice is the combination of two factors, physical and mental. The individual must:

- (1) reside in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland; and
- (2) form the intention to live there permanently or indefinitely, in the sense explained above.

The first condition is easily satisfied, but the second condition is very strict indeed. In *IRC v Bullock* 51 TC 522 the taxpayer resided in England for 40 years but he always hoped to return to his home of Nova Scotia (to which his wife objected) should he survive her or persuade her to change her mind. This contingency had sufficient substance to represent a real determination to return home rather than a vague hope or aspiration. Mr Bullock did not acquire a UK domicile of choice but retained his domicile of origin.

A similar conclusion was reached in *Buswell v IRC* 49 TC 334 where Mr Buswell, despite residing in the UK for periods totalling nearly 30 years, retained ties of sufficient substance with his country of origin to avoid acquiring a UK domicile of choice.

This may be contrasted with *Furse v IRC* [1980] STC 596 in which the taxpayer intended to live in the UK for the rest of his life save only for a contingency that he would return to America in the event that he were to become physically incapable of taking an active interest in his UK farm. This was said to be so vague that it presented no reasonable limit on his intentions and accordingly Mr Furse acquired a domicile of choice in England.

Tax may be relevant to the intention. For instance if a Swedish tax exile remains in the UK intending to return home if and when Sweden's tax regime is relaxed, he would not acquire a domicile of choice here. Likewise if an individual intended to remain in the UK only so long as UK tax law remains favourable to foreign domiciliaries, he would not acquire a domicile of choice here.

2.5.1 *Proof of intention*

In the event of a dispute the Court must determine what is or was the individual's intention. In order to do so the Court will have regard to every factor which might shed light on an individual's intention – except registration and voting as an overseas elector (which will be ignored in a tax appeal unless the taxpayer wishes otherwise).²

The Courts regard the acquisition of a foreign domicile as a serious step which is only to be imputed to a person upon clear evidence. If HMRC wish to show that an individual has acquired a UK domicile of choice the burden lies on them to prove it. However, “the importance of onus of proof is easily exaggerated. While the burden of proof always exists, few substantial cases turn upon it and in making his factual findings the judge is usually expressing his considered judgment as to what in truth

2 See s.200 FA 1996. This unprincipled provision was intended to encourage UK expatriates to vote without imperiling their claim to be non-UK domiciled: it did not help the Government in the 1997 election. (In practice if voting was not mentioned in evidence, a judge could safely make a quiet inference that the individual did do so.)

occurred.”³ If that is right, then the reform often proposed of amending the burden of proof in domicile cases will have little practical effect.

2.6 Retaining a foreign domicile of origin while UK resident

Suppose an individual with a foreign domicile of origin comes to the UK and wishes to retain his foreign domicile. His concern is not to acquire a UK domicile of choice.

The primary advice to be given to him is clear: he may live in the UK as long as he wishes from year to year but he should not form the intention to settle here permanently. Unless he does so, the essential condition for the acquisition of a new domicile will not be satisfied.

However, the individual should not be content with this mental step unless his stay here is a short one. He should also take such practical steps as are possible to broadcast the absence of any intention of residing here permanently and to manifest his intention to return elsewhere in due course. This is important because the Court will decide for itself the true intention of the individual and will be influenced by the way that the individual has conducted his affairs while in the UK.

The individual should if possible retain ties with his country of origin. There are many ways by which he might do so and he need not adopt them all. Possibilities for consideration include regular and extended visits home, local business interests, bank accounts and investments, membership of local social, political and religious organisations and the execution of a Will taking effect under local law. The Will should include a declaration that the individual intends to return home in due course or the circumstances in which that is to occur. The Will might also express a desire to be buried in that country if possible. Thought should be given to the drafting of this section of a Will in accordance with the individual's own circumstances; a simple declaration of domicile is inadequate.⁴

For the same reasons the individual's social and business commitments in the UK should be minimised. The purchase of a home in this country could indicate a degree of permanence which would not be the case with

3 Tom Bingham, “The Judge as Juror”, *Current Legal Problems* (Stevens 1985) p.2; reprinted in *The Business of Judging*, 2000, OUP, p.2; good holiday reading.

4 A UK Will may also be appropriate to deal with UK property. See James Kessler, *Drafting Trusts & Will Trusts*, Sweet & Maxwell, 7th edn, 19.16 (Best form of will for foreign domiciled testator).

rented accommodation – but purchasing a property may imply nothing more than an intention of medium-term residence. Involvement in domestic politics or the development of other long-term commitments to the community, such as changing his name (or its spelling) to accord with UK usage, are to be avoided.

The purchase of a burial plot does provide some indication of an intention to be buried in that territory at the time of purchase. If that is the territory of residence it might indicate an intention to remain in that country for the rest of his life. If the burial plot is in the country of origin it provides some evidence of an intention to return home in due course. However, this is not necessarily a matter which deserves much weight.

The assembling of evidence of an intention to return to the country of origin, whilst obviously helpful, is not strictly necessary and in some cases will be unnecessary, maybe even inappropriate. The retention of the foreign domicile of origin is not dependent on establishing a positive intention to return home; rather, it is determined negatively by the absence of an intention to stay in the UK. Accordingly an intention to move from the UK, whether to the country of origin or somewhere else, would be enough to enable the domicile of origin to be retained.

2.7 Acquisition of foreign domicile of choice by individual with UK domicile of origin

The rules of domicile outlined above are favourable to the foreign domiciliary since he may stay many years in this country without acquiring a UK domicile and becoming exposed to the concomitant tax burden. But the rules are correspondingly unfavourable to the individual who wishes to replace his UK domicile of origin by the acquisition of a foreign domicile of choice in another country. Such a person must not only reside in that other country; he must maintain and manifest his intention to remain resident there permanently.

An individual cannot shed his UK domicile of origin without acquiring a domicile of choice in another territory; it is not enough to demonstrate the clearest intention to leave the UK permanently, never to return. The domicile of origin is not lost by abandonment but by replacement. His departure from the UK must therefore be accompanied by permanent residence in the chosen territory. If any time is spent in the UK, the time spent in the UK should not be sufficient to cause the UK to be the chief residence.

The acquisition of a foreign domicile which is motivated purely by tax considerations is difficult because the intention to reside in the other territory permanently may become confused with the desire merely to reap the tax benefits. In such circumstances the intention to live in the territory may prove to be insufficiently firm to support the acquisition of a domicile there. The story of the late Sir Charles Clore may serve as an example. It is recorded that the last two years of his life were saddened by his move to Monaco (where he had taken up residence with the intention of losing his UK domicile of origin) and he often thought of returning to England which he called “home”. In such circumstances he was not surprisingly held to have remained domiciled in the UK: *Re Clore (No. 2)* [1984] STC 609.

On the other hand, if a UK domiciliary has plans of a business or personal nature which already take him abroad for a lengthy period, then the further step of acquiring a foreign domicile may become feasible.

2.8 Loss of domicile of choice

Dices states:

Rule 13 – (1) A person abandons a domicile of choice in a country by ceasing to reside there and by ceasing to intend to reside there permanently or indefinitely, and not otherwise.

(2) When a domicile of choice is abandoned, either

- (i) a new domicile of choice is acquired; or
- (ii) the domicile of origin survives.

(*Conflict of Laws*, 13th ed., paras. 6R-033 and 6R-074.)

2.9 Retaining a foreign domicile of choice

The concern of a person who has a UK domicile of origin but has acquired a foreign domicile of choice is that he may lose his domicile of choice. He must:

- (1) maintain his residence in the country of domicile of choice; or
- (2) maintain the intention to reside there permanently; or

- (3) acquire a new foreign domicile of choice.

2.10 Dual residence and domicile

The position is straightforward if a person resides (and intends to reside permanently) in only one country. What if the person resides (or intends to reside) in more than one country? Increased mobility makes this a greater problem than in the past.

2.10.1 *Acquisition of domicile of choice by dual resident*

In *Udny v Udny* LR 1 Sc & Div App 441, Lord Westbury said that a domicile of choice is acquired when:

a man fixes voluntarily his sole *or chief* residence in a particular place, with an intention of continuing to reside there for an unlimited time.

(Emphasis added)

Thus if a person resides in a number of countries, he nevertheless acquires a domicile of choice in country A if:

- (1) country A is his chief residence; and
- (2) he intends to reside in country A as his chief residence permanently.

This is, on reflection, the only sensible rule.

Plummer v IRC 60 TC 452 commented on this dictum. Hoffmann J said:

I infer from this sentence ... that a person who retains a residence in his domicile of origin can acquire a domicile of choice in a new country only if the residence established in that country is his chief residence. [Counsel for the taxpayer] submitted that a person whose presence in a new country is sufficient to amount to residence may, notwithstanding that his chief residence remains in his domicile of origin, acquire a domicile of choice by evincing an intention to continue to reside permanently in the new country. I think that this submission is inconsistent with the passage which I have quoted from Lord Westbury and which has always been treated as an authoritative statement of the circumstances in which a domicile of choice may be acquired.

This should not be controversial.

2.10.2 *Loss of domicile of choice*

The judge continued:

Rule 13(1) of Dicey and Morris, if read literally, appears to go too far. This says that:

“A person abandons a domicile of choice in a country by ceasing to reside there and by ceasing to intend to reside there permanently or indefinitely, and not otherwise.”

These words might suggest that a domicile of choice (and presumably a fortiori a domicile of origin) cannot be lost unless the person in question has ceased altogether to reside there. I do not think that the rule was framed with dual residence in mind. At any rate, it seems to me that *Udny v Udny* (1869) LR 1 Sc and Div App 441 shows that loss of a domicile of origin or choice is not inconsistent with retention of a place of residence in that country if the chief residence has been established elsewhere.

This passage is obiter and has caused confusion. One needs to consider domicile of origin and domicile of choice separately:

- (1) *Domicile of origin*. The only way to ‘lose’ a domicile of origin is to acquire a domicile of choice. This passage (so far as it concerns a domicile of origin) is restating the point correctly made at 2.10.1 (Acquisition of domicile of choice by dual resident).
- (2) *Domicile of choice*. There are two ways to ‘lose’ a domicile of choice:
 - (a) by acquiring a new domicile of choice;
 - (b) by abandonment without acquiring a new domicile of choice.

Hoffmann is considering acquisition of a new domicile of choice.⁵ The passage (so far as it relates to a domicile of choice replaced by a new

⁵ Hence the words at the end of the passage (“if the chief residence has been established elsewhere”).

domicile of choice) merely restates the point correctly made at 2.10.1 (Acquisition of domicile of choice by dual resident) above.

What is the test for abandonment of a domicile of choice (without acquiring a new domicile) in a dual residence context? Suppose:

- (1) T acquires a domicile of choice in country A.
- (2) T continues to reside in country A but
 - (a) he ceases to reside there as his chief residence;
 - (b) he ceases to intend to reside there as his chief residence.
- (3) T does not acquire a domicile of choice elsewhere.

It is respectfully submitted that Lord Hoffmann is correct to say that in these circumstances T abandons his domicile of choice. This is consistent with the test of acquisition of domicile: see 2.10.1 (Acquisition of domicile of choice by dual resident).

2.11 Refugees and illegal immigrants

A refugee may be forced to sever most of his links with his country of origin. But while that may show he had no intention to return to his country of origin, that would not, by itself, show that he had acquired an intention to reside in the UK permanently. A person in the UK illegally may become domiciled here, though the illegality is a factor in deciding whether he has a genuine intention of remaining in the UK: *Mark v Mark* [2005] UKHL 42.

2.12 Acquisition of UK citizenship

An individual who wishes to become a British citizen must usually sign a declaration that he intends to reside in the UK. Naturalisation does not however carry with it the inevitable consequence of a change of domicile: see *Wahl v IRC* (1932) 147 LT 382. Naturalisation is merely one factor to be taken into account, but it is a powerful one: compare *Steiner v IRC* 49 TC 13.

HMRC in practice accept that a naturalised citizen may retain a foreign

domicile.⁶ However, the foreign domiciliary who applies for UK citizenship would be well advised to consider his domicile position, and it may be appropriate to take other steps to manifest his ultimate intention to return home in due course.

2.13 Married women

Until 1 January 1974, a married woman had the domicile of her husband (a “domicile of dependancy”). However, s.1(1) Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973 now provides:

Subject to subsection (2) below, the domicile of a married woman as at any time after the coming into force of this section shall, instead of being the same as her husband’s by virtue only of marriage, be ascertained by reference to the same factors as in the case of any other individual capable of having an independent domicile.

Although a wife does not automatically acquire the domicile of her husband, the decision to marry and set up a home in the UK may be taken as evidence of an intention to reside in the UK permanently, but of course that depends on all the facts.

The position regarding women who married before 1 January 1974 is more complex. Section 1(2) of the Act provides:

Where immediately before this section came into force a woman was married and then had her husband’s domicile by dependence, she is to be treated as retaining that domicile (as a domicile of choice, if it is not also her domicile of origin) unless and until it is changed by acquisition or revival of another domicile either on or after the coming into force of this section.

On the effect of this see *IRC v The Duchess of Portland* 54 TC 648. In Ireland the domicile of dependancy rule was held unconstitutional⁷ and it is an interesting question whether the English transitional provision is consistent with the Human Rights Act. In practice the issue may never

6 FWIW, *Fayed v Advocate General* [2002] STC 910, para. 23 records the HMRC view in 1985 that UK citizenship would have no effect on Mr Fayed’s domicile.

7 *JW v JW* (1992) Irish Tax Reports, Vol 4, p.437.

arise.

2.14 HMRC ruling on domicile and ordinary residence

2.14.1 *Statutory rulings and appeals procedures*

Sections 42 and 43 ITEPA provide a ruling procedure for employment income:

42 Commissioners to determine dispute as to domicile or ordinary residence

(1) This section applies if, in connection with any of the provisions listed in subsection (3), there is a dispute as to whether a person is or has been ordinarily resident or domiciled in the UK.

(2) The question whether the person is or has been so resident or domiciled is to be referred to and decided by the Commissioners for HMRC.

(3) The provisions referred to in subsection (1) are —

[List not printed here; it appears to include every relevant provision in ITEPA: ss.15, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 341, 342, 355, 376, 390]

43 Appeal against Commissioners' decision on domicile or ordinary residence

(1) A person who has been given notice of the decision of the Commissioners for HMRC on a question under section 42 may, if aggrieved by that decision, appeal to the Special Commissioners.

(2) The notice of appeal must be given to the Commissioners within 3 months after the date on which the person is given notice of the Commissioners' decision.

Section 9(2) TCGA applies the same procedure for CGT purposes. A formal ruling for IHT will be made by a notice of determination, see s.221 IHTA; or for other IT purposes by means of an assessment.

It is difficult to see the need for this special procedure. The sections could be repealed so that ordinary assessment and appeals principles would apply consistently; but they do no particular harm.

For disputes relating to 2002–03 or before, see the 3rd edition of this book para. 2.13.2.

2.14.2 *Obtaining a HMRC ruling on domicile*

HMRC practice is not to comment on an individual's domicile unless it is immediately relevant to the determination of a current tax liability; see Employment Income Manual paragraph 42806 and Inspector's Manual 1635. In practice, where domicile is relevant, HMRC usually give informal rulings; their view is obviously important as it will form the basis of their approach to an individual's tax affairs.

To obtain HMRC opinion on a question of domicile some positive steps should therefore be taken, for example:

- (1) A UK resident individual might invest so as to receive significant foreign source income and retain the income outside the UK.
- (2) A UK resident individual might realise a chargeable gain on a foreign asset and retain the gain outside the UK. The gain of course must exceed the available annual exemption.
- (3) A resident or non-resident individual might transfer foreign property of an amount in excess of the inheritance tax nil rate band plus available exemptions to a discretionary settlement.⁸

In cases (1) and (2) the individual will tick the relevant box on his Self Assessment tax return claiming to be domiciled outside the UK and that his foreign domicile is relevant to his tax position. Unremitted foreign income or gains would be taxable on the arising basis if he were to be UK domiciled but not if he were domiciled abroad. A formal consideration of the domicile of the individual will then be necessary by HMRC.

In case (3) the individual strictly has no tax return to submit but the transfer to the discretionary settlement would be a chargeable transfer on

8 Other possibilities which HMRC contemplate are:

- (1) A claim for UK tax relief in respect of contributions to a non-UK pension scheme or retirement benefit plan which are incurred out of remuneration received from an employer who is not resident in the UK.
- (2) A claim in respect of costs in travelling between the country in which the individual normally lives and the UK which have been borne or reimbursed by the employer.
- (3) Unremitted overseas chargeable earnings.

which inheritance tax would arise if he were domiciled in the UK. If he were domiciled outside the UK the transfer would be of excluded property and no tax would arise. HMRC would therefore need to consider the individual's domicile to determine whether any tax arises on this transfer.

If the amount involved only gives rise to a nominal tax liability, HMRC may concede domicile in that year without prejudice to subsequent years. I suggest the amounts involved should be calculated to give rise to (say) £20,000 tax liability.

2.14.3 *Are HMRC bound by their ruling?*

It is an interesting question how far HMRC would be bound by any informal ruling they may give on domicile. In principle they would not be precluded from taking a different view at a later date even if the individual's circumstances had remained entirely unchanged. However, it would be most unusual (and possibly the subject of a successful application for judicial review) if they were to resile from their earlier ruling, unless it could be suggested that the individual had not disclosed all relevant information or there had been some change in circumstances.

2.14.4 *HMRC practice*

HMRC practice is as set out in Tax Bulletin 29 (June 1997) as follows:

Domicile

Initial non-domicile claims may be made on form DOM1, form P86⁹ or in the SA [Self Assessment] tax return. We will continue to deal with initial non-domicile claims which are made before we have received the return for the year in which the claim is made. And we will let claimants know how their claim to be non-domiciled in the UK has been treated. But we may ask questions to check the validity of the claim as part of a formal Taxes Management Act 1970, s9A enquiry into the SA tax return.

Advice, Guidance and Enquiries

...

With domicile it is likely that ticks in boxes 9.5 and 9.28 on the "NON-RESIDENCE ETC" pages of a return will prompt a review of an individual's domicile which may lead to the issue of a Taxes Management Act 1970, s9A enquiry. And we may issue a form DOM1 as part of a Taxes Management Act

9 Entitled "Arrival in the UK".

1970, s9A enquiry into the return. But where, for example, an individual:

- has a domicile of origin outside the UK; and
- has come to the UK only for the purpose of employment; and
- intends to resume residence abroad when the employment ceases; and
- has given such information on a form P86

we are unlikely to issue an enquiry into the domicile position.

A tick in box 9.29 of the “NON-RESIDENCE ETC” pages is also likely to prompt a review of an individual’s domicile and the issue of a Taxes Management Act 1970, s9A enquiry. At that stage we will review the individual’s domicile from the date of any change in circumstances. In line with current practice, but depending on the circumstances of any particular case, we may only change the basis of assessment from 6 April following the date of change in domicile. Where it is difficult to pinpoint a precise date of change in domicile (and again depending on the circumstances of any particular case), the changes to the basis of assessment may take effect from the 6 April following the date our enquiries are concluded.

If an individual completes and files the supplementary “NON-RESIDENCE ETC” pages fully disclosing all the relevant information with his or her tax return then, after the statutory period for enquiring into the return has expired, the Revenue would not be able to challenge the individual’s residence status or domicile for the purposes of calculating the tax liabilities shown on that return. That is, unless we subsequently receive or find information enabling us to make a discovery on the grounds of inadequate disclosure or fraudulent or negligent conduct on the part of the individual.

2.15 Inheritance tax deemed domicile

For the IHT deemed domicile rules, see 25.2 (Three classes of domicile for IHT).

2.16 Domicile of company

The domicile of a company is its place of incorporation.¹⁰ Domicile of a company is only rarely important for tax purposes.

10 *Gasque v IRC* 23 TC 209; Dicey & Morris *Conflict of Laws*, 13th ed, para 30-002.

CHAPTER THREE

RESIDENCE OF INDIVIDUALS

3.1 Why does residence matter?

Residence is fundamental for many tax purposes of which the most important are:

- (1) The charge to income tax on foreign income which applies to residents; see 6.1 (Investment income) and 8.1 (Employment income).
- (2) The exemption for certain UK source income of non-residents: s.128 FA 1995.
- (3) Capital gains tax; see 18.1 (CGT).

Given the centrality of the concept, it is surprising that there is nothing like a definition of “residence” in the legislation. Several statutory provisions impinge on the subject and residence has been discussed in a number of decisions by the Courts. Much more important in practice is HMRC booklet IR20 supplemented in minor respects by other HMRC statements.

3.2 Temporary purpose and 183 day rules: s.336 ICTA

Section 336(1) ICTA provides:

A person shall not be charged to income tax under a charge to which subsection (1A) applies¹ as a person residing in the UK, in respect of

¹ Subsection (1A) applies to the charge on relevant foreign income and certain classes of pension income charged under ITEPA (formerly within Schedule D).

profits or gains received in respect of possessions or securities out of the UK,² if—

- (a) he is in the UK for some temporary purpose only and not with any view or intent of establishing his residence there, and
- (b) he has not actually resided in the UK at one time or several times for a period equal in the whole to six months in any year of assessment,

but if any such person resides in the UK for such a period he shall be so chargeable for that year.

There are two rules here. In short:

- (1) A person who is present in the UK for six months is resident. “Six months” means half a year, i.e. 183 days.³ I call this “the 183 day rule” and it is a clear and practical rule.
- (2) A person who is in the UK for a “temporary purpose” is not resident. I call this “the temporary purpose rule”. This is vague because of the word “temporary”. IR20 provides a (relatively) precise and workable set of rules for those coming to the UK. I do not think those rules could be said to be based on the temporary purpose rule.

Section 336(2) contains equivalent rules for employment income:

For the purposes of determining taxable earnings from an employment under Chapters 4 and 5 of Part 2 of ITEPA (employment income: charge to tax), a person who is in the UK for some temporary purpose only and not with the intention of establishing his residence there shall not be treated as resident in the UK if he has not in the aggregate spent at least six months in the UK in the year of assessment, but shall be treated as resident there if he has.

2 There is an echo of the old Schedule D Case IV and V in the wording of s.336(1). This was deliberate, because the income to which s.336(1) applies, described in s.336(1A), is wider than “relevant foreign income” (the replacement term for Cases IV and V).

3 *Wilkie v IRC* 32 TC 495. This is so even if the tax year includes 29th February (a leap year) for then the tax year is 366 days so 183 days comprises half the year. Inspector’s Manual para.50 shows that HMRC apply the 183 day rule whether or not the year is a leap year.

This makes exactly the same points, but the wording has been modernised.

These provisions raise a number of puzzling questions if one takes them seriously. First, they only apply for certain tax purposes, and the question of residence may arise for other income tax purposes.⁴ It is suggested that these provisions should be regarded as laying down rules which apply to the concept of residence for income tax generally. This is the HMRC view. Inspector's Manual paragraph 43 provides:

In practice, however, ICTA, s 336 is applied to other Schedules and cases as its language has an 'illustrative value' (see Rowlatt, J, in *Lysaght v CIR* 13 TC 511 at 515) on all questions of residence.

Secondly, the provisions are not in fact a definition of residence. The drafter provides that one class of person is not charged (or treated) as resident; and another is so charged or treated. But this is (almost) universally ignored so the provision are regarded as part of a definition of residence (if they are regarded at all).

3.2.1 *CGT residence rule*

Section 9 TCGA provides that for the purposes of the TCGA:

“resident” and “ordinarily resident” have the same meanings as in the Income Tax Acts.

The drafter was understandably unsure whether this would incorporate the 183 day and temporary purpose rules, so s.9(3) TCGA provides CGT rules to the same effect:

... an individual who is in the UK for some temporary purpose only and not with any view or intent to establish his residence in the UK shall be charged to capital gains tax on chargeable gains accruing in any year of assessment if and only if the period (or the sum of the periods) for which he is resident in the UK in that year of assessment exceeds 6 months.

4 In particular it may arise for UK source income: s.128 FA 1995.

3.3 Occasional residence abroad rule

Section 334 ICTA provides:

Every Commonwealth citizen or citizen of the Republic of Ireland—
(a) shall, if his ordinary residence has been in the UK, be assessed and charged to income tax notwithstanding that at the time the assessment or charge is made he may have left the UK, if he has so left the UK for the purpose only of occasional residence abroad, and
(b) shall be charged as a person actually residing in the UK upon the whole amount of his profits or gains, whether they arise from property in the UK or elsewhere, or from any allowance, annuity or stipend, or from any trade, profession, employment or vocation in the UK or elsewhere.

I call this the “occasional residence abroad rule”. It is as vague as the temporary purpose rule because “occasional residence” is so vague. IR20 provides a (relatively) precise and workable set of rules for those who leave the UK, but this should not be said to be based on the occasional residence abroad rule.

This adds nothing substantial to the other residence rules.⁵ Thus it is of no practical importance that the section applies to Commonwealth citizens⁶ and Irish citizens, and not to others. That is just as well as the discrimination would no doubt be unlawful. There is probably no other area of tax where so many statutory words are used to so little effect! Perhaps the tax law rewrite will tidy up this mess.

3.4 Accommodation in the UK

It is best to approach the statutory provisions historically. It was formerly the official HMRC view that anyone who had accommodation available in the UK was resident if he came to the UK however short his visit may be (sometimes called “the available accommodation rule”). John Avery Jones states tactfully that “it is difficult to see how the available

5 This provision is discussed in *Reed v Clark* 58 TC 528 (see 3.13 (“Year out” route to non-residence)) which concluded that it had “little scope in practice” for any operation.

6 Defined s.37 British Nationality Act 1981. The term includes British citizens.

accommodation rule ever arose”;⁷ more bluntly, the rule did not exist.⁷ The rule was abolished by statute, in stages. From 1956, relief was given to those who worked full-time abroad. Section 335(1) ICTA provides:

Residence of persons working abroad

Where—

- (a) a person works full-time in one or more of the following, that is to say, a trade, profession, vocation, office or employment; and
- (b) no part of the trade, profession or vocation is carried on in the UK and all the duties of the office or employment are performed outside the UK;

the question whether he is resident in the UK shall be decided without regard to any place of abode maintained in the UK for his use.

From 1993, s.336(3) ICTA extended this to everyone. It did so by an opaque drafting technique:

The question whether—

- (a) a person falls within subsection (1)(a) above, or
 - (b) for the purposes of subsection (2) above a person is in the UK for some temporary purpose only and not with the intention of establishing his residence there,
- shall be decided without regard to any living accommodation available in the UK for his use.

If one takes the statutory language seriously, one has no regard to available accommodation for the temporary purpose rule. But one *does* have regard to it for other purposes.⁸ The relevant purpose here must be the occasional residence abroad rule.

Perhaps the drafter took the view that:

- (1) The occasional residence abroad rule applies only to those leaving the UK. (There is some basis for this in that it only applies to those who have been ordinarily resident in the UK.)
- (2) The temporary residence rule applies only to those who come to the UK from outside (although this is nowhere expressly stated).

⁷ [1983] BTR 286. The rule was inconsistent with the case law: see 3.6 (Case law).

⁸ Except for full-time workers within s.336(1) ICTA.

If so, perhaps the drafter wanted available accommodation to be regarded in case (1) but not in case (2). But I can see no satisfactory way to make sense of this statutory shambles by ordinary principles of construction, and nobody tries to do so. In practice the significance of available accommodation can be found in IR20

For those who leave the UK, IR20 para. 2.8 provides:

If you claim that you are no longer resident and ordinarily resident, we may ask you to give some evidence that you have left the UK permanently, or to live outside the UK for three years or more. This evidence might be, for example, that you have taken steps to acquire accommodation abroad to live in as a permanent home, *and if you continue to have property in the UK for your use, the reason is consistent with your stated aim of living abroad permanently or for three years or more.*

(Emphasis added)

This can be reconciled with s.336(3) because the statutory disregard applies for the temporary purpose rule and not the occasional residence abroad rule. However, the original “available accommodation” rule has been quietly abandoned: it is no longer suggested that one day’s presence and accommodation is sufficient to amount to UK residence.⁹

For those who come to the UK, IR20, para. 3.7 provides that a longer term visitor who comes to and ‘remains’ in the UK is treated as resident in the year of arrival if:

you own or lease accommodation in the UK.¹⁰

This can (just) be reconciled with s.336(3) because the statutory disregard applies to accommodation *available* for use whereas IR20 is concerned

9 This was in fact HMRC’s intention when enacting s.336(3). Press Release [1993] STI 468 para. 5:

Similarly, where an individual leaves the UK, the retention of a home here will continue to be a factor in consider whether he or she has left the UK permanently.

See too John Avery Jones [1993] BTR 286 and Philip Baker OTPR Vol 3 p.143.

10 See 3.19 (Longer term visitors).

with *ownership*.¹¹

3.5 Dual residence or ordinary residence

Inspector's Manual paragraph 36 correctly states:

An individual may be resident and ordinarily resident in more than one country at the same time. An individual cannot therefore substantiate a claim to be not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK merely by proving residence and ordinary residence abroad.

3.6 The case law

A person who does not meet the six month test may still be resident here, but in what circumstances? The case law is quite considerable but does not help very much. The leading cases are *Levene v IRC* and *Lysaght v IRC* 13 TC 486 and 511. They reflect conditions of life in the 1920s. Viscount Cave said in 13 TC at 505:

My Lords, the word "reside" is a familiar English word and is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as meaning "to dwell permanently or for a considerable time, to have one's settled or usual abode, to live in or at a particular place". No doubt this definition must for present purposes be taken subject to any modification which may result from the terms of the Income Tax Act and Schedules; but, subject to that observation, it may be accepted as an accurate indication of the meaning of the word "reside".

In most cases there is no difficulty in determining where a man has his settled or usual abode, and if that is ascertained he is not the less resident there because from time to time he leaves it for the purpose of business or pleasure.

...

But a man may reside in more than one place. Just as a man may have two homes – one in London and the other in the country – so he may have a home abroad and a home in the UK, and in that case he is held to reside in both places and to be chargeable with tax in this country. Thus, in *Cooper v Cadwalader* (5 TC 101) an American resident in New York who had taken a

11 This was in fact HMRC's intention when enacting s.336(3). Press Release [1993] STI 468 para. 5:

There will be no change in the practice of treating as resident and ordinarily resident an individual who comes to and remains in the UK where he or she owns or acquires on a lease of 3 years or more accommodation in this country.

See too John Avery Jones [1993] BTR 286 and Philip Baker OTPR Vol 3 p.143.

house in Scotland which was at any time available for his occupation, was held to be resident there, although in fact he had only occupied the house for two months during the year; and to the same effect is the case of *Loewenstein v de Salis* (10 TC 424).

The above cases are comparatively simple, but more difficult questions arise when the person sought to be charged has no home or establishment in any country but lives his life in hotels or at the houses of his friends. If such a man spends the whole of the year in hotels in the UK, then he is held to reside in this country; for it is not necessary for that purpose that he should continue to live in one place in this country but only that he should reside in the UK.

But probably the most difficult case is that of a wanderer who, having no home in any country, spends a part only of his time in hotels in the UK and the remaining and greater part of his time in hotels abroad. In such cases the question is one of fact and degree, and must be determined on all the circumstances of the case (*Reid v The Commissioners*, 10 TC 673). If for instance such a man is a foreigner who has never resided in this country, there may be great difficulty in holding that he is resident here. But if he is a British subject the Commissioners are entitled to take into account all the facts of the case.

The case law is bluntly but accurately summarised by Malcolm Gunn:

Residence is a question of fact. There are very few rules. Cases are decided as and when they arise, and without much reference to any other previous decision. The decisions might well conflict with each other but that's just tough luck and there is nothing anybody can do about it.¹²

In this hopeless uncertainty, HMRC practice set out in IR20 rides (more or less) to the rescue.

3.7 IR20 categorisation in outline

Leaving aside the 183 day rule, IR20 divides residence into various categories. The primary distinction is between:

- (1) those leaving the UK; and
- (2) those coming to the UK.

12 *Taxation*, 3 December 1992, Vol 130, p.234.

These are subdivided as follows:

(1) *Leaving the UK* is divided into three understandable categories:

- (a) the full-time work abroad practice;
- (b) the three-years-abroad practice;
- (c) a third category not mentioned in IR20 which I call the “year out” category.

(2) *Coming to the UK* is divided in a more confusing way:

- (a) the three years in the UK practice;
- (b) visitors to the UK, i.e. those not within (a), a category divided into:
 - (i) short-term visitors:
 - [A] undecided short term visitors;
 - [B] fixed intention short term visitors;
 - (ii) longer term visitors.

3.8 The 183 day rule

IR20 para 1.2 recaps the 183 day rule:

You will always be resident if you are here for **183 days** or more in the tax year. **There are no exceptions to this.** You count the total number of days you spend in the UK – it does not matter if you come and go several times during the year or if you are here for one stay of 183 days or more.

This has a fairly sound basis in the statutory 183 day rule.¹³

13 See 3.2 (Temporary purpose and 183 day rules).

3.9 Short absences

IR20 provides:

Short absences

2.1 You are resident and ordinarily resident in the UK if you usually live in this country and only go abroad for short periods – for example, on holiday or on business trips.

This is obviously correct.

3.10 The full-time work abroad practice

IR20 continues:

Working abroad

2.2 If you leave the UK to work full-time abroad under a contract of employment, you are treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident if you meet **all** the following conditions

- your absence from the UK and your employment abroad both last for at least a whole tax year;
- during your absence any visits you make to the UK:
 - (i) total less than 183 days in any tax year, and
 - (ii) average less than 91 days a tax year. ...

[See para. 3.15 (Calculating annual average visits).]

2.3 If you meet all the conditions in paragraph 2.2, you are treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK from the day after you leave the UK to the day before you return to the UK at the end of your employment abroad. You are treated as coming to the UK permanently on the day you return from your employment abroad and as resident and ordinarily resident from that date.

If there is a break in full-time employment, or some other change in your circumstances during the period you are overseas, we would have to review the position to decide whether you still meet the conditions in paragraph 2.2. If at the end of one employment you returned temporarily to the UK, planning to go abroad again after a very short stay in this country, we may review your residence status in the light of all the circumstances of your employment abroad and your return to the UK.

If you do not meet all the conditions in paragraph 2.2, you remain resident and ordinarily resident unless paragraphs 2.8, 2.9 apply to you. Special rules apply to employees of the European Community (see paragraph 2.14).

2.4 The treatment in paragraph 2.3 will also apply if you leave the UK to work full-time in a trade, profession or vocation and you meet conditions similar to those in paragraph 2.2.

I refer to this as “the full-time work abroad practice”. The term “full-time” is explained at IR20 2.5:

Meaning of ‘full-time’

2.5 There is no precise definition of when employment overseas is ‘full-time’, and a decision in a particular case will depend on all the facts. Where your employment involves a standard pattern of hours, it will be regarded as full-time if the hours you work each week clearly compare with those in a typical UK working week. If your job has no formal structure or no fixed number of working days, we will look at the nature of the job, local conditions and practices in the particular occupation to decide if the job is full-time.

If you have several part-time jobs overseas at the same time, we may be able to treat this as full-time employment. That might be so if, for example, you have several appointments with the same employer or group of companies, and perhaps also where you have simultaneous employment and self-employment overseas. But if you have a main employment abroad and some unconnected occupation in the UK at the same time, we will consider whether the extent of the UK activities was consistent with the overseas employment being full-time.¹⁴

3.10.1 *Partly employed and partly self-employed*

A published HMRC letter of 10 July 1979 provides:

I can confirm that where an employee left the UK on 4 April 1979 and did not return until 6 April 1980 and was on a full-time service contract during that period, he would be regarded as not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the year 1979–80.

14 RI 40 comments further on the meaning of “full-time”.

However this practice would not be extended to a taxpayer who was only partly in employment and partly self-employed during a similar period. In such circumstances the normal rules for determining an individual's residence status would apply and on the basis that no visits were made during the intervening period, the taxpayer would be regarded as not resident but ordinarily resident for the year 1979–80 in these circumstances.

I find this bizarre, and suggest that a court is not likely to draw a distinction between those working full-time in a single employment or self-employment, and those partly employed and partly self employed. But in practice the point will not often arise.

3.11 Seafarers

Rogers v Inland Revenue 1 TC 225 concerned a master mariner. Captain Rogers had a dwellinghouse in Fife where his wife and children resided. He had no dwellinghouse in any other country, but in the year 1878/79 he was entirely absent from the UK while in command of his ship. Captain Rogers was held to be resident here. The Court noted that he had no other residence and a man must have a residence somewhere. The UK was the only possibility. (The ship was not regarded as a residence.)

However, HMRC practice is now quite different and the full-time working abroad practice is applied. EI Manual 70230 provides:

Tax treatment of seafarers: Residence status: Employment outside UK territorial waters

A seafarer will normally be regarded as not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK from the day following departure to the day preceding return where he or she:

- has been ordinarily resident in the UK and leaves the UK to take up full-time employment on a ship and
- the absence from the UK and the period of service includes a complete tax year and
- leave spent in the UK totals less than 183 days in any tax year and averages less than 91 days for each tax year (the average is taken over a period of absence up to a maximum of 4 years).

However, this will not include seafarers whose employment arrangements consist of frequent and regular voyages to and from the UK.

3.12 The accompanying spouse concession

IR20 provides:

Accompanying spouse

2.6 If you are the husband or wife of someone who leaves the UK within the terms of paragraph 2.2 or 2.4 and you accompany or later join your spouse abroad, you may also by concession (extra-statutory concession A78) be treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident from the day after your departure to the day before your return, even if you are not yourself in full-time employment abroad. This applies where:

- you are abroad for a complete tax year, and
 - during your absence any visits you make to the UK
 - (i) total less than 183 days in the tax year, or
 - (ii) average less than 91 days a tax year.
- [see para. 3.15 (Calculating annual average visits).]

I refer to this as “the accompanying spouse concession”.

3.13 “Year out” route to non-residence

Dave Clark left the UK on 3 April 1978 and returned on 2 May 1979. I shall call that time “the year out”. He was UK resident before and after the year out, and UK domiciled at all times.

During the year out he spent virtually the whole time in or around Los Angeles. The taxpayer worked in Los Angeles. Presumably he did not work full-time so he did not fall within the scope of the full-time work abroad practice. For the first ten weeks of his stay he lived in a house lent by a friend and thereafter in a house rented by his company. He retained a leasehold flat in Mayfair (also held by a company). He wisely spent no time in the UK at all.

It was held that the only possible conclusion from these facts was that he was not UK resident in the year out.

HMRC relied on *Rogers v Inland Revenue*.¹⁵ The taxpayer argued that these cases were confined to wanderers with no place of residence except

15 See 3.11 (Seafarers). A court may be less sympathetic to HMRC in a similar case now that HMRC are known to ignore *Rogers* in practice.

a base in the UK from which they started and to which they returned. It was different if a taxpayer establishes a home in another country. The Court did not expressly accept this formulation, and declined “to define in the abstract circumstances in which it would or would not be open to Commissioners as the fact finding tribunal to conclude that a person physically absent for a whole year nonetheless resides here. Circumstances of particular cases vary widely, and each case must depend on its own facts”. But the taxpayer’s formulation seems soundly based. It was therefore relevant to the decision that Dave Clark was not merely out of the UK for the year: he lived in a new home, mostly in one fixed place of abode, and he worked from there. Los Angeles was his “headquarters”.

The second string to HMRC’s bow was the occasional residence abroad rule. It was argued that Dave Clark had left the UK for the purpose of “occasional residence”. On this point the Judge held that “occasional” residence was the opposite of “ordinary residence”. He said that Mr Clark was indeed “ordinarily resident” in America. Accordingly he had not left the UK for “occasional residence” abroad.

It follows that a person who:

- (1) wishes to leave the UK for a period of one tax year;
- (2) does not work full-time abroad, so does not come within the scope of the full-time work abroad practice

may acquire non-residence by a “year out”. I refer to this as “the year out” route to non-residence, though “non-full-time worker’s year out” would be more accurate. The individual should ideally spend no time whatsoever in the UK in the relevant tax year.¹⁶ He must acquire a new “base” in his new place of residence. Although Dave Clark worked (part time), it is considered that the position would be the same had he not worked. Although Dave Clark had a single place of residence, it is considered that the position would be the same if he had more than one, as long as they were “base” or “headquarters”.

16 In practice a few days in the UK should not make any difference. But it is impossible to say where the dividing line comes.

3.13.1 HMRC practice

IR20 (deliberately?) omits to mention the year out route to non-residence. HMRC leaflet NRN1 provides at question 1:

Were you present in the UK at any time during the year ended 5 April 2004?

If “NO”, you are not resident in the UK.

But it is inevitable that a short guide such as NRN must over-simplify. The Inspector’s Manual is more cautious at paragraph 36:

An individual who is not in the UK at any time during a particular tax year is not *normally* regarded as resident for that year. If, however, his absence for the whole of the year is an exception to or a temporary break in his usual mode of life, he is regarded as remaining ordinarily resident except in certain circumstances mentioned in IM42.

This is somewhat overgenerous to HMRC (depending however exactly what nuance one gives to “temporary” or “exceptional”).

3.14 The three-years-abroad practice

IR20 provides:

Leaving the UK permanently or indefinitely

2.7 If you go abroad permanently [*or for a period of three years or more in accordance with para. 2.8*],¹⁷ you will be treated as remaining resident and ordinarily resident if your visits to the UK average 91 days or more a year ...¹⁸

2.8 If you claim that you are no longer resident and ordinarily resident, we may ask you to give some evidence that you have left the UK permanently, or to live outside the UK for three years or more. This evidence might be, for example, that you have taken steps to acquire accommodation abroad to live in as a permanent home, and if you

17 These words are not in IR20 but the context requires them.

18 The omitted text concerns methods of calculation discussed in para. 3.15(Calculating annual visits).

continue to have property in the UK for your use, the reason is consistent with your stated aim of living abroad permanently or for three years or more.

If you have left the UK permanently or for at least three years, you will be treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident from the day after the date of your departure providing:

- your absence from the UK has covered at least a whole tax year, and
 - your visits to the UK since leaving
 - (i) have totalled less than 183 days in any tax year, and
 - (ii) have averaged less than 91 days a tax year.
- [See para. 3.15 (Calculating annual average visits.)]

2.9 [a] If you do not have this evidence, but you have gone abroad for a settled purpose (this would include a fixed object or intention in which you are going to be engaged for an extended period of time), you will be treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident from the day after the date of your departure providing:

- your absence from the UK has covered at least a whole tax year, and
- your visits to the UK since leaving
 - (i) have totalled less than 183 days in any tax year, and
 - (ii) have averaged less than 91 days a tax year.

[b] If you have not gone abroad for a settled purpose, you will be treated as remaining resident and ordinarily resident in the UK, but your status can be reviewed if:

- your absence actually covers three years from your departure, or
- evidence becomes available to show that you have left the UK permanently

providing in either case your visits to the UK since leaving have totalled less than 183 days in any tax year and have averaged less than 91 days a tax year.

The IR20 heading “leaving the UK permanently or indefinitely” is not an accurate label. I refer to this as “the three-years-abroad practice”. The practice applies to a person who leaves the UK permanently or for (at least) a three year period.

3.14.1 *Evidence of intention to leave*

IR20 Paragraph 2.8 is a case where the person provides “some evidence” that he has left permanently or for three years. Such a person is treated as

non-resident by the time his next tax return is due.

Paragraph 2.9[a] is a case where the individual merely states his intention to leave permanently or for a three year period, and the same applies.¹⁹

Paragraph 2.9[b] is a case where a person leaves the UK but is not able to say that he will be away for three years, i.e. he does not know whether he will stay abroad or not. This category seems to have the extraordinary status of provisional and uncertain residence.²⁰ Suppose T is UK resident until year 1. In year 1 T spends 90 days here but he does not know if that will continue for three years; T may think he is UK resident in year 1 but he cannot be sure. If in years 2 and 3 T continues to average less than 90 days in the UK, he retrospectively finds that he is not resident in year 1 after all! The Consultation Document “Residence in the UK” (1988) recognises the concept of provisional residence at 4.6:

It may be necessary for example, to examine a person’s activities for a period of years ... after the year in question. Such an enquiry means that decisions must be provisional and liabilities may remain unsettled for a number of years.

In practice no problems seems to arise, perhaps because taxpayers feel able to say whether or not they intend to reside outside the UK for three years.

3.14.2 “Date of departure” and “visits”

The three-years-abroad practice assumes:

- (1) one can identify the date when a person “leaves” the UK as a date of “departure”; and
- (2) subsequent time spent in the UK constitutes “visits” to the UK.

Example 1

19 If an individual states “I intend to remain out of the UK for three years” then, I assume, in the wordy formula of para. 2.9[a], he can say he has left for a “settled purpose” (which includes “a fixed object or intention in which he is going to be engaged for an extended period of time”).

20 For another case where this arises see 3.18.2 (Fixed intention short term visitors).

Suppose T is continually present in the UK for some years until (say) 1 May 2004. T then leaves for several years and averages less than 91 days in the UK.

Since T ‘left’ on 1 May 2004, T is resident in 2004/5 even though spending less than 91 days here in that year. The period of residence 6 April to 1 May 2004 is not a ‘visit’. The year 2004/5 is a year of departure: see 5.1 (Year of arrival and departure).

Example 2

By contrast, if T left on 6 April and returned for 3 weeks on 1 May, T may spend exactly the same number of days in the UK as in example 1, but he will be non-resident throughout 2004/5.

It is essential to identify a date of departure. This may be difficult if T is UK resident because he averages more than 91 days here (but much less than the whole year), and then the pattern changes and he averages less than 91 days. In that case one cannot identify an obvious date of departure. In such case it is suggested that all the time spent here should be regarded as ‘visits’ and every period of absence is a potential date of departure.

3.15 Calculating annual average visits

This calculation is carried out in the same way for:

- (1) the full-time work abroad practice;
- (2) the accompanying spouse concession; or
- (3) the three-years-abroad practice.

3.15.1 *Illness and exceptional circumstances*

IR20 provides in each place in the same words:

Any days spent in the UK because of exceptional circumstances beyond your control, for example the illness of yourself or a member of your immediate family, are not normally counted for this purpose.

SP 2/91 expands on this:

SP 2/91 Residence in the UK—visits extended because of exceptional circumstances

1 Under TA 1988 s 336, an individual is not regarded as resident in the UK in a year of assessment if, broadly,

- (a) he is in this country for some temporary purpose only and without the intention of establishing his residence here, and
- (b) he has not, in the aggregate, spent at least six months in the UK in that year.

2 In applying the first condition, one of the considerations is that an individual is regarded as resident in the UK if visits to the UK average at least three months in a tax year; the average is calculated over a maximum of four years. Where this rule applies, any days which are spent in the UK because of exceptional circumstances beyond an individual's control, for example, illness, will be excluded from the calculation.

3 Each case where this relaxation of the normal rules may be appropriate will be considered in the light of its own facts. The statutory condition in paragraph 1(a) above must of course continue to be met, and the relaxation does not apply for the purposes of calculating the six months in paragraph 1(b) above.

This recognises that a person may spend up to 182 days present in the UK for medical care and still be non-resident. It omits the word “normally”, though para. 3 (“each case considered in the light of its own facts”) has a similar effect. The practice is merciful to the non-resident and important to the success of the private medical industry. The only situation I can envisage where it would not apply is in cases of abuse, e.g. if a UK resident individual “left” the UK knowing he would need to return shortly for extended medical treatment; or if the “illness” did not actually cause the individual to stay here.

This practice does not apply for the 183 day rule.

3.15.2 *Days of arrival and departure*

IR20 para. 1.2 states:

The normal rule is that days of arrival in and departure from the UK are ignored in counting the days spent in the UK, in all the various cases where calculations have to be made to determine your residence position

– see for example paragraphs 2.2, 3.3 and 3.4 and the examples in 2.10 and 3.6.

The problem here is the word “normal”. It suggests one should count days of arrival and departure in some circumstances; if so, in which circumstances? There is some evidence that HMRC practice is always to disregard days of arrival and departure. The Consultative Document, *Residence in the UK* (1988) provided:

4.5 When an individual arrives in or leaves this country, that day is not counted in calculating the time he has spent here in that particular year. This practice is more generous than the law requires particularly for people making a lot of short visits. At the extreme it is possible for an individual to be in the UK on every day of the year and not be treated as resident so long as he is absent for a few hours on at least half of them.

The Inspector’s Manual para. 50 also provides without qualification that “days of arrival and departure should be excluded on the occasion of each visit”.²¹

This is not sufficient to bind HMRC and they could disapply the normal rule in “abnormal” cases.

What is “abnormal”? One might think that an example is an individual who commutes to the UK, e.g. arriving Monday morning and leaving Wednesday evening, the individual may be present in the UK for 150 days but excluding arrival and departure reduces this to 50. This is not a normal lifestyle, so it seems a clear case where the “normal” rule should be disappplied. But as noted, HMRC may well not take the point. If they do, where does the dividing line come? What if an individual has (say) 60 days of arrival and departure? Or 40?

If the normal rule is not applied, does one count all the days of arrival and departure towards the 91 days? Or only some? Or does one count hours present in the UK? This issue arose in the context of the 183 day rule, where the Court’s answer was to count hours present in days of arrival and departure.²² It is suggested that the same should apply in the context of the 91 day rule, though since that rule is not statutory, it would be difficult to persuade HMRC if they disagree.

21 The same point is made in EI Manual para. 42840.

22 *Wilkie v IRC* 32 TC 495.

Modern travel patterns have made this a real issue and it is absurd that the position is unclear; but there it is.

3.15.3 *Method of calculating average*

IR20 states:

2.8 ... The average is taken over the period of absence up to a maximum of four years – see paragraph 2.10...

2.10 If it is necessary to calculate your annual average visits to the UK, the method is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Total visits to the UK (in days)}}{\text{Total period since leaving (in days)}} \times 365 = \text{annual average visits}$$

For this purpose, days spent in the UK in the tax year before the date of your original departure are excluded.

Suppose, for example, you leave the UK on 5 October 1997. The first review of the average of your visits is made after 5 April 1999, and takes account of your visits between those two dates. If you visited the UK for 30 days between 6 October 1997 and 5 April 1998 and for 50 days in 1998–99, the annual average is

$$[(30 + 50)/(182+365)] \times 365 = 53.38 \text{ days}$$

If you continue to remain outside the UK, the annual average is calculated as follows in reviews after 5 April in subsequent years

- after 5 April 2000 – include visits from 5 October 1997 to 5 April 2000
- after 5 April 2001 – include visits from 5 October 1997 to 5 April 2001
- after 5 April 2002 – include visits from 6 April 1998 to 5 April 2002.

After the third review the year of departure is dropped from the calculation. At each subsequent review the oldest year is dropped, so that there is a rolling period of four years being reviewed.

However, if during your absence the pattern of your visits varied substantially year by year, it might be appropriate to look at the

absence as being made up of separate periods for the purpose of calculating average visits. This might be necessary if, for example, a shift in the pattern of your visits suggested a change of circumstances, which altered how we viewed your residence status.

3.16 The three years in the UK practice

While Chapter 2 of IR20 (Leaving the UK) is broadly satisfactory, Chapter 3 (Coming to the UK) is confused and confusing. IR20 provides:

3 Coming to the UK

Coming to the UK permanently or indefinitely

3.1 You are treated as **resident and ordinarily resident** from the date you arrive if your home has been abroad and you intend:

- [1] to come to the UK to live here **permanently**,²³ or
- [2] to come and remain here for three years or more.

(Emphasis original but paragraph numbering added.)

The IR20 heading “Coming to the UK permanently or indefinitely” is not an accurate label. I refer to this as “the three years in the UK practice”. This is roughly the converse of the three-years-abroad practice.

3.16.1 *Meaning of “remain”*

IR20 para. 3.1 provides:

You ‘remain’ in the UK if you are here on a continuing basis and any departures are for holidays or short business trips. (The same applies for the other references in this Chapter to ‘remaining’ in the UK.)²⁴

A person who “remains” in the UK in the IR20 sense will almost certainly satisfy the 183 day rule. So the main relevance of the three years in the UK practice is to establish residence in the tax year of arrival (when the

23 It is hard to see what the words in [1] add, since anyone within [1] (who intends to come to the UK to live here permanently) will usually be within [2] (he intends to come and remain here for three years or more). But that does not matter.

24 This important paragraph is missing (I think, accidentally) in some electronic versions of IR20.

183 day rule may not be satisfied).

3.17 Categories of “visitors” to the UK

IR20 continues:

Visitors to the UK

3.2 If you come to the UK other than to live here permanently [*or to remain here for three years or more*]²⁵ as in paragraph 3.1, the guidelines in the rest of this Chapter will govern your residence and ordinary residence position in the UK.

The Chapter deals in turn with two main groups coming to this country—

- [1] short term visitors (where you visit the UK for only limited periods in one or more tax years, without any intention to remain for an extended period);
- [2] longer term visitors (where you come to the UK intending to remain indefinitely or for an extended period, perhaps stretching over several tax years).

You may at first fall within one of these categories and later move to the other, depending on your precise circumstances.

I adopt these labels and refer to “short term” and “longer term” visitors.

3.18 Short term visitors rules

There are two categories of short term visitors.

3.18.1 *Undecided short term visitors*

IR20 continues:

Short term visitors – residence

3.3 You will be treated as **resident** for a tax year if

- [a] you are in the UK for 183 days or more in the tax year (see paragraph 1.2), or
- [b] you visit the UK regularly and after four tax years your visits

25 These words are not in IR20 but the context requires them.

during those years average 91 days or more a tax year – see paragraph 3.6. You are treated as resident from the fifth year.

I refer to those within [b] as “undecided short term visitors”. “Undecided short term visitors” is not an entirely accurate label for this category of UK residence, but “those who come regularly for more than 91 days average over a five year period without intending to do so at the outset” is somewhat of a mouthful. Undecided short term visitors are treated as UK resident from the fifth year.

3.18.2 *Fixed intention short term visitors*

IR20 continues:

However ...

- (ii) you are treated as resident from 6 April of the first year, if it is clear when you first come to the UK that you **intend** making such visits²⁶ and you actually carry out your intention; and
- (iii) you are treated as resident from 6 April of the tax year in which you **decide** that you will make such visits, where this decision is made before the start of the fifth tax year and you actually carry out your decision.

I refer to those who fall in this category as “fixed intention short term visitors”. This category seems again²⁷ to have the status of provisional and uncertain residence. Suppose T intends to average more than 90 days here over five years, and in year 1 he spends 99 days here; T may think he is UK resident in year 1 but he cannot be sure. If in year 3 he unexpectedly changes his intention and leaves the UK, he retrospectively finds that he is not resident in years 1 and 2 after all! (But possibly one is only expected to calculate the days here up to the year in question, not over a longer average?) In practice no problems seem to arise, perhaps because taxpayers take the view that “intention” requires a firm, fixed and irrevocable intention and in practice few if any form such an intention (unless they fall within the three years in the UK practice).

26 i.e. visits averaging 91 days or more a tax year.

27 See 3.14.1 (Evidence of intention to leave).

IR20 continues with some straightforward examples:

For example

- you come to the UK with no definite intentions, but your visits during the tax years 1999–2000 to 2002–2003 average at least 91 days a tax year; you are resident from 6 April 2003.
- you first come to the UK during 1999–2000, intending that between then and 5 April 2003 your visits will average at least 91 days a tax year; you are resident from 6 April 1999, provided that your visits in fact reach that level.
- you first come to the UK during 1999–2000 with no definite intentions and you spend, say, 60 days here; you come again during 2000–2001 and decide you will come regularly in future years and your visits will average at least 91 days a tax year; you are resident from 6 April 2000, provided that your visits in fact reach that level.

The Inspector's Manual adds a gloss on this (para.45):

An individual should be regarded as becoming resident if he visits the UK year after year so that his visits become in effect part of his habit of life and are annual visits for a substantial period or periods of time. Normally, an average annual period or periods amounting to 91 days or more should be regarded as substantial and the visits as becoming habitual after four years, *provided that there has been a visit in each of the four years*; such an individual should be regarded as resident for and from the fifth year. (As to the calculation of the three months' average, see IM42, first sub para.) Where the visitor's arrangements indicate from the start that regular visits for such substantial periods are contemplated, he would be regarded as resident for and from the first year. In both types of case, if an individual is resident, he is also ordinarily resident.

(Emphasis added)

3.18.3 Calculating annual average visits for short term visitors rules

The method of computation for the short term visitors rules is slightly different from the method used for those leaving the UK. IR20 provides at 3.3(i):

any days spent in the UK for exceptional circumstances beyond your control, for example the illness of yourself or a member of your

immediate family, are not counted for this purpose.

This contrasts with the practice in relation to those leaving the UK where the word “normally” is added: see 3.15.1 (Illness and exceptional circumstances). *Quære* whether this is accidental or deliberate? IR20 also states:

3.6 Where it is necessary to calculate your annual average visits, the method is as follows:

Total visits to the UK (in days) x 365 = annual average visits
Relevant tax years (in days)

For example, suppose you visited the UK for 80 days in 1995–96, 100 days in 1996–97, 85 days in 1997–98 and 105 days in 1998–99. The annual average is

$$\frac{80+100+85+105}{366+365+365+365} \times 365 = 92.44 \text{ days}$$

3.19 Longer term visitors

IR20 continues:

Longer term visitors – residence

3.7 You are treated as **resident** in the UK from the day you arrive to the day you leave (see paragraphs 1.5, 1.6) if you come to the UK for a purpose (for example, employment) that will mean you remain here for at least two years.

I refer to these as “longer term visitors” though the label is not entirely accurate.

This category overlaps unhappily with the three years in the UK practice. A person who intends to remain *three* years is in that category. A person who comes for a purpose (whatever that means) and intends to remain *two* years is in this category. A person who “remains” in the UK (in the IR20 sense)²⁸ will generally satisfy the 183 day rule. So the main relevance of this category is to establish residence in the tax years of arrival and

28 See 3.16.1 (Meaning of “remain”).

departure (if the 183 day rule is not satisfied in those years).

IR20 continues:

The same treatment will apply if you own or lease accommodation in the UK in the year you arrive here (see paragraph 3.11(a)).

In all other cases you will be treated as resident for the tax year if

- you spend 183 days or more in the UK in the tax year, or
- you own or lease accommodation in the UK (see paragraph 3.11(b)).

At first sight this is alarming. Does a person become resident just because he owns or leases accommodation? But I think this comment refers only to “longer term visitors”, i.e. those who come to the UK intending to “remain” here in the IR20 sense [i.e. not leave the UK except for short holidays or business trips]. I take “you own” literally.²⁹ This condition is not satisfied if a trust, company or spouse owns the property.

3.20 Mobile workers

Tax Bulletin 52 provides:

Personal Residence: How The Rules Apply To ‘Mobile Workers’ Living In The UK

Mobile Workers

1. This note explains how the Inland Revenue consider the rules of residence and ordinary residence apply to ‘mobile workers’, individuals who usually live in the UK but make frequent and regular trips abroad in the course of their employment or business.

2. For this purpose:-

- the expression ‘mobile workers’ includes for example lorry or coach drivers who drive their vehicle to and from the Continent; those working on cross-Channel transport; and sales persons who make frequent short business trips abroad;
- individuals usually live in the UK if their home continues to be in the UK and their settled domestic life remains here;
- trips abroad are frequent and regular where work patterns are such that individuals make trips abroad every two or three weeks or more often. It would for example include someone travelling to France most Sundays or

29 This is consistent with the reference to IR20 para. 311 (relating to ordinary residence): see 3.21 (Ordinary residence).

Mondays in connection with their employment but returning to the UK by or at the following weekend.

Residence status

3. Such individuals sometimes claim to be not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK, simply on the basis of the limited number of days they spend in the UK in a tax year. While the precise facts of a particular case are always paramount in deciding residence status, we consider that where there are no special circumstances, such individuals are likely to remain resident and ordinarily resident here for tax purposes.

4. General guidance on how the residence rules normally apply to those leaving the UK is set out in chapter 2 of booklet IR20, 'Residents and non-residents'. Paragraph 2.1 sets out the general principle that individuals who usually live in the UK and only go abroad for short periods, for example on business trips, remain resident and ordinarily resident here. Paragraph 2.2 explains a long-standing Revenue practice in the case of individuals who go abroad for full-time employment. They are treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident from the day after their departure if:-

- [1] they have left the UK to work full-time abroad under a contract of employment, and
- [2] their absence from the UK and the employment abroad both last for at least a whole tax year, and
- [3] during their absence any visits they make to the UK total less than 183 days in any tax year; and average less than 91 days a tax year over the period of absence up to a maximum of four years.

All these conditions must be met for this practice to apply. It is not sufficient merely for the day counting tests to be met.

5. The treatment under paragraph 2.2 is aimed at individuals who leave the UK for a complete tax year to live and work on assignments abroad. It might for example apply (assuming all the conditions mentioned above are met) to lorry drivers who go to live in Sweden to transport goods within Scandinavia for their firm. In the case of individuals living in the UK but making regular short trips abroad, it is questionable whether

- [1] they have genuinely left the UK in a residence sense, or
- [2] can be said to be working full-time abroad;
- [3] and they could not satisfy the condition that their absence and the employment abroad both last for a whole tax year.

They have not in our view made the clear break with the UK that the practice in paragraph 2.2 requires.

Another way to reach the same result would have been to say that the worker's time in the UK is not "visits" or that the "normal" rule of ignoring days of arrival/departure should be disappplied. Having dealt with the important matter of practice, HMRC felt they should acknowledge the existence of law:

6. The statutory provisions concerning the residence status of individuals are Sections 334 and 336 ICTA . We have taken legal advice on how these apply to mobile workers. Our view is as follows:-

- Section 334 broadly provides that Commonwealth citizens who have been ordinarily resident in the UK remain UK resident if they leave the UK “for the purpose only of occasional residence abroad”. On the basis of case law, we consider that individuals who have no settled residence abroad, have no intention to stay abroad indefinitely, and return to a UK base and a UK abode at the end of each assignment, are unlikely to be able to show that they are absent for other than “occasional residence” abroad.
- Section 336 broadly provides for individuals to be treated as not resident in the UK if they are here “for some temporary purpose only and not with any view or intent of establishing ... residence there”, and have not actually spent six months here in the relevant tax year.³⁰ Case law has indicated that all the facts and circumstances of a case must be considered, and not merely the number of days spent in the UK. We consider that individuals who have a UK-based employment or business, have strong ties with the UK and spend a sufficient amount of time in the UK in a tax year are unlikely to be able to show that they are in the UK for only the “temporary purpose” specified in the statute.³¹

The Bulletin concludes with some uncontroversial statements:

7. In dealing with claims to not resident status from mobile workers who usually live in the UK and make frequent trips abroad, we will apply the law in the light of the facts and circumstances of the particular case. For the reasons considered in this note, it is likely in our view that such claims will probably be invalid on the facts. Nevertheless, taxpayers who disagree with our view that they are UK resident will have the usual right to appeal to the Commissioners. It should moreover be borne in mind that these guidelines are general. We accept that it might be possible for individual taxpayers to show that not resident status was correct on the facts of their particular case.

Mobile workers leaving the UK permanently

8. This note is concerned with the residence status of mobile workers who usually live in the UK and have not genuinely left this country. Different considerations apply to those who have left the UK to live abroad permanently. Paragraphs 2.7-2.9 of booklet IR20 explain the circumstances in which such individuals may be treated as not resident and not ordinarily resident. Their return visits to the UK since leaving must have totalled less than 183 days in any

30 [Footnote original] This is the wording of Section 336(1) in relation to Schedule D. Section 336(2) in relation to Cases I, II and III of Schedule E refers to an individual who is in the UK “for some temporary purpose only and not with the intention of establishing his residence there”.

31 [Author’s Note] This is still referring to workers commuting from the UK not those based from outside. See paragraph 1 of the statement.

tax year, and have averaged less than 91 days a tax year over the period of absence up to a maximum of four years; and they may be required to provide evidence that they have left the UK permanently, or to live outside the UK for three years or more. This group is otherwise outside the scope of this note, but we would like to mention one point.

9. We have recently encountered cases where mobile workers claim to have gone abroad permanently, but evidence has later emerged that the validity of these claims is in doubt. In such cases we may at the outset have allowed not resident status, accepting the claims in good faith on the facts available at the time; but we have later concluded that the individuals may not have disclosed all the relevant information. The fact that such claims may initially have been accepted will not of course prevent us reopening cases where we have reason to believe there may not have been a full and correct disclosure. Where it is established that claims of this sort are invalid, the individuals will then fall to be treated as resident and ordinarily resident in the UK, as explained earlier in this note, on the basis that they do in fact usually live in the UK.

The point made in para. 9 goes without saying.

3.21 Ordinary residence

Ordinary residence is a different concept from simple “residence”. There is no statutory definition or guidance whatsoever. Nor is there much help in the cases. Ordinary residence has been explained as:

A man’s abode in a particular place or country which he has adopted voluntarily and for settled purposes as part of the regular order of his life for the time being, whether of short or long duration.

R v Barnet LBC ex p. Shah [1983] 2 AC 309

Habitual residence and ordinary resident are interchangeable concepts.³²

3.21.1 *HMRC practice*

IR20 gives just about sufficient guidance in practice. The following practices all govern ordinary residence as they govern simple residence: the full-time work abroad practice, the accompanying spouse concession, the three-years-abroad practice and the three years in the UK practice. The

32 *Ikimi v Ikimi* [2002] Fam 72 approved *Mark v Mark* [2005] UKHL 42 para 33.

remaining cases are dealt with in IR20 as follows:

Ordinary residence

3.4 You will be treated as **ordinarily resident** if you come to the UK regularly and your visits average 91 days or more a tax year – see paragraph 3.6. Any days spent in the UK for exceptional circumstances beyond your control, for example the illness of yourself or a member of your immediate family, are not normally counted for this purpose.

3.5 The date from which you are treated as ordinarily resident depends upon your intentions and whether you actually carry them out. You will be ordinarily resident

- from 6 April of the tax year of your first arrival, if it is clear when you first come here that you intend visiting the UK regularly for at least four tax years
- from 6 April of the fifth tax year after you have visited the UK over four years, if you originally came with no definite plans about the number of years you will visit
- from 6 April of the tax year in which you decide you will be visiting the UK regularly, if that decision is made before the start of the fifth tax year.

For example

- you first come to the UK during 1999–2000, you intend visiting regularly until at least 5 April 2003 and your visits will average at least 91 days a tax year. You are ordinarily resident from 6 April 1999.
- you come to the UK with no definite intentions, but you visit regularly during the tax years 1999–2000 to 2002–2003 and your visits average at least 91 days a tax year. You are ordinarily resident from 6 April 2003.
- you first come to the UK during 1999–2000 with no definite intentions; you come again in 2000–2001 and 2001–2002 and during 2001–2002 you decide you will come regularly in future years, and your visits will average at least 91 days a tax year. You are ordinarily resident from 6 April 2001.

This is the same as the short term visitors rule for simple residence. IR20 continues:

Longer term visitors – ordinary residence

3.8 You will be treated as ordinarily resident in the UK from the date you arrive, whether to work here or not, if it is clear that you intend to stay for at least three years.

If you come to the UK **as a student** for an extended period of study or education, see paragraph 3.13.

3.9 You will be treated as ordinarily resident from the beginning of the tax year after the third anniversary of your arrival if you come to, and remain in, the UK, but you

- do not originally intend to stay for at least three years, and
- do not buy accommodation or acquire it on a lease of three years or more.

For example, if you arrive in the UK on 21 November 1999 and are still living in the UK on 6 April 2003, you are ordinarily resident from 6 April 2003.

3.10 If, after you have come to the UK, you **decide** to stay for at least **three years** from the date of your original arrival, you will be treated as ordinarily resident from—

- the day you arrive if your decision is made in the year of arrival, or
- the beginning of the tax year in which you make your decision when this is after the year of arrival.

For example—

- you arrive in the UK on 4 January 2000 and decide on 16 May 2000 to stay permanently. You are ordinarily resident from 6 April 2000;
- you come to the UK to work on 14 July 1999 on a 2½ year contract of employment, but in December 2001 your assignment is changed and your contract is extended until after July 2002*. You are ordinarily resident from 6 April 2001.

* If there is a change in the circumstances of your assignment, but no formal change to the terms of a contract, whether you are treated as ordinarily resident and from what date will depend on the precise facts.

3.11 If you come to, and remain in, the UK, you will be treated as ordinarily resident

- (a) from the day you arrive, if —
 - (i) you already own accommodation here
 - (ii) you buy accommodation during the tax year of arrival, or
 - (iii) you have or acquire accommodation on a lease of three years or more during the tax year of arrival; or
- (b) from 6 April of the tax year in which such accommodation becomes available, when this occurs after the year of arrival.

3.12 If you are treated as ordinarily resident **solely** because you have accommodation here (paragraph 3.11) and you dispose of the accommodation and leave the UK within three years of your arrival, you may be treated as not ordinarily resident for the duration of your stay if this is to your advantage.

3.13 If you are a **student** who comes to the UK for a period of study or education and you will be here for less than four years, you will be treated as not ordinarily resident, providing—

- you do not own or buy accommodation here, or acquire it on a lease of three years or more, and
- on leaving the UK you do not plan to return regularly for visits which average 91 days or more a tax year.

3.21.2 “Year out” and ordinary residence

A question arises whether an individual can be ordinarily resident in the UK but not resident. The natural meaning of the words, and a review of the income tax cases, *Lysaght* and *Levine*, might suggest not. However, the CGT legislation is clearly drafted on the basis that this is possible, and ss.110, 111 FA 1989 assume that the possibility exists for income tax as well. This is also HMRC’s view: see IR20 and Inspector’s Manual para. 36:

An individual may be ordinarily resident, though not resident in the UK for a given year, and vice versa (see, for example, IM42 and IM45). ... An individual who is not in the UK at any time during a particular tax year is not *normally* regarded as resident for that year.

HMRC leaflet NRN2, question 8 provides:

Were you resident in the UK in the year to 5 April 2004?
If “NO”, you are not ordinarily resident in the UK.

But it is inevitable that a short guide such as NRN must over-simplify.

In *Reed v Clark*³³ the taxpayer became ordinarily resident in the USA. Although the point was not an issue in the case, and the Judge did not address it, it would seem to follow that Dave Clark ceased to be ordinarily resident in the UK in his year out. However, it is apparent from the above passages that HMRC would not accept that.

3.21.3 *Why does ordinary residence matter?*

It is possible to be UK resident but not ordinarily resident and this is the only situation where the concept of ordinary residence matters in practice. It is not possible to give a full list. The main differences (all advantages) for an individual who is resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK (compared to one who is resident *and* ordinarily resident) are as follows:

- (1) Certain anti-avoidance rules do not apply:
 - (a) The deemed remittance rules: see 7.36 (Deemed remittances).
 - (b) The transfer of asset rules: see 12.1 (Transfer of assets).
- (2) Exempt gilts owned by such a person are excluded property for IHT: see 26.3 (Exempt gilts).
- (3) Different employment income rules apply: see 8.1 (Employment income).
- (4) The RFI remittance basis applies even if UK domiciled: see 7.5 (Who qualifies for the RFI remittance basis?).
- (5) The individual may be non-resident for CGT in his capacity as trustee: see 4.5.1 (Administration “ordinarily” carried on outside the UK).

33 See 3.13 (Year out route to non-residence).

3.21.4 *Commentary: Should we abolish ordinary residence?*

The concept of ordinary residence is of almost negligible relevance to tax and there have been calls for its abolition.³⁴ Abolition would be a significant gain in simplicity and few would be affected by the change. That is not quite enough to justify the abolition of ordinary residence: one would need to go through every occasion where ordinary residence mattered and ask whether the change was justified. Of the above list, the only point which really matters is the last. It would be unacceptably harsh to tax a trust to CGT just because a trustee happens to become UK resident for one year, without becoming ordinarily resident.

3.22 Visiting forces

Special reliefs apply to a member of a visiting force of a designated country who is not a British citizen, a British Dependent Territory Citizen, a British National (overseas) or a British Overseas Citizen. See s.323 ICTA, s.11 TCGA. This is outside the scope of this book.

3.23 HMRC forms and rulings on residence³⁵

HMRC forms are P85 and P85(S) (leaving the UK) and P 86 (arrival in the UK). Residence Guide 2.2 provides:

1.2 Leaving the UK: Forms P85 or P85(S)

When you know that an individual is leaving, or has left the UK

- issue form P85(S) only if the individual is a foreign national and has been in the UK only for employment here
- issue form P85 in all other cases.

Send leaflet IR138 with each form P85(S) and P85 issued. (EP8140).

Keep the completed form as a permanent note.

You are not likely to dispose of the liabilities of a departing taxpayer immediately or without continuing correspondence.

Keep personal records as file cases whilst liability is under review. (See

34 David Jeffrey, *Taxation*, 6th December 2001, p.254; STEP submission on 2003 Background Paper on Domicile & Residence. Ordinary residence is also unsatisfactorily vague but (like residence) that could quite easily be put right by a statutory definition.

35 See 2.14 (HMRC ruling on domicile and ordinary residence).

EP8139).

IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS WITHIN SELF ASSESSMENT

Where it has not been possible to issue form P85 or P85(S) before the Return for the tax year of departure is issued, take the following action

- issue the form P85 or P85(S) after the Return for the year of departure is received as part of a formal enquiry into the Return
- do not close the enquiry until you are sure that all the queries and action which are necessary after receipt of the completed form have been taken (particularly not before you have received CNR advice on residence/domicile where the case needs to be sent to CNR).

...

2.2 Coming to the UK: Form P86

When you know that an individual has come to the UK

- issue a form P86 with leaflet IR139. (See SE42890 and EP8100).

Keep the completed form as a permanent note. It is unlikely that you can deal with a new arrival in the UK as a SRS case before two full tax years have passed.

IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS WITHIN SELF ASSESSMENT

Normally form P86 should only be issued during the tax year of arrival in the UK. It may be issued in the tax year following the year of arrival only if a Return for the tax year of arrival has not yet been issued.

Double Taxation Relief Manual provides:

811. Determination of UK residence - individuals

... For years from 1996–97, individuals within Self Assessment are able to certify their own residence status on their SA tax return. Residence 'rulings' as such will no longer be provided as a matter of course by the Centre for Non-residents (previously FICO). Inspectors who are required to certify that an individual is UK resident for the purposes of a treaty claim should act upon any relevant information provided by the taxpayer for example on forms P85 or P86 or on the most recent SA tax return, but the provision of a certificate on that basis does not amount to the making of a formal determination of residence status. It remains open to Inspectors, in appropriate cases, to enquire into an individual's residence status as part of an enquiry into a SA tax return once it has been received.

3.24 Avoiding acquiring UK residence: practical advice

The sensible advice must be to accept the constraints of HMRC's practice.

A non-resident individual who wishes to avoid acquiring the status of UK residence must:

- (1) Spend less than 183 days here in any tax year, and
- (2) Spend less than 91 days in the UK over a four year average.

It would be wise to retain evidence to be able to show dates of arrival and departure in case a challenge is made.

An individual who is unable to accept these restrictions should proceed on the basis that he will almost certainly be regarded by HMRC as resident in the UK. Rather than changing HMRC's settled policy in this area he would be better advised to plan his affairs accordingly.

3.25 Losing UK residence and ordinary residence: practical advice

A UK resident individual who wishes to lose UK resident and ordinarily resident status should take one of these courses:

- (1) The full-time work abroad practice (one year's absence, full-time work abroad, less than 91 days spent in UK).
- (2) The three-years-abroad practice (three years' absence).
- (3) The approach of *Reed v Clark* (one year's absence, base abroad, no (or next to no) time spent in UK).

3.26 Is IR20 correct in law?

The 1955 Royal Commission expresses the matter with tact. It summarises what is now IR20 and continues:

These working principles are not statutory. It is claimed that they are proper deductions from the few statutory rules that do exist and from decided cases. We cannot give any positive confirmation of this claim, and we think that Appeal Commissioners at any rate might be in much

the same difficulty.³⁶

One *might* get a better result by appealing to Commissioners who will have to try to apply the case law test. But do not expect it except in special cases. And HMRC themselves say in IR20 paragraph 1.1:

This booklet sets out the main factors that are taken into account, but we can only make a decision on your residence status on the facts in your particular case.

Likewise the preface to IR20 provides:

You should bear in mind that the booklet offers general guidance on how the rules apply, but whether the guidance is appropriate in a particular case will depend on all the facts of that case.

The author has known cases where HMRC have accepted that an individual is not resident despite infringing the 91 day rule.

3.27 Tax avoidance reason for becoming non-resident

In *Reed v Clark* the taxpayer had carefully organised his “year out” to reduce his tax liability but that was irrelevant:

Residence abroad for a carefully chosen limited period of work there ... is no less residence abroad for that period because the major reason for it was the avoidance³⁷ of tax. Likewise with ordinary residence.³⁸

The preface to IR20 states:

Some practices explained in this booklet are concessions made by the Revenue. A concession will not be given in any case where an attempt is made to use it for tax avoidance. Where the booklet mentions a concession, the reference given (for example “Concession A11”) is the

36 Royal Commission on the Taxation of Profits and Income Final Report Cmd 9474 para. 291.

37 As to whether “avoidance” is the right term to use here, see 16.4.2 (Avoidance/mitigation).

38 58 TC 528 at 556.

number of the concession in booklet IR1 “Extra-statutory concessions”, which provides further details.

I take this to refer only to the concessions labelled as such in the booklet: concessions A10, A11, A27, A78, D2. Practices in IR20 not identified as “concessions” cannot be disapplied in cases of tax avoidance.

3.28 Commentary: Residence and the rule of law

There are several objections to the current practice as set out in IR20. The first is constitutional: the rules in IR20 have only a tenuous connection with the law declared by Parliament. One consequence is that appeals to the Courts are made very difficult. The second objection is that some aspects of the rules (for instance days of arrival and departure) are unacceptably vague. The third is that other aspects of the rules are unworkable³⁹ (or would be unworkable if taken seriously). The current state of affairs (one cannot properly call it the current state of the law) would not disgrace a banana republic.

The 1936 Codification Committee thought this state of affairs was “intolerable”. The 1955 Royal Commission recommended statutory reform.⁴⁰ The ill-fated 1988 Consultation Document (Residence in the UK) made proposals.

The obstacles to law reform seems to be threefold. First, no-one can agree exactly what the residence test should be. Any test must be to some extent arbitrary, but that is often the case in tax. Second, any reform of residence which is part of a package reforming the remittance basis is bound to meet a hostile reception. Third, the current system seems to creak along just about well enough in practice, even if it falls short of Dicey’s conception of “the rule of law”. The *soi disant* review of foreign domicile taxation might have grasped this nettle but that now seems unlikely.

3.29 Residence of trusts and companies

For residence of trusts, see the next chapter.

Residence of companies is a subject which deserves to be addressed in

39 See 3.14.1 (Evidence of intention to leave).

40 Royal Commission on Income Tax, Final Report, Cmd 9474 Chapter 14. The whole section on residence is worth reading and accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

length and depth. The reader should study Stephen Brandon QC's *Taxation of Non-UK Companies and their Shareholders* (Key Haven Publications, 2002, para. 2.1) which gives the topic the 50 page analysis it needs, and the International Tax Handbook chapters 3 and 4.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESIDENCE OF TRUSTEES

4.1 Why does trustee residence matter?

Like individual residence, trustee residence is fundamental for many tax purposes, of which the most important are:

- (1) The charge to income tax on foreign investment income (which applies to UK resident trustees of discretionary¹ trusts).
- (2) Capital gains tax.

There is only one definition of residence for individuals, but there are two main² definitions of trustee residence: one for income tax and another for CGT.

The 2004 Budget announced proposals to replace these with a common definition, a proposal formerly made in the 1991 Trusts Consultative Document. The most recent discussion paper³ proposes to adopt the IT test for CGT. It suggests the changes will take effect from 2006/7 with one year's transitional relief for existing trusts.

4.2 Actual residence of trustees

One needs first of all to identify the trustees. This is normally

-
- 1 The charge applies only in a very attenuated form to interest in possession trusts.
 - 2 For good measure there is a third definition of trustee residence for s.218 IHTA: see 40.1 (Reporting requirements). Three definitions was not enough for the drafter of the IHT (Delivery of Accounts) (Excepted Settlements) Regulations 2002 who chose to give another definition for settlements with a trust fund of less than £1,000. One would like to think this was an April Fool spoof which became law by accident, but more likely here was a beginner trying his hand.
 - 3 Discussion Paper on the Modernisation of the Taxation of Trusts (16 March 2005).

straightforward, but see 4.7 (Protectors) on whether a protector may be a trustee. Next one must identify the trustees' actual place of residence in their personal capacities, applying the tests of Chapter 3 (Residence).

4.3 Trust residence for income tax⁴

The TS&E Manual 1455 provides:

All trustees are resident in the UK The trustees are resident in the UK for income tax purposes.

All trustees are resident outside the UK The trustees are not resident in the UK for income tax purposes.

Trustees who are all resident in the UK change to trustees who are all not resident The trustees are resident in the UK for income tax purposes for the part of the year that resident trustees were in office. They are not resident for income tax purposes for the rest of the year.

Trustees who are all not resident in the UK change to trustees who are all resident The trustees are not resident in the UK for income tax purposes for the part of the year that non-resident trustees were in office. They are resident for income tax purposes for the rest of the year.

The position for mixed resident trustees is governed by s.110 FA 1989 which provides:

Residence of trustees

- (1) Where the trustees of a settlement include at least one who is not resident in the UK as well as at least one who is, then for all the purposes of the Income Tax Acts—
 - (a) if the condition in subsection (2) below is satisfied, the trustee or trustees not resident in the UK shall be treated as resident there, and
 - (b) otherwise, the trustee or trustees resident in the UK shall be treated as not resident there (but as resident outside the UK).
- (2) The condition referred to in subsection (1) above is that the settlor⁵ or, where there is more than one, any of them is at any relevant

4 Strictly, one should refer to the residence of trustees, not the residence of a trust, but in practice the two expressions are used synonymously.

5 "Settlor" is defined in s.110(4); it has the usual tax meaning.

time⁶—

- (a) resident in the UK,
- (b) ordinarily resident there, or
- (c) domiciled there.

A trust with a non-resident foreign domiciled settlor may have UK trustees (as long as they are not the sole trustees). In that case, however, one must take care that no UK connected person provides even a nominal amount of funds because that will make him a co-settlor. This is known as “tainting” the trust.⁷

4.4 Trust residence for CGT

Section 69(1) TCGA provides:

... that body [the trustees] shall be treated as being resident and ordinarily resident in the UK unless

- [a] the general administration of the trusts is ordinarily carried on outside the UK and
- [b] the trustees or a majority of them for the time being are not resident or⁸ not ordinarily resident in the UK.

(Paragraphing added)

The statutory expression “not resident or not ordinarily resident” is a clumsy one. As in the last chapter, I shall abbreviate it to “non-resident” and leave “ordinarily resident” to be understood.

6 “Relevant time” is defined in s.110(3):

“For the purposes of subsection (2) above the following are relevant times in relation to a settlor—

- (a) in the case of a settlement arising under a testamentary disposition of the settlor or on his intestacy, the time of his death, and
- (b) in the case of any other settlement, the time or, where there is more than one, each of the times when he has provided funds directly or indirectly for the purposes of the settlement.”

7 See 37.1 (Who is the settlor?).

8 Note it reads “or” not “and”; contrast 18.1 (CGT on individuals).

4.5 Carrying on trust administration abroad

Where all the trustees are non-resident in their personal capacities, HMRC have not usually sought to argue that the trust is UK resident (on the ground that the general administration of the trust has been carried on in the UK). But the fact that they have not taken the point in the past would not preclude them from taking it at any time in the future.⁹ A retrospective attack cannot be ruled out. (Nor even – experience shows – criminal proceedings. It is a good discipline to be ready to justify any entry in a tax return to a jury unfamiliar with informal HMRC practices.) Crude expectations of uniformity are liable to be misleading. Remember Russell’s chicken: “The man who has fed the chicken every day throughout its life at last wrings its neck instead, showing that more refined views as to the uniformity of nature would have been useful to the chicken.”

Because HMRC have never taken the point, there is no authority on the meaning of the expression “the general administration of the trusts of the settlement”. HMRC say:

The general administration of a trust is treated as being carried on at the place where the trustees carry out their general duties as trustees, though we take account of all the circumstances of the trust when determining the location of its “place of effective management”.¹⁰

This does not take us very far. The passage continues:

General administration is not the same as the concept of place of effective management used in Double Taxation Agreements.

This is correct.¹¹

The general sense of the expression is clear enough. Every act of trust administration is potentially relevant. Ideally, everything will be done outside the UK:

9 It may sometimes also be in the interest of a beneficiary (especially in a dispute with trustees) to argue that the trust is UK resident. This will defend the beneficiary against a section 87 charge, at the cost of a charge on the trustees!

10 Modernising the tax system for trusts - Definitions & Tests (10/12/03), para 58.

11 For the same reason, no guidance can be found from cases or discussion on “central management and control”, the test of corporate residence.

- Trustees' meetings (held as often as the trustees' business requires, at least annually) and any other place where the decisions relating to trust administration may be made.
- The place where all correspondence, faxes and e-mails are dealt with.
- Trust bank accounts.

If there is any UK element it must be subsidiary to the general management of the trusts offshore.

4.5.1 Administration "*ordinarily*" carried on outside the UK

The reference in s.69(1) to the place where the general administration of the trust is *ordinarily* carried on provides offshore trustees with a measure of protection from an occasional lapse. If some act of trust administration is carried out in the UK, this would not of itself prevent the trust from continuing to satisfy the test of having the general administration of the trust *ordinarily* carried on outside the UK.

However, the use of the words "general administration" would be enough to achieve that result and "ordinarily" must go further. The purpose and meaning of the word "ordinarily", it occurs to the author, can best be understood by comparing the CGT residence rules for individuals and trustees. An individual is within the scope of CGT if he is resident *or* ordinarily resident in the UK. By contrast, a trustee is regarded as non-resident for CGT purposes unless he is resident *and* ordinarily resident in the UK.¹² Suppose a trustee comes to the UK from abroad for the period of one year only. He has the status of UK resident but not ordinarily resident. In such a case, in his individual capacity, he is within the scope of CGT (albeit perhaps on the remittance basis). However, it was clearly the intention of Parliament that in this case a trust of which the individual was trustee should not become UK resident (the CGT burden which that would bring to the trust is obviously not fair). If an individual trustee is resident but not ordinarily resident, then even if the administration of the trust is carried on in the UK, the administration is nevertheless not *ordinarily* carried on here.

12 Assuming the general administration of the trusts is carried on outside the UK.

4.5.2 *Delegation to UK agent*

The CG Manual provides at CG33383:

The activities of an agent appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day affairs of the trust, for example, to look after the investments, should not normally be taken into account in determining where the general administration of the trust is carried on.

The basis of this may be:

- (1) activities of an agent are not regarded as “trust administration”; or
- (2) in weighing up the balance (as the “general administration” test requires) one places more weight on the activities of the principal (appointing and supervising the agent) than the activities of the agent; or
- (3) one applies the Roman law maxim *qui facit per alium facit per se* (a person acting through an agent should be regarded as if he were acting personally).¹³

The Manual continues:

However, where a trust claims to be non-resident, the general administrative duties which would normally fall within the responsibility of trustees (as opposed to any agent appointed by them) must in fact be ordinarily carried on outside the UK by the trustees.

Presumably this means that HMRC practice will only apply to matters normally delegated from trustees to agents. What is “normally” delegated must include:

13 The basis is sometimes said to be grounded on a distinction between:

- (1) the general administration of the *trusts*, as opposed to
- (2) the administration of the *trust assets*.

That distinction should not and indeed cannot be drawn. The trustees have duties to manage the trust assets which are duties imposed by the trust. (The drafter did not have any particular point in mind when he used the plural “trusts” in s.69(1) as he used the singular “trust” with the same meaning in subsection (2).)

- (1) Expert tax and trust law advice.
- (2) Preparation of accounts (but accounting and financial records should be maintained outside the UK).
- (3) UK investment managers may be appointed and authorised to manage trust investments on a discretionary basis, but the trustees should put in place adequate appropriate monitoring procedures. The trustees should be in a position at all times to satisfy themselves that the investment managers continue to act in accordance with the trustees' investment policy.

The final word concerning trust administration rests at all times with the trustees. This is needed for trust law as well as tax law reasons!¹⁴

If the settlor (or a beneficiary) is given an investment/consultancy contract by the trustees, to deal with trust property, the matter should be dealt with this way:

- (1) The decision to delegate should be made by the trustees (and properly minuted).
- (2) There should be a written contract between the trustees and the settlor (or beneficiary).
- (3) The authority of the settlor (or beneficiary) under the contract should not be too wide.
- (4) The terms of the contract should require the settlor (or beneficiary) to report as often as appropriate to the trustees.
- (5) The trustees should supervise the work of the settlor (or beneficiary).

14 Where a settlor wishes to determine a trust's investment policy, and the trustees are concerned that to follow the settlor's instructions may constitute a breach of trust or evidence of sham, the solution sometimes suggested is to draft the trust deed with power for the settlor to direct trust investment (a reserved power clause). But while this may be satisfactory from a trust law viewpoint, if the reserved powers are exercised in the UK, the trust is likely to be UK resident for CGT purposes.

(All the steps would be required for trust law reasons, of course, as well as for tax considerations.) I suggest the contract is modelled on a standard contract used by investment managers because it could not be suggested that contracts of that kind fall outside the scope of HMRC's statement.

Different considerations apply if the assets are held by a non-resident company. Here the issue is corporate residence¹⁵ and the test is of course where central management and control of the company is situated. In practice, however, the matter should be dealt with along the same lines:

- (1) The decision to delegate should be made by the directors of the company (and properly minuted).
- (2) There should be a written contract between the company and the settlor or beneficiary.
- (3) The authority of the settlor or beneficiary under the contract should not be too wide.
- (4) The terms of the contract should require the settlor or beneficiary to report as often as appropriate to the directors.
- (5) The directors should supervise the work of the settlor or beneficiary.

4.6 Minority of trustees actually UK resident

If one trustee is actually UK resident (in his private capacity) a non-resident trust needs at least two offshore trustees to outnumber him. Ideally these non-resident trustees should consist of or include two corporations and not individuals. Otherwise the death of a trustee could make the trust UK resident. (In these circumstances some relief is provided by s.81(5) TCGA if the foreign residence is restored by the appointment of another trustee within six months.)

If a trustee is actually UK resident, particular care is needed to satisfy the requirement that trust administration is carried on abroad. In practice it is better not to have a minority UK resident trustee unless there is a good

15 Or shadow directorship, see 34.17.1 (When is agent of company a shadow director?).

reason for it. One such reason may be to arrange that the trust is resident for income tax (avoiding ss.739–40) but not resident for CGT.

4.7 UK protector and trust residence

It is normal practice to appoint a “protector”¹⁶ who has power:

- (1) to consent to certain key matters of trust administration; and
- (2) to appoint (and usually to dismiss) trustees.

The protector may be a UK resident. A protector could not be regarded as a trustee¹⁷ and so his actual residence is irrelevant in ascertaining the

16 On trust law and drafting aspects of protectors, see *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, Sweet & Maxwell, 7th ed, para. 6.29.

17 Some have doubted this but in the author’s view the matter is clear. *Re Marshall* [1945] Ch 21 held that trustees for the purpose of the obsolescent Settled Land Act 1925 are “trustees” for the purpose of the Judicial Trustee Act 1896. Although trust land is not vested in SLA trustees, capital money and investments other than land are vested in them, and *for this reason* they were held to be trustees. In *Manoogian v Sonsino* [2002] EWHC 1304 (Ch) [2002] WTLR 989; 5 ITELR 125 a settlement provided:

“... the Bank shall make such investments as may from time to time be particularly and specifically directed to be made of it in writing from time to time by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.”

The Patriarch was not a trustee:

“His position is analogous to powers of a life tenant under a conventional strict settlement. The life tenant is often given powers to possess land, direct investments and so on, but none of those things make him a trustee of the settlement.”

In *Clay v Clay* [2001] HCA 9 (accessible on www.austlii.org) the High Court of Australia similarly held that a guardian was not a trustee. Underhill and Hayton, *Law Relating to Trusts and Trustees*, 16th edition, 2003, p.29, takes the same view: “because the protector merely has powers vested in him and not trust property he is not a trustee”.

It might be a different matter if the protector’s powers extend beyond those traditionally given to a protector. One could imagine a trust deed under which:

- (1) persons named “trustees” held legal title to property; and
- (2) a person named (or mis-named) “protector” held all the administrative and dispositive powers normally given to trustees.

This case (depending on the drafting) might be equivalent to the common situation where trust property is vested in nominees. In such a case no one suggests that the

actual residence of the trustees in their personal capacities.

The protector's existence need not prevent the general administration of the trust from being carried on abroad. The downside of a UK resident protector is that slightly greater care is needed to ensure that this condition is satisfied, particularly if the settlor and beneficiaries are also in the UK. For this reason a non-resident protector is preferred by some practitioners, but the practical convenience of a UK protector may outweigh this consideration.

4.8 Professional trustees treated as non-resident

Section 69(2) TCGA provides:

- [a] ... a person:
 - [i] carrying on a business which consists of or includes the management of trusts, and
 - [ii] acting as trustee of a trust in the course of that business,
- [b] shall be treated in relation to that trust as not resident in the UK if the whole of the settled property consists of ... property provided by a person not at the time ... domiciled, resident or ordinarily resident in the UK,
- [c] and if in such a case the trustees or a majority of them are or are treated in relation to that trust as not resident in the UK, the general administration of the trust shall be treated as ordinarily carried on outside the UK.

(Paragraphing added)

This thoroughly sensible provision allows UK professional trustees to act

nominees are “trustees” for the purposes of the trust residence rule. Although the legal title may not be vested in the trustees, the trustees have the right to call for it. Alternatively (depending on the drafting) the case may be equivalent to the situation where custodian trustees hold the trust fund on behalf of managing trustees under s.4 Public Trustee Act 1906. In such a situation, the (so-called) protector would be a trustee. This is hypothetical – I have never seen it in practice – but worth mentioning as warning of the problems which might arise if the powers of a UK resident protector were unduly extended.

Many offshore Trust Laws state expressly that a protector is not a trustee; but (i) that only states what would in any event be the position, and (ii) that could not be determinative of the meaning of “trustee” in a UK statute.

without attempting to tax them. The object is to allow the UK to compete on equal tax terms with foreign trustees. The rule also affects non-resident professional trustees of a trust administered in the UK. Whether the rule will survive after the proposed reform of trustee residence in 2006 is not known.

The relief applies where the trustee is a person within [a], here called “a professional trustee”. The relief does not apply to a person who acts as trustee for no remuneration as that is not acting in the course of a business.

TS&E Manual, para. 1460 says that “the trustee must not be an employee”. Presumably HMRC take the view that an employee is not “carrying on a business which consists of or includes the management of trusts”. However, it is considered that an employee is carrying on the “business” of being an employee and such a business may include the management of trusts.¹⁸

In circumstances where s.69(2) may apply (the settlor being non-domiciled and non-resident when he made the settlement) then one should consider the possibility of:

- (1) using UK resident professional trustees; or
- (2) using non-resident professional trustees who allow the administration of the trust to be carried on in the UK.

This may be convenient and keep administrative costs down. It does not matter if the settlor subsequently becomes resident or domiciled in the UK provided he was not so resident when he made the settlement.¹⁹ Take care when a UK professional trustee retires, if a co-trustee is not a professional: the trust may become UK resident!

Unfortunately this provision applies only to CGT: it has no counterpart for income tax.²⁰ Nor does it apply to determine residence of a company held by trustees, so where a trust holds a non-resident company, it may be more convenient to use trustees actually resident where the company is resident. As with the income tax rule, take care that no UK connected

18 See Table A, Article 89; *Ronbar Enterprises v Green* [1954] 2 All ER 266; *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, Sweet & Maxwell, 7th edn, para. 20.55.

19 HMRC accept this: CG Manual 33391.

20 But this may not be a problem (e.g. if the settlor has an interest or another beneficiary has an interest in possession, or no trust income arises).

person provides even a nominal amount of funds for the trust; see SP 5/92.

The rule is compulsory: sometimes a UK resident trust may be desired, in which case one must appoint non-professional trustees.

4.9 Commentary: Let's abolish the relevance of trustee residence

Residence is a sensible connecting factor for individuals: everyone will accept that a person who is resident in the UK should to some extent at least be subject to tax in the UK. Residence of trustees is a matter which can be chosen by judicious appointment of trustees, and makes little sense as a connecting factor in the taxation of trusts.

A better system would be that trusts pay IT and CGT regardless of the residence of the trustees in relation to property provided by a UK domiciled settlor. Conversely, trusts should be exempt from CGT and IT on foreign income in relation to property provided by foreign domiciled non-resident settlors. This is the basis of trust taxation in Canada, New Zealand and, I suspect, most other common law jurisdictions. It is also the basis of IHT. Of course, domicile of the settlor is not a perfect connecting factor. Such a thing does not exist. The link can to some extent be broken by tax planning.²¹ But the mad anti-avoidance structure of sections 86 to 98 TCGA, bolstered (supposedly) by Schedules 4A to 5, can be replaced with a much simpler and fairer one based on s.740 ICTA. The reform, like any, would bring winners and losers but the overall result would be a system which was fairer, simpler and much more effective.

21 See 37.22 (Planning to create trust with foreign domiciled settlor).

CHAPTER FIVE

YEAR OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

5.1 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with the tax position in a year during which an individual or a trustee becomes or ceases to be UK resident. It is necessary to consider separately:

- (1) The income tax rules for:
 - (a) individuals;
 - (b) trusts.
- (2) The CGT rules for:
 - (a) individuals;
 - (b) trusts.

5.2 Income tax on individuals: year of arrival and departure

ESC A11 (Residence in the UK: year of commencement or cessation of residence) provides:

The Income and Corporation Taxes Acts make no provision for splitting a tax year in relation to residence and an individual who is resident in the UK for any year of assessment is chargeable on the basis that he is resident for the whole year.

This is correct but subject to two exceptions of such breadth that the general principle rarely applies:

- (1) Relief is available by HMRC concession. The concession is ESC A11 and HMRC practice is explained in the booklet IR20 and HMRC

Manuals.

- (2) Relief may be available under Double Tax Treaties. These are important but reference will need to be made to each treaty and they are not discussed in this book.

5.3 Concession A11

The concession provides:

Where an individual—

- (a) comes to the UK to take up permanent residence or to stay for at least two years¹; or
- (b) ceases to reside in the UK if he has left for permanent residence abroad,

liability to UK tax which is affected by residence is computed by reference to the period of his residence here during the year. It is a condition that the individual should satisfy the Board of Inland Revenue that prior to his arrival he was, or on his departure is, not ordinarily resident in the UK. The concession would not apply, for example, where an individual who had been ordinarily resident in the UK left for intended permanent residence abroad but returned to reside here before the end of the tax year following the tax year of departure.

The conditions for year of arrival treatment are therefore:

- (1) the individual comes to the UK to take up permanent residence or to stay for at least two years; and
- (2) prior to arrival, the individual was not ordinarily resident.

The usual conditions for year of departure treatment are:

- (1) the individual must leave for permanent residence abroad; and

1 The context suggests that “to stay for at least two years” must mean “to be resident for two or more tax years”. So that an individual who is here from 1 September 2000 to 31 September 2001, who is therefore resident in 2000/01 and 2001/02, qualifies for year of arrival treatment in the year of arrival.

(2) the individual must cease to be ordinarily resident in the UK.

Year of departure treatment is extended to one further case. ESC A11 provides:

This concession is extended to the years of departure and return where, subject to certain conditions, an individual goes abroad under a contract of employment. These conditions are—

- the individual's absence from the UK and the employment itself both extend over a period covering a complete tax year; and
- any interim visits to the UK during the period do not amount to—
 - (i) 183 days or more in any tax year; or
 - (ii) an average of 91 days or more in a tax year (the average is taken over the period of absence up to a maximum of four years).

This is only relevant to an individual who does not leave the UK for permanent residence abroad.

The individual who comes to the UK so as to be resident for one tax year will not qualify for year of arrival treatment but he may qualify for year of departure treatment.

A year in which an individual falls within the concession is described as a split year.

5.4 Computation of liability in split year

ESC A11 simply states that:

liability to UK tax which is affected by residence is computed by reference to the period of his residence here during the year.

There are several possible ways of computing liability “by reference to the period of residence”. How this is applied in practice is explained in the Manuals and IR20. The method used is not the most obvious or the simplest possible, but it works well enough. Different rules apply to year of arrival and year of departure.

5.5 Year of arrival: relevant foreign income

5.5.1 RFI: UK domiciled individual

Inspector's Manual 1663 explains:

New arrivals on or after 6 April 1997

Where an individual arrives in the UK on or after 6 April 1997 and is regarded as resident from the date of arrival, his liability in respect of overseas income within Cases IV or V should be determined as follows.

- (1) No liability arises where the source of income ceases before permanent residence begins.
- (2) Liability for the year of arrival should be based
 - (a) *where the arising basis applies*, upon the proportion on a time basis from the date of arrival to the following 5 April, of the full amount of income arising in the year of arrival.

I describe this as time apportionment. This applies to a foreign domiciliary if the arising basis applies, for instance, income from Ireland (which is outside the remittance basis).

5.5.2 RFI: Non-UK domiciled individual

In this case, Inspector's Manual 1663 explains:

New arrivals on or after 6 April 1997

Where an individual arrives in the UK on or after 6 April 1997 and is regarded as resident from the date of arrival, his liability in respect of overseas income within Cases IV or V should be determined as follows.

- (1) No liability arises where the source of income ceases before permanent residence begins.
- (2) Liability for the year of arrival should be based ...
 - (b) *where the remittance basis applies*, strictly upon the sums received in the UK in the whole of the year of arrival², but may be restricted to the amount which would have been chargeable if the arising basis had been applicable.

For example, an individual arrives in the UK on 6 October 1997 and is regarded as UK-resident from that date. Case V income arose as follows:—

2 In strict law, certainly, liability is based on sums received in the UK in the whole of the year of arrival, but applying ESC A11 one might have thought that remittances before arrival should be ignored, or time apportionment applied.

30/6/97	£100
30/9/97	£200
31/12/97	£150
31/3/98	£250
[total £700]	

On 31 December 1997, £400 of this income is remitted to the UK.

If the arising basis applies, the amount chargeable for 1997–98 will be $6/12 \times £700 = £350$

If the remittance basis applies, the amount strictly chargeable is £400, but in practice this may be restricted to £350.

5.6 Year of departure: RFI

Here HMRC compute tax “by reference to the period of residence here during the year” but there is a different method of computation. The Inspector’s Manual again:

1667. Persons ceasing to be resident in UK

Where a person (other than an individual of the type referred to in IM45³) takes up permanent residence abroad and ceases to be resident in this country, any liability under Case IV or V for the year in which residence here ceases should be based on—

(a) the proportion, appropriate to the period from 6 April to the date of departure, of the income arising or remitted, as the case may be, in the ... year of departure ...

or

(b) the actual amount of the income arising or remitted, as the case may be, in the period from 6 April to the date of departure, whichever is the less.

5.7 Year of arrival and departure: employment income computation

ESC A11 is in general terms, and the Manual states that it applies to employment income, so one computes liability by reference to the period of residence here. EIM 40006 gives further information.

3 The reference is not immediately obvious, but is apparently to an individual who is a habitual visitor: see 5.9 (Habitual visitors).

5.8 Income within s.624 ITTOIA, s.739 and s.740 ICTA

The Manuals do not deal with this expressly, but ESC A11 is in general terms, so one computes liability by reference to the period of residence here and it must be assumed that the RFI rules set out above apply. In a s.739/740 case, the concession may in some cases be withdrawn on the grounds it is being used for tax avoidance.

5.9 Habitual visitors

The Inspector's Manual explains at 1664:

Visitors resident from 6 April

An individual who, by reason of habitual and substantial visits, becomes chargeable as a resident for and from the fifth year of such visits (see (a)(ii) of IM45) should be treated as resident for the whole of the year for the purpose of this guidance.

5.10 Non-resident's exemption for UK source income in split year

ESC A11 provides:

Where the concession applies and the tax year is split, FA 1995 s 128 (limit on income chargeable on non-residents—income tax) does not apply for the period for which an individual is treated as not resident. That section only applies to complete years of non-residence.

5.11 Gains from life policies, etc.

The split year concession does not apply to such gains: see 20.2.2 (Individual non-resident in year of chargeable event). There is no good reason for this anomaly, but there it is.

5.12 Income tax on trustees: year of arrival and departure

If a trust changes income tax residence by appointment of new trustees it is considered that the tax year is split into UK and non-UK resident periods. This is the HMRC view, *Trusts Settlements & Estates Manual* 1455:

Trustees who are all resident in the UK change to trustees who are all not resident

The trustees are resident in the UK for income tax purposes for the part of the year that resident trustees were in office. They are not resident for income tax purposes for the rest of the year.

Trustees who are all not resident in the UK change to trustees who are all resident

The trustees are not resident in the UK for income tax purposes for the part of the year that non-resident trustees were in office. They are resident for income tax purposes for the rest of the year.

The position if a trust migrates by the migration of a trustee in his personal capacity (without an appointment of new trustees) is unclear; but in practice this is rare.

5.13 CGT on individuals: year of arrival and departure

Under s.2 TCGA, CGT is charged on gains of a year *during any part of which* the individual is UK resident. If a UK resident individual leaves the UK to take up residence abroad, he is strictly subject to CGT on the disposal of assets until the following 6 April; if, while non-resident, he disposes of an asset, he is strictly subject to CGT if he becomes UK resident before the following 6 April.

As with income tax, this is subject to two exceptions of such breadth that the general principle rarely applies:

- (1) Relief is available by HMRC concession: ESC D2.
- (2) Double Tax Treaties split UK tax years into resident and non-resident periods. These are discussed at 18.16 (Double tax treaties as a defence to CGT charge).

5.13.1 Concession D2

Concession D2 provides:

1. An individual who comes to live in the UK and is treated as resident here for any year of assessment from the date of arrival is charged to capital gains tax only in respect of chargeable gains from disposals made after arrival, provided that the individual has

not been resident or ordinarily resident in the UK at any time during the five years of assessment immediately preceding the year of assessment in which he or she arrived in the UK.

2. An individual who leaves the UK and is treated on departure as not resident and not ordinarily resident here is not charged to capital gains tax on gains from disposals made after the date of departure, provided that the individual was not resident and not ordinarily resident in the UK for the whole of at least four out of the seven years of assessment immediately preceding the year of assessment in which he or she left the UK.⁴

5.14 CGT on trusts: year of arrival and departure

The CGT concession applies only to individuals. It does not apply to trustees or to a settlor who is chargeable on the gains of the settlement – whether the trustees are resident or non-resident. ESC D2 provides:

4. This concession does not apply to the trustees of a settlement who commence or cease residence in the UK or to a settlor of a settlement in relation to gains in respect of which the settlor is chargeable under TCGA sections 77-79, or TCGA section 86 and Sch 5.

It is hard to see any reason for this (beyond a generalised disapproval of trusts).

5.15 Tax planning/avoidance and use of the split year concessions

Every concession is qualified by the following words:

4 For completeness, note that the concession continues:

- “3. This concession does not apply to any individual in relation to gains on the disposal of assets which are situated in the UK and which, at any time between the individual’s departure from the UK and the end of the year of assessment, are either:
 - (a) used in or for the purposes of a trade, profession or vocation carried on by that individual in the UK through a branch or agency; or
 - (b) used or held for, or acquired for the use by or for the purposes of such a branch or agency.”

A concession will not be given in any case where an attempt is made to use it for tax avoidance.

The difficulty is that tax avoidance is very much a matter of opinion.⁵

In *R v IRC ex parte Fulford-Dobson* [1987] STC 344 the taxpayer's wife (a UK resident) gave an asset to her husband who was just about to take up employment abroad. He sold the asset shortly thereafter but before the following 6 April and sought the benefit of the concession. HMRC refused to apply the concession and an application for judicial review was unsuccessful.

The CG Manual gives some guidance in circumstances where:

- (1) a taxpayer leaves the UK during a tax year, and
- (2) a disposal takes place after departure (but in the same tax year so that ESC D2 is in point).

The most interesting parts provide:

25982. Withholding benefit of ESC D2

In straightforward cases where the contract of sale is delayed until after the date of emigration, see CG25850, the Board have decided that they will not withhold the concession merely on the grounds that the disposal was arranged to take place after the date of departure from the UK. On its own, a genuine postponement of the disposal is not regarded as an attempt to use the concession for tax avoidance, but where coupled with other arrangements it might be so regarded.

...

26040. Options

Sometimes the owner, before emigrating, grants an option to a potential purchaser to buy the asset, that option to be exercised during a specified period following the owner's emigration. If there is genuine uncertainty in the vendor's mind at the time of emigration as to whether the grantee will exercise the option, there are no grounds for withholding the benefit of the concession. As with pure delay cases, however, there may be evidence to show that the option was a sham and that the vendor is assured of his sale before he leaves the UK.

5 For a discussion of the "tax avoidance" concept, see 16.4 ("Avoidance" distinguished from "mitigation").

...

26050. Cross-options

These are cases where the vendor and purchaser each grant an option to the other party to sell/buy the asset which is the subject of the agreements. Invariably in these cross-options cases, the options are granted before the vendor leaves the UK, but one of the options is exercised (usually by the purchaser) after the vendor's date of departure. The Board will consider withholding the Concession if there appears to be no commercial reason for the issue of the cross-options.

The introduction of the temporary non-residence rules⁶ has diminished the scope for this type of tax planning, but has not stopped it altogether.

The Manual gives no guidance to the converse situation where:

- (1) a taxpayer arrives in the UK during a tax year;
- (2) a disposal takes place before arrival (but in the same tax year so that ESC D2 is in point).

In order to take advantage of the concession, a taxpayer might arrange disposals just before arriving in the UK . He might do this in various ways:

- (1) sell assets;
- (2) transfer assets to a trust or company, in which the taxpayer is interested;
- (3) enter into a contract with delayed completion.

Arrangement (1) above should not lose the concession (cf CG Manual 25982 cited above). But (2) and (3) take us into what HMRC would regard as "devices" and should not be adopted unless there is a good non-tax reason.

A taxpayer might realise losses (which are in principle allowable) at the same time as realising gains which (under the concession) are not taxable. In these circumstances, HMRC might justifiably feel that the taxpayer is

6 See 18.15 (Temporary non-residents).

getting the best of both worlds and seek to withdraw the concession if they can identify any element of tax planning in the timing of disposals.

It is best, wherever possible, not to rely on the concession at all except in the simplest cases.

5.15.1 *Appeal against withdrawal of concession*

There is no appeal to the Commissioners against a decision by HMRC to withdraw a concession. It is possible to challenge HMRC by way of judicial review (or by application to HMRC adjudicator). It is an interesting question whether the taxpayer must show:

- (1) the HMRC decision that there is tax avoidance is one which no reasonable person could reach, or merely
- (2) the HMRC view is (in the Court's judgment) wrong (even if not unreasonable).

In practice few, if any, cases would turn on that fine distinction and either contention would be difficult to sustain.

5.16 CGT planning before arrival in the UK

There are many possible strategies and the choice will depend on circumstances. A minimum course would be for the individual to dispose of UK situate assets with inherent gains so as to bring their base cost up to market value. This need only apply to UK situate assets which might be disposed of while the individual is resident here. The individual might go further and dispose of non-UK situate assets if he wishes to have the ability to sell the asset and remit the gain.

A better course, involving more work, would be to transfer assets to a non-resident trust.

Watch the pre-owned asset rules: see 35.1 (Pre-owned assets).

These steps would ideally be taken in the tax year before arrival, but simple disposals might if necessary take place in the tax year of arrival, before the date of arrival, if reliance can be placed on ESC D2.

HMRC (rightly) take the point that the "bed and breakfasting" rules apply to a non-resident so he should not dispose of securities and re-acquire securities of the same class within 30 days: s.106A TCGA; RI

226.

Of course foreign tax on the disposal would need to be considered. It is sometimes possible to arrange a disposal which under UK rules takes place while non-resident but under foreign rules takes place while UK resident.

CHAPTER SIX

SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INCOME

6.1 Relevant foreign income

Relevant foreign income (“RFI”) is the term used by ITTOIA to describe income formerly charged under Schedule D Cases IV and V. “Relevant foreign income” is not a helpful label but it is difficult to think of a better one.

Section 830(1) ITTOIA provides the definition:

In this Act “relevant foreign income” means income which arises from a source outside the UK and is chargeable under any of provisions specified in subsection (2).

Subsection (2) sets out a comprehensive list, not repeated here. It includes almost all foreign income charged under ITTOIA, including in particular trading income, property income, interest and dividends. Employment income is governed by ITEPA.

6.2 Classification of income

Section 1 ICTA provides:

1 The charge to income tax

- (1) Income tax is charged in accordance with the Income Tax Acts on—
 - (b) all amounts which are charged to tax under any of the following provisions of ITEPA—
 - (i) Part 2 (employment income),
 - (ii) Part 9 (pension income), and
 - (iii) Part 10 (social security income),
 - (ba) all amounts which are charged to tax under any of the

- following provisions of ITTOIA—
- (i) Part 2 (trading income),
 - (ii) Part 3 (property income),
 - (iii) Part 4 (savings and investment income), and
 - (iv) Part 5 (miscellaneous income), and
- (c) any other amounts which, under the Income Tax Acts, are charged to income tax.

The old system of classifying income by schedule and case has been replaced by individual charges on different types of income.

This chapter considers savings and investment income, dealt with in Part 4 ITTOIA. I identify the charging provision for each type of RFI and consider:

- (1) When is a receipt “income” in nature and when is it capital?
- (2) What is the source of an income receipt?
- (3) What is the situs of the source for income tax purposes?

6.3 Why does “capital v income” matter?

“Income tax is a tax on income.” This slogan is less true now than when it was formulated in 1900; but the first question still remains: is a receipt “income” in the hands of the recipient? If not, it is not subject to income tax under basic charging provisions¹ and is not normally “income” for the purposes of anti-avoidance provisions. This issue arises often in the context of distributions from trusts and non-resident companies, where the income/capital distinction is a difficult one.

6.4 Why does identity of source matter?

The identity of the source from which income has arisen is relevant:

1 However, a receipt which is capital for non-tax (e.g. trust law) purposes may be:

- (1) deemed to be income for income tax purposes; or
- (2) subject to income tax (without being deemed to be income).

Examples are benefits under s.740 ICTA; gains from offshore funds and life insurance policies; gains under provisions beyond the scope of this book, including sections 703 and 776 ICTA.

- (1) in order to identify the situs of the source;
- (2) in order to apply the source-ceasing principle; see 7.46 (Source-ceasing principle);
- (3) because different rules apply to income with different types of source.

There is no statutory definition of “source”. The word is too basic to be usefully defined. The word has been paraphrased as “origin”² and “chief cause”³ or “originating” cause but these generalities are of no practical assistance. This, while true, does not take us very far.

6.5 Why does situs of source matter?

The question of situs (location) of an income source is important because income must have a source outside the UK to qualify as relevant foreign income. In particular:

- (1) Income of a non-resident (who is taxable on UK source income, not foreign source income); see 6.6 (Territorial scope).
- (2) Income of a UK resident foreign domiciliary: income must arise from a source outside the UK in order to be relevant foreign income and so qualify for the RFI remittance basis: s.830(1) ITTOIA).
- (3) Withholding tax (not applicable to relevant foreign income).
- (4) Double tax treaties; see “Treaty Problems Relating to Source” [1998] BTR 222.

Statute formerly used a variety of expressions⁴ but now the expression “source outside the UK” is the key term.

2 *Hart v Sangster* 37 TC 231 at 235.

3 *CIR v Philips' Gloeilampen Fabrieken* [1955] NZLR 868.

4 e.g. in section 65 ICTA the test was whether a possession or security was “out of the UK”, but that meant “having a source out of the UK”; see ITTOIA EN Vol II para. 1642.

6.6 Territorial scope

Section 368 ITTOIA provides:

368 Territorial scope of Part 4 charges

- (1) Income arising to a UK resident is chargeable to tax under this Part whether or not it is from a source in the UK.
- (2) Income arising to a non-UK resident is chargeable to tax under this Part only if it is from a source in the UK.
- (3) References in this section to income which is from a source in the UK include, in the case of any income which does not have a source, references to income which has a comparable connection to the UK.
- (4) This section is subject to any express or implied provision to the contrary in this Part (or elsewhere in the Income Tax Acts).

This is a statutory statement of a principle which was formerly in part in the statute and (where absent) was inferred by the courts.⁵

ITTOIA EN Vol II explains section 368(3):

3. Subsections (1) and (2) are drafted in terms of the “source” of the income. Although section 18 of ICTA refers to profits or gains from “property”, the usual statutory term elsewhere in the Income Tax Acts and in case law for the same concept is “source” and this has been adopted as the more familiar and modern term.

5 ITTOIA EN Vol II explains:

“29. ...Since *Colquhoun v Brooks* (1889), 2 TC 490 HL the courts have followed Lord Herschell’s judgment that (page 499):

The Income Tax Acts, however, themselves impose a territorial limit, either that from which the taxable income is derived must be situate in the UK or the person whose income is to be taxed must be resident there.

30. Whether Lord Herschell’s words referred to the statutory rules of the time or to a general statement of the law, it is as the latter that they have been subsequently applied by the courts. For example in *Perry v Astonr* (1935), 19 TC 255 HL Lord Russell of Killowen states (page 280):

There must, of course, be the necessary limitation which is inherent in all our Income Tax legislation, namely, that what is taxed under or by virtue of this provision can only be either (1) income which is here, or (2) income of a person resident here.

31. Additionally there is the general principle of UK law that, unless the contrary intention appears, an enactment is taken as not applying to matters outside the UK.”

34. However, while the term “source” may apply to the majority of receipts chargeable to income tax it does not apply to all such receipts. “Source” is something from which income arises and not all sums charged to income tax are by nature income. “Source” may not be the appropriate term where the amount charged to tax represents a profit on a transaction which is not by nature income and would not be charged to income tax without a specific charge. Indeed, the chargeable profit may arise on the disposal of an income source. This restricted meaning of “source” is supported by Lord Hoffmann’s judgement in *Walker v Centaur Clothes Group Ltd* (2000), 72 TC 379 HL and a more detailed discussion of this topic may be found in the commentary on Chapter 1 of Part 8 of this Act.

35. It has therefore been necessary to consider how to express the territorial scope in cases where there is no natural source of income.

36. Subsection (3) is broadly worded to catch such income. Where the connection such income has to the UK is comparable to the connection that income with a source in the UK has to the UK, then it is treated for the purposes of this section as income from a source in the UK.

ITTOIA EN Vol II para 1639 notes that there was originally no income tax charge on amounts which were not from a source, and explains:

1639. There were at that time no income tax charges on amounts treated as income. But the scope of Schedule D Cases IV and V has since been extended by provisions which charge to income tax, within one or other of the Cases, a profit or gain which would not otherwise be income arising from a security or from possessions within section 18(3) of ICTA. That is, on first principles it would be a capital profit or receipt. Such chargeable amounts could not therefore be said to derive from a “source” in the traditional sense. In *Walker v Centaur Clothes Group Ltd* (2000), 72 TC 379 HL, Lord Hoffmann commented (page 416):

Income tax is traditionally a source-based annual tax, liability depending upon the existence of a source of income falling under one of the Schedules during the year of assessment (see *Brown (Surveyor of Taxes) v National Provident Institution* [1921] 2 AC 222, 8 TC 57).

If the income tax had retained that ancient simplicity, it would be true to say that income could not be within the charge to tax unless there was a source within the charge and a person could not be within the charge unless he had a source of income within the charge. But that would be because of the nature of the income tax and not anything in the language of the definition.

It is, however, no longer true to say that liability to income tax depends upon the existence during the year of assessment of a source within the charge. There are cases (such as post-cessation receipts) when liability depends upon the existence of income defined by reference to a source which does not exist within the year of assessment. Or liability may depend upon an event, such as a balancing charge on the sale of an asset which has attracted a capital allowance, or the receipt of a capital sum from a particular kind of transaction, which is deemed to be taxable income received in that year of assessment or sometimes spread over several years of assessment.

1640. Although the definition uses “income which arises from a source” in respect of all income within the definition, specific rules have been added, in view of Lord Hoffmann's remarks, in sections 428(3) (deeply discounted securities) and 658(2) (beneficiaries' income from estates in administration), to attribute a foreign source to the income in question to ensure that there is no doubt that the definition applies to these provisions.

6.6.1 *General comment on situs of source*

Different considerations naturally apply to locating the situs of different kinds of income.

In relation to income from intangible sources (e.g. shares, debts, trades, etc.), the law must somehow choose a connecting factor to link the source to a jurisdiction. In principle, it would not matter much what the rule was, as long as there is some rule and its application is clear. There is a large choice of possible connecting factors, and the selection of the determining factor might be regarded as an arbitrary one.

The IT rules for the situs of an income source are different from the situs of asset rules for IHT, CGT and private international law; see 38.1 (Concept of situs).

6.7 **Income from non-UK resident companies**

Section 402 ITTOIA imposes a charge to tax on dividends from non-UK resident companies:

- (1) Income tax is charged on dividends of a non-UK resident company...
- (4) In this Chapter “dividends” does not include dividends of a capital

nature.

Income receipts from a company other than dividends are caught by s.687 ITTOIA:

687 Charge to tax on income not otherwise charged

- (1) Income tax is charged under this Chapter on income from any source that is not charged to income tax under or as a result of any other provision of this Act or any other Act. ...
- (4) The definition of “income” in s.878(1) does not apply for the purposes of this section.⁶

There is no distinction between:

- (1) dividend income charged under s.402; and
- (2) non-dividend income from shares charged under s.687.

ITTOIA EN Vol. II explains why there are two charging sections:

184. Income which, under the source legislation, is charged to tax under Schedule D Cases IV or V, has, where appropriate, been fully integrated with the equivalent income arising from a UK source. In the case of dividends from non-UK resident companies there is no exact equivalent in terms of UK source income. The closest equivalent is the charge to tax on dividends and other distributions from UK resident companies (section 20 of ICTA, Schedule F in the source legislation). But there is no precise overlap. The UK charge, by the adoption of the definition of “distribution” from Part 6 of ICTA ... can include dividends or distributions of a capital nature and can also operate to convert payments that would otherwise be treated as interest into distributions. Any charge on distributions from non-UK resident companies must be confined to income only. For this reason ... , it is not thought appropriate to integrate the charges. So a separate charge is needed to cover dividends from non-UK resident companies.

6 The disapplied definition states:
“‘Income’ includes amounts treated as income (whether expressly or by implication).”

6.7.1 *Meaning and significance of “dividend”*

186. ... It is possible that a non-UK resident company may make a distribution of income which would not fall within Chapter 4 of Part 4 of this Act because it is not a “dividend”. But if the distribution comprises income it will fall to be dealt with either under alternative specific charges (eg interest) or within “income not otherwise charged”, the charge on which appears in Chapter 8 of Part 5 of this Act.

187. The term “dividend” is not defined in this Act. “Dividend” is a widely used and understood term and is defined only in very specific circumstances not applicable in this context It is not thought appropriate to attempt to define “dividend” here. It will usually be a matter of referring to the relevant company law to determine whether or not a payment made by a company is a dividend.

The requirements for a charge are:

- (1) The receipt must be a dividend or a distribution from a company.
- (2) The receipt must be income and not capital in nature.

6.7.2 *“Distribution”*

The word “distribution” is wider than dividends. Its meaning is discussed in company law cases in the context of rules prohibiting unauthorised distributions. In *Aveling Barford v Perion* [1989] BCLC 626, a company (Aveling Barford) sold an asset at an undervalue to another company (Perion). The sale was made at the direction of the shareholder of Aveling Barford, and Perion was held on Jersey Trusts for the benefit of the shareholder and his family. Hoffmann J regarded this as a distribution to the shareholder (and so unlawful as the company had no distributable profits):

The Court looks at the substance rather than the outward appearance ... so it seems to me in this case that looking at the matter objectively, the sale to Perion was not a genuine exercise of the company’s power in its memorandum to sell its assets. It was a sale at a gross undervalue for the purpose of enabling a profit to be realised by an entity controlled and put forward by its sole beneficial shareholder. This was as much a dressed-up distribution as the payment of excessive interest in *Ridge*

Securities or excessive remuneration in *Halt Garage* ... The fact that the distribution was to Perion rather than to Dr. Lee or his other entities which actually held the shares in Aveling Barford is in my judgment irrelevant.

The decision is criticised in *Taxation of Companies and Company Reconstructions*, para B2.2.7 but it has been consistently followed and clearly represents the law: see *MacPherson v European Strategic Business Bureau* [2000] 2 BCLC 683 and *Clydebank Football Club v Steedman* [2002] SLT 109 at para. 75.

6.7.3 *Distribution to non-shareholder*

Aveling Barford shows that a distribution to non-members at the direction of shareholders is still a distribution for the purposes of company law rules regulating distributions. How does one reconcile this with section 263 CA 1985 which defines “distribution” to mean:

Every description of distribution of a company’s assets *to its members*...

There are two answers. The word “to” may be read as “to or at the direction of”. Alternatively it might be said that there are two sets of rules relating to distributions from companies, the statutory rules and additional common law rules, and a distribution to a non-shareholder is a “distribution” within the sense of the latter. It would not matter which of these is correct. Either way, the recipient receives a “distribution” from the company for tax purposes.

In these cases ss.94, 99 IHTA also need to be considered.

6.8 **Distribution from a non-resident company: income or capital?**⁷

In this context the income/capital distinction is one of the general law (e.g. it applies for trust law purposes) which is adopted by UK tax law. Hence many of the cases are trust law cases and not tax cases. The HMRC view

7 See Law Commission Consultation Paper 175 (Capital and Income in Trusts, 2004) accessible on www.lawcom.gov.uk; and Stephen Brandon QC’s *Taxation of Non-UK Resident Companies and their Shareholders* (Key Haven Publications, 2002) para. 2.2

is set out in Inspector's Manual 1610–1615:

1610. Distributions/foreign cos: In cash

Published: 9/95

...⁸ a cash distribution to its shareholders by a foreign company will normally be assessable under Case V, whether it is attributable to the undivided⁹ profits or to the capital resources of the company (*CIR v Trustee of Joseph Reid*, 30 TC 431). Where, however, cash —

- a) is distributed on the liquidation of the company (*CIR v Burrell*, 9 TC 27) or
 - b) comprises a return of part of the shareholder's capital interest in the company (*Rae v Lazard Investment Co Ltd*, 41 TC 1; *Courtaulds Investments Ltd v Fleming*, 46 TC 111),
- the cash constitutes a capital sum not assessable as income under Case V.

Any claim that a distribution constitutes a return of capital within (a) or (b) above should be referred to Revenue Policy International (Cases IV and V), Victory House, together with the documentary evidence submitted by the taxpayer.

...

1613. Distributions/foreign cos: Not in cash: Release of assets

Published: 9/95

Where a foreign company releases¹⁰ some of its assets (for example, shares it holds in another company) to its shareholders, the distribution will normally be assessable under Case V by reference to the UK currency value of such assets at the date of distribution (*Pool v Guardian Investment Trust Co Ltd*, 8 TC 167; *Wilkinson v CIR*, 16 TC 52; *Briggs v CIR*, 17 TC 11). Where, however, the assets are released on liquidation or are otherwise claimed to be a return of capital to the shareholder, the claim should be referred to Revenue Policy, International (Cases IV and V), Victory House in accordance with IM1610, last sub-para. As regards Capital Gains Tax, the recipient of the assets may be entitled to an adjustment of the cost to him of acquisition of the assets.

8 The omitted words refer to s.123 ICTA (repealed in 1996).

9 [Author's note] "Undivided" in this context is an old fashioned term for "undistributed".

10 [Author's note] "Releases" here simply means "transfers". The word "release" was used in *Pool v Guardian* (1921), but is not normally used nowadays in this sense.

The Manual considers cash and non-cash distributions separately, but the principle is exactly the same.

6.8.1 *Stock option*

The Inspector's Manual continues:

1611. Distributions/foreign cos: Not in cash: Option cases

Published: 9/95

Where a foreign company declares a cash dividend but offers its shareholders, on their own initiative, the option of taking up further shares in lieu of the cash dividend, a shareholder who exercises the option to take up the shares is not assessable under Case V of Schedule D in respect of that dividend. If, however, a shareholder does not exercise the option but takes the dividend in cash, he is assessable under Case V of Schedule D on the amount of the cash dividend. See CG51823 regarding the capital gains position.

6.8.2 *Issue of shares or debentures*

The Inspector's Manual continues:

1612. Distributions/foreign cos: Not in cash

Published: 9/95

Where a foreign company capitalises undivided [i.e. undistributed] profits and —

- a) issues to its shareholders the additional capital so created, in the form of its own shares or debentures, in proportion to the number of shares already held by them or
- b) satisfies a dividend out of such profits by the issue of its own stocks or shares (for example, a 'stock dividend' by a United States company),

such a distribution does not constitute income for Case V purposes in the hands of the shareholder. This principle applies when the distribution is actually made in shares, whether or not an effective option was given to the shareholder to receive cash in place of shares (*CIR v Blott*, 8 TC 101; *Whitmore v CIR*, 10 TC 645; *CIR v Fisher's Executors*, 10 TC 302; *CIR v Wright*, 11 TC 181). ...¹¹

11 The omitted words relate to s.66 ICTA (preceding year basis) repealed in 1994.

In cases where the distribution is not actually made in shares and the shareholder accepts cash from the company under an option given to him to receive cash in place of shares, the cash is assessable as income in accordance with IM1610.

1614. Distributions/foreign cos: Certificates of indebtedness

Published: 9/95

As regards liability in respect of dividends received in the form of certificates of indebtedness redeemable at a future date, see *Associated Insulation Products Ltd v Golder*, 26 TC 231.

See also IM4580 as regards liability on the sale or transfer of such certificates.

6.8.3 *Dividend re-investment plans*

The Inspectors Manual continues:

1615. Dividend reinvestment plans

Published: 9/95

Some foreign companies, particularly in North America and Australia, establish dividend reinvestment plans for their shareholders. Such plans can be structured in a number of different ways, some of which result in liability under Case V when a dividend is declared, and others which do not. At one extreme is the pure bonus issue, when a dividend is declared payable in shares with no option for the shareholder to take cash. Alternatively a company may arrange for cash dividends to be paid to a third party, typically a bank, which then applies the dividends in the purchase of additional company shares in the market on behalf of the shareholder. The first situation falls within the principle of *CIR v Blott* (8 TC 107) – see IM1612. The second gives rise to a Case V charge because the reinvestment in the company is regarded as a voluntary application of income which has already arisen to the shareholder.

Between these two extremes lies a variety of situations, each of which must be considered by reference to their own facts to determine whether a Case V charge arises. Where there is any doubt as to whether the receipt of shares under the terms of a dividend reinvestment plan gives rise to a Case V charge, refer the taxpayer's file, together with a copy of the plan prospectus, to Revenue Policy, International(Cases IV and V) Victory House.

6.8.4 *Income distribution from company: source and situs*

If a distribution from a company is income in nature, the question arises as to what is its source and where is its source.

The House of Lords held in *Bradbury v English Sewing Co Ltd* 8 TC 481 that the source of income from shares is situated in the place where the company is resident – not where it is incorporated or where the share register is kept. This is in stark contrast to the situs rule for CGT, IHT and private international law; see 38.1 (Situs for IHT and CGT). This rule is now statutory: s.383 ITTOIA imposes tax on distributions from UK resident companies.

6.9 Building societies

In practice, income from building societies will have a UK source. ITTOIA EN Vol II explains:

48. Under section 66 of FA 1988 a society incorporated under the Building Societies Act 1986 will be resident in the UK through incorporation. As long as dividends are paid by a UK resident company they have a UK source under the principle in *Bradbury v The English Sewing Cotton Company Ltd* (1923), 8 TC 481 HL.

49. But a society may be non-resident where it satisfies a residence test in the territory of a treaty partner and the treaty awards residence to that other territory. Section 249 of FA 1994 will then apply to treat the society as non-resident. Theoretically dividends paid by a building society may therefore arise from a source outside the UK. This would be most unlikely, however, since a building society may only be incorporated under the Building Societies Act 1986 if its principal office is in the UK. With the place of incorporation and the principal office in the UK a residence test is unlikely to be satisfied in another territory.

6.10 Open-ended investment companies

ITTOIA EN Vol II explains:

50. The definition of an open-ended investment company in section 468(10) of ICTA carries a limitation that the company should be incorporated in the UK under the OEIC regulations of 1996. Section 468(10) of ICTA is inserted in section 468 of ICTA by paragraph 10(4) (Open-ended Investment Companies (Tax) Regulations 1997 SI 1997/1154). All open-ended investment companies within the definition in section 468(10) of ICTA are therefore subject to the company

residence rule in section 66 of FA 1988 ("regarded for the purposes of the Taxes Acts as resident"). Open-ended investment company interest distributions treated as made by a UK resident company will be UK source income. Section 249 of FA 1994 could in theory also apply to make such companies non-resident (as explained in connection with industrial and provident societies). In that case interest distributions made will be treated as dividends from non-resident companies.

6.11 Authorised unit trusts

ITTOIA EN Vol II explains:

51. It is possible for the FSA to recognise a non-UK unit trust scheme for marketing into the UK. However, only those UK tax resident unit trusts that are "authorised" by the FSA come within section 468 of ICTA. Section 468(1) of ICTA provides that the Tax Acts apply to UK authorised unit trusts and shall have effect as if the trustees of the authorised unit trust were a company resident in the UK. Although the application of section 468(1) of ICTA is by reference to the trustees' income (and relief for capital expenditure), the treatment of the trustees as a UK resident company carries through for the purposes of taxing interest distributions treated as made to unit holders. That is because section 468L(2) of ICTA provides that the Tax Acts shall have effect as if such interest distributions were made "by the company referred to in section 468(1)". As these distributions are treated as made by such a company, that is a UK resident company, they can only be UK source income.

6.12 Unauthorised unit trust

Unauthorised unit trusts with UK resident trustees are by statute treated as non-transparent.¹² This leaves the question of foreign unauthorised unit trusts. Inspector's Manual 1617 provides:

Foreign investment schemes: Unit trust

Published: 9/95

Many unit trusts are established outside the UK (for example, in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, West Indies and Australia) under

12 s.469 ICTA.

arrangements identical with or similar to those operating in the UK. All such foreign unit trusts are unauthorised unit trusts (see IM4176) and are, therefore, outside the scope of Section 468 ICTA (see CT3930 onwards), but are unit trust schemes for the purposes of Capital Gains Tax (see TCGA, s 99(1), and CG41300 onwards).

Normally, a UK resident shareholder in a foreign unit trust is assessable under Case V by reference to his share of the income of the fund whether [1] this is paid out to him in cash or [2] used to purchase additional units.

This appears to assume that a foreign unit trust is not transparent for income tax purposes. The source of the unit-holder's income is the unit trust, not the underlying assets. That is thought to be correct in principle, though possibly transparency could be obtained (if desired) by appropriate drafting of the unit trust documentation.

Point [2] is correct if the income is applied voluntarily by the shareholder to purchase additional units but in other cases it is doubtful.

6.13 Industrial & provident societies

ITTOIA EN Vol 11 explains:

52. Under section 66 of FA 1988 a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts will be resident in the UK through incorporation. A society may, however, be non-resident where it also satisfies a residence test in the territory of a treaty partner of the UK and the treaty awards residence to that other territory. Section 249 of FA 1994 will then apply to treat the society as non-resident.

53. Section 486(4) of ICTA provides that share or loan interest is chargeable under Schedule D Case III. Theoretically therefore payments by a registered society may arise outside the UK but be charged under Schedule D Case III and not able to benefit from treatment specific to Schedule D Cases IV and V. For the sake of consistency this section treats such income arising outside the UK as relevant foreign income and therefore able to benefit from the special rules in Part 8 of this Act.

6.14 Charge on interest and territorial limitations

Section 369(1) ITTOIA provides the charge on interest:

Income tax is charged on interest.

Section 368 ITTOIA provides the territorial limitation:

- (1) Income arising to a UK resident is chargeable to tax under this Part whether or not it is from a source in the UK.
- (2) Income arising to a non-UK resident is chargeable to tax under this Part only if it is from a source in the UK.
- (3) References in this section to income which is from a source in the UK include, in the case of any income which does not have a source, references to income which has a comparable connection to the UK.
- (4) This section is subject to any express or implied provision to the contrary in this Part (or elsewhere in the Income Tax Acts).

ITTOIA EN Volume II paras. 33–36, which explain the background, are set out at 6.6 (Territorial scope).

6.15 Interest: What is the source?

The source of interest from a bank deposit has been described as “the deposit of money on certain terms”: *Hart v Sangster* 37 TC 231. In that case there was a substantial fresh deposit (£2m added to an account holding £20,000). This was a new source, even though the contract with the bank was one continuing contract (the payment of money into the bank does not bring about a new contract):

I think it is argued here that the source of income was the contract. I cannot agree with that. I think the source of income here was the deposit of money upon the terms of the contract. In my opinion, if an addition is made to the amount which is deposited, the words of Section 21¹³ are quite wide enough to catch it. I quite agree that certain difficulties might be imposed on the Inland Revenue if they were to pursue every deposit account and find whether or not there had been an addition to the account during the course of the year. That is a matter for the Inspector of Taxes or those responsible for the assessment to decide as to how they will deal with those matters. I do not suppose that in every case it would be worth the trouble that would

13 s.21 FA 1950 provided a current year basis for the first two years of income from a new source.

be caused to the taxing authorities if they were to inquire into every deposit account and find if the interest had been increased, unless it had been increased by a large amount. Here, of course, the increase of £2,000,000 is very great. In my judgment there is no question but that there has been a source of income in the deposit of money, and at any rate there has been an addition to a source of income here.¹⁴

Thus it is held, obiter, that every payment into a bank account creates a new source. This was (as the Court realised) quite unworkable in practice. Nowadays, however, the important question is not when a new source arises but when an existing source ceases. Suppose:

- (1) F holds £100 in a foreign account;
- (2) F pays £100 into the foreign account (a new source, according to *Hart v Sangster*);
- (3) F withdraws £100 from the account.

Arguably one applies a FIFO (first in first out) basis so that the second source has ceased. But then the law is so unworkable that a Court probably would (and in the author's view should) reject the obiter dicta in *Hart v Sangster*. It is suggested that, in the case of ordinary payments in and out, a bank account would be regarded as one single continuing source. It ceases to exist when the account is closed. There is probably a cessation of a source at the time when an account is overdrawn. In order to be quite sure that an existing source has ceased, it would be preferable to close the old account and transfer the money to a new account at a new bank.

6.16 Situs of source of interest

Foreign source interest is outside the scope of withholding tax¹⁵ and within the scope of the RFI remittance basis.

I refer to the person paying interest as the payor and the recipient as the creditor.

¹⁴ 37 TC at 237

¹⁵ See 24.1 (Withholding tax on interest).

The statute gives virtually no guidance on the situs of a source of interest, so one falls back on principle, case law and HMRC guidance.

6.16.1 *Principle*

Principle cannot identify the “right” connecting factor(s) but it can identify some approaches to the issue as unsatisfactory.

The situs needs to be known by the payor (who may have to deduct tax at source) and creditor (who may be taxable on the interest). This suggests no weight should be given to factors not likely to be known by both parties.

Factors which the parties can easily manipulate without commercial cost or inconvenience are not suitable (at least from HMRC’s viewpoint and one can expect the Courts to sympathise).

Debts are frequently assigned, and it is suggested that:

- (1) assignment should not alter the situs of the source; and
- (2) facts not likely to be known by an assignee should not affect the situs.

Many of the connecting factors may change, and it is possible that the source of interest can change its situs. However, it would not be convenient for situs of a source to change very often. There are two ways to deal with this:

- (1) to place little or no weight on features which may easily change; or
- (2) to look at the situation at the time the debt arises, and to ignore later changes.

Solution (1) seems preferable.

There are many possible connecting factors. The following is not a complete list but it includes all the main factors:

- (1) the payor:
 - (a) residence of payor;

- (b) place of business of payor;¹⁶
- (2) the payment of the interest:
 - (a) place where payment made;
 - (b) situs of funds out of which payment is made;¹⁷
- (3) the contract under which interest is paid:
 - (a) proper law;
 - (b) place where contract would be enforced;
 - (c) place where contract is made;
- (4) situs of debt on which interest is due (i.e. location of deed if debt is a specialty);
- (5) purpose for which loan is made (e.g. to purchase UK/non-UK situate asset);
- (6) place where money is lent (i.e. place where received);
- (7) situs of security for debt (if any);
- (8) residence of guarantor (if any);
- (9) residence of creditor.

I shall evaluate these factors in order.

(1) Residence of the payor

This is a satisfactory connecting factor. It is true that the payor may change his residence, but this does not happen often, or easily. In the case of dual resident payors, the place of business connected with the loan would usually act as a suitable tie-breaker.¹⁸

(2) The payment of the interest (place where payment made or situs of funds out of which payment is made)

This is not a suitable connecting factor as it is easily changeable.

16 Place of incorporation is another conceivable connecting factor but no-one has ever suggested it should be relevant.

17 This is often called the “source” of the payment but it is hopelessly confusing to use the word “source” in that way.

18 See 38.11.1 (Dual resident debtor).

(3) *Contract under which interest is paid: proper law, place where contract would be enforced, place where contract is made*

This is not a suitable connecting factor as it is within the control of the parties.

(4) *Situs of debt: location of deed if debt is a specialty*

This is obviously an unsuitable connecting factor. The payor will not have possession of the deed and may not know its location. The location is easily changeable, and the rule would allow easy tax planning.

This view is supported by *CIR v Philips' Gloeilampen, Fabrieken*:

If the location of the debt were to be selected as the test, the source would be located differently according as whether the contract was a simple contract or a specialty; and, in the latter case, its location would arbitrarily change with the actual situation of the deed itself. Such a test would, indeed, be far from the practical commonsense test prescribed by the authorities; and I cannot think it proper to apply it here if some other is available. The High Court of Australia rejected the same argument for similar reasons in *Studebaker Corporation of Australasia v Commissioner of Taxation for New South Wales* (1921) 29 CLR 225.¹⁹

(5) *Purpose for which the loan is made*

This is not such a suitable connecting factor, for it will often not be possible to identify a purpose with any particular location. Also money borrowed for one purpose may later be used for another.

(6) *Place where money lent is received*

This is a sensible connecting factor. It may be objected that it allows tax planning where money is lent in one jurisdiction and then immediately transferred to another. But the courts could easily look through transient arrangements of that kind to identify the place where the money is substantially received.

19 [1955] NZLR at p.898 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

(7) Situs of security for debt

A rule that situs of interest on a secured debt depends on the location of the land on which the debt is secured is not sensible or workable, for the following reasons:

- (1) A debt may be charged on land in two different countries.
- (2) The rule becomes absurd if a large debt is secured on an asset of a small value. Would one say that a £100 million debt is situate in Jersey if it is secured on a property there worth £100,000? But one cannot have a rule where the situs depends on the relative value of the debt on the security which may fluctuate from time to time.
- (3) If land determines the situs, then a debt charged on (say) shares should be situate where the shares are situate.

This rule would allow scope for tax planning.

(8) Residence of guarantor (if any)

No weight should be given to the residence of a guarantor, since in the normal course of events a guarantor would not be called on to make a payment.

(9) Residence of creditor

No weight should be given to the residence of the creditor, since one is looking for the source and not the destination of the interest; also this may change easily as debts are usually assignable and frequently assigned. A single debt may be owed to two creditors resident in different places, but the interest on that debt cannot have two different sources.

6.16.2 *Unsatisfactory approaches*

The most unsatisfactory approach of all is to say that it is a question of fact.²⁰ The meaning of 'source' is a question of law and so is the question

20 Sometimes a "practical hard" matter of fact but the adjectives are meaningless.

of whether known facts (and the facts will usually be simple) fall within that meaning. It is the task of the Courts to provide an answer to that question.

Equally unsatisfactory is to say that the answer is whatever a “practical businessman” would regard as the source. The only way in which a man, practical or otherwise, can identify a source of interest (other than tossing a coin) is to apply a theory as to the priority of the rival connecting factors.²¹

The exhortation that the Courts should adopt a “practical approach” is harmless but not particularly useful. No-one advocates that the Court should adopt an impractical approach. But those who stress this approach should bear in mind that the one thing that a practical man will demand of the law is that it will provide a clear *answer* to the question of where is a source. There is nothing more impractical than uncertainty.

It is not satisfactory to say that all the features listed were relevant, and if different features point in different ways, it is a matter of carrying out a balancing exercise. We need clear guidance on which rule has priority or else there is no law on the subject at all. The formulation derives from Commonwealth cases on the source of *trading* income.²² There it seems more apt as the circumstances in which trading income arises differ very widely indeed. But even in that context experience has shown that it has not worked well, because no consistent pattern has developed as to which factors have the greatest weight.²³ However, the questions of the source of *interest* and the source of *trading* income are entirely different. There

21 Practical men who believe themselves exempt from intellectual influence are, as Keynes said, usually the slaves of some defunct economist. The point is made in *CIR v. Philips* [1955] NZLR at p.895-6:

“What sort of thing is to be looked for when it is sought to discover a *source of income*? This is a question less simple than it seems at first sight, and its difficulty does not seem to me to be greatly lessened by taking the “practical” approach to it first put forward in *Nathan v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* (1918) 25 C.L.R.183). ...

I am attracted by an approach by which an attempt is made to state lucidly what must be meant by the word ‘source’ in the phrase ‘source of income’ in given circumstances.”

22 *Rhodesia Metals v CT* [1940] AC 774. The issue of the source of trading income does not arise for UK tax since “source” is given an artificial definition: see 10.2 (Source of trading income of UK resident).

23 See “The Privy Counsel, the Source of Income, and *Stare Decisis*”, Michael Littlewood, [2004] BTR 121.

is no reason why the test should be the same. The point is made correctly in *Philips* [1955] NZLR at p.896:

The location of the source of profits of a business, for instance furnishes a kind of investigation quite different from that of the source of interest on moneys lent, and decisions on sources of one kind of income may be of little assistance when considering sources of a different kind of income.

6.17 Case law

The case law makes dismal reading.

6.17.1 *Bank of Greece*

The *Bank of Greece*²⁴ case concerned a debt with the following features (using the numbering of the list in the above paragraph):

- (1) The payor was non-resident.
- (2) (a) Payment to residents outside Greece was to be made in sterling
(b) Discharge of the payor's obligation would have involved in the ordinary course a payment out of funds situate in Greece.
- (4) The debt was secured by lands and public revenues in Greece.
- (5) Payment was to be made in London or (at the option of the creditor) in Athens, by cheque on London.
- (8) The guarantor was non-resident.

It is obvious (and all sides accepted) that the interest had a Greek source. Almost²⁵ all the features of the debt pointed the same way. The House of Lords held that the interest had a foreign situs in these words:

[1] the bond itself is a foreign document, and

24 *Westminster Bank Executor and Trustee Company (Channel Islands) Ltd v National Bank of Greece SA* 46 TC 472.

25 The following features in *Bank of Greece* did not show a UK source:

- payment made in sterling
- UK proper law
- interest paid into a UK account if the creditor so required.

- [2] the obligations to pay principal and interest to which the bond gives rise were obligations whose source is to be found in this document.

This was adequate for the decision. However, the dictum is inadequate as a basis for ascertaining situs in other cases. The Court did not say how it reached its conclusion: it just listed all the features of the loan and stated its conclusion.

The conclusion that some have drawn from this case is that all the features listed were relevant, and if different features point in different ways, it is a matter of carrying out a balancing exercise (but how? That is not explained.) In my opinion this is a misreading. *Bank of Greece* provides no support for that approach whatsoever. The speech in the case had no need to say anything about the source of interest of the debt because the source was not in dispute. The Court heard no argument about the general principles of identifying the source of interest. The relevant cases were not cited. In my view *Bank of Greece* gives no guidance at all on what is the general test for the situs of the source of interest. The fragment of the sentence (“the bond is a foreign document”) was merely descriptive of the facts of the case and not intended to lay down a general test for situs. If it lays down a test at all, it is imponderable. In a marginal case law how does one decide if a bond is a foreign document? The test can only be applicable to interest on securities represented by bonds; or (better) to Government securities. It is obvious that interest on Government securities arises in the jurisdiction of the Government concerned.

The actual dispute in *Bank of Greece* concerned the situs of the source of guarantee payments. It is unclear whether such payments are to be classified as “interest” but even if they are not “interest” it is sensible that situs should be determined on principles similar to those which apply to interest. Why was it argued the payment had a UK source?

- [1] The only circumstances relied on by the Appellants as supporting their contention that the obligation was located inside the UK were as follows. Although the original guarantor had no branch in the UK, the present Appellants had acquired one on their universal succession in London.
- [2] Moreover, it was argued that, since discharge of the obligations under the bond in Greece had been caught by the moratorium enacted by the Greek Government, it followed that the only place at

which the obligation of the guarantor could have been discharged or enforced was in London.

These changes did not affect the situs:

Speaking for myself, I do not see how an obligation originally situated in Greece for the purposes of British income tax could change its location either by reason of the fact that

- [1] one guarantor had been substituted for another, or ...
- [2] the second guarantor so substituted subsequently acquired a London place of business, or ...
- [3] the Government of Greece had by retrospective legislation altered by moratorium and substitution of a new guarantor for the purposes of Greek law the obligations imposed upon the principal debtor and the guarantor.

The Appellants acquired no obligation different from that of the original guarantors, and that was the obligation imposed on the original guarantors by the terms of the bonds.²⁶

Bank of Greece is authority for the (sensible) proposition that sources of interest are fixed and not peripatetic.²⁷ It is nothing more.

6.17.2 *Hafton Properties*

In *Hafton Properties v McHugh* 59 TC 420 (a decision at Special Commissioner level) the facts were weighted as strongly as possible in favour of a foreign source, except there was a UK resident payor. Under the original loan agreement, an American company borrowed from a US bank, the loan being secured on US property. Hafton (UK resident) acquired the property subject to the mortgage. It paid interest. This was not UK source:

- [1] In one respect the Greek Bank case is different from this one, in that in that case the debtors (both original and substituted) were at all times essentially Greek in character. Nevertheless I collect from

26 46 TC at p. 494.

27 More accurately, the case is authority for the proposition that the changes which occurred in the *Bank of Greece* case did not change the situs. But the changes which occurred there were so fundamental that it is difficult to imagine any other case where the situs will move.

Lord Hailsham's speech a clear disinclination to regard sources of income as being peripatetic. He looked to the nationality (if I may so put it) of the document creating the obligation, and, applying the sentence which I have already read from that speech to the present case, there can be no doubt that the obligation here was American in character.

- [2] That is fortified, of course, by the fact that the debt was a mortgage debt. Such a debt is regarded for private international law purposes (at any rate) as a speciality debt, the situs of which is to be found where the mortgage deed is to be found. The mortgage deed is, and so far as I know always has been, in the United States.²⁸

Point [1] is right. If a change to a UK guarantor does not affect situs, neither should a change to a UK payor of the interest.

The facts of *Hafton Properties* (purchase of property subject to mortgage) are extremely unusual. A mortgage is usually paid off at the time of the purchase. A more common situation is that an individual who has borrowed funds later comes to the UK and continues to pay interest. It is considered that (whatever the test for situs) the interest does not become UK source merely because the payor comes to the UK.

Point [2] is therefore *obiter*; it is suggested that situs of the deed should not carry any weight, for the reasons given above.

6.17.3 *Hong Kong cases and practice*

Thus there is no UK case giving any real guidance. There are many Commonwealth cases.

In *CIR v Hang Seng Bank* [1990] STC 733 at 740 the Privy Counsel state the position quite clearly:

If the profit was earned by ... lending money ... the profit will have arisen in or derived from the place where ... the money was lent ...

In *IRC v Ocean Carribean* [1997] STC 908 at 930 the same court made (I think) the same point, but more cautiously:

28 59 TC at 426.

If [a company] lent its own money to a borrower in, say, New York, then other things equal there might be little difficulty in saying that the location of the source of the interest on the loan was New York.

Both these cases were trading cases, i.e. the issue was the source of trading income. Since different principles apply to trades, the comments are *obiter*. However, there is much to be said for the *Hang Seng* approach and it represents the generally held view in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Revenue explain:²⁹

2. Only interest arising in or derived from Hong Kong is liable to profits tax. For many years, the Department has taken the view that for the purpose of determining the place where interest arises or is derived from, it is the location of the originating cause that almost invariably determines the source. In essence, the place of derivation of interest is the place where the credit was provided to the borrower, i.e. the place where the funds from which the interest is derived were provided to the borrower, commonly known as the “provision of credit” test. This view is based on the decisions in *CIR (NZ) v N V Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken*, 10 ATD 435 and *CIR v Lever Brothers & Unilever Ltd* (1946), 14 SATC 1.

3. If the originating cause is situated in Hong Kong, the source of the interest is in Hong Kong, irrespective of the currency in which the loan is denominated, the place of residence of the debtor or the place where the debtor employs the capital.³⁰

29 Departmental Interpretation and Practice Notes No. 13 (Revised) Profits Tax: Taxation of Interest Received, accessible www.ird.gov.hk/eng/pdf/e_dipn13.pdf.

30 The statement continues with three exceptional cases:

“[1] Whilst the emphasis is generally placed on the provision of the credit, in some situations, such as mortgages, the originating cause may well be the mortgage itself.

[2] In addition, interest has a Hong Kong source where it forms an integral part of a trading transaction carried out in Hong Kong, e.g. where a Hong Kong manufacturer sells his goods to an overseas buyer on extended credit terms. In such situations, the interest is just as much a part of the profit as the trading profit itself and also arises in Hong Kong, e.g. BR 20/75, IRBRD, vol. 1, 184 and *Studebaker Corporation of Australasia Limited v C of T*, 29 CLR 225.

[3] 4. It should also be noted that the “provision of credit test” is not applicable where the loans are not simple loans of money. The Privy Council held in the case of *Orion Caribbean Limited v CIR* 4 HKTC 432 that where the taxpayer

6.17.4 *New Zealand and Australian cases*

The New Zealand case of *CIR v Philips' Gloeilampen Fabrieken* [1955] NZLR 868 is the best of all the cases, because it is the only one which openly addresses and analyses the issues:

The answer which I should expect the “practical man” to make to a question—What was the source of the money which was received by the Dutch company?—would be the loan it made which means, in effect, the lending of the money—the transaction. The money was paid because the New Zealand company had contracted to pay it; so that, in some sense, it can be said the obligation which had been entered into was the source of the payment made. But one must look behind that. It is seldom that a person makes a payment except under an obligation to do so, and it is, I think, unreal and incompatible with a practical approach to regard the obligation as the source. It is what produced the obligation that is important. A lessee pays rent because he has entered into an obligation to do so, but he has only done this on terms that land is made available to him. An obligation is seldom, if ever, accepted *in vacuo*: it requires some transaction to give it birth. The obligation arises from something which has been, or will be, done to warrant it, e.g., rendering services, making land or other property available. The practical man, in regarding the loan as the source of the payment, would mean, I think, the conduct or the action which was the reason for the obligation being accepted.

...

To be a “source” of the income within the meaning of the subsection, it is necessary, I think, to look to the originating cause. It is not sufficient to ascertain the fund out of which the income was in fact paid, which is

earned its profits by borrowing and lending of money, the proper test to determine the source of the profits was the operation test, i.e. “one looks to see what the taxpayer has done to earn the profit in question and where he has done it”. In the case of a money lending business, the taxpayer’s business would normally encompass a broader range of activity, including the borrowing and/or lending of money. For this type of business, the Department will apply the operation test instead of the provision of credit test in determining the source of the interest income.”

I readily accept that cases [2] and [3] are exceptional in Hong Kong and not to be governed by the normal interest situs test. Whether case [1] should be an exception is much more doubtful.

no more than the reservoir from which it was drawn. It is not whence it was paid, but why it was paid, that is the determining factor. The emphasis is not upon the receipt, but upon the derivation of the income. Consequently, it does not constitute the source within the meaning of the section that the money was drawn from or provided by the trading profits in New Zealand. The New Zealand company was free to obtain the funds with which to perform its obligation anywhere it chose, from deposits in England, if it had any, or from borrowing in England, or from the profits of its trading in New Zealand. That was a domestic matter. The money could “come from” any of these “sources”, but none of them would be the source from which the Dutch company derived what it received as income.

6.17.5 *Spotless*

The source of interest was also an issue in *Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia v Spotless Services*.³¹ Here the Court took a balancing exercise approach:

52. Where, as in the present case, the transaction is complex in terms of its background, its nature and its execution, and where, as here, important aspects of the transaction have their origin in locations in several different countries, it will usually be difficult to identify the real source of income so generated. To attribute “source” is a matter of judgment, and of assessment, of the relative weight of all of the relevant surrounding circumstances.

However, the place where the money was lent was a major factor in the balancing exercise:

11. In weighing the factors to be taken into account when reaching a conclusion as to the source of the income, his Honour gave considerable weight to the place where the contract was made and where the money was lent. These events, his Honour found, occurred in the Cook Islands. His Honour continued (25 ATR at 361; 93 ATC at 4,411):-

“There are other facts and circumstances that in my view point strongly in the direction of the conclusions that the interest was derived by the taxpayers in the Cook Islands. The borrower,

31 Accessible on www.austlii.org. The case went to the High Court of Australia but the source point was discussed only at first instance and on the first appeal.

EPBCL, was incorporated in the Cook Islands and carried on business there. It did not carry on business in Australia. The deposit was repaid, together with interest, less withholding tax, from the Cook Islands. It is impossible to ignore the legal effect of the arrangements entered into by the parties with respect to the lending of the money. Until the cheque for \$40m was handed over on 11 December in the Cook Islands (10 December CI time) and the certificate of deposit received in return there was no contract between the lender (the taxpayer) and the borrower (EPBCL). If EPBCL failed to honour the certificate of deposit on the due date the taxpayers could have sued on the certificate and there would have been no answer in law to their right to judgment.”

12. Once the contention that the contract was in reality made in Australia and that what occurred in the Cook Islands was a mere “formal step designed to screen the reality” is rejected and the banker’s letter of credit issued by Midland is seen for what it was, a security to secure performance by EPBCL of repayment of the loan with interest, and not as an investment in itself, the matters contended for by the Commissioner as matters of practical substance sourcing the interest in Australia are either not factually correct or not sufficient to outweigh the Cook Islands elements.

6.17.6 *Irrelevant case*

I mention the following case only for completeness. In *IRC v Broome* 19 TC 667, the features of the loan were as follows:

- (1) (a) The payor was (primarily) resident in Kenya (also UK resident, but that does not matter).
(b) However, the original debtor died. His executors were UK resident.
- (2) The executors paid the interest in the UK out of funds in the UK.
- (3) The loan was enforceable in Kenya.
- (4) The creditor was resident in Kenya.

Finley J held:

- [1] There is no doubt at all that if a payment is made by a person here out of a source which is here, then that payment attracts tax. ...
- [2] ... I think it was payment out of a source here. The first two payments are perhaps a little more clear, because there the payment

was actually made to Earl Kitchener [the creditor] personally in this country. He happened to be here; he was resident abroad, but he happened to be here, and he was actually paid by the executors in London; and equally [the other payments] were made in London, were sent to a bank in London, and were remitted by the bank in London to Kenya to be paid there. In these circumstances I am of opinion that this was a payment made by persons resident in London out of sources in London.

Paragraph [1] is correct: the question was the situs of the source of interest. Paragraph [2] equates the source of the interest with the situs of the *resources* used to pay the interest. That is, with respect, just a confusion caused by the terminology. It is suggested that no guidance can be taken from this case and it has (rightly) been ignored in all the later cases.

6.17.7 HMRC guidance

HMRC formerly took the view that the residence of the payor was the principal (and in most cases the deciding) factor. This position was rejected in *Hafton* and formally abandoned in RI 58 (November 1993):

Schedule D Case III—meaning of “source”

...The current [HMRC] view on the location of the source for interest is based on ... the Greek Bank case. The factors considered relevant in that case (leading to the conclusion that the income involved did not have a UK source) were—

- there was an obligation undertaken by a principal debtor which was a foreign corporation;
- the obligation was guaranteed by another foreign corporation with no place of business in the UK;
- the obligation was secured on lands and public revenues outside the UK;
- funds for payments by the principal debtor of principal or interest to residents outside Greece would have been provided either by a remittance from Greece or funds remitted by debtors from abroad (even though a cheque might be drawn in London).

Although the Greek Bank case was concerned with income which turned out not to have a UK source, inferences can be drawn from that case about the factors which would support the existence of a UK source and [HMRC] regard the most important as—

- the residence of the debtor,³² that is the place in which the debt will be enforced;
- the source³³ from which interest is paid;
- where the interest is paid; and
- the nature and location of the security for the debt.

If all of these are located in the UK then it is *likely* that the interest will have a UK source.

(Emphasis added)

This adopts a balance all the factors approach. This is not supported by *Bank of Greece*, though it is supported by *Spotless*.

Assuming one does adopt that approach, “likely” is a timid word to use when all these connecting factors point the same way. The problem is when different connecting factors point different ways as they frequently do. Here the RI cops out:

It is not possible for [HMRC] to comment individually in advance on the many cases in which the location of the source of interest may be relevant since the precise tax treatment depends on all the factors and on exactly how the transactions are in fact carried out.

32 [Author’s Note] The International Tax Handbook expands on this at para. 1103: “An important factor in determining the source of interest is the residence of the debtor. ‘Residence’ does not, however, necessarily mean tax residence, rather it means where the [debtor] company has a business presence and can be sued for the debt. If it has more than one such presence then the source will normally be where, under the contract, the company is primarily required to pay the interest and repay the principal. It is, therefore, possible for a UK resident to pay interest which has an overseas source if a borrowing is made and interest is paid by an overseas branch. Likewise it is possible for a UK branch of a non-resident company to pay UK source interest.”

This is based on (or at least consistent with) common law situs principles: see 38.11.1 (Dual resident debtor).

If clarity is ever to enter this area of law, the first necessity is not to use the word “residence” (which has a clear meaning) to mean a concept which has little if anything to do with residence. It is not always true (perhaps not even generally true) that the residence of the debtor is the place the debt will be enforced: see 38.10 (Situs of simple debt). In *Bank of Greece* the debt was enforceable in the UK.

33 [Author’s Note] I think this expression means the situs (on common law principles) of the funds from which the interest is paid. This seems to be the meaning of the expression in *Bank of Greece*. It does not mean the situs on IT principles of the source of income out of which the interest is paid (which could of course be different).

RI 58 ends with wishful thinking:

[HMRC] hope that this summary of [their] views will assist practitioners and their clients in determining for themselves where the source of interest with which they may be concerned is located.

IM 3940 contains another HMRC statement:

3940 Overseas Loans [October 2003]

...

- [1] The proposition that interest paid by a UK resident company or individual to an overseas lender should generally be paid under deduction of tax (unless the overseas lender has claimed exemption under a double taxation agreement) is modified as follows:
- [2] COMPANIES. Where a UK resident company has raised a loan overseas for the purpose of the business of an overseas branch and the overseas branch pays the interest, the interest is regarded as having a foreign source. Conversely, where a non-resident company raises a loan in the UK for the purposes of the business of a UK branch and the UK branch pays the interest, the interest is regarded as having a UK source.
- [3] INDIVIDUALS. Where the debtor is resident in the UK but interest is payable abroad on an overseas loan taken out to buy an overseas asset, or for some other purpose with no UK connection and not secured on UK assets, the interest is regarded as having a foreign source so deduction of tax is not required.

This text has probably survived unrevised from before RI 58. Para [1] assumes that UK residence of the debtor in principle shows the interest has a UK source, a position HMRC abandoned in RI 58. Paras [2] and [3] assume the purpose for which the loan is taken out is a relevant (indeed, determinative) connecting factor, which is not supported by the *Bank of Greece* or any other case. The statement does indicate the only 'safe haven' situation where one can be confident that the interest paid by a UK resident payer does not have a UK source.

Double Taxation Relief Manual offers yet another approach:

1730. Interest

There is sometimes some difficulty in deciding whether interest is treated as having a UK source where the borrowing is made by a UK branch. ...

The leading case on this subject is a Privy Council decision on a Hong Kong estate duty matter (*Kwok Chi Leung Karl* [1988] STC 728). The Privy Council decided that where a debtor company has two places of residence where a debt may be enforced, the locality of the debt (and its source for tax purposes in the absence of statutory provision to the contrary) falls to be determined by reference to the place of residence where under the contract creating the debt the primary obligation is expressed to be performed (that is where the creditor would apply first for his money).

Kwok concerned situs of assets, not situs of source. The view that situs of assets determines situs of source is contrary to *Bank of Greece* and contrary to principle. The situs of assets rules should play at most a minor role in determining the situs of source of interest. This passage should be dismissed as simply wrong.

6.17.8 *Discussion*

It is submitted that the Courts ought to hold that the source of interest is where the money is lent. This is consistent with case law, principle and international practice, at least in Hong Kong. The English Courts are not bound to follow it, however. If, contrary to that view, a balance of all the factors approach is preferred, along the lines of RI 58, it is suggested that the position should be as follows:

(1) Suppose a debt were wholly non-UK connected but secured on UK land; that is, if the UK situate security is the only UK aspect of the debt. For instance, a debt from one non-resident to another non-resident, which arises under a contract governed by a foreign proper law. There is no definite answer to this but it is suggested that interest on such a debt has a foreign source. It would be wiser to avoid the issue.

By contrast, suppose a debt were made unsecured and later became secured. It is considered that this would not turn a non-UK source into a UK source.

(2) Suppose a debt were wholly non-UK connected but paid out of funds derived from UK source income (e.g. rents of UK land). This cannot be enough to make the interest UK source. The origin of funds used to pay

interest is a weak connecting factor. (I would submit it should not be a connecting factor at all.)

(3) Suppose a debt were wholly non-UK connected but had a UK resident debtor. It is suggested that this alone does not give the source of interest a UK situs.³⁴

6.17.9 *Commentary*

It is astonishing that the question of the source of interest has not given rise to more litigation or to clearer principles. The reason must be that HMRC have in practice taken a relaxed view. Of course, there is no guarantee that will continue.

A more sensible test would be the test in the OECD Model Treaty.³⁵ Legislation (with appropriate transitional provisions) would be needed to make this reform. The gap between the existing case law and this solution is too great to be bridged by the Courts, except perhaps by the House of Lords. A HMRC consultation document issued December 2003 proposed this sensible reform but the proposal has been “deferred for the time being”. This is a reform with winners and losers. The losers in these situations cry louder than the winners, and that may be the reason why the reform seems to have been dropped.

6.18 **Income from interest in possession type trusts: identifying the source**

6.18.1 *Introduction*

The choice is between:

34 Christopher Norfolk points out that s.348(4)(d) ICTA (now repealed) assumed it was possible for a UK resident to pay interest with a non-UK source.

35 Article 11(5) of the OECD Model provides:

“Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated.”

- (1) regarding the trust as the source of trust income; or
- (2) regarding the trust assets as the source, in which case one “looks through” the trust and it is described as “transparent”.

The answer depends on the terms of the trust, construed in accordance with the proper law of the trust.

6.18.2 *England and other “Baker” jurisdictions*

The source of the income is the underlying trust assets (not the trust) if, under the terms of the trust, the beneficiary is entitled to the income of each asset as it arises. This is the case for a standard form interest in possession trust governed by English law: *Baker v Archer-Shee* 11 TC 749.

It is possible to draft an English law trust so that under the terms of the trust the beneficiary is not entitled to a proprietary interest in the income as it arises, but merely has the right to call on the trustees to transfer to him “a balance” of net income.³⁶ Then the trust (not the underlying assets) will be the source.

It is assumed that foreign trust jurisdictions apply English law principles in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

6.18.3 *New York and other “Garland” jurisdictions*

However, common form interest in possession type trusts under some foreign jurisdictions apparently do not give the beneficiary the right to income as it arises, but only a net sum. In this case the trust is not transparent.

This is so even if the beneficiary is described as “life tenant” and is, in economic reality, in the same position as a life tenant under an English law trust. Such a trust is more like an English law estate than an English law trust. This was (rather implausibly) found to be the case in trusts governed

36 For an example (doubtful as a matter of construction) see *R v Special Comrs ex p Shaftesbury House & Arethusa Training Ship* 8 TC 367 discussed in *Venables & Kessler on the Taxation of Charities*, Key Haven Publications, 5th edition 2005.

by the law of New York State³⁷ and British India.³⁸ Since foreign law is a question of fact, a future court would not be bound by those decisions, but in practice they are not likely to be challenged.

It may be possible to draft a transparent trust in a *Garland* jurisdiction by using non-standard wording (this raises questions of foreign law).

HMRC have published the following list of jurisdictions divided into *Baker* and *Garland* jurisdictions.³⁹ This only represents the HMRC view and could be challenged on the basis of expert evidence.

Argentina	No Trust Law	Hungary	Baker
Australia		India	Garland
New South Wales	Baker	Ireland, Republic of	Baker
Queensland	Baker	Isle of Man	Baker
South Australia	Baker	Italy	No Trust Law
Victoria	Baker	Japan	No Trust Law
Western Australia	Baker	Jersey	Baker
Bahamas	Baker	Kenya	Baker
Barbados	Baker	Latvia	Baker
Belgium	No Trust Law	Liechtenstein	Garland
Belize	Baker	Lithuania	Baker
Canada		Luxembourg	Baker
British Columbia	Baker	Malaysia	Baker
Nova Scotia	Baker	Malawi	Baker
Ontario	Baker	Malta	No Trust Law
Saskatchewan	Baker	Monaco	No Trust Law
Quebec	Garland	Montserrat	Baker
Cayman Islands	Baker	Namibia	Garland
Denmark	Garland	Netherlands	No Trust Law
Egypt	Baker	New Hebrides	Baker
Estonia	Baker	New Zealand	Baker
Fiji	Baker	Nigeria	Baker
France	No trust law	Norway	Garland
Ghana	Baker	St Helena	Baker
Gibraltar	Baker	St Vincent	Baker
Guernsey	Baker	Singapore	Baker
Guyana	Baker	South Africa	Garland
Hong Kong	Baker	South Yemen	Baker

37 *Garland v Archer-Shee* 15 TC 693. The finding of fact in *Garland* was accepted as common ground in *Astor v Perry* 19 TC 255. Similar findings have been made in other US jurisdictions; see “Taxing Foreign Income from Pitt to the Tax Law Rewrite – The Decline of the Remittance Basis”, John Avery Jones in *Studies in the History of Tax Law*, Hart Publishing, 2004 p.46 for contrary views as to US law.

38 *Duncan’s Executors v Adamson* (1935) 14 ATC 22.

39 www.hmrc.gov.uk/cnr/nr_trusts.htm#baker_garland_countries.

Spain	No Trust Law	Minnesota	Garland
Sri Lanka	Baker	North Dakota	Garland
Sweden	Garland	South Dakota	Garland
Trinidad & Tobago	Baker	Wisconsin	Garland
Uganda	Baker	All other states	Baker
USA		Zambia	Baker
New York	Garland	Zimbabwe	Garland
Montana	Garland		

6.18.4 *Scots trusts*

The generally held view is that a liferent (i.e. life interest) under a Scots trust in common form is not transparent.⁴⁰

This has been reversed for UK resident trusts; section 118(1) FA 1993 provides:

Where—

(a) any of the income of a trust having effect under the law of Scotland is income to which a beneficiary of the trust would have an equitable right in possession if that trust had effect under the law of England and Wales, and

(b) the trustees of that trust are resident in the UK,
the rights of that beneficiary shall be deemed for the purposes of the Income Tax Acts to include such a right to that income notwithstanding that no such right is conferred according to the law of Scotland.

It is difficult to see why the statutory rule only applies to UK resident trusts. It is difficult to see why it applies to Scotland and not other *Garland* jurisdictions. The reason is that it is not part of a coherent regime for the taxation of trusts but a late Finance Bill amendment to deal with a narrow domestic anomaly.⁴¹ In practice it will not often matter.

40 “There is no difference between the law of Scotland as regards the beneficiary’s rights and the law which is admitted in the record to be the law of the State of New York.” *Inland Revenue v Clark’s Trustees* [1939] SC 11 at p.24 approved by Lord Fraser in *Leedale v Lewis* 56 TC at p.538.

41 See Discussion Paper on Apportionment of Receipts and Outgoings para. 4.5, Scottish Law Commission, 2003, accessible www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/downloads/dp124_trust_receipts.pdf.

One can create a transparent Scots law trust with appropriate wording.⁴²

6.18.5 *Concession for Garland trusts*

International Manual provides:

166030. Garland trusts

In the case of income of a non-discretionary foreign trust of the type considered in the case of *Garland v Archer Shee* 15 TC 693, the beneficiaries are not concerned with the source of the trust income and whether or not it has borne UK tax. It is the practice to allow relief to beneficiaries, other than annuitants, in respect of the proportion of the income assessable under Case V which is regarded as being derived from trust income which has borne UK tax. It is a condition of the relief that the amount of the income for higher rate purposes is to be treated as the sum of the amount assessable under Case V and the amount of tax on a grossed up basis which is applicable to the part of the assessment on which relief has been given.

Submit the first claim from a beneficiary for this relief to Revenue Policy, International, External Relations Group (Advisory), before admitting the claim.

166031–166039.

166040. Foreign tax

Where foreign tax has been paid on trust income (including, in the case of dividends, any underlying tax where, exceptionally credit for such tax is due under the terms of an agreement – see INTM164410), it is the practice, in the case of a trust of a type referred to in INTM166030, to allow credit relief to beneficiaries, other than annuitants, for that foreign tax. Credit relief is given in the same way and to the same extent as if each beneficiary were entitled to his proportionate share of the underlying investments of the trust.

6.18.6 *Commentary*

The distinction between *Baker* and *Garland* jurisdictions should be abolished. It has no economic substance and precious little legal

42 “Scottish Trust beneficiaries are not entitled to specific items of trust property *unless that is expressly provided for in the Trust Deed.*” Discussion Paper on Apportionment of Receipts and Outgoings para. 4.5.

substance. It is to a large extent undone by HMRC concession. Section 118(1) FA 1993 should be extended to apply to all *Garland* trusts.

6.19 Distributed income of discretionary trust: what is the source?

Where the trust is a common form discretionary trust and a beneficiary receives trust income in the exercise of the trustees' discretion, the same choice arises between:

- (1) regarding the trust (or the trustees' dispositive power over income) as the source of the beneficiary's income; or
- (2) regarding the trust assets as the source.

The conventional view is that the trust is the source (not the underlying trust assets). This is supported by *Re Vestey's Settlement* [1951] Ch 209; *IRC v Berrill* 55 TC 429 at 444 and *Memec v IRC* 71 TC at 95.⁴³

If a discretionary trust becomes interest in possession in form, the trustees' discretion over income in principle comes to an end and the source has ceased: *IRC v Berrill* at page 444. A more cautious course (if cessation is essential) would be to wind up the trust, as then the source has certainly ceased.

Where the beneficiary is entitled to an annuity or other annual payments from the trust, which is not a simple distribution of trust income, the trust

43 Robert Venable QC disagrees: PTPR (1999) Vol. 7 p.87 ("*Memec v IRC* and the Source of Discretionary Income Payments from Trusts"); *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th edition, 16.3 (Taxation of Beneficiary):

"Where there are discretionary trusts of income ...and the trustees distribute income in the exercise of their discretion, the taxability of the recipient beneficiary is a matter of some controversy. My own opinion is that in exercising their discretion the trustees simply perfect the settlor's gift so that the position at the end of the day is the same as if the trust instrument had expressly provided that the beneficiary should receive the income. Thus, the income which the beneficiary receives is the same income as that which the trustees received, the beneficiary's source is the same as the trustees' source and any tax paid by the trustees is to be treated as having been paid on account of the beneficiary."

This was assumed to be correct in *Drummond v Collins* 6 TC 525 but the point was not directly considered. Maybe the law could or should have gone down that road but it seems unlikely that it will now do so. Much statute law is drafted on the contrary view. The law can for most purposes be regarded as settled.

is necessarily the source: *R v Special Comrs ex p. Shaftesbury Homes & Arethusa Training Ship* 8 TC 367; *Inchyra v Jennings* 42 TC 388.

6.20 Charge on income from discretionary trusts

The charge is imposed by s.683(1) ITTOIA:

Income tax is charged under this Chapter on annual payments that are not charged to income tax under or as a result of any other provision of this Act or any other Act.

Distributions from trusts (if of an income nature) are “annual payments”.

6.21 Payment from discretionary trust: income or capital?

The position here depends on the terms of the trust power concerned.

6.21.1 *Power over income*

A common form discretionary trust⁴⁴ provides this type of power over trust income:

The Trustees may pay or apply the trust income to or for the benefit of any Beneficiaries, as the Trustees think fit.

If trustees receive income and make a payment under such a power, the receipt is income and not capital. This has never been doubted.

6.21.2 *Power over capital*

A common form discretionary trust also provides this type of power over trust capital:

The Trustees may pay or apply the capital of the Trust Fund to or for the advancement or benefit of any Beneficiary.

⁴⁴ For a further discussion of the drafting, see *Drafting Trusts & Will Trusts*, James Kessler, 7th ed., Chap 17 (Discretionary Trusts).

A payment under such a power is capital and not income. This is still the case even if:

- (1) the payments are made to satisfy an “income purpose”, e.g. maintenance of a beneficiary; and
- (2) the payments are recurrent (e.g. annual or even monthly).

This follows in the author’s view from *Stevenson v Wishart* 59 TC 740. The judgment of Knox J is clearer on this point than the Court of Appeal.

6.21.3 *Accumulated income paid out as income*

A common form discretionary trust allows trustees to accumulate income, and add it to trust capital. However, trustees usually have power “to apply the accumulations as if they were income arising in the then current year”. A payment of trust capital under such a power is an income receipt of the beneficiary. The important point is that the terms of the relevant provision of the settlement link the payment with an income interest of a beneficiary. See the comment of Knox J in *Stevenson v Wishart* 59 TC 740 at 757.

It might help that the trust accounts recorded an “Accumulated Income Fund” (instead of recording accumulated income as increasing the capital fund). However, this is not strictly necessary.

6.21.4 *Accumulated income paid out as capital*

Suppose, lastly:

- (1) trustees accumulate income and add it to capital; and
- (2) the trustees pay that capital to a beneficiary in exercise of a power like that in paragraph 6.21.2 (Power over capital).

The payment is still capital and not income. In my view this follows from *Stevenson v Wishart*. In that case the distributions which HMRC sought to tax as income represented original trust capital and not accumulated income. In my view this makes no difference. *Stevenson v Wishart* is

authority for the proposition that the income/capital question is governed by the terms of the power concerned.⁴⁵

However, in an extreme case, where for tax planning reasons:

- (1) income was accumulated;
- (2) the accumulated income was distributed (by exercise of a common form power of advancement or appointment) very shortly afterwards; and
- (3) steps (1) and (2) formed part of a pre-arrangement scheme,

HMRC would have an attractive argument that the distribution should be regarded as income under general principles or under the rule in *Furniss v Dawson*. In practice it should be possible to avoid this by ensuring that advances of capital are not neatly identifiable with accumulated income.

6.21.5 *The HMRC view*

The HMRC view is in the Trusts Settlements and Estates Manual:

3755. Beneficiary receives discretionary payment from a resident trust [November 2003]

Trustees of a discretionary trust have the power to decide how to apply the trust income. A discretionary income payment is treated as an amount that is net of tax at the rate applicable to trusts. The beneficiary's income is the net amount grossed at the rate applicable to trusts. It carries tax credit at that rate. It is available for relief or repayment.

The gross amount is an annual payment. It is a new source of income, usually not identified with the underlying trust income. *Cunard's Trustees v CIR* (27 TC 122) supported the view that when the trustees exercised their discretion, a new source of income came into existence. Certain beneficiaries can claim relief under extra-statutory concession B18. This allows them the exemption or reliefs they could have claimed if they had received the underlying trust income directly.

When payment made

45 Provisions such as ss.660B(2) and 677 ICTA assume this is correct (deeming payments out of accumulated income to be treated as income).

For tax purposes the beneficiary received a payment on

- the date the trustees made the payment or
- the date the beneficiary became legally entitled to require the trustees to pay over the income. This could be when the payment indefeasibly vested, following the trustees' resolution....

3757. Discretionary payment from trust capital

A discretionary payment made out of trust capital is usually not regarded as the income of the beneficiary. This view was supported in the case of *Stevenson v Wishart and Others* (59 TC 740).

Exceptionally, payments out of capital are treated as the income of the beneficiary where, by the terms of the trust instrument, payments out of capital are required to be made, or may be made, in order to supplement income. For example, the trustees may or have to make income up to

- of a fixed amount or
- of a certain defined level as in *Cunard's Trustees v CIR* (27 TC 122).

This is consistent with the above.

6.22 Situs of source when source is a trust

Where the trust is the source, how does one decide its situs: the residence of the trustees; the proper law; the country in whose courts the trust will be enforced? It is suggested that trustee residence is the deciding factor, and this is consistent with ESC B18.

6.23 Income from foreign land

All land outside the UK is treated as a single business, and therefore a single source, no matter how many properties are held: see s.65A(4) ICTA. The disposal of one out of a number of properties and the remittance of the rents in the following tax year will not be effective in avoiding a taxable remittance. However, a remittance in the tax year following the disposal of all the properties would be effective.

6.24 Canadian RRSPs, US IRAs, etc

The HMRC view is set out in Inspector's Manual 1622 to 1625:

1622. Canadian RRSPs

Published: 9/95

Canadian Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) are tax-deferral vehicles commonly used by taxpayers working in Canada to provide an income or lump sum on retirement. The plan holder is permitted to set aside a certain proportion of his income (on which relief from Canadian tax is received) for investment either directly by the individual or, more usually, through a financial institution such as a bank or insurance company. On retirement or earlier, the taxpayer may withdraw a lump sum from the Plan or roll-over the proceeds into the purchase of an annuity. A lump sum withdrawal is subject to Canadian income tax, but if the proceeds are reinvested in an annuity, only the annuity is taxed.

The tax consequences for a UK-resident holder of an RRSP are as follows: —

- 1) income invested in the Plan is not eligible for UK tax relief;
- 2) the Plan is treated as ‘fiscally transparent’, that is income arising within the Plan is taxable in the UK as if the Plan did not exist, notwithstanding the tax-free accrual of income in Canada.
- 3) a lump sum withdrawal from the Plan is not taxable as such but the disposal of assets held within the Plan to effect the withdrawal may produce a UK tax charge. For example, a disposal of chargeable assets held within the Plan might produce a capital gains tax charge.
- 4) if an annuity is purchased the non-capital element will be taxable under Case V of Schedule D (see AP896 onwards). A purchased life annuity should be submitted to Financial Institutions Division 1 for determination of the proportion of the annuity which should be regarded as capital.
- 5) Canadian withholding tax at a rate of 25 per cent is deducted from withdrawals made by Plan holders who are not-resident in Canada. No tax credit relief is available in the UK for this tax where a tax charge arises in the UK (see (3) above), because the Canadian tax is imposed on a lump sum withdrawal from the Plan, whereas UK tax is imposed on gains resulting from the disposal of assets held within the Plan.
- 6) under Canadian domestic law, tax at 10 per cent may be withheld from payments of annuities derived from RRSPs, but it is understood that the Canadian tax authorities take the view that where such annuities are paid to UK-residents they will be exempt from Canadian tax under Article 17(1) of the Canada/UK Double Taxation Convention. If a taxpayer claims credit for Canadian tax

paid on an annuity he should be advised to seek repayment from Revenue Canada and credit relief will not be allowable in the UK.

1623. Canadian RRIFs

Published: 9/95

When an RRSP (see IM1622) matures, the Plan holder may, as an alternative to withdrawing the funds or buying an annuity, use the property held within the Plan to establish a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF).

An essential feature of an RRIF is that a minimum amount, arrived at by dividing the fair market value of the property held within the Fund at the beginning of the year by the difference between 90 and the age of the Fund holder at the beginning of the year, must be paid out to the investor each year. In this way, cash benefits are provided each year up to age 90. If, in any particular year, additional funds are required, these may be withdrawn, so long as the total does not exceed the value of the property held in connection with the Fund immediately before the withdrawal.

Income arising within an RRIF is tax-free in Canada, but there is a Canadian tax charge on withdrawals from the Fund.

For UK tax purposes, the treatment of RRIFs follows that for RRSPs indicated at IM1622(2), (3) and (5). It is understood that Revenue Canada regards the payments made each year as pension income and treats them as exempt from Canadian tax where paid to a UK-resident, under Article 17(1) of the UK/Canada Double Taxation Convention. The Canadian concept of 'periodic pension income' has no relevance, however, in the UK, where it is the income earned by the Fund's investments which is taxable, while withdrawals do not themselves attract a UK tax charge.

Any cases of doubt or difficulty concerning either RRSPs or RRIFs should be referred to Revenue Policy, International(Cases IV & V), Victory House for advice.

1624. United States Individual Retirement Accounts

Published: 9/95

Individual Retirement Arrangements are United States tax shelters for working US taxpayers wishing to provide for their retirement. They are broadly similar to Canadian RRSPs (see IM1622).

There are two types of Individual Retirement Arrangement, an 'Individual Retirement Account' (IRAC) and an 'Individual Retirement Annuity' (IRAN).

An IRAC is a trust (or similar arrangement known as a custodial account) set up for the exclusive benefit of the taxpayer and, on his death, nominated beneficiaries, which satisfies certain conditions imposed by United States tax law. Contributions to an IRAC are tax deductible in the United States and the funds can be invested in a wide range of investments. IRAC funds can be withdrawn at any time, but if withdrawals are made before the taxpayer reaches the age of 59½ he must pay an additional penalty tax of 10 per cent unless he is disabled. Provided that the taxpayer does not nominate a beneficiary to receive the balance of the IRAC on his death, the trust is transparent for the purposes of UK Income Tax. Income on IRAC investments is accordingly assessable on the taxpayer under Case IV or V of Schedule D as appropriate, whether or not withdrawals from the IRAC are made. The nomination of a beneficiary creates a settlement within the terms of the provisions of ICTA, s 672. In such a case the taxpayer is liable to UK Income Tax under Case VI of Schedule D on the IRAC income arising in the tax year (ICTA, s 675).

Whether or not a beneficiary has been nominated, an IRAC is a bare trust for the purposes of TCGA, s 60. The taxpayer is therefore chargeable to UK Capital Gains Tax in respect of any chargeable gains arising on the disposal of IRAC investments. Changes in IRAC investments will generally involve acquisitions and disposals of chargeable assets by the taxpayer.

Withdrawals from an IRAC do not of themselves give rise to a charge to Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, but they will often be preceded by the disposal of IRAC investments (including the conversion of dollars to sterling) giving rise to a chargeable gain or an allowable loss.

1625. United States Individual Retirement Annuities

Published: 9/95

Under Individual Retirement Annuities (IRANs), contributions are used to purchase an annuity from a life assurance company. No UK tax liability arises until the annuity becomes payable, when the annuity payments become chargeable under Case V of Schedule D.

If an IRAN life annuity was paid for partly or wholly by an employer, the whole of each annuity payment will be taxed as income, but if there was no employer's contribution the provisions of ICTA, s 656 apply so as to exclude the capital element. Any annuity within ICTA, s 656 should be submitted to Business Tax (Technical) for determination of the capital element.

Any cases of doubt or difficulty involving IRACs or IRANs should be referred to Revenue Policy, International(Cases IV and V), Victory House.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE RFI REMITTANCE BASIS

7.1 The six remittance bases

Income tax and CGT employ two fundamental types or bases of assessment:

- (1) An *arising basis* under which tax is computed by reference to the amount of income or gains which arise.
- (2) A *remittance basis* under which tax is computed by reference to the amount of income or gains which are received in the UK.

A remittance basis applies (in short) when a foreign domiciliary receives any of the following:

- (1) Relevant foreign income.
- (2) Chargeable overseas earnings.
- (3) Foreign income taxable under the settlement provisions.
- (4) Foreign income taxable under s.739 ICTA (transfer of assets abroad – charge on transferor).
- (5) Benefits taxable under s.740 ICTA (transfer of assets abroad – charge on non-transferor).
- (6) Foreign chargeable (capital) gains.

In keeping with the patchwork nature of UK tax law, these remittance bases are based on common framework, but have slight differences from each other.¹

This chapter deals with the remittance basis applying to relevant foreign income. It is here called “the RFI remittance basis” or (where the context is clear) simply “the remittance basis”.

7.2 Why is the remittance basis difficult?

The difficulty is inherent in the concept of a remittance basis. Although it is an exaggeration to say that “money has no earmark” it is often very difficult to trace or earmark money.² But this is what the remittance basis requires to be done. The concomitant of conceptual weakness is a large and not always satisfactory case law and sometimes arbitrary rules with anomalous results. It is not surprising that Viscount Simonds referred to remittances as “this difficult branch of the law”.³

7.3 History of the remittance basis⁴

The history of the remittance basis is instructive for its own sake and necessary to understand the older cases. Until 1914 all foreign source income was taxed on a remittance basis: s.100 Income Tax Act 1842. Since then the remittance basis has been withdrawn, in stages, for all foreign income except that of foreign domiciliaries. In 1914 income from “securities, stocks, shares, or rents in any place out of the UK” was brought onto an arising basis: s.5 Finance Act 1914. This did not apply to foreign domiciliaries and non-ordinarily resident British subjects. Even those who were domiciled and ordinarily resident in the UK retained the remittance basis for any foreign source income which did not consist of securities or rents. Hence the need for decisions such as those discussed

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- 1 It is appropriate that s.761(5) ICTA refers to tax on “a remittance basis” rather than *the* remittance basis.
 - 2 *Lipkin Gorman v Karpnale Ltd* [1989] 1 WLR 1340 at 1382 (CA). The law of tracing illustrates this in another context.
 - 3 *Thomson v Moyse* 39 TC at 328. Likewise Finlay J in *Kneen v Martin* 19 TC at 140: “This subject is always troubling.”
 - 4 See “Taxing Foreign Income from Pitt to the Tax Law Rewrite—The Decline of the Remittance Basis”, John Avery Jones in *Studies in the History of Tax Law*, Hart Publishing, 2004.

in 6.18 (Income from trusts: identifying the source) which decided whether income filtered through trusts was to be regarded as income arising from securities or income arising from the trust.

In 1940 the general remittance basis was further restricted, to (a) income from offshore trades, professions or vocations, and (b) income from offshore offices, employments or pensions: s.19 FA 1940. The rule was intended, perhaps, to encourage foreign trade. However, it did enable tax planning by splitting a single mixed UK and foreign based trade into separate UK and foreign source trades, the latter qualifying for the remittance basis. An arrangement of this kind was held to be successful in *Newstead v Frost* 53 TC 525. So in 1974 this was abolished and the current position was reached: ss.22, 23 FA 1974.

The same rules applied to companies as to individuals, until the introduction of corporation tax in 1965, which put UK resident companies onto an arising basis.

7.4 Relevant foreign income

Relevant foreign income (“RFI”) is the term used by ITTOIA to replace Schedule D Cases IV and V. “Relevant foreign income” is not a helpful label but it is difficult to think of a better one. Section 830(1) ITTOIA provides the definition:

In this Act “relevant foreign income” means income which arises from a source outside the UK and is chargeable under any of the provisions specified in subsection (2).

Subsection (2) sets out a comprehensive list, not repeated here. It includes almost all foreign income charged under ITTOIA, including in particular trading income, property income, interest and dividends. Employment income is governed by ITEPA and discussed in the next chapter.

7.5 Who qualifies for the RFI remittance basis?

Section 831 ITTOIA provides:

- (1) A person may make a claim for a tax year for the person’s relevant foreign income to be charged for that year in accordance with section 832.

- (2) The claim must state that condition A or B is met.
- (3) Condition A is that the person is not domiciled in the UK.
- (4) Condition B is that the person is not ordinarily UK resident.

Thus two categories of person qualify for the remittance basis:

- (1) the UK resident foreign domiciliary (the subject of this book), and
- (2) a person who is:
 - (a) not ordinarily resident in the UK; and
 - (b) resident in the UK (or he would not be within the scope of tax on foreign income at all); and
 - (c) domiciled in the UK (or he would fall within the first category anyway).⁵

Category (2) must be a rare case. This category does not qualify for the CGT or employment income remittance basis. It is suggested that the law could be simplified, and the anomaly fairly corrected, by abolishing this category and bringing such persons on to the arising basis. For simplicity I will on most occasions ignore this possibility and simply refer to “foreign domicile”.

Although the statute does not say this, it is considered that the claim is of no effect if the person is in fact non-resident in the year.

7.5.1 Any “person”

Under s.831 any “person” who satisfies the relevant conditions can claim the remittance basis. The term “person” generally denotes individuals, trustees and companies. Companies are, however, taken out of the remittance basis by s.12 ICTA.⁶

5 A fourth requirement, that the person must be an Irish or Commonwealth citizen, was abolished by ITTOIA.

6 “... corporation tax shall be assessed and charged for any accounting period of a company on the full amount of the profits arising in the period (whether or not received in or transmitted to the UK) ...”

The remittance basis therefore applies to individuals and trustees. The usual case is, of course, individuals.

7.6 Remittance basis for trustees

A trustee will qualify for the remittance basis (regardless of the beneficiaries or form of trust) if:

- (1) the trustee is an individual domiciled outside the UK; or
- (2) the trustee is a company incorporated outside the UK.⁷

This could be a convenient way of obtaining income tax advantages of offshore trusts without the inconvenience of offshore trustees. In practice the author has never seen this done. Sections 739 and 740 ICTA may, of course, apply. If one trustee is UK domiciled, and others are not, the trustees as a body do not qualify for the remittance basis.

TS&E Manual provides:

3160. Resident trustees with trust income from abroad: beneficiary is not resident

These instructions apply only if the beneficiary has an absolute interest in trust income (TSEM6204). This includes a life tenant and an annuitant.

The trustees' income tax liability is based on the beneficiary's residence position. Trustees are not chargeable in respect of the share of income from abroad payable to the non-resident beneficiary. They exclude it from the Trust and Estate Tax Return. [See] *Williams v Singer* 7 TC 387

3165. Resident trustees with trust income from abroad: beneficiary is resident but not domiciled

Companies could formerly qualify for the remittance basis: see 7.3 (History of the remittance basis). This is why some of the old cases on the remittance basis concern companies.

- 7 Or (a rare case) if the trustee is resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK. The domicile of a company is its place of incorporation. Section 12 ICTA does not apply to a company in its capacity as trustee: s.6 ICTA. The possibility of a trustee being taxed on the remittance basis was recognised in *Dawson v IRC* 62 TC 301 at 320.

These instructions apply only if the beneficiary has an absolute interest in trust income (TSEM6204). This includes a life tenant and an annuitant.

The trustees' income tax liability is based on the beneficiary's domicile. Their liability on the share of income from abroad (apart from the Republic of Ireland) payable to the non-resident beneficiary is limited to the amount remitted to the United Kingdom. Trustees exclude from the Trust and Estate Tax Return any such overseas income that is not remitted to the UK.

Income from the Republic of Ireland is assessable on the amount arising. The remittance basis does not apply. [See] *Williams v Singer* 7 TC 387

3170. Resident trustees with trust income from abroad – beneficiary is resident but not ordinarily resident

These instructions apply only if the beneficiary:

- has an absolute interest in trust income (TSEM6204). This includes a life tenant and an annuitant;⁸

The trustees' income tax liability is based on the beneficiary's not ordinarily resident status. Their liability on the share of other income from abroad (apart from the Republic of Ireland) payable to the non-resident beneficiary is limited to the amount remitted to the United Kingdom. Trustees exclude from the Trust and Estate Tax Return any such overseas income that is not remitted to the UK.

Income from the Republic of Ireland is assessable on the amount arising. The remittance basis does not apply. [See] *Williams v Singer* 7 TC 387

7.7 Time of foreign domicile

Condition A in s.831 ITTOIA is that the foreign domiciliary "is" not domiciled in the UK. In the context, it is considered that this means that he is not domiciled at the time the income arises. Domicile at the time the claim is made, or accepted, or at any other time in the tax year, is not relevant.

Section 831 refers to a person who makes a claim "which states that condition A or B is met". Obviously the remittance basis only applies to a person making a claim which states *correctly* that the condition is met. It is an interesting question what is the position if a person changes domicile during a year.

8 The Manual adds "is a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland". However, this condition no longer applies.

7.8 Rates of tax under arising and remittance bases

See 17.1 (Rates of income tax).

7.9 Claims

A claim must be made every year. It is possible to make a claim in one year and choose not to claim in a later year. (It is considered this was also the position before 2005/6.) ITTOIA EN Vol II states:

Section 831: Claims for relevant foreign income to be charged on the remittance basis

1646. This section is based on sections 65 and 68 of ITCA. If a claim is made under this section neither Chapter 3 nor Chapter 4 of this Part applies to the claimant's income for that year. (Those Chapters deal respectively with relevant foreign income charged on arising basis (deductions and reliefs) and with unremittable income.)

1647. A claim under this section is for the remittance basis to be applied for a tax year rather than (as in the source legislation) a claim for a purely personal status from which the remittance basis will flow for that year.

1648. A claim is made for a particular tax year. The claim is an annual claim. In the source legislation, a claim has to be made to the Board of Inland Revenue. In practice, it is usually made by applying the remittance basis in making the claimant's self assessment. The section reflects this practice and does not require the claim to be made either to the Board or to the Inland Revenue.

The time limit for a claim is the usual five years after 31 January following the year of assessment to which it relates: see s.43 TMA 1970. In practice a claim is usually made by ticking the appropriate box on the tax return.

7.10 Circumstances where it is desirable not to claim RFI remittance basis

These include:

- (1) where it is better to have the 10% deduction on a foreign pension: see 9.2 (Taxation of foreign pension);

- (2) where it is better to pay the dividend ordinary or upper rates on dividends: see 17.5 and 17.6 (Rates of tax on remitted income);
- (3) where it is better to have relief for losses for a foreign trade or foreign property business.

If no claim is made in any year for remittance basis treatment for relevant foreign income, the remittance basis still applies for employment income and CGT.

7.11 The remittance basis: the statute

Section 832(1) ITTOIA provides:

If a person makes a claim under section 831(1) for a tax year in respect of relevant foreign income, income tax is charged on the full amount of the sums received in the UK in the tax year in respect of the income.

7.12 Remittance in tax year after receipt

Section 832(2) ITTOIA provides:

For the purposes of subsection (1), it does not matter whether the income arises in the year for which the claim is made or arose in an earlier year in which the person was UK resident.

This gives statutory expression to the pragmatic decisions in *Scottish Provident Institution v Farmer* 6 TC 34 and *Patuck v Lloyd* 26 TC 284. (It is interesting to contrast *National Provident Institution v Brown* 8 TC 57, where the House of Lords by a majority applied the principle of the “source doctrine” remorselessly, regardless of the tax planning opportunities thereby revealed.)

7.13 Remittance after acquisition of UK domicile

Suppose:

- (1) A foreign domiciliary retains foreign income abroad;

- (2) acquires a UK domicile; and
- (3) subsequently remits the income.

It is clear under s.832(1) that there is no charge. This confirms what was previously thought to be the law.

Where a person changes domicile in the course of a tax year, this ought to apply to remittances after the change of domicile, but it might be better to wait until the following year as a precaution.

7.14 Remittance without claim for RFI remittance basis treatment

Suppose a foreign domiciled individual:

- (1) makes no claim to RFI remittance basis treatment in any year, and
- (2) in that year remits income from earlier years in which the remittance basis applied.

There is no tax due on the remittance. (Income of the year will be taxed on an arising basis.) This was thought to be the law before ITTOIA but I described this as “a high risk strategy”. But now under s.832(1) the position seems fairly clear.

7.15 Income arising when resident, remitted when non-resident

Suppose:

- (1) A UK resident foreign domiciled individual receives foreign income which is not remitted.
- (2) The individual becomes non-resident and subsequently remits the income to the UK.

If no RFI claim is made, the income is clearly not taxable. The same is thought to be the case if a claim is made.

This is consistent with the CGT position: see 18.7 (Gains accruing when resident, remitted when non-resident).

7.15.1 *Scope for tax planning in non-resident year*

Suppose an individual has accumulated unremitted foreign income. If he becomes non-resident for one year, he has the opportunity during that year to remit that income free of tax. If in the subsequent year he becomes UK resident, and remits the income then, there will be a tax charge and the opportunity will have been lost.

7.16 Remittance after death

Suppose:

- (1) A UK resident foreign domiciled individual receives foreign income which is not remitted.
- (2) The individual dies, and the income is remitted to the UK after the death.

It is submitted that no tax charge arises. On the death, the unremitted income becomes vested in the personal representative of the deceased by operation of law. Remittance by them does not count as a taxable remittance: see 7.26 (Receipt by third party). It makes no difference whether the remittance is in the same tax year as the death or later.

7.17 Income arising when non-resident, remitted when resident

Suppose:

- (1) A non-resident foreign domiciled individual receives foreign income. The income is not of course taxed as it arises.
- (2) The individual becomes UK resident, and subsequently remits that income.

The sum remitted is not income chargeable under the RFI remittance basis. This is reasonably clear from s.832(2) ITTOIA. It is also consistent with the CGT position: see 18.6 (Gains accruing when non-resident, remitted when resident). HMRC accept this:

Remittance basis: income that can be excluded

Published 9/95

Where the remittance basis applies, it is ordinarily immaterial, subject to the guidance in IM1660–IM1664,⁹ in what year the income arose. Where, however ... the taxpayer shows that remittances include income which—

(i) did not arise during a year of assessment in which he was resident in the UK

and

(ii) did not arise in the year which is the basis year of assessment, such income should be excluded from the computation of liability.

Example

X, who is assessable for year 3 on the basis of remittances of income in year 2, was not resident in the UK for years 1 and 2. His overseas income is £1,500 each year. He remits income totalling £1,000 in year 2 and shows that £300 of this came from income which arose in year 1. The assessment for year 3, which would normally be on £1,000, may in the circumstances be limited to £700.¹⁰

7.18 Sums received “in respect of” the foreign income

Under the remittance basis, tax is computed on the full amount of the sums received in the UK “in respect of” the relevant foreign income. This gives statutory expression to the old law decided in *Kneen v Martin*, and confirmed in *Thomson v Moyse* 39 TC 291. The remittance of any other sums does not count.

ITTOIA EN Vol II para 1653 provides:

The words “in respect of relevant foreign income” have been included, indicating that the sums received should either comprise the relevant foreign income in question, or represent that income. Lord Radcliffe said in *Thomson v Moyse* (1960), 39 TC 291 HL (page 335):

No doubt proper construction of those words [sums received] require that the sums computable must be “of” the income, by which I would understand “sums of money derived from the application of the income to achieving the necessary transfer.”

9 Set out in 5.5 (Year of arrival).

10 Inspector’s Manual 1563. The example has not been revised to take into account the abolition of the preceding year basis in 1994, but this does not affect the point being made.

For the CGT remittance basis the question is likewise whether the amount received in the UK is “in respect of” the chargeable gains. For the employment income remittance basis the statute applies if the earnings “are remitted”. It is considered that the test is exactly the same in each case.

7.19 Conditions for the remittance basis charge

Thus three conditions must be satisfied for there to be a charge under the remittance basis:

1. There must be a receipt which is relevant foreign income.
2. There must be a sum received in the UK.
3. The sum received in the UK must be in respect of the foreign income.

None of these conditions has proved easy. First a note on terminology.

7.20 Capital/income terminology in remittance basis context

One might start off by thinking that a remittance of income is taxable and a remittance of capital is not. It is not that simple. The terminology of “capital” and “income” in the context of the remittance basis is potentially confusing.

A sum received in the UK may not be taxable under the remittance basis because it is not derived from income but from some fund easily identified as capital in the hands of the taxpayer, such as a gift or inheritance, or borrowing. In cases in this category it makes sense to say that the remittance is tax free because it is one of capital.

A sum received in the UK may not be taxable under the remittance basis because:

- (1) the donor was non-resident when this particular sum accrued; or
- (2) the sum remitted has already been subject to income tax; or
- (3) the source of the income ceased in a previous year.

Such sums are “income” in the normal sense of the expression. These examples show that a remittance of a sum which is income in nature may nevertheless be tax free on the remittance basis.

Suppose a UK resident foreign domiciliary accumulates income offshore for many years; the accumulated fund is his “capital” in the normal sense of the expression, and not his income. Yet for the purposes of the remittance basis, it is in principle taxable if remitted.¹¹ Perhaps it is better described as “income”. Best of all is not to use the terminology of capital/income where it is unnecessary to do so.

7.21 The tracing principle

In order to decide whether a remittance is in respect of foreign income, one can (unsurprisingly) trace income through various transformations. If:

- (1) the income is used to purchase foreign investments; and
- (2) the investments are sold and the proceeds of sale are remitted

there will be a taxable remittance. The proceeds of sale are in respect of the foreign income.¹²

Likewise, if foreign income is invested in assets which are brought to the UK and sold and the proceeds received here; the receipt of the proceeds of sale is in respect of the foreign income.

11 See (if authority is needed) *Walsh v Randall* 23 TC 55:

“... the accumulated income which he had derived from the drawings of the firm of which he was a sleeping partner. I have no doubt that he had come to regard this sum of money as capital. It was invested savings and it was in that sense capital, unless it can be said that, for instance, a professional man’s invested savings never are and never become capital. I should have thought it was quite a harmless thing to use the word ‘capital’ in relation to a professional man, or indeed to any other private person. I think that word may very definitely have a meaning with regard to ordinary private persons and may be correctly used to describe some part of their property. That, however, is not, for Income Tax purposes, the test. To the Crown the [unremitted] income of a person residing in the UK is, as I gather, always income until it is taxed.”

12 This is clear from the current legislation; if authority is needed see *Patuck v Lloyd* 26 TC 284; *Walsh v Randall* 23 TC 55.

Tracing may not be so easy if assets change their value. Suppose T receives £2 million foreign income, invests it in an asset and sells it at a loss so he is left with £1 million. If he remits the £1 million it is suggested there is a charge on £1 million only. Conversely if the investment does well¹³ and T sells it and receives £4 million, if he remits half (£2m), it is suggested that only half of the income (£0.5m) should be regarded as remitted.

7.22 When is there a remittance?

7.22.1 *No requirement of “bringing in” the foreign income*

In *Thomson v Moyse* 39 TC 291, the taxpayer held foreign income in a US dollar account. He drew a cheque on that account payable to the order of a UK bank. Had he cashed the cheque and received the proceeds in the UK, there would clearly have been a remittance. Instead he sold the cheque to the bank (which cashed the cheque on its own behalf). He argued that he did not *bring in* his dollars to the UK, and so there was no remittance. The House of Lords rejected the argument. There was no requirement of “bringing in to the UK” the foreign income (or if there were, the income was “brought in” in the relevant sense).

He parted with his dollars: he got his sterling. He emptied one pocket of dollars in order to fill another pocket with sterling.

(39 TC at 333)

7.22.2 *Method of remittance does not matter*

There is a remittance if there is a “transmission” of income

from one country to the other by whatever means the agencies of commerce or finance may make available for that purpose.

(39 TC at 335)

13 Assume for simplicity the asset is not subject to CGT on a disposal.

7.23 Receipt in UK must be of money or commercial equivalent

A sum of money may be received in more ways than one, e.g. by the transfer of a coin or a negotiable instrument or other document which represents and produces coin, and is treated as such by business men. Even a settlement in account may be equivalent to a receipt of a sum of money, although no money may pass; and I am not myself prepared to say that what amongst businessmen is equivalent to a receipt of a sum of money is not a receipt within the meaning of the Statute which your Lordships have to interpret.

(Lord Lindley, *Gresham Life v Bishop* 4 TC 464)

In *Scottish Widows Fund Life Assurance Society v Farmer* 5 TC 502, Lord Dunedin, the Lord President, said that the word in the Statute

is “receipt” and nothing less than actual receipt will do. Now, actual receipt of money, it seems to me, can only be effected in one of two ways. Either the money itself must be brought over in specie, or the money must be sent in the form which, according to the ordinary usages of commerce, is one of the known forms of remittance.

Lord Denning, in *Thomson v Moyse* 39 TC 291 put the point this way:

Nor is it necessary that Mr Moyse ... should receive the sums in coins or dollar notes or treasury notes. It is sufficient if he ... receives the sums in England in any of the other forms of money recognized by commercial means, such as bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes or cash at bank.

HMRC Manual puts the point this way:

Income is received in the UK if funds provided in the UK are derived from income arising overseas. The precise mechanisms of banking and commerce used to achieve this result are immaterial. The receipt may be in any commercially recognised form of money, for example, cash, notes, cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, or financial credit. Such money does not have to be physically imported. It may be received from another UK resident in respect of the transfer to him abroad of money or assets representing the income.

(Inspector's Manual, para 1564, published 9/95)

These passages are putting the same point in different ways. They are saying that foreign income represented by financial instruments – such as cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, etc. – (which are received in the UK) is regarded as remitted here *if* the instrument is a commercially recognised form of money.

When is an instrument a “commercially recognised form of money”? This question was not discussed in *Thomson v Moyse*. The question is to some extent a question of fact, not law. Commercial practice can change over time. Some guidance can be found in contract law cases on “payment” obligations. See *Chitty on Contracts* (28th ed., 1999), Chapter 22, Part 4, especially at 22–045.

7.23.1 *Receipt of uncashed cheque in UK*

The Inspector's Manual contains a helpful statement here:

1564. ... Where ... the receipt is in the form of a cheque, the sum is received in the UK when it is realised in the UK, for example, it is credited to a UK bank account (*Parkside Leasing Ltd v Smith*, 58 TC 282), exchanged for cash in the UK (through a bank or otherwise), accepted by a third party in settlement of a debt owed by the taxpayer A cheque representing income assessable under Schedule D, Case IV or V, which is received in the UK by or on behalf of the taxpayer but is sent abroad and credited to the taxpayer's overseas bank account is not a ‘sum received in the UK’.

This is right since a cheque is not a “commercially recognised form of money”. This is obviously so if the cheque is not transferable; the same applies to a cheque which is transferable, unless perhaps it is a bankers draft payable to bearer.¹⁴

14 Another example is *Walsh v Randall* 23 TC 55 which concerned a demand draft in favour of a hospital brought to the UK. It was assumed that there was no remittance until the draft was given to and cashed by the hospital. Unfortunately, the report is uninformative about the nature of this “demand draft”.

7.23.2 Receipt of marketable bearer bonds in UK

In *Scottish Widows v Farmer* 5 TC 502, foreign income was invested in the form of bearer bonds. The bonds were brought to the UK. It was held that no sum of money had been received in the UK, as the bonds were not the commercial equivalent of money. The bonds were negotiable instruments, and easily marketable, but they were of fluctuating value.

The Lord President said:

Nobody ever heard of remitting money by means of a bearer bond, for this very good reason: you could not possibly remit money by it and know exactly what you are doing, because the price of bearer bonds fluctuates in the market every day, and a bond might start from New York at one price and arrive in London at a perfectly different one. It therefore is not at all in the same category with that way which modern arrangements have perfected, by which you may send money from one country to another in the form of hard cash consigned in a package or box, or by means of a bank draft, which is, of course, simply a transaction of debtor and creditor between different persons on different sides of the Atlantic. But those are well-known methods of remitting money.

It follows *a fortiori* that the mere investment of unremitted income in assets which are UK situate under common law situs rules does not amount to a taxable remittance. In *Scottish Widows*, the bearer bonds were UK situate under the common law situs rules, but that had “no bearing on the point in question”.¹⁵

7.23.3 Conclusion

In summary, cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, etc., which represent foreign income and are received in the UK, are taxable remittances only if:

- (1) they are “commercially equivalent to money” – which in practice is not usually the case; or

¹⁵ The same point arose on the facts of *SPI v Farmer* 6 TC 34; but the point was not discussed in argument.

- (2) the cheque is cashed, or the promissory note is sold, or redeemed, and the cash proceeds are received in the UK.

7.24 Foreign income from bond or coupon held in the UK

Scottish Widows v Farmer 5 TC 502 is a difficult case to follow. A close reading is necessary in order to appreciate that two distinct points were involved. Firstly, foreign income arising abroad was invested in bearer bonds and the bonds were brought to the UK. It was argued that this income had been remitted. The argument was rejected for the reasons set out above.

Quite independently, the taxpayer held foreign bearer bonds in the UK. Coupons were attached to these bonds in the usual way. Before the time came when interest was due on the coupons, the taxpayer company sent the coupon to America, where it was presented. HMRC argued that all the interest from these bonds was to be regarded as received in the UK since the bonds were here, or since the coupons had been here prior to their redemption. This argument is obviously wrong. The question is whether the interest on the bonds had been remitted to the UK, thus

- (1) the situs of the bonds from which the income arose (under common law situs rules) is obviously irrelevant, and
- (2) the situs of the coupons *prior* to the date of payment is equally irrelevant.

The interest could not be remitted to the UK before it was due and payable. This, it is submitted, is what the Court of Session said, or meant to say, in this dictum:

Now, how can this money be said to have been received in this country? As far as the bond itself is concerned, it is, of course, a piece of paper, but it represents a debt. But the debt is a debt which is not presently payable, but which, taking the bond we have taken as an illustration, is a debt which is not payable till the year 1935, and then is not payable in this country, but in New York. In the same way the interest is not payable here; it only is payable, taking the specimen coupons, on the first day of October, 1907, at the agency in the City of New York. Now, it is quite certain that that debt is still extant until it is paid. That is to say, there is still the debt of the principal till 1936, and if one were

speaking of a period before the first of October, 1907, the interest is payable until 1907 comes and it is paid. What I have been absolutely unable to understand is the answer to the question I put, and put in vain so far as any answer was given – how money could be in two places at once. According to the argument of the Crown the money was received in this country the moment the bond came into the Company's safe in London or in Edinburgh. *Equally it was in America, because the day of payment had not yet come, and therefore it was, so to speak, in the pocket of the debtor.* How it can be at one time both in America and in this country is, I think, a difficulty which surpasses even the powers of legal fiction.

(Emphasis added)

It would be more accurate to say that the income did not exist before it became due, rather than to say that it was “in the pocket of the debtor”.¹⁶ But nothing turns on this.

16 The classic exposition (see *National Westminster Bank v Spectrum Plus* [2004] EWCA Civ 670 para.88) of the relationship of banker/customer (and borrower/lender generally) is *Foley v Hill* (1848) 2 HLC 28 at p.36:

“Money, when paid into a bank, ceases altogether to be the money of the principal ... ; it is then the money of the banker, who is bound to return an equivalent by paying a similar sum to that deposited with him when he is asked for it. The money paid into the banker's custody is money known by the principal to be placed there for the purpose of being under the control of the banker; it is then the banker's money; he is known to deal with it as his own; he makes what profit of it he can, which profit he retains to himself, paying back only the principal, ... or the principal and a small rate of interest ... The money placed in the custody of a banker is, to all intents and purposes, the money of the banker to do with it as he pleases; he is guilty of no breach of trust in employing it; he is not answerable to the principal if he puts it into jeopardy, if he engages in a hazardous speculation; he is not bound to keep it or deal with it as the property of his principal, but he is of course answerable for the amount, because he has contracted, having received that money, to repay to the principal, when demanded, a sum equivalent to that paid into his hands.”

However, “The difference between *commodatum* and *mutuum* – the loan to be returned and the loan to be repaid – was hardly seen. It is hardly seen today by the vulgar. ‘My money at the bank’, is a phrase in common use.” (Maitland, *The Forms of Action at Common Law*, lecture V, 1909).

7.25 Chattels purchased out of foreign income and brought to the UK

Is there a charge to tax if a taxpayer expends his foreign income in the purchase of a chattel (such as a picture or a motor car) and that asset is received by him in the UK?¹⁷

The conventional view is that there is no taxable remittance. For a chattel is not “money” (or the commercial equivalent of money) and the line of cases cited above – *Gresham Life v Bishop*; *Scottish Widows v Farmer* 5 TC 502¹⁸ – all assume that sums of *money* (or the commercial equivalent) must be brought to the UK.

The cases may be distinguished. In *Gresham Life*, foreign income was retained abroad, and the only act HMRC identified as “receipt in the UK” was the credit in the UK accounts. So while no “money” had been brought to the UK, it was also a feature of the case that *the foreign income remained identifiably abroad*. In *Scottish Widows v Farmer*, foreign income was applied in buying bearer bonds which were brought to the UK. Bearer bonds are in some respects equivalent to chattels, and therefore the case supports the proposition that there is no tax charge on the remittance of chattels *in specie*. However, negotiable instruments differ from ordinary chattels and to some extent resemble contracts. See *Chitty on Contracts* (29th ed. 2004), para. 34–002. So there is no case directly covering our point.

The point was debated in the OTPR where Robert VENABLE QC argued for the view that the importation of a chattel does give rise to a tax charge

17 If bringing the asset into the UK was not a taxable remittance, there would of course be a remittance if the asset is sold and the proceeds received in the UK (unless the source-ceasing principle applied).

18 And some dicta in *Thomson v Moyse* where Lord Radcliffe adopted the conventional view:

“If, having foreign income, I invest it in property, import the property, and then sell it here, the sterling proceeds arise in the UK from a sale made here: yet the proceeds are certainly computable (see, for instance, *Scottish Provident Institution v Farmer*, 6 TC 34).”

The Court was not of course considering our particular question and another dictum in the same speech has been cited to support the opposite conclusion:

“... what importance can there be in the actual place of making the instrument, or in its physical movements, if the direct result of the mechanism employed was to turn the taxpayer’s income in one country into money *or value* in the other country, to which he had decided to transfer it?”

on the remittance basis. Richard Bramwell QC took up arms for the conventional view.¹⁹

In practice, however, HMRC take the conventional view that there is no taxable remittance:

The investment of income abroad does not change its character as income and whether the investments or assets are realised abroad and the proceeds remitted here (*Walsh v Randall*, 23 TC 55, and *Patuck v Lloyd*, 26 TC 284) or whether they are transferred here and then realised (*Scottish Provident Institution v Farmer*, 6 TC 34), such transactions give rise to ‘sums received’. *On the other hand, the mere transfer to the UK of such investments or assets other than commercially recognisable forms of money does not constitute ‘sums received’* (*Scottish Widows’ Fund Life Assurance Society v Farmer*, 5 TC 502).

...

If an overseas credit card is used abroad and the account is settled direct to the card company out of overseas income within Cases IV and V, no liability to UK tax will arise. *But if an asset purchased using the card is brought to the UK and subsequently sold here, there will be a taxable remittance, at the date of disposal, up to the amount of any Case IV or V income used to settle the original account.*

19 See OTPR, Vol 2, July 1992, p.99 (Robert Venables QC); Vol 2, 1992, p.183 (Richard Bramwell QC); Vol 6, February 1996, p.23 (Robert Venables QC). The author need not repeat all the arguments set out in these articles, but will add supplementary points for those who have read the articles and want to take the point further. (1) Dicta in *McCrone v IRC* 44 TC 142 (a case on the Settlement Provisions) may be taken to support the Venables view: “A ‘sum’ is just an amount, and payment may be made in various forms, including the transfer of marketable securities of a value equivalent to that sum.” (2) There is this practical difficulty with the Venables view. Suppose £100,000 foreign income is spent on a picture. The picture is brought to the UK two years later, worth £50,000. Is there a remittance of £100,000 or £50,000? If the latter, what if it is sold later for £80,000? (3). The statutory definition of ‘sum’ in s.24(4) ICTA might be taken as supporting the conventional view. This provides “References in this section to a sum shall be construed as including the value of any consideration, and references to a sum paid or payable or to be the payment of a sum shall be construed accordingly.” This would not be necessary on the Venables view (except for the avoidance of doubt). (4) Historically, it was envisaged that the charge would only arise on a receipt of money: see “Taxing Foreign Income from Pitt to the Tax Law Rewrite—The Decline of the Remittance Basis”, John Avery Jones in *Studies in the History of Tax Law*, Hart Publishing, 2004 p.40.

(Inspector's Manual paragraphs 1564 and 1569, emphasis added)

7.25.1 *Dividend of chattel in specie*

Sometimes a person receives income which is not in the form of money. The common example is where a company declared a dividend *in specie*²⁰ of a non-cash asset. Suppose a foreign domiciled shareholder receives a dividend in specie of UK situate property such as land or a chattel. It is considered that the same principle applies. There is no taxable remittance unless the chattel or other asset is sold and the proceeds received in the UK. This is so even if the land is occupied or the chattel is used and enjoyed by the shareholder. The same applies if the dividend *in specie* is to a discretionary trust, and the trustees distribute the non-cash asset to a beneficiary.

7.25.2 *Application of trust income for benefit of beneficiary*

Where trust income is applied for the benefit of a beneficiary, for example by maintaining him, then the income so applied becomes that of the beneficiary for tax purposes: *Drummond v Collins* 6 TC 526. However, there is a charge under the remittance basis only if the income is actually received here before being so applied (as was the case in *Drummond v Collins* where the income was paid to the mother of the beneficiary, to apply for his benefit).

7.26 Receipt by third party

The remittance basis imposes a charge on sums “received in the UK”. One might have thought that the remittance basis would apply only if the sums are received in the UK by the taxpayer.

This formulation would have worked sensibly, given the flexibility inherent in the concept of “receipt by the taxpayer”. For instance, receipt by an agent, or credit to a bank account of the taxpayer, would be receipt by the taxpayer. An application of income in the UK for the direct financial benefit of the taxpayer, by payment of his debts, or provision of

20 A company usually has power to do this: see Table A article 105.

goods or services for him, could likewise naturally be characterised as receipt by the taxpayer.

The law took a strange turn in *Timpson's Executors v Yerbury* 20 TC 155, a decision of the Court of Appeal.²¹ Reference was made to the statutory rule that the person liable for tax on income is the person receiving or entitled to the income.²²

The conclusion drawn from this provision was that:

the actual sums of the taxpayer's income should at least come to this country under such circumstances that the taxpayer, if he does not actually receive them, is entitled to them.²³

What is astonishing is the application of this anodyne principle to the facts of the case. In that case bankers drafts were given to Mrs Timpson's children, and cashed by them in the UK. In the High Court the learned judge held that the sum was "received" by Mrs Timpson. This was obviously wrong, and the Court of Appeal so held. However, it was said that Mrs Timpson was "entitled" to the sum when it came into the UK. This is right if what came into the UK was not an ordinary cheque but a bankers draft, the commercial equivalent of money; see 7.23 (Receipt must be of money or commercial equivalent). If what arrived was an ordinary cheque then the taxpayer was at no time entitled to a sum of money in the UK. Before the money was received by the children, it was outside the UK; after, Mrs Timpson was not entitled to it. The Court of Appeal relied on the fact that the payment was "out of her income"; but that is *nihil ad rem*.

Lord Denning justified the result of the case in a different way, in an obiter dictum in *Thomson v Moyse*:

But he [the taxpayer] need not receive them [the foreign income] himself. It is sufficient if the sums are received in England by some third person *by his authority*. Thus, if Mr Moyse, instead of receiving

21 The case was followed at first instance in *Walsh v Randall* 23 TC 55.

22 The rule is now in many places in ITTOIA: see in particular ss.371, 385, 404 ITTOIA.

23 20 TC at p.181. In *Carter v Sharon* 20 TC 229 Lawrence J echoed this observation: the income tax rules "only apply to income from foreign possessions which is either received by the taxpayer in this country or to which he is entitled at the time it comes to this country."

the money himself, tells his New York banker to send a remittance to his butcher or baker or candlestick-maker in England, he is chargeable with tax on it for the simple reason that he was “entitled” to the income which has been used to pay the debt; and he must pay tax on it when it is received in England, no matter by whom it is received, so long as it is received *by his authority* (see [the statutory rule set out above] and *Timpson’s Executors v Yerbury*).

Whatever the reasoning, this much is plain: if a foreign domiciliary writes a cheque on a foreign bank account, gives it to a donee, who cashes the cheque in the UK, there is a remittance of the foreign income.

Suppose unremitted income is transferred from an offshore account direct to a third party’s UK account by electronic transfer (not by cheque or bankers draft). It is suggested that *Timpson’s Executors* should be distinguished and in this case there is no remittance.

7.27 Transfer of income to third party completed abroad²⁴

7.27.1 Gift of foreign income

If a foreign domiciliary (“A”) transfers his foreign income to another person (“B”) and B received that income abroad, there will be no taxable remittance of that income even if B subsequently remits the income to the UK. The charge only applies to income:

which is either received by the taxpayer in this country or to which he is entitled at the time it comes to this country.

See *Carter v Sharon* 20 TC 229.

If a foreign domiciliary wishes to make gifts to UK residents he can therefore do so out of his foreign income without incurring any tax. It is only necessary to arrange for the income to be received by the donee abroad. The donee can subsequently bring the income into the UK. In this way a foreign domiciliary can effectively remit income to his children or to his spouse, though not to himself.

The gift must be completed outside the UK. The easiest procedure in practice is to arrange that the income is credited to a foreign bank account

24 See also 7.34 (Circular transaction return income to the taxpayer).

in the name of the donee. An alternative is to deliver cash or a bankers draft to the donee abroad.

Inspector's Manual 1565, published 9/95 provides:

It may be claimed that income arising abroad has been alienated from the taxpayer's possession by gift abroad (for example, to a relative) so that it is no longer his income when received in the UK. This may be challenged on the grounds that

[1] the gift was not completed until the income was received in the UK (*Timpson's Executors v Yerbury*, 20 TC 155) or

[2] that financial consideration for the 'gift' has been received in the UK.

Before any such claim is accepted, a full report should be made to Revenue Policy, International (Cases IV and V), Victory House.

Point [2] is correct if "financial consideration for the gift" means cash consideration.

7.27.2 *Purchase of foreign situate asset out of foreign income*

Suppose an individual purchases a foreign asset with foreign income for full value. If the purchase price is paid out of the UK, there is no remittance.

Suppose the purchase price is paid by a remittance to a UK account of the vendor. It might be thought that there is a remittance under the principle of *Timpson's Executors*: the receipt in the UK account is "by the authority" of the individual. It is considered that there is no remittance: under the tracing principle, the foreign income becomes identified with the foreign asset – which remains safely outside the UK. (If large sums are involved, it would be wise to make the payment for the asset outside the UK, for the avoidance of doubt.)

7.27.3 *Purchase of UK situate asset out of foreign income*

Suppose now the individual purchases a UK situate chattel. Suppose that the purchase price is paid abroad (e.g. to a foreign bank account of the vendor). Is this a remittance?

There is a strong technical argument that there is no remittance. For no sum of money is received in the UK. The issue is similar to that discussed

above in relation to the import of chattels, and the same doubts arise. However, it would be anomalous if:

- (1) importation of a chattel was not a taxable remittance;
- (2) purchase completed abroad of a UK situate chattel was a remittance.

If that is right, there is no taxable remittance on the purchase of UK situate land, if the purchase price is paid abroad. There may in some cases be a charge under s.740.

The taxpayer would be in a stronger position if a company or trust, funded out of foreign income, uses its funds to purchase the land.

7.27.4 Payment for services out of foreign income

Similar considerations apply to payment for services in the UK. If the payment is completed outside the UK, then there is a strong technical argument that there is no taxable remittance: no “sums” are received here. It is understood that some firms of solicitors and accountants maintain offshore bank accounts in order to facilitate payment by foreign domiciled clients. The argument is similar to that on the purchase of an asset in the UK, but stronger, as it is harder to identify “value” in the UK.

7.27.5 Repayment of debt of another out of foreign income

Suppose A borrows money in the UK and another individual (B) repays the debt out of foreign income. There is clearly no remittance by B if the repayment is completed abroad.

7.27.6 Loans made from foreign income

Suppose:

- (1) an individual lends foreign income to a borrower. The loan is completed by a payment out of the UK.
- (2) the borrower remits the sum he borrowed to the UK.

There is no remittance of the foreign income, for two reasons:

- (1) The foreign income has ceased to be the income of the individual, and the principle in *Carter v Sharon* applies;
- (2) The foreign income is represented by the loan, under the tracing principle. If the loan were called in (or sold) and the proceeds remitted, there would be a remittance.

This is so even if the loan is on favourable terms, or interest-free: *R v Preddy* [1996] AC 815.

7.28 Credit cards

The simplest case would be the use of a UK credit card for purchasing goods or services in the UK. This would create a debt in the UK; discharge of the credit card balance with foreign income would represent a remittance if only under the debt rules considered below at 7.36 (Deemed remittances).

What if an overseas credit card is used? HMRC take the view that in such circumstances the individual would be using the credit card to settle his UK debts just as he would use a bank and that the discharge of the liability with foreign income represents a remittance. The Inspector's Manual provides:

1569. Remittance Basis

Use of credit cards

Published: 9/95

If a taxpayer who is chargeable on the remittance basis uses a UK credit or charge card to pay for goods or services, either in the UK or elsewhere, and subsequently settles his credit card account out of overseas income chargeable under Case IV or V of Schedule D, then the payment sent to the UK to settle the account constitutes a taxable remittance, even if it is made direct to the credit card company, since the remittance does not have to be received by the taxpayer personally, it merely being sufficient that it is received in the UK by some other person on his authority (see IM 1564(1)).

Where an overseas credit card is used in the UK instead of cash, the taxpayer is effectively authorising the credit card company to settle his account in just the same way as if the taxpayer had instructed his foreign banker to send a remittance to the supplier. If, on that basis, the

taxpayer's overseas income is ultimately the provider of sums received in the UK (by the supplier) then there is a taxable remittance.

It is sometimes argued that any indebtedness created by the use of an overseas credit card lies between the cardholder and the card company, rather than between the cardholder and the supplier. The debtor/creditor relationship thus established, however, amounts to a loan of money expended on purchase by the debtor by the use of his card, which would be caught by ICTA s.65(6).

The terms of the particular credit card agreement must be examined. If, under the terms of the agreement, the money is regarded as lent to the cardholder at the moment when his card is accepted as payment in lieu of cash, then the lending can be said to take place in the UK and any repayment of either the loan or any interest out of Case IV or V income is regarded as a taxable remittance.

If, on the other hand, the money is only regarded as being lent at the date the overseas card company settles the supplier's account on the cardholder's behalf, then the lending takes place outside the UK and ICTA, section 65(6)(b) operates to treat the repayment of the loan, but not any interest, as a taxable remittance.

If an overseas credit card is used abroad and the account is settled direct to the card company out of overseas income within Cases IV and V, no liability to UK tax will arise. But if an asset purchased using the card is brought to the UK and subsequently sold here, there will be a taxable remittance, at the date of disposal, up to the amount of any Case IV or V income used to settle the original account.

It is arguable that this is incorrect. The argument is based on the premise that the individual has incurred a UK debt which is being met by the overseas credit card company on his behalf. However, the individual has a contract with the overseas credit card company and so does the UK supplier. The relationship between the UK supplier and the debtor is not one which gives rise to a debt between them: *Re Charge Card Services Ltd* [1989] Ch 497. Accordingly, the credit card company discharges its own debt to the supplier and the individual discharges his own debt to the overseas credit card company. Discharging this debt from foreign income does not give rise to a remittance as this is not a debt for money lent in the UK; the debt is for money lent to him outside the UK and is not "received

in or brought to the UK”. The only exception would be if the individual were to use the overseas credit card to obtain cash in the UK.

However, those wishing to avoid an argument with HMRC on this point will be well advised to ensure that credit cards used in the UK are discharged from foreign capital funds.

7.29 The problem of mixed funds

It can happen that there are brought together into a single fund two (or more) funds which are of a different nature and qualifying for different tax treatment under the remittance bases. The classic example is a mixture of:

- (1) foreign unremitted investment income (taxed on the RFI remittance basis) and
- (2) capital (e.g. an inheritance) not taxed at all on remittance.

However, the variety of possible ingredients of a mixed fund is much greater than this. One might have:

- (1) Foreign investment income (taxable in full on remittance under RFI rules).
- (2) Chargeable overseas earnings (taxable in full on remittance under employment income rules).
- (3) Income on which some foreign tax has been paid (taxable on remittance but with credit under DTT rules). Income from different sources may have different amounts of credit available.
- (4) “Income” which is not taxable on remittance because:
 - (a) the sum has already been subject to income tax; or
 - (b) the donor was non-resident when this particular sum arose; or
 - (c) the source of the particular investment income has ceased.

- (5) Proceeds of disposal on which a chargeable gain has accrued (taxable on remittance to the extent of the gain). Almost every disposal will be a different mix of base cost and capital gain
- (6) “Capital” (not being sums representing income) tax free on remittance.

Any combination of these funds may become mixed. This section discusses the problems which then arise when some (but not all) of the money is remitted to the UK. Does the money remitted represent one fund or another or a mixture of both?

7.30 Income and capital accounts at one bank

In *Kneen v Martin* 19 TC 33 the taxpayer paid foreign income into one foreign account (described as an “income account”). He paid the proceeds of sale of the shares from which the income was derived into another account at the same bank (described as a “capital account”). He later remitted a sum from the capital account and that was held to be a remittance of capital. It must follow that:

- (1) different types of funds are not “mixed” if they are held in separate accounts at one bank, or
- (2) they are “mixed” at the bank but “unmixed” by a remittance from a specified account so what is remitted can be identified as either income or capital.

Since a bank (as a matter of general banking law)²⁵ owes only a single debt to its customer, analysis (2) is to be preferred.

7.31 Remittance from mixture of taxed and untaxed income

In *Duke of Roxburghe’s Executors v CIR* 20 TC 711 a taxpayer received and held offshore:

25 This assumes that English banking law principles apply; that is to be assumed in the absence of evidence of foreign law.

- (1) income subject to UK tax on an arising basis (“taxed income”);²⁶ and
- (2) foreign income which qualified for the remittance basis, and which was therefore untaxed unless and until remitted (“untaxed income”).

These were wisely held in separate accounts and so a remittance out of the taxed income account would not have been taxable. The taxpayer correctly directed the bank to make a remittance to the UK out of her taxed income account. Unfortunately the bank made a remittance out of the wrong account, so the sum remitted could (largely) be traced to untaxed income!

The Commissioners applied a tracing principle. The sum remitted was traced to taxed income, as to part; but the balance was traced to untaxed income, and so there was a tax charge on this remitted amount. The Court of Session surprisingly reversed this decision, on two alternative grounds. The first ground identified the sum remitted as taxed income because the Duchess had *intended* the remittance to come out of taxed income:

the Duchess was entitled to have the remittance debited against any fund belonging to her and under her control and that she did so effectually by the *instructions* to debit it against money not derived from the [untaxed] income.²⁷

(Emphasis added)

The second ground was that a remittance out of a bank account with taxed and untaxed income is necessarily to be treated as out of the taxed income. The intention of the taxpayer is irrelevant. This applies in every case

26 Being foreign source income of a class of income not then qualifying for the remittance basis and so subject to UK income tax on an arising basis.

27 Lord Normand at page 726. This was also the view of Lord Fleming who expressed himself in similar words: “I base my decision in favour of the Appellants on the ground that it was the legal right of the Duchess to make the appropriation against any particular fund belonging to herself, and that in law she made that appropriation when she directed the Bank making the remittance to charge it against her funds in their hands which had already borne British Income Tax.” (p.732).

unless very unusually²⁸ there is something in the substance (as opposed to book-keeping) to show the contrary. Lord Normand and Lord Fleming inclined to this view, without deciding it; Lord Moncrieff based his decision on this view.

HMRC accept the second view of the decision: the Inspector's Manual reads:

1568. Mixed fund/income assessable: Arising/remittance

Published: 2/87

Where a person maintains abroad a mixed fund consisting partly of income assessable on the arising basis and partly of income assessable on the remittance basis, any remittances made to this country out of that fund may be regarded as made primarily out of the income assessable on the arising basis and only the balance out of income assessable on the remittance basis.

The result would certainly have been the same if the funds of taxed and untaxed income had been held in a single bank account. This was accepted without argument in *Walsh v Randall* 23 TC 55.

It is arguable that the result would have been the same if:

- (1) the taxed funds had been held at one bank; and
- (2) the untaxed fund had been held at a separate bank (so there were two debts as a matter of banking law).

7.32 Remittance from mixture of capital and foreign income

In *Scottish Provident Institution v Allan* 4 TC 591, the taxpayer held offshore:

- (1) capital which had been invested in secured loans in Australia; and

28 Lord Normand gives one example of the exceptional case: "For example, if the Duchess, in the present case, had enjoyed [taxed income] under the condition of applying a part of it to some expenditure or purpose in the United States, she might have been disabled from asserting that the whole of that income was used for remittance to the UK. Accounts made up on the footing that the whole of that income was available for remittance would then fall to be ignored or corrected."

- (2) interest from those loans, which qualified for the remittance basis, and which was therefore untaxed unless and until remitted.

A sum was remitted to the UK and the question was whether this sum was the untaxed income or the capital. The background was this:

- (1) The income and capital had been paid into a single account.
- (2) The remittances (from the Australian agents) had been accompanied by letters stating that the sums remitted represent repayments of the loans. The loans had in some cases been repaid only very shortly before the remittance.
- (3) The sum remitted (£200,000) was only a small proportion of the loans and interest received (each about £1.5m).

It was held that the remitted sum was the foreign income, not capital. The Lord Chancellor said:

It is obvious that the mere nicknaming the sum received and ascribing to it, because it is so named, the character of capital and not of income, cannot defeat the right of the Crown to have the tax levied upon that which in substance and truth is [income] ...

Lord Davey:

I must say that that is a draft upon my credulity, a strain upon my powers of belief, which they will not bear. I agree that the mere calling it capital for the purpose of the Inland Revenue Department will not make into capital that which is essentially and in truth ... the interest received on the securities.

Two points shine out:

- (1) The description of the remittance as capital does not make the remittance capital if “in truth” it is income. This is obviously right, an application of the Shakespearean principle that “a rose by any other name ...” However, this principle does not address the more

fundamental question of *how* the courts determine what is income and what is capital.

- (2) The answer to this second question is that the courts look to the substance.

However, it is one thing to look for the substance, and another to find and identify it. Why, in substance, was the remittance from the income, not from the capital? The answer may be found in the speech of Lord Robertson: “The facts of the case must furnish the inference.”

The following facts were relevant:

[1] First of all there is the fact of remittance in two consecutive years ...

[2] There is no suggestion that any exceptional reason required remittances of capital, in either year or in both.

[3] On the other hand it is certain that the amount of invested capital left behind in the Colony, after these remittances, is larger than before; so that the capital is fully accounted for.

[4] Well then, what is done with this so-called capital remitted? The answer is, exactly what would be done with profits.

[Paragraphing added]

This is explained by Lord Shand in argument:

If it is capital you have brought back and distributed as bonus, you have been paying back capital, which I should think you have no authority to do.

This is why Lord Robertson concluded:

The inference from these facts is that the moneys remitted were in fact profits, [i.e. income] ...

The HMRC view is in the Inspector’s Manual at paragraph 1566:

Where a person maintains abroad a fund (for example, a bank account) containing income assessable on the remittance basis, a capital lodgement to the fund is normally considered to lose its identity in the fund. A subsequent remittance from such a mixed fund, therefore, represents income up to the full extent of the income content of the fund (see *Scottish Provident Institution v Allan*, 4 TC 409 and 4 TC 591, and especially the Lord Chancellor's remarks on 'mere nicknaming' at 4 TC 593). Only when the income content of the fund is exhausted will any balance remitted be regarded as capital. Where this is not accepted, the full facts of the case should be reported to Revenue Policy, International (Cases IV and V), Victory House.

The HMRC view over-simplifies the law as expounded in *SPI v Allan*. There is no rule that the remittance of a mixed fund of income and capital is bound to be treated as income. Suppose a taxpayer remits a substantial amount, exceeding the income, and applies it to an investment in the UK, or on capital expenditure here, such as the purchase of a house. It is considered that the "substance" of the matter, applying Lord Robertson's approach, is that the remittance is one of capital. The position is even stronger if the taxpayer first uses an amount equal to the income of a mixed account on expenditure abroad of an income nature. It is understood that HMRC have accepted this view in practice.

It is also important to note that *SPI v Allan* was a case where the mixed fund was capital and income. The case can have no application where the mixed fund consists of:

- (1) income and income; see 7.31 (Taxed and untaxed income);
- (2) capital and capital; see 7.33.1 (CGT remittance out of mixed capital funds).

In some cases it may be difficult to identify sums as "income" or "capital": see 7.20 (Capital/income terminology in remittance basis context).

7.32.1 *Reconciling SPI v Allan and Duke of Roxburghe*

At first sight there is some tension between these two cases. In the first, "mere nicknaming" was contemptuously dismissed; in the second, it was the "legal right" of the Duchess to direct whether the remittance was from one fund or the other. The cases agree, however, that the matter is one of

“substance”. It is submitted that the cases can be reconciled in this way: in a marginal case, the description of the remittance given by the taxpayer may be decisive. Where the substance of the transaction shows that a remittance is one of income or capital, “mere nicknaming” will not alter the position.

7.32.2 *Further authorities?*

The above are the only authorities in point. A similar question, once extensively litigated, is whether charges on income were paid from “profits brought into charge to income or corporation tax”. It is suggested in *Roxburghe*²⁹ that this line of cases sheds some light on the remittance issues; I am inclined to think that such guidance is very limited, because this question is answered in an entirely different manner: see 7.18 (Sums received “in respect of” the UK derived from foreign income). Likewise the extensive trust law cases on tracing are of no assistance here – the tracing approach was expressly rejected in *Roxburghe*.

7.33 **Remittance from mixture of untaxed income and income qualifying for DTT relief**

Suppose an individual holds in one mixed fund:

- (1) income which is subject to foreign tax and qualifies for UK double tax relief; and
- (2) untaxed foreign income taxable in full on the remittance basis.

It is considered that the *Roxburghe* approach applies. A remittance from this mixed fund should be regarded as made first of all out of the income which qualifies for UK double tax relief. However, it would be better practice:

- (1) to pay the income qualifying for DTT relief into a separate account, and

29 I add for completeness that Lord Moncrieff (who was one of the judges in *Roxburghe*) repeated this view in *Commissioners of Inland Revenue v Ayr Town Council* 22 TC 381.

- (2) to remit funds from that account.

Then this issue does not arise and a remittance from the DTT account can easily be identified as qualifying for DTT relief.

7.33.1 *CGT remittances out of mixed capital funds*

Suppose an individual holds in one mixed fund:

- (1) capital which does not include any capital gain within the scope of CGT; and
- (2) the proceeds of a disposal on which a capital gain accrued.

A remittance from this fund should for CGT purposes be treated as coming out of the tax free source first. It would be wise to adopt the narrower view of *Roxburghe*, and have the taxpayer direct the bank to make the remittance from the tax free capital, rather than the taxed capital.

For the quite different question where a single disposal has given rise to a gain, and it is desired to separate the original capital “tranche” and the gain, see 18.5 (Remittance of part of gain).

7.34 Circular transaction returning income to the taxpayer

In *Harmel v Wright* 49 TC 149, a taxpayer used his foreign employment income to subscribe for shares in A Ltd; the money was lent by A to B Ltd, and lent by B back to the taxpayer. Applying the principle in *Carter v Sharon*, there should have been no remittance, since the income had been transferred to a third party out of the UK: see 7.27 (Transfer of income to third party completed abroad).³⁰ But the taxpayer had the misfortune to appear before the vehement opponent of tax avoidance schemes. The result was inevitable. Templeman J said:

30 An independent argument arises under the tracing principle: the assets held by Company A could not represent the taxpayer’s income, since income was represented by the shares in company A. There would have been a remittance if the shares were sold and the proceeds of sale remitted.

Although at various stages different cheques are written on different accounts, one can, with fascination, with certainty and no difficulty at all, follow, for example, a salary of £25,000 paid by cheque from the South African company [the employer] to the taxpayer; then by cheque by the taxpayer to Artemis; then by cheque by Artemis to Lodestar, and finally by cheque by Lodestar to the taxpayer in England. Ignoring for the moment exchange control and the possibility that some cheques will be in rands and others in sterling, and ignoring the costs that will drip away, that sum begins in South Africa from the employers of the taxpayer and ends up in this country with the taxpayer. In my judgment, in the peculiar circumstances of this case – and I say nothing about other cases where it may be possible that the money *does en route disappear and it is not possible to follow with the same certainty as in the present case* – the sums which the taxpayer eventually receives represent and are the emoluments which start off from his South African employers in the first place.

[Counsel] for the taxpayer says ... the emoluments are not received in this country because they have become, and are, the shares in Artemis, and what the taxpayer receives in this country is something entirely different, namely, a loan extended to him by Lodestar. He submits that it is impossible to come to any other conclusion unless one strips aside the corporate veil and looks behind Artemis to study the shareholders and looks at the reality of the situation behind the corporate veil.

[1] To my mind this case does not depend on stripping aside the corporate veil at all.

[2] This case depends on keeping one's eye on the emoluments, on the original sum of £25,000, and seeing what happens to it. It is true that it is paid over at one stage as the purchase price for shares, and it is true that one cannot normally identify money, but in the present case you can; you do not need to get behind the corporate veil to perceive and know that the £25,000 which goes in as the purchase price for shares comes out on the instant in the form of the loan to Lodestar. In my judgment, on the wording of section 156 one does not need to strip aside the corporate veil if you find that emoluments, which mean money, *come in at one end of a conduit pipe and pass through certain traceable pipes until they come out at the other end to the taxpayer*.³¹

(Emphasis and paragraphing added)

31 49 TC at p.157.

This judgment does little to help in other cases as:

- (1) sometimes money “comes in at one end of a conduit pipe and passes through certain traceable pipes until it comes out at the other end to the taxpayer”. I call this “the *Harmel v Wright* principle”;
- (2) sometimes money “does en route disappear and it is not possible to follow with the same certainty” and the *Harmel v Wright* principle does not apply.

The judge says “nothing” about where the dividing line comes. This is one of those omissions which so commonly make Templeman judgments easy to read but difficult to apply.

In *Grimm v Newman* [2002] STC 1388 the taxpayer had foreign employment income (chargeable overseas earnings) which he gave to his wife. The transfer was completed abroad. He and his wife purchased a house jointly, his wife using the sum she had been given to pay for her share. They lived in the property together. The *Harmel v Wright* principle did not apply. Paras 57–60 of the judgment read:

- [1] ... Mr Grimm [did not retain] any beneficial interest therein or contractual right of control over the property he gave to Mrs Grimm. Thus ... the investments were the absolute property of Mrs Grimm for her to do with them what she willed. On the basis of *Carter v Sharon*, at that stage the investments lost the characteristics which made them potentially liable to UK tax in the hands of Mr Grimm.
- [2] Second, the passages in the speech of Lord Radcliffe in *Thomson v Moyse* to which I have drawn attention do point to the need for monetary or financial equivalence between the foreign income or emolument and that which is received, used or enjoyed in the UK. Mr Grimm did not receive, use or enjoy the monetary or financial equivalent of what he gave. ...
- [3] Third, the analogy with *Harmel v Wright* is false. In that case the taxpayer received from Lodestar the monetary equivalent of what he had disposed of to Artemis. The original disposer and ultimate recipient was the same and the “conduit pipe” through which the money was poured readily identifiable.

As I see it, paragraph [1] represents the *prima facie* position, the rule in *Carter v Sharon*. Paragraphs [2] and [3] represent the reasons for rejecting the challenge to it.³²

- [2] The taxpayer did not receive use or enjoy the monetary equivalent of the unremitted income which he gave his wife.
- [3] The *Harmel v Wright* principle only applies when the money received by the taxpayer is “readily identifiable” with his foreign income. That was, apparently, not the case in *Grimm v Newman*.

One explanation of *Harmel v Wright* is that it represents a pre *Ramsay* application of the *Ramsay* principle. (It would help if the Courts would make up their mind what the *Ramsay* principle is.) However, this is not the way that the *Harmel v Wright* principle has been expressed, either in *Harmel v Wright* itself or in *Grimm v Newman*. I suggest that the dividing line between *Carter v Sharon* and *Harmel v Wright* ought to be, and is likely to be, formed upon the following lines.

Suppose:

- (1) T transfers unremitted foreign income to a trust under which he is the principal beneficiary; and
- (2) the trustees transfer or loan the funds to him.

Even if the two steps are not part of a preordained series of transactions, and the trustees have genuinely exercised their discretion, this falls within *Harmel v Wright*: T has received the monetary or financial equivalent of

32 The following paragraph of the judgment raises two side issues. Firstly:

“Fourth, the real issue, as it seems to me, is whether the legislation dealing with constructive remittances entitles the court to treat husband and wife as the same person. In my view it does not. In many contexts specific provision is made to that effect. But in the context of constructive remittances there is no such provision in the legislation and, in my view, none can be implied.

This conclusion is obviously correct. Secondly:

“Likewise, there is nothing in the *Ramsay* principles ...to justify any such treatment.”

Interesting that the judge refers to the *Ramsay* principles (in the plural). But that is another book.

what he gave. The funds are readily identifiable. The transfer to the trust does not amount to a “clean break”. After all, trustees are expected to pay close attention to the wishes of the settlor, and in doing so they are merely “filling in the blanks” left by the settlor: see *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468.

Suppose T transfers £1 million to a trust, the trust invests and realises a gain on the disposal being left with £3 million. If the trust transfers £1 million to T, it is suggested that one third of the original income should be regarded as remitted. On the other hand, if T *lent* £1 million to the trust, the trust invested and realised a gain leaving £3 million, the trust repaid the loan (offshore) and then transferred £1 million to T, who received it in the UK, that would be tax free.

Suppose:

- (1) T transfers unremitted foreign income to an individual, W; and
- (2) W transfers or lends the funds to him.

In this case it is suggested that the line should be drawn depending on whether or not the decision by W to transfer assets to T is genuinely independent. The question is very similar as to whether a person has provided funds indirectly and so is a settlor; see 37.22 (Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor). It is submitted that the same test should be applied.

This was accepted in another context in *Cohen v Petch* [1999] STC (SCD) 207. Here:

- (1) T borrowed funds from a building society and used them to purchase an asset from his mother.
- (2) The mother immediately gave or lent the proceeds of sale back to the son.
- (3) The son lent the money to a company.

The Special Commissioner said:

I cannot overlook the fact that once the money had been borrowed [by]³³ the taxpayer from the society it was paid to his mother and became her funds. Subsequently, three days later, the sum of £46,600 was returned to the taxpayer by his mother either in the form of a loan or as a gift. The funds, whether or not they are traceable in specie, were no longer the money borrowed from the society. They were funds lent or given by Mrs Daphne Cohen to her son. *There was no longer any link between the money which the taxpayer eventually lent to the company and the money which he borrowed from the society.*

Suppose an individual T transfers foreign income to a trust under which he is the principal beneficiary, and

- (a) the trustees transfer the funds to the UK (but not to the taxpayer);
- (b) the trustees purchase property from T; or
- (c) the trustees purchase from a third party a UK property which T occupies.

It is considered that there is no remittance in any case. Case (a) is clear as T does not receive the funds. Case (b) is not a remittance since T has given value for the sum he receives. In case (c) what the individual receives, which is merely the licence to occupy the property, does not amount to the financial equivalent of the foreign income.

7.35 Foreign exchange profits and losses

The Inspector's Manual provides:

1670. Exchange

Income chargeable on the arising basis should be translated into sterling at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time when the income arose (see IM1640); where, however, credits are frequent and the taxpayer desires to translate at the mean rate of exchange for the basis year, that course may be followed, provided that it is adopted consistently year by year, and that the amounts to be assessed are not materially affected. ...

This is not contentious. The Manual continues:

33 The text erroneously reads "from".

... Where income is chargeable on the remittance basis, the income should be taken to be the amount received in the UK, translated to sterling, if necessary, at the rate of exchange prevailing on the date of receipt.

Any case of difficulty should be referred to Business Tax (Technical).

This is more doubtful, as the last sentence tacitly accepts. There is no authority on the point.

7.36 Foreign income used to repay loan: deemed remittances

Sections 833, 834 ITTOIA prevent avoidance schemes of the kind which succeeded in *Hall v Marians* 19 TC 582 and *IRC v Gordon* 33 TC 220. I refer to these rules as “deemed remittances”. They are sometimes called “constructive remittances”.

Section 833(1) ITTOIA provides:

For the purposes of section 832, if a person who is ordinarily resident, but is not domiciled, in the UK uses relevant foreign income outside the UK to satisfy a UK-linked debt, the person is treated as receiving the income in the UK at the time when it is so used.

In short, foreign income used to satisfy a UK-linked debt is treated as remitted. There is of course no IT charge on satisfying a UK-linked debt so long as it is not satisfied out of unremitted foreign income. There is no charge on satisfying a debt which is not a UK-linked debt even if it is satisfied out of unremitted foreign income, so long as the payment is completed abroad.

Section 833(1) applies if the person is ordinarily resident in the UK at the time when he repays the debt. It is not necessary that he should be ordinarily resident when the money is lent or when the money lent is received in the UK.

7.36.1 Satisfaction of loan in part

Section 833(9) provides:

“Satisfy” in relation to a debt, means satisfy in whole or in part.

7.37 UK-linked debt

The definition is in s.833(3) ITTOIA:

- In subsection (1) “UK-linked debt”, in relation to a person, means—
- (a) a debt for money lent to the person in the UK, or for interest on money so lent,
 - (b) a debt for money lent to the person outside the UK and received in the UK, or
 - (c) a debt incurred for satisfying—
 - (i) a debt falling within paragraph (a) or (b), or
 - (ii) another debt falling within this paragraph.

A debt which is not “for money lent” is not a UK-linked debt; this is a significant restriction, but it is consistent with the principle that remittances of non-money assets are not taxable under the RFI Remittance Basis. An example of a debt not for money lent is an obligation imposed in divorce proceedings. There is no deemed remittance if relevant foreign income is used to satisfy such a debt outside the UK.

In the present context (foreign loans) it is considered that “money” includes foreign currency.³⁴

All debts for money lent in the UK are UK-linked. A debt for money lent outside the UK is a UK-linked debt only if “received in” the UK.

7.37.1 “Received in the UK”

The question of whether money is received in the UK is decided by applying the remittance basis rules. Section 833(7) provides:

In subsections (3) to (5) any reference to money lent being received in the UK includes a reference to its being brought there.

This appears to be otiose.

34 Though in other contexts “money” often means only sterling. In *Goodbrand v Loffland Brothers North Sea Inc* 71 TC 57 Millett LJ said that foreign currency was not “money” (for the purposes of s.38 TCGA) but money’s worth. Where Parliament intends the term “money” to apply to a foreign currency, it often states this expressly: e.g. s.81(6) FA 1996.

7.37.2 “Lent in the UK”

When is money lent “in the UK” and when is it lent “outside the UK”? The context shows that the answer depends solely on where the money is received when the loan is made. If it is received outside the UK (e.g. credited to an account outside the UK) then it is lent outside the UK. Other UK connections are not relevant. The loan may be made by a UK lender, under English law, with UK situated security.

If a loan is received outside the UK, it does not matter that:

- (1) the proceeds are remitted to the UK the next day;
- (2) the loan is secured on UK property;³⁵
- (3) the loan is used to purchase a UK asset; or
- (4) the decision to lend the funds is made in the UK.

If the money is paid direct from a foreign lender to discharge a debt of the borrower in the UK it is arguable that the loan is “lent” outside the UK, but it would be better not to have to rely on that.

In case HMRC take a different view it would be safer to arrange:

- (1) a non-UK lender;
- (2) a foreign law loan agreement;
- (3) the agreement is made outside the UK.

If the money borrowed is used for a qualifying purpose the interest may be deductible against the individual’s UK income.

35 If the loan is secured on UK real property, the security must be governed by UK law, but that would not matter. The security would be relevant in deciding whether the interest had a UK source: see 6.16 (Situs of source of interest); but that would only concern the borrower, not the lender, unless the interest is subject to UK withholding tax.

7.38 Basic planning for loans

The legislation draws a distinction between:

1. Money lent to a person in the UK (“a UK loan”); and
2. Money lent to a person outside the UK (“a foreign loan”) and received in the UK.

In each case there is a UK-linked debt. But income is treated as remitted if used in satisfaction of the loan or interest on a UK loan. Income is treated as remitted if used in satisfaction of a foreign loan – but not the interest. Why the legislation has made this distinction the author cannot guess.

A basic planning idea, therefore, is as follows:

- (a) an individual borrows money outside the UK;
- (b) he remits the money borrowed;
- (c) he uses foreign income to pay the interest on the loan as it accrues.

This has obvious finance costs but it does avoid any tax charge on the remittances. The loan may be repaid after the foreign domiciliary has died: see 7.16 (Remittance after death). Likewise, the loan may be repaid in a year when the foreign domiciliary is not resident in the UK: see 7.15 (Remittance when non-resident). Further, the loan may be repaid in a year when the foreign domiciliary is not ordinarily resident in the UK (even though resident here).

7.38.1 *Converting a UK loan into a foreign loan*

Suppose a foreign domiciliary has borrowed money in the UK and wants to pay the interest out of foreign income. To do so would give rise to an income tax charge under the deemed remittance rules. He should, of course, have borrowed the money abroad. Is there anything he can now do to correct his error? Yes: he can borrow outside the UK and repay the UK debt. He may thereafter pay interest on the foreign loan without a remittance.

7.38.2 *Loan to repay UK-linked debt*

The reader may have thought of the following ingenious arrangement:

- (a) The foreign domiciliary borrows money outside the UK (“the first loan”) and remits it here.
- (b) If the foreign domiciliary were then to use foreign income to repay the first loan, there would be a deemed remittance. So instead he borrows abroad again (“the second loan”) and uses the proceeds to repay the first loan.

The second loan is not UK-linked under s.833(3)(a) because it is not lent in the UK. It is not UK-linked under s.833(3)(b) because it is not received here. However, it is UK-linked under s.833(3)(c)(i); it is a debt incurred for satisfying a loan under (b), so foreign income used to repay the second loan is treated as remitted.

The individual could borrow a third time abroad and use the proceeds of the third loan to repay the second. However, it would still be UK-linked by s.833(3)(c)(ii).

So no number of new loans will “wash” UK-linked debt status.

Section 833(6) provides:

For the purposes of this section, if any of the money lent is used to satisfy a debt, the debt for the money so used is treated as incurred for satisfying that other debt.

Money may be borrowed for an entirely different purpose, but if it is in fact used to repay a UK-linked debt, the loan of that money is UK-linked.

7.38.3 *Foreign loan remitted in part*

What if a person borrows money abroad and remits part of it to the UK? On a strict reading the debt is not UK-linked: it is not a debt for money lent outside the UK and received in the UK: it is a debt for money lent outside the UK and *partly* received here. Where the drafter wishes to deal with parts and not the whole, he does so expressly; see s.833(9).

Can the Court fill in the gap by construction? It is not easy to do so: “mixed fund” issues arise. Suppose a foreign domiciliary borrows £4m

abroad, remits £2m and repays £1m out of foreign income. Does one say that:

1. This is a remittance of £1m, being the repayment of money brought to the UK; or
2. No remittance, the £1m being the repayment of money kept out of the UK; or
3. A remittance of 50% of the amount repaid?

The answer which makes best sense is probably 3, but that requires reading a good deal into the section which is not there. It is therefore arguable that a foreign loan remitted in part is not UK-linked. However, a Court is likely to take a robust view and apply solution 3, by analogy with CGT, see 18.5 (Remittance of part of gain) or even solution 2, by analogy with *Duke of Roxburghe*, see 7.31 (Remittance from mixture of taxed and untaxed income). It is tentatively suggested that solution 3 best fits the scheme of the legislation.

7.38.4 *Loan used to repay UK-linked debt and for other purposes*

At first sight there are anomalies where a foreign loan is used partly to repay a UK-linked debt.

Suppose:

- (1) A foreign domiciliary borrows a small sum (say, £1,000) in the UK; a UK-linked debt.
- (2) He later borrows a larger sum abroad (say, £1m).

If he uses the £1m to repay the smaller debt, the entire £1m is a UK-linked debt under s.833(3)(c)! So if it is repaid out of foreign income, is there a remittance of £1m even though in reality only £1,000 has been received in the UK? The answer is no, because the second loan, the larger sum, is only incurred “for satisfying” the other debt to the extent that the money is used to repay that debt: s.833(6).

7.39 Foreign loan repaid out of foreign income and proceeds later remitted

Section 833(4)(5) provide:

- (4) In the case of a debt (within subsection (3)(b) or (c)) for money lent to the person outside the UK, it does not matter whether the money lent is received in the UK before or after the income is used to satisfy the debt.
- (5) But in the case of such a debt if the money lent is not received in the UK until after the income is so used, the person is treated as receiving the income in the UK when the money lent is received there (instead of at the time provided in subsection (1)).

The person must be ordinarily resident in the UK when he receives or brings in the money lent to him outside the UK. He need not be ordinarily resident at the time the loan is made.

7.40 Use of foreign income as security for loans

7.40.1 *The statute*

Section 834(1) ITTOIA provides:

A person to whom money has been lent (“the borrower”) is treated for the purposes of section 833 as using relevant foreign income to satisfy a debt if conditions A and B are met.

Section 834(4) gives “lender” an extended meaning:

“lender”, in relation to money lent, includes any person for the time being entitled to repayment.

In what follows it is assumed that the individual has borrowed from a foreign bank.

7.41 Condition A (the security condition)

Section 834(2) provides:

Condition A is that the borrower uses the income in such a way that the lender holds money or property representing the income on behalf or on account of the borrower in such circumstances that it is available to the lender to satisfy the debt (by set-off or otherwise).

An asset is held by a lender *on behalf of* an individual if the lender holds as nominee for the individual. In this case the income is “available” to satisfy the debt if there is a charge or contract to that effect.

Money is held³⁶ by a lender to the *account of* an individual if it acts as a banker, i.e. the money is paid to the lender and credited to the account of the individual (the foreign income account). In this case the foreign income (represented by the account in credit) is normally available to satisfy a debt to the lender³⁷ by way of set-off because:

- (1) the bank’s standard terms of loan will normally so provide, or
- (2) (in the unlikely event that the loan agreement is silent on the point), the general banking law will confer a right of set-off (at least if English law principles apply).

It is of course possible as a matter of contract law to arrange that the foreign income is deposited with a bank without a right of set-off for any debt due to the bank.

What if the individual *charges* the foreign income (or property representing it) but it is not “held by the lender”? A chargee is not normally said to “hold” the asset charged. A purposive construction would probably be applied, so this too is caught.

The condition also requires that the borrower uses the income in such a way that Condition A is satisfied. If the condition comes to be satisfied without an “application” by the borrower then the security condition is not satisfied.

36 “Credited” is a more accurate word than “held” since when the foreign income is paid to the lender (as banker) it becomes the property of the lender. But the meaning is reasonably clear.

37 The debt will normally take the form of another account which is overdrawn, but that does not matter.

Example 1

F has over a period of time accumulated £100,000 unremitted foreign income at an offshore bank.

F subsequently borrows £100,000 by overdrawing another account at the same bank and remits this to the UK.

Condition A is satisfied:

- (1) The foreign income is held by the bank to the account of the borrower.
- (2) The foreign income is available to the bank for the purpose of satisfying or reducing the debt by set-off (unless the parties have expressly agreed the contrary).

It is considered that the security condition is not satisfied because the individual has not “used” the foreign income.

Example 2

As Example 1 but F expressly agrees that the bank should have a right of set-off.

It is considered that the result is the same: F has still not “used” the foreign income.

Example 3

As Example 1 but F transfers the income to a new bank, and borrows from that bank.

Although this is closer to the line, it is arguable that there is still no use of the income, so condition A is not satisfied.³⁸ But it would be anomalous to draw a distinction between this example and examples 1 and 2, and the better view is that this is caught.

Example 4

As Example 1, but

38 It has been held in a trust law context that an “application” requires some change of title: *Re Vestey* [1951] Ch 209.

- *F agrees not to withdraw the accumulated foreign income while the debt is outstanding; or*
- *F charges the foreign income.*

Condition A is now satisfied.

Example 5

F borrows £100,000 and deposits foreign income of £100,000 as security. (The security condition is satisfied in relation to this £100,000 income – see Example 4.)

As time passes, (say) £50,000 new income accrues on the deposit and (say) £60,000 interest accrues on the loan.

Condition A is not satisfied in relation to this £50,000 new income as it has not been “used”.

7.41.1 *Possible avoidance of Condition A*

Under the terms of Condition A:

- (1) the deposit must be held by the lender; if it is held by another person (even a person connected with the lender) the section does not apply.
- (2) the security must be given by the individual; the section does not apply in terms if the individual has settled the income and the trustees make the arrangements.

7.42 Condition B (the linked loan condition)

Section 834(3) provides:

Condition B is that under an arrangement between the borrower and the lender—

- (a) the amount for the time being owed by the borrower to the lender,
- or
- (b) the time at which the debt is to be satisfied,

depends in any respect, directly or indirectly, on the amount or value the lender holds on behalf or on account of the borrower as mentioned in subsection (2).

Suppose the arrangement was that:

- (a) an individual deposits a sum in a bank; and
- (b) the bank was only prepared to lend up to the value of the sum deposited.

Paragraph (a) of the subsection is plainly satisfied. Suppose however that:

- (a) a bank makes a loan to an individual; and
- (b) subsequently the individual deposits funds at the bank (on usual banking terms) so the security condition is not satisfied.

In principle paragraphs (a) and (b) of the subsection are not satisfied.

The second aspect of condition B is that these matters are satisfied “under arrangements between the banker and the lender”. But “arrangements” is so wide that it is difficult to see what difference this makes.

7.43 Purchase of UK-linked loan

The deemed remittance rule only applies if a UK-linked loan is satisfied. The following arrangement may be considered:

- (1) F transfers unremitted RFI to a trust.
- (2) The trustees then purchase the benefit of the UK-linked debt from the creditor (usually a bank);
- (3) F ceases to pay interest (or interest may be rolled up, unpaid).

The trustees leave the existing loan outstanding.

The foreign income should be paid to an offshore account of the bank. At no time will it be paid to the UK.³⁹ Thus it is not remitted on the purchase of the loan.

The decision not to charge interest does not in my opinion amount to a remittance of the funds used to purchase the debt. (However, to make the point stronger, interest may be rolled up unpaid on the debt.) Since the debt remains outstanding, it is not “satisfied”. There is no deemed remittance under s.833 ITTOIA.

It is important that there should not be a novation agreement, that is, an agreement (formal or informal) under which the existing debt is satisfied and a new debt is created. Take care over the documentation!

7.44 Property held jointly by husband and wife

Section 282A(1) ICTA provides:

Subject to the following provisions of this section, income arising from property held in the names of a husband and his wife shall for the purposes of income tax be regarded as income to which they are beneficially entitled in equal shares.

The section goes on to set out a number of exceptions, with which I need not be concerned here. How does this interrelate with the remittance basis? Suppose:

- (1) Property is held in the names of H and W, but belongs in equity to H alone.
- (2) Section 282A applies so that half the income is deemed to be the income of W.
- (3) W is not domiciled in the UK.

It could be argued that W’s income being merely deemed income cannot be remitted and cannot be subject to tax; contrast 18.9 (Deemed gains). The consequence is somewhat too good to be true. Following through the

39 The income may of course be remitted to the UK later by the bank, after it is paid to the bank, but that does not matter.

deeming, it is suggested that half the income of H is to be regarded as the income of W for the remittance basis, so that if H remits the income, there is a charge to tax on W.

7.45 Avoiding remittances: basic tax planning

The best way to avoid any question of a remittance basis liability is simple and (if the word has any meaning in a tax context) “natural”: the income should be retained abroad.

The income should be carefully segregated from capital: see 7.32 (Remittance from mixture of capital and foreign income). The income may be applied to meet the foreign domiciliary’s foreign expenditure. It may also be reinvested. Capital can be remitted free of income tax. HMRC accept in CG Manual 25410 that this “common practice” is effective.

The income can be used to make gifts to individuals out of the UK or to individuals in the UK so long as the money is received by them abroad: see 7.27 (Transfer of income to third parties completed abroad). If the individual prefers not to make gifts to his wife, he might make loans to her instead. Suppose the wife uses the income given to her to meet living expenses which would otherwise be joint expenses. It is considered that there is still no taxable remittance – all that matters is that the funds do not return to the taxpayer himself.

7.46 Source-ceasing principle

The principle is that there is a charge to IT on remitted income only if the income arises in any year from a source in existence during that year. This principle, the source doctrine, was established by the House of Lords in *National Provident Institution v Brown* 8 TC 57.⁴⁰ It was derived by a remorseless application of three rules:

- (1) Income tax was not a tax on income of every kind; it is a tax on income *from various specified sources* (the former Schedules): s.1 ICTA. In the absence of a source there is no charge.

40 Post-cessation receipts of a trade were formerly exempt from tax by virtue of this rule: *Stainer’s Executors v Purchase* 32 TC 367 and *Carson v Cheyney’s Executors* 38 TC 240, which is why there is now a separate charge on post-cessation receipts.

- (2) Income tax is an annual tax. The charge to income tax is imposed each year for the period of one year by a specific provision in the Finance Act of that year. One should, in principle, treat each income tax year as a separate and independent matter; one must ask in each year whether in that year the conditions of the charge to tax are satisfied.
- (3) Income tax was *charged* on income arising in any year from specified sources in that year; it was merely *computed* (for the foreign income of a foreign domiciliary) on sums received in the UK: s.65 ICTA. It was not *charged* on remitted income. The section drew a distinction between a *charge* and a *computation*. A *charge* is the general liability to pay. There will be a charge to tax whenever income arises to a UK resident from a specified source in any year. Once a charge to tax has arisen, the amount of that charge was *computed*. For the foreign domiciliary, the statute does not adopt the natural and accurate means of computation, namely to ascertain arithmetically the amount of income arising from that source. The computation was an artificial one, based on the amount remitted to the UK. The *computation* was subsidiary to the *charge*. If there was no charge to tax then there is nothing to compute. It is quite irrelevant to compute what the amount of that charge might have been if the conditions of the charging section had been satisfied.

The conclusion is so extraordinary that, had the House of Lords not decided it (at a time when attitudes to construction of tax statutes were very different), one would not have thought the argument had any prospect of success. In other contexts the principle that income tax is an annual tax is not applied if the result is unreasonable.⁴¹ But there it is. This principle is accepted by HMRC. This was published in the 1988 Consultative Document (Residence in the UK: The Scope of UK Tax for Individuals) paragraph 4.18; and is now published in Inspector's Manual paragraph 1563:

Remittance basis: Income that can be excluded

Published: 9/95

41 See 7.12 (Remittance in tax year after receipt).

Where the remittance basis applies, it is ordinarily immaterial, subject to the guidance in IM 1660–IM 1664, in what year the income arose. Where, however ... the source of the income has ceased before the commencement of the year in which a remittance is made ... such income should be excluded from the computation of liability.

Unfortunately not much of the reasoning of *NPI v Brown* has survived after the ITTOIA rewrite. The Schedules have gone and so has the old distinction between charge and computation. But other provisions such as those for post-cessation receipts, and s.836(2) ITTOIA, are based on the assumption that the source-ceasing rule still applies. There is an assumption that the Rewrite is not intended to change the law substantially. For these reasons, it is considered that the source-ceasing rule still applies.

It is understood that if a foreign domiciliary disposes of a source of income in the same tax year that he becomes UK resident, but before the date of his arrival, HMRC will not seek to charge subsequent remittances from that source. This is a generous practice; there is no justification for it, although it is broadly consistent with ESC A11. A taxpayer relying on this is at risk.

The source doctrine does not apply to employment income: see 8.17 (Remittance after employment ceases). It does not apply for CGT.

It was suggested some years ago that what is now s.624 ITTOIA might counteract the source doctrine. This is not correct for two independent reasons. Source-ceasing arrangements do not constitute a “settlement”, lacking any element of “bounty”; see 11.3 (“A settlement”). Further, the source-ceasing rule applies to s.624: see 11.10 (Trustees remit trust income to UK). In practice HMRC accept this.

7.47 When does a source cease?

Relevant Foreign Income which is remitted in any year after the source has ceased will not be chargeable to income tax. The principle offers a practical means of bringing income into the UK while avoiding the remittance basis charge. If a taxpayer “closes down” his sources of income in one year he may remit the income from those sources in the following year.

The first step is to identify the source precisely. In *NPI v Brown*:

It was argued before us that the source of income was the possession by the Institution of funds for investment, and that such source existed although no funds were invested in the particular manner in the year of assessment. I cannot accept this construction. I think the source to be looked for in each case is a separate source from which the profits to be charged are derived.⁴²

In *Granger v Maxwell's Executors* 10 TC 139 Exchequer bonds were held to be a different source from War Stock and National War Bonds (though both are similar types of interest bearing security).

In *Turton v Mitchell* 13 TC 248 inherited War Loan was held to be the same source as purchased War Loan.

In *Inchyra v Jennings* 42 TC 388 two interests under the same trust were regarded as having the same source.

Having identified the source one must arrange that it ceases. In principle a individual's source of income ceases if the source no longer belongs to him i.e. if it is transferred to:

- (1) another individual;
- (2) a company, or
- (3) a discretionary trust, or
- (4) a non-transparent *Garland* type trust; see 6.18.1 (Income from interest in possession type trusts).

It is not necessary for a source to cease to exist.

In *Whelan v Henning* 10 TC 263 the taxpayer owned shares in a foreign company and retained the shares, but they produced no income in one year. It was held that no charge could arise in that year under the source-ceasing rule, even though the taxpayer continued to hold the shares throughout the year. The source had ceased! This decision was reversed in (what became) s.71 ICTA:

42 8 TC at p.17. *Diggins v Forestal Land, Timber & Railways Co* 15 TC 630 might seem to indicate the contrary, that Case V sources counted as one source; however, that case (a curious one) was based on statutory wording which has long since been repealed.

Where it is provided by the Income Tax Acts that income tax under Schedule D in respect of profits or gains or income from any source is to be computed by reference to the amount of the profits or gains or income of some period preceding the year of assessment, tax as so computed shall be charged for that year of assessment notwithstanding that no profits or gains or income arise from that source for or within that year.

Section 71 has been repealed. ITTOIA EN Vol. III explains why:

42. Section 71 of ICTA applies to all the Cases of Schedule D when a preceding year basis of assessment applies. It provides that a person will remain chargeable in a year when no income from the relevant source arises. It is based on section 22 of FA 1928 which was enacted in response to the House of Lords decision in *Whelan v Henning* (1926), 10 TC 263 to the effect of no income in year of assessment, no liability to tax.

43. There is no longer a preceding year basis of assessment for any Schedule D Case. So the provision is redundant.

The application of s.71 to the remittance basis was overlooked. At present a source ceases if it yields no income in a year. But no doubt this error will be corrected shortly.

7.48 Foreign income taxable on arising basis: income from Ireland

The remittance basis “does not apply to relevant foreign income arising in the Republic of Ireland”: see s.831(5) ITTOIA. The reason is historical. The Union with Ireland Act 1800 provided that:

The said Kingdoms of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* shall, upon the first Day of *January* which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one, and for ever after, be united into one Kingdom, by the Name of *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*.

“For ever” lasted until the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. Irish source income would until then have been subject to UK tax on an arising basis. The current provision dates back to the 1926 UK/Ireland Double Tax Treaty and so continued the former position. It might have pleased the framers of the Union with Ireland Act to know that, at least in this

backwater of taxation, Great Britain and Ireland are even now regarded as “one Kingdom”. The discrimination against Ireland is probably inconsistent with EU law and the tax law rewrite referred this for policy review.⁴³ But given the UK/Ireland DDT, this point may not often arise.

7.49 Delayed remittances

Section 835 ITTOIA provides:

835 Relief for delayed remittances

(1) If section 832 (relevant foreign income charged on the remittance basis) applies to income for a tax year, the person liable for the tax may make a claim for relief under this section in respect of any of the income which meets conditions A and B (“delayed income”).

(2) Condition A is that the income arose before the tax year for which relief is claimed.

(3) Condition B is that the income could not have been transferred by the person to the UK before the tax year because of—

(a) the laws of the territory where the income arose,

(b) executive action of its government, or

(c) the impossibility of obtaining there currency that could be transferred to the UK.

(4) If a person claims relief for a tax year in respect of delayed income, that income is to be deducted from the income charged to tax for that year in accordance with section 832.

(5) The delayed income is to be treated as if it were income received in the UK in the tax year in which it arose.

The effect of the relief is that the income will be taxed in the year that it arose (even though it was not remitted in that year): it will not be taxed in the year of remittance. The relief for delayed remittances will not often be claimed, because it will not normally make any difference. The relief might be useful to a taxpayer who pays tax at the basic rate in the earlier year, but the higher rate in a later year. It might also be useful in the exceptional case where an individual has a claim for loss relief in the earlier year. The relief was introduced in 1956, when the problem of “bunching” caused by delayed remittances was much more serious.

43 Tax Law Rewrite Responses to the 13th Exposure Draft 12 December 2002, para. 343.

Section 836 ITTOIA contains provisions relating to pensions granted retrospectively; section 837 ITTOIA sets out administrative provisions relating to the claims. These sections are not set out here because the relief is of very little importance.

7.50 Forward tax agreements

Details of this arrangement were made public in an article by Malcolm Gunn in *Taxation*, 17 May 2001, under the revealing name “subscription rate method of taxation”. The taxpayers involved were very wealthy UK resident non-domiciled individuals.

HMRC required full disclosure of the taxpayer’s worldwide assets. The taxpayer then offered to settle the tax liability on foreign sources for a fixed sum. A starting position was that one worked out the taxpayer’s UK living expenses; deducted from that the amount of UK income; the balance then represented funds which would be required annually from overseas, on which tax liability was expected. The forward tax agreement related to income and gains within the remittance basis only. UK sources of income remained taxable in the normal way. Malcolm Gunn explained:

One may be able to negotiate the annual fixed payment downwards on the starting point figure. ... So in the final analysis, it is down to negotiating a deal which both the taxpayer and the Revenue feel they can live happily with.⁴⁴

In the first edition of this book I said:

It is likely that publication will stop the practice completely. Those who believe that tax should be governed by law will add: Quite right too.

Since then the courts have put a stop to these agreements by holding them to be *ultra vires*.⁴⁵ Where such agreements have been made in the past, a

44 Transition from taxation by agreement to taxation by law raises additional problems discussed in Malcolm Gunn’s article.

45 *Al Fayed v Advocate General* [2004] STC 1703. *Al Fayed* style bargaining is however the basis of taxation of wealthy foreigners in many countries, including, I understand, Switzerland, France and Austria. Even in the UK after *Al Fayed* the temptation is ever present to move from the inconvenience of taxation by law to the convenient (but ultimately corrupt) method of taxation by negotiation.

taxpayer may have a defence to an assessment if he can show he has suffered prejudice.

CHAPTER EIGHT

EMPLOYMENT INCOME

8.1 Introduction

ITEPA imposes charges to income tax on:

- (1) employment income;
- (2) pension income;
- (3) social security income.

“Employment income” is subdivided (in short) into:

- (1) general earnings (the term includes benefits in kind);
- (2) specific employment income (not discussed here).

Double tax relief and NICs may also need consideration but these are not considered in this book.

8.2 Resident, ordinarily resident and foreign domiciled employee

Section 21 ITEPA imposes a charge on an arising basis on all the “general earnings” of an employee who is UK resident and ordinarily resident but foreign domiciled:

except to the extent that they are chargeable overseas earnings for that year.

Chargeable overseas earnings (formerly Schedule E Case III) are taxed under s.22 ITEPA:

Chargeable overseas earnings for year when employee resident and ordinarily resident, but not domiciled, in UK

- (1) This section applies to general earnings for a tax year in which the employee is resident and ordinarily resident, but not domiciled, in the UK to the extent that the earnings are chargeable overseas earnings for that year.
- (2) The full amount of any general earnings within subsection (1) which are remitted to the UK in a tax year is an amount of “taxable earnings” from the employment in that year...

8.3 Chargeable overseas earnings

The expression “chargeable overseas earnings” imposes two sets of requirements: there must be “overseas earnings” and they must be “chargeable”. The key part of the definition is “overseas earnings”. Section 23(2) ITEPA provides the definition:

General earnings for a tax year are “overseas earnings” for that year if—

- (a) in that year the employee is resident and ordinarily resident, but not domiciled, in the UK,
- (b) the employment is with a foreign employer, and
- (c) the duties of the employment are performed wholly outside the UK.

The concept of “chargeable” overseas earnings brings in the rules for deductible expenses (not discussed here) and for associated employments.

8.4 Foreign employer

One requirement of “overseas earnings” is that the employment is with a “foreign employer”. The definition is in s.721(1) ITEPA:

“foreign employer” means—

- (a) in the case of an employee resident in the UK, an individual, partnership or body of persons resident outside the UK and not resident in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, ...

8.4.1 *Foreign employer: HMRC practice*

The EI Manual paragraph 40102 provides:

An employee may maintain that general earnings are chargeable overseas earnings taxable on remittance under section 22 rather than on receipt under section 21. This is likely to lead to a significant reduction in the amount of taxable earnings. You should examine the facts closely before accepting that earnings are chargeable overseas earnings within section 22. In particular you should find out whether the employer has any place of business in the UK. If you can trace an accounts file for the employer, ask the accounts Inspector for instructions on the employer's residence status.

8.4.2 *Employer resident in Ireland*

The remittance basis does not apply if the employer is resident in Ireland. This is achieved by the drafting technique of saying that an Irish resident employer of a UK resident employee is not a "foreign employer". That might surprise the residents of Eire. The rule is consistent with that applied to foreign investment income: see 7.48 (Income from Ireland).

8.5 **Meaning of "duties performed wholly outside the UK"**

The next requirement of "overseas earnings" is that "the duties of the employment are performed wholly outside the UK". This concept is explained in s.39 ITEPA:

Duties in UK merely incidental to duties outside UK

- (1) This section applies if in a tax year an employment is in substance one whose duties fall to be performed outside the UK.
- (2) Duties of the employment performed in the UK whose performance is merely incidental to the performance of duties outside the UK are to be treated for the purposes of this Chapter as performed outside the UK. ...¹

1 Sections 39(3) and 40 ITEPA, relating to seafarers and duties performed on vessels or aircraft, are too specialist to be considered here.

In other words, UK duties may be ignored if they are “merely incidental” to the performance of the other duties outside the UK. What are incidental duties? HMRC interpret this strictly. IR20 provides:

5.7 Whether duties you perform in the UK are “incidental” to your overseas duties depends on all the circumstances. If the work you do in the UK is of the same kind as, or of similar importance to, the work that you do abroad, it will not be merely incidental unless it can be shown to be ancillary or subordinate to that work. It is normally the nature of the duties performed in the UK rather than the amount of time spent on them that is important, but if the total time you spend working in the UK is more than 91 days in a year, the work you do will not be treated as incidental. Examples of duties which are normally not regarded as incidental are:

- attendance at directors’ meetings in the UK by a director of the company who normally works abroad,
- visits to the UK as a member of the crew of a ship or aircraft, or
- visits to the UK in the course of work by a courier.

5.8 If the work you do in the UK has no importance in itself but simply enables you to do your normal work abroad, it may be treated as incidental. We will decide after looking at all the circumstances in your case. Examples of duties which are regarded as incidental are:

- visits to the UK by an overseas representative of a UK employer to report to the employer or to receive fresh instructions, or
- training in the UK by an overseas employee as long as
 - (i) the total time spent in the UK for training is not more than 91 days in a year, and
 - (ii) no productive work is done in the UK in that time.

Tax Bulletin 76 (quoting from *Robson v Dixon*) provides:

“the words merely incidental to are upon that ordinary use apt to denote an activity (here the performance of duties) which does not serve any independent purpose but is carried out in order to further some other purpose.”

Robson v Dixon 48 TC 527 concerned a pilot based in Holland whose average of seven landings in the UK per annum were not regarded as merely incidental to his overseas duties.²

This approach is also consistent with the 1955 Royal Commission which gave two examples of incidental duties: “returning for report” and “to collect samples, etc”.³

Tax Bulletin 76 suggests that this will be the basis of an attack on dual employment contract planning:

Given the way in which modern business operates and the ease and speed of communication, some employees may find it increasingly difficult to avoid performing substantive UK duties under their overseas contracts. For example, an employee who is responsible under their overseas contract for servicing the business of overseas clients may have to respond to a telephone call or e-mail from a worried overseas client with an urgent problem when the employee is in the UK. Formulating and communicating a response to such a problem would be regarded as a fundamental duty under the overseas contract. It follows that the performance of such duties in the UK will not be merely incidental to the performance of duties outside the UK as they will be of equal importance to the overseas duties. It is the quality of the UK duties and not the time devoted to their performance that determines whether they are merely incidental.

The Tax Bulletin goes on to reject a possible defence to this argument:

Overseas contracts and UK duties

Where the commercial reality shows the existence of separate employment contracts, it is sometimes argued that contractual terms that prohibit the performance in the UK of duties connected with the business of the overseas employer, preclude the Revenue from arguing that the employee has performed duties of the overseas employment in the UK. These arguments are based on the UK duties being “ultra vires”.

We do not consider that the presence of such clauses means that we should ignore the performance of duties in the UK that clearly benefit

2 However, one take-off and landing in the UK in a single year is disregarded: SP A10. This is no doubt a comfort for fiscally aware pilots and their passengers, in the event of a mid-air emergency in the vicinity of the UK.

3 Cmd. 9474 para 300.

the overseas employer. To that end, both employers ought to be closely monitoring the employee's UK activities. For example, where the employee has performed substantive duties in the UK that directly benefit the overseas employer, we would expect the UK employer to mark the fact that the employee is effectively abusing its time and take appropriate disciplinary action. And if the UK work in question was valuable, we would not expect the overseas employer to take it into account when calculating bonus entitlement. We think that clauses like this are frequently waived or ignored and may be inserted to create a misleading impression.

This is very doubtful.

8.6 Dual contract arrangements⁴

Tax Bulletin 76 explains this planning:

The legislative scheme ... is advantageous to employees or office holders who can show that they are:

- resident and ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK, and
- perform duties of an office or employment under a foreign employer wholly outside the UK.

As chargeable overseas earnings are taxed on remittance, there is a clear incentive to ensure that such earnings are paid overseas and to minimise the amount of earnings remitted to the UK. However, the requirement that the duties of the employment are performed wholly outside the UK presents problems to foreign domiciled employees whose jobs require them to work partly in the UK and partly abroad. Earnings from an employment with duties performed in and outside the UK would be taxable under section 21 wherever received. An employee may therefore be offered two employment contracts, for example:

- (1) covering the performance of duties in the UK, and
- (2) with an associated employer resident overseas, covering duties performed in the rest of the world, excluding the UK.

The intention is that earnings from employment contract (2) will be chargeable overseas earnings and therefore taxable under section 22 only when remitted to the UK. For this reason, dual or multiple employment arrangements are popular with foreign domiciled

4 Alistair Ladkin has written a valuable article on this topic in *Taxation*, Vol. 150, No. 3900, p.632 (27 March 2003).

employees whose duties are performed partly in the UK and partly outside the UK. The arrangement is generally that the individual enters into two separate written contracts, frequently referred to as the UK employment contract and the overseas employment contract.

Assuming the non-resident status of the employee and the non-domiciled status of the employee, HMRC can attack the planning in the following ways:

- (1) Allege there is only one contract of employment (see below).
- (2) Allege duties of the overseas employment are performed in the UK; see 8.5 (“Performed wholly outside the UK”).
- (3) Apportionment arguments (see below).

8.6.1 *One contract of employment or two?*

Tax Bulletin 76 provides:

Inland Revenue response to dual contracts

Inland Revenue offices may make enquiries in order to check whether the earnings under the overseas contract are chargeable overseas earnings. They may also consider whether there is in fact a single employment contract notwithstanding the production of two written contracts. This approach has generally been deployed where there is concern that there has been an attempt to split a single employment to exploit the legislation that provides for chargeable overseas earnings to be taxed on remittance.

Employers, employees and their advisers maintain that there are separate and distinct employments. They invariably argue that the employee performs a different role with different responsibilities under each contract of employment and that the duties under each do not overlap and are not dependent on each other. In many cases written contracts have been drafted that fairly represent the true employment relationships and include a proper job description along with details of the remuneration package and other entitlements (annual leave etc) relating to each employment. Care has been taken to ensure that the roles described in each contract are capable of independent existence with proper regard given to what would happen on termination of one of the employments. Best practice has recognised the importance of

maintaining separate payroll and expenses regimes and different line management and reporting arrangements.

Where there are two employment contracts and the written contracts reflect this, dual contract arrangements provide a legitimate way to structure an individual's employment relationships. Where the Revenue is satisfied that the arrangements reflect the true employment relationships, enquiries focus on:

- whether the employee has in fact performed substantive duties under the overseas contract in the UK,
- whether a section 24 adjustment is needed to address an imbalance between the earnings from the UK and overseas contracts.

The Tax Bulletin contains:

Tax impact where dual contract arrangements fail

Where the facts indicate that there is, in commercial reality, only one employment contract whereby the employee performs duties for the benefit of one employer both in and outside the UK, all of the employee's general earnings will be taxable under section 21 ITEPA. As earnings attributable to overseas duties will not be chargeable overseas earnings, tax will be charged on receipt rather than on remittance to the UK. The identity of the "employer" will depend on all the facts and circumstances of the individual case.

As a matter of contract law, I think this is very doubtful. The fact that on HMRC analysis it is unclear who the employer is suggests there must be something wrong with it. The Tax Bulletin concludes with a comment on PAYE and NIC:

However, the UK entity that receives the benefit of an individual's services will be obliged to apply PAYE to all payments of PAYE income made to the employee during the period that the employee works for that entity. This is because the UK entity will either be the employer or (for the purposes of section 689 ITEPA) the relevant person.

If there are genuine separate employments but the employee has performed substantive duties in the UK for the overseas employer, then all earnings from the overseas contract will be taxable under section 21 in the relevant year. They will not qualify as chargeable overseas earnings under section 22 because the duties of employment with a foreign employer will not have been performed wholly outside the UK in the year in question. There is unlikely to be an obligation to operate

PAYE on earnings from the foreign employer, as that employer will not have the necessary presence in the UK for PAYE purposes, and the UK employer will not be the relevant person in relation to duties performed by the employee under the separate overseas employment.

National Insurance

Where for tax purposes the facts indicate that despite the existence of two written employment contracts, there is a single employment covering UK and overseas duties, there could also be National Insurance consequences. If it is found that the earnings relating to overseas duties are attributable to employment with the UK employer, there will be liability to pay further National Insurance.

8.6.2 Apportionment

Section 24 ITEPA prevents an over-generous attribution of income to the foreign contract:

Limit on chargeable overseas earnings where duties of associated employment performed in UK

- (1) This section imposes a limit on how much of an employee's general earnings are chargeable overseas earnings for a tax year under section 23 if—
 - (a) in that year the employee holds associated employments as well as the employment to which subsection (2) of that section applies (“the relevant employment”), and
 - (b) the duties of the associated employments are not performed wholly outside the UK.
- (2) The limit is the proportion of the aggregate earnings for that year from all the employments concerned that is reasonable having regard to—
 - (a) the nature of and time devoted to each of the following—
 - (i) the duties performed outside the UK, and
 - (ii) those performed in the UK, and
 - (b) all other relevant circumstances.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) “the aggregate earnings for a year from all the employments concerned” means the amount produced by aggregating the full amount of earnings from each of those employments for the year mentioned in subsection (1) so far as remaining after subtracting any amounts of the kind mentioned in step 2 in section 23(3).
- (4) In this section—
 - (a) “the employments concerned” means the relevant employment and the associated employments;
 - (b) “associated employments” means employments with the same employer or with associated employers.

- (5) The following rules apply to determine whether employers are associated—
- Rule A* An individual is associated with a partnership or company if that individual has control of the partnership or company.
- Rule B* A partnership is associated with another partnership or with a company if one has control of the other or both are under the control of the same person or persons.
- Rule C* A company is associated with another company if one has control of the other or both are under the control of the same person or persons.
- (6) In subsection (5)—
- (a) in rules A and B “control” has the meaning given by section 840 of ICTA (in accordance with section 719 of this Act); and
- (b) in rule C “control” means control within the meaning of section 416 of ICTA (meaning of expressions relating to close companies).
- (7) If an amount of chargeable overseas earnings is reduced under step 3 in section 23(3) as a result of applying any limit imposed by this section, the amount of general earnings corresponding to the reduction remains an amount of general earnings within section 21(1).

8.6.3 *Implications for employer*

Inspector’s Manual para. 5348 provides:

Apart from the Schedule E implications there are other questions to consider:-

- Is the cost of remunerating the individual under his contract for overseas duties effectively borne by a UK company and claimed as a deduction in computing profits which are chargeable to Corporation Tax? If so, there is a mismatch which will need to be considered with some care.
- Do the individual’s activities under the contract for overseas duties generate income, and if so to whom does it accrue? Is income which would otherwise accrue to a company which is liable to Corporation Tax being routed to an overseas company?
- If the profits of a company which is liable to Corporation Tax are computed on a cost plus basis are the costs being depressed by reason of the split employment?

8.6.4 *Disclosure requirements*

HMRC say:

We can confirm again that we do not intend promoters or employers to have to disclose everyday advice and arrangements., In the context of employment products this would include ... standard dual contract arrangements (although we will require disclosure of innovative arrangements).

This statement was made before para. 5A of the Schedule to the Tax Avoidance Schemes (Prescribed Descriptions of Arrangements) Regs 2004 which now cover this point more clearly.

8.7 Resident but not ordinarily resident employee

Sections 25 and 26 ITEPA provide:

25 UK-based earnings for year when employee resident, but not ordinarily resident, in UK

- (1) This section applies to general earnings for a tax year in which the employee is resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK if they are—
 - (a) general earnings in respect of duties performed in the UK, or
 - (b) general earnings from overseas Crown employment subject to UK tax.
- (2) The full amount of any general earnings within subsection (1) which are received in a tax year is an amount of “taxable earnings” from the employment in that year...

26 Foreign earnings for year when employee resident, but not ordinarily resident, in UK

- (1) This section applies to general earnings for a tax year in which the employee is resident, but not ordinarily resident, in the UK if they are neither—
 - (a) general earnings in respect of duties performed in the UK, nor
 - (b) general earnings from overseas Crown employment subject to UK tax.
- (2) The full amount of any general earnings within subsection (1) which are remitted to the UK in a tax year is an amount of “taxable earnings” from the employment in that year...

This imposes:

- (1) a charge on an arising basis on general earnings in respect of duties performed in the UK; and
- (2) a charge on a remittance basis on other earnings.

This is better than the remittance basis for UK resident and ordinarily resident foreign domiciliaries:

- (1) It is not necessary to have a foreign employer.
- (2) It is not necessary that duties are performed *wholly* outside the UK. So it is not necessary to have dual contract arrangements.

8.8 Non-resident employee

Section 27 ITEPA provides:

UK-based earnings for year when employee not resident in UK

- (1) This section applies to general earnings for a tax year in which the employee is not resident in the UK if they are—
 - (a) general earnings in respect of duties performed in the UK, or
 - (b) general earnings from overseas Crown employment subject to UK tax.
- (2) The full amount of any general earnings within subsection (1) which are received in a tax year is an amount of “taxable earnings” from the employment in that year.

This applies regardless of domicile.

8.9 “Duties performed in the UK”

The concept of “duties performed in the UK” is relevant for:

- (1) A resident but non-ordinarily resident employee, where it makes the difference between an arising and a remittance basis.
- (2) A non-resident employee, where it makes the difference between taxable income and tax free income.

Section 38 ITEPA provides:

Earnings for period of absence from employment

- (1) This section applies if a person ordinarily performs the whole or part of the duties of an employment in the UK.
- (2) General earnings for a period of absence from the employment are to be treated for the purposes of this Chapter as general earnings for duties performed in the UK except in so far as they would, but for that absence, have been general earnings for duties performed outside the UK.

Special rules apply for:

- (1) duties on board vessels or aircraft, see s.40 ITEPA;
- (2) duties performed in the UK sector of the Continental Shelf, see s.41 ITEPA.

8.10 Earnings “in respect of” duties performed in the UK

SP 5/84 para 2 states:

Where the duties of a single office or employment are performed both in and outside the UK, an apportionment is required to determine how much of the general earnings are attributable to the UK duties. Apportionment of general earnings is essentially a question of fact, but for many years now the Revenue have accepted time apportionment, based on the number of days worked abroad and in the UK, except where this would clearly be inappropriate, and it is not intended to disturb this practice. For example, in the case of an employee with 200 working days in the UK and 50 working days outside the UK, the proportion of emoluments attributable to UK duties would be 200/250.

Time apportionment would be inappropriate if there are different rates of pay in the two places of work, but the employee will need to provide evidence of this. In *Perro v Mansworth* [2001] STD (STC) 179, payment under a tax equalisation scheme relating to UK tax was held to be a payment of earnings in respect of duties performed in the UK. See too *Varnam v Deeble* 58 TC 501; *Brown v Platten* 59 TC 408; *Coxon v Williams* 60 TC 659; Tax Bulletin 62.

8.11 Summary

The taxation of employment income can be summarised in this table:

UK Resident	Ordinarily Resident	UK Domiciled	Scope of charge	Charging Section
Yes	Yes	Yes	All earnings: AB	15
Yes	Yes	No	(1) chargeable overseas earnings: RB	21
			(2) other earnings: AB	22
Yes	No	irrelevant	(1) UK duties: AB	25
			(2) other duties: RB	26
No	irrelevant	irrelevant	(1) UK duties: AB	27
			(2) other duties: tax free	—

Key AB: Arising basis RB: Remittance basis

8.12 Meaning of “remitted to the UK”

Section 33 ITEPA provides:

Earnings remitted to UK

(1) This section explains what is meant for the purposes of this Chapter by general earnings being remitted to the UK.

(2) If general earnings are—

- (a) paid, used, or enjoyed in the UK, or
- (b) transmitted or brought to the UK in any manner or form, they are to be treated as remitted to the UK at the time when they are so paid, used or enjoyed or dealt with as mentioned in paragraph (b).

Subsection (2) (which dates back to 1956) is perhaps intended to extend the concept of “remittance” beyond that which applies to the RFI remittance basis. Though it is just as likely that the drafter only had in mind a modern paraphrase of the antique language of the former s.65 ICTA 1988. There is no authority discussing these words. (The question was raised but left open in *Harmel v Wright* 49 TC 149.)

Most of the principles of the RFI remittance basis apply to the employment income remittance basis. In particular the principle of *Carter*

v Sharon 20 TC 229 applies, with the result that income transferred abroad to others may be remitted by them to the UK without any charge to tax.

The EI Manual provides at 40302:

Paid in the UK

Earnings are remitted to the UK if they are paid to the employee in cash in this country or if the employee's bank account here is credited with them. Employees may arrange to have earnings paid into offshore bank accounts to avoid this rule.

This is correct. The Manual continues:

Money that is transmitted from the employer's bank in the UK to the employee's offshore bank is not treated as remitted here. It has been in the banking system all of the time; the employee did not have access to it.

This conclusion is correct, though the statement that the money has "been in the banking system" is layman's language.⁵

8.13 Claims

No claim is required: if the employment income remittance basis applies, it is compulsory. This is probably deliberate as there are few circumstances where a taxpayer would wish *not* to make a claim. Contrast the RFI remittance basis; see 7.9 (Claims).

8.14 Assets purchased out of employment income and brought to UK

If employment income is applied in the purchase of chattels which are brought to the UK, it seems clear that the income has been enjoyed in the UK. This is the HMRC view: EI Manual 40302:

Assets

If an employee receives earnings abroad but then uses them to purchase assets such as a car or a painting and then brings the assets into the UK the earnings used to purchase the assets are regarded as remitted to the UK.

⁵ See footnote to 7.24 (Foreign income from bond or coupon in UK).

This is also supported by an *obiter* comment in *Grimm v Newman* [2002] STC 1388, paras. 100–101. Contrast the RFI remittance basis: see 7.25 (Chattels brought to the UK). The same would apply if the earnings are applied in the purchase of a house occupied by the employee.

What is the position if employment income is re-invested in UK situate property without being enjoyed *in specie*? For example, if it is held in UK situate shares or land let as an investment? It would be arguable that these sums have been “brought to the UK” in some “manner or form”, so there has been a remittance. However, it is tentatively suggested that the scheme of the remittance basis is only to tax the individual if he has actual enjoyment of the assets, and merely making them UK situate is not enough. One can infer from the specific reference to chattels in HMRC Manual passage that HMRC accept this view.

8.15 Deemed remittances

Sections 33 and 34 ITEPA contain the same deemed remittance rules discussed at 7.36 (Deemed remittances).

8.16 Remittance after year for which earnings are paid

The charge on the remittance basis applies “whether the earnings are for that year or for some other tax year”: ss.22(3)(a), 25(3)(a) and 26(3)(a) ITEPA.

8.17 Remittance after employment ceases

The charge on the remittance basis applies “whether or not the employment is held at the time when the earnings are remitted”: ss.22(3)(b), 25(3)(b) and 26(3)(b) ITEPA. This may be contrasted with the RFI remittance basis: see 7.46 (Source-ceasing principle).

8.18 Earnings for non-UK resident year

To be “overseas earnings” the earnings must be for a year of assessment in which the employee was resident and ordinarily resident in the UK. Accordingly, any earnings for a year during which the employee was not

UK resident can be remitted at any time without any charge to tax. The concept of earnings “for” a year is explained in s.29 ITEPA.

8.19 Remittance when not UK resident

Suppose:

- (1) In year 1, an individual has unremitted chargeable overseas earnings for a year.
- (2) In year 2, the individual is not UK resident and remits the earnings.

Section 22(2) ITEPA taken at face value states that the remitted earnings are taxable earnings in year 2. It is doubtful whether that odd result can be correct.

8.20 Remittance after acquisition of UK domicile

Where:

- (1) A foreign domiciliary retains chargeable overseas earnings abroad,
- (2) acquires a UK domicile, and
- (3) subsequently remits the income,

the income is still taxable. Contrast the position for the RFI remittance basis; see 7.13 (Remittance after acquisition of UK domicile).

8.21 Remittance after death of employee

The drafter has also provided for this case. If personal representatives receive chargeable overseas earnings in the UK, there is a tax charge on them: s.13(4) ITEPA. If they receive emoluments out of the UK and assent to beneficiaries, there is no charge.

8.22 Remittance out of earnings for mixed UK/foreign duties

Statement of Practice 5/84 explains:

Employees resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK: general earnings under ITEPA 2003 ss.25, 26

1 Employees who are resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK are liable to UK tax under ITEPA s.25, on general earnings wherever received for duties performed in the UK. They are also chargeable under ITEPA s.26 on general earnings for duties performed outside the UK but only to the extent that the earnings are general earnings remitted to the UK.

...

3 Where an employee resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK performs the duties of a single office or employment both in and outside the UK and is remunerated wholly abroad, he is permitted, by a broad interpretation of the decision in the case of *Sterling Trust Ltd v IRC* 12 TC 868, to say that any remittances made to the UK are made primarily out of general earnings for that year in respect of duties performed in the UK assessable under s.25, and only any balance out of general earnings on remittance chargeable under s.26.⁶

4 However, where part of the general earnings are remitted to the UK, it has been the practice of the Revenue to regard the proportion of the earnings remitted to the UK, as in respect of duties performed both in and outside the UK, and to treat that proportion of such earnings as is attributable to duties performed outside the UK as remitted to the UK for the purposes of s.26.

5 The practice changed with effect from 6 April 1983 when the Revenue introduced a simplified procedure for employees who—

- (a) are resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK;
- (b) perform duties of a single employment both in and outside the UK, so that they are potentially chargeable under both ITEPA ss.25 and 26, in respect of general earnings from that employment; and
- (c) receive part of their general earnings in the UK and part abroad.

In such cases, provided the general earnings chargeable under s.25 are arrived at in a reasonable manner (ie in the absence of special facts, the proportion of the general earnings, including benefits in kind, relating to UK duties is arrived at on a time basis by reference to working days), the Revenue are prepared to accept that a charge under s.26 will arise only where the aggregate of general earnings remitted to the UK exceeds the amount chargeable under s.25 for that year; and to restrict the charge under s.26 to the excess of the aggregate over the charge under s.25.

6 This is arguably correct in law and not a concession: see 7.31 (Remittance from mixture of taxed and untaxed income).

No doubt this will eventually be rewritten in the light of ITEPA.

8.23 Foreign service exemption for termination payments

When a foreign domiciliary comes to the UK having worked for an overseas employer for a number of years, he may receive a termination payment after his arrival in this country. This would ordinarily be chargeable as employment income by s.403 ITEPA to the extent that it exceeds £30,000. However, s.413 ITEPA provides a territorial exemption.

A payment satisfying the above conditions can be remitted free of income tax to the UK. It is a moot point whether the payment may give rise to CGT, but it may be that in practice HMRC do not take that point.

8.24 Overseas Crown employment

General earnings from overseas Crown employment subject to UK tax⁷ are taxed on an arising basis regardless of residence and domicile and place of work. The reason is given in the 1955 Royal Commission Report:

International comity does not permit the salary of the servant of one State to be taxed by another State: consequently a Crown servant, even if spending his whole time on work abroad, is not amenable to the local taxing jurisdiction and, if he is to be taxed at all, must be taxed by the UK taxing authority. No doubt the scale of remuneration for Crown servants abroad is fixed with these considerations in mind.⁸

8.25 Benefits in kind

This is discussed in 34.7 (Family home: benefit in kind charge) as the most important issues relate to the family home and its chattels.

7 The expression “general earnings from overseas Crown employment subject to UK tax” is defined in s.28 ITEPA.

8 Cmd. 9474 para 307.

CHAPTER NINE

FOREIGN PENSIONS

9.1 “Foreign pension”

Section 573 ITEPA provides:

Foreign pensions

- (1) This section applies to any pension¹ paid by or on behalf of a person who is outside the UK to a person who is resident in the UK.
- (2) But this section does not apply to a pension if any provision of Chapters 5 to 14 of this Part applies to it.

I refer to this as a foreign pension.

9.2 Taxation of foreign pension

Section 575 ITEPA provides:

Taxable pension income

- (1) If section 573 applies, the taxable pension income for a tax year is the full amount of the pension income arising in the tax year, but subject to subsections (2) and (3). ...
- (3) That pension income is treated as relevant foreign income for the purposes of Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 8 of [ITTOIA] (relevant foreign income: remittance basis and deductions and reliefs).

This incorporates the RFI remittance rules by reference.

¹ Section 574 extends the meaning of pension to include voluntary pensions, to reverse the decision in *Stedeford v Beloe* 16 TC 505.

A UK domiciled person is allowed a 10% deduction from foreign pensions: s.575(2) ITEPA provides:

The full amount of the pension income arising in the tax year is to be calculated on the basis that the pension is 90% of its actual amount, unless as a result of subsection (3) the pension income is charged in accordance with section 832 of ITTOIA 2005 (relevant foreign income charged on the remittance basis).

This rule was introduced when the remittance basis on foreign pensions was abolished in 1974. It is difficult to see a good reason for it but presumably this was a political *douceur* to ease the abolition of the remittance basis, and which has survived ever since. This deduction does not apply to a foreign domiciliary whose pension is taxed on the remittance basis. One relief was thought to suffice; fair enough. The foreign domiciliary may always choose to be taxed under an arising basis: see 7.9 (Claims).

9.3 Irish pensions

Irish source income of a foreign domiciliary is taxed on an arising basis, not the remittance basis: see 7.48 (Foreign income taxable on arising basis: income from Ireland). The 10% deduction referred to in the above paragraph applies. Before ITTOIA the deduction was allowed by informal concession: see ITTOIA EN Change 154.) The UK/Ireland DTT also needs consideration.

CHAPTER TEN

TRADING AND PROPERTY INCOME

10.1 Charge on income of UK resident sole trader

Sections 5 and 6 ITTOIA provide:

5 Charge to tax on trade profits

Income tax is charged on the profits of a trade, profession or vocation.

6 Territorial scope of charge to tax

(1) Profits of a trade arising to a UK resident are chargeable to tax under this Chapter wherever the trade is carried on.

In this chapter, reference to a “trade” includes a profession or vocation as there is no relevant distinction between them.

10.2 Source of trading income of UK resident

The RFI remittance basis applies where the trading income arises from a source outside the UK. Section 7(5) ITTOIA states the test of source of a trade:

... for the purposes of section 830 (meaning of “relevant foreign income”), the profits of a trade, profession or vocation arise from a source outside the UK only if the trade, profession or vocation is carried on wholly outside the UK

This is a statutory statement of the earlier case law.¹ It is an extremely wide test of source. Applying this test, if a trade is carried on in countries

1 See “Taxing Foreign Income from Pitt to the Tax Law Rewrite – The Decline of the Remittance Basis”, John Avery Jones in *Studies in the History of Tax Law*, Hart Publishing, 2004 p.26ff.

A and B, the source of the income is in country A *and* country B. For the same income to have a source in two different countries is something of a paradox. The explanation is that s.7(5) does not provide the natural meaning of “source”; it is an artificial or deeming definition. Thus Commonwealth cases on the situs of the source of trading income are not relevant here.

There is no *de minimis* rule here; contrast the concept of incidental duties which applies to employment income; see 8.5 (Duties wholly performed outside the UK). If any part of the trade is carried on in the UK then the entire trade has a UK source and does not qualify for the remittance basis.

If the trade is carried on abroad but is controlled from the UK then the trade is not carried on wholly outside the UK: *San Paulo Railway v Carter* 3 TC 407. Even tacit oversight and control by a UK resident will suffice for this purpose: *Ogilvie v Kitton* 5 TC 335; *Egyptian Hotels v Mitchell* 6 TC 542. The ITH explains the old law, which still holds good under ITTOIA:

209. San Paulo case

The San Paulo Railway Company [*San Paulo (Brazilian) Railway Company v Carter* 3 TC 407] ... was a UK incorporated company with its board meetings in London. The whole of its physical undertaking was in South America and while it accepted that it was resident here it argued that its business was carried on wholly abroad where its railway was. The Courts held that the head and brain of the trading venture was here and that the profits were those of a trade partly carried on here and that, accordingly, Case I applied.

That decision suited the Revenue very well. We no longer had to worry about remittances which after all, though very sensible for an extractive activity which had to send its produce home, did not apply well at all to the more modern industries which did not need to remit their profit and which indeed probably wanted to keep as much profit abroad as possible for the expansion of their business. And so we effectively got on to a statutory arising basis for trades which, in everyday language, were wholly overseas and we reached that position purely through the interpretation of the statute by the Courts. ...

210. Trade partly in UK

The principle underlying the San Paulo decision is that a trade carried on partly in the UK is within Case I. The factors which decide whether a company is resident in the UK by reason of central management and control are, as will be seen, similar to those which decide whether its trade should be within Case I or Case V and the result is that for many years in the corporate sector the only examples seen of Case V trades were those in which a company is a partner in an overseas trade. ...

211. Ogilvie v Kitton

But other cases were to show how difficult it was going to be, except on very exceptional facts, to establish that any trade of a resident person was carried on wholly abroad. There was, for example, Mr Ogilvie in *Ogilvie v Kitton* (5 TC 338). He lived in Aberdeen and ran a shop in Canada. To say that he ran the shop really begs the question because he simply received reports from his manager in Canada and did not in fact intervene actively in the business at all, merely taking a tacit interest in things from the information in the reports. It was held that the head and brain of the trading venture was in Aberdeen and that the profits were assessable under Case 1. In contrast, Mr Brooks of *Colquhoun v Brooks* was a partner in an Australian partnership and took no part at all in the management of its business.

In short, if a sole trader is UK resident it is very difficult to arrange that his trading income has a foreign source.

10.2.1 *Planning for UK resident sole trader*

If a UK resident individual carries on a trade partly in and partly out of the UK, the individual will be taxed in full and not under the remittance basis. In these circumstances the individual may be able to divide up his activities into two spheres – those in and those out of the UK. He will then be carrying on two separate activities, of which at least one will be wholly situated out of the UK and can receive remittance basis treatment.

How is this division to be achieved? The law is reluctant to analyse a trader's activities into two separate trades:

The profits of the profession and the profits of the trade come from the general state of activity of the trader or the professional man ... Trades and professions are not to be divided up. If a doctor carries on his profession in England and abroad, you cannot treat that as being two professions. He is carrying on one profession. Similarly, the trader who carries on the trade in England and also abroad is carrying on one trade, assuming that it is not a distinct trade. The fact that part of his trade is carried on abroad does not make it a distinct trade.²

A separation of trading activities can be achieved. One technique is to ensure that there are separate activities carried on by separate entities.

2 *Bennett v Marshall* 22 TC 73. There are many other cases where the taxpayer has failed to show that he was carrying on two separate trades: see *IRC v Turnbull Scott* 12 TC 749 (trade); *Davies v Braithwaite* 18 TC 198 (profession).

Overseas activities could be carried on by a specially created partnership controlled from abroad. The offshore partner may be a company. (This was the route successfully adopted by David Frost: see *Newstead v Frost* 53 TC 525.) Alternatively the activities could be carried on by a company of which the individual is an employee. In this way foreign trading income may be converted into foreign employment or dividend income which would enjoy a more beneficial tax treatment.

10.3 Non-resident sole trader

A different rule applies to non-resident traders. Section 6(2) ITTOIA provides:

Profits of a trade arising to a non-UK resident are chargeable to tax under this Chapter only if they arise—

- (a) from a trade carried on wholly in the UK, or
- (b) in the case of a trade carried on partly in the UK and partly elsewhere, from the part of the trade carried on in the UK.

See Robert Venables QC, OTPR, Vol 7, p.177. Tax Bulletin 18 provides:

... trades carried on by non-residents are chargeable only where the non-resident trades in the UK, which means broadly that economic activities are carried on in the UK that give rise to trading profits (eg sales or manufacture). Trading by non-residents with the UK, as opposed to in the UK, (eg purchases or delivery) is not chargeable, (*Erichsen v Last* 1 TC 351 and 4 TC 422, *Pommery and Greno v Aphorpe* 2 TC 182, *Werle v Colquhoun* 2 TC 402, *Grainger & Son v Gough* 3 TC 311 and 462, *Smidth & Co v Greenwood* 8 TC 193, *Firestone Tyre & Rubber Ltd v Lewellin* 37 TC 111).

These principles are well understood. They are also in line with principles in the OECD Model Tax Convention (MTC) which exempt trading functions of a resident of the other state from charge if they are solely of a preparatory or auxiliary nature.

It is also well understood that, where a non-resident carries on a trade partly in the UK and partly outside the UK, the charge is limited to the profits from the part of the trade carried on in the UK.

It is perhaps less obvious how the profits from the part of the trade carried on in the UK should be measured. They are required to be measured on the arm's length principle set out in the MTC where a DTA applies which includes the relevant provisions. It is considered that it also follows from the main rule in Schedule D that the same principle applies even if there is no treaty.

There is support for this principle in the early tax cases on non-residents trading in the UK. For example, in *Pommery and Greno v Aphorpe* at 2 TC 189,

Denman J said, with regard to the profits chargeable in the UK from merchanting champagne produced in France, that:

It may be that there may be some difficulty in some respects as to the manner of calculating the amount of expenditure to be put against the profits, whether it would be a proper course to look at the goods sent over to England and then to consider what profit they make, putting a fair valuation on them as they arrive, and as the money is transmitted, or whether it would be necessary in such a case to look more minutely into the profits and losses upon the whole trade carried on partly in France and partly in England. I do not think it is necessary at all at this stage of the case to decide that. That is a matter of quantum, a matter for the consideration of persons skilled in dealing with such matters as assessing profits of trade.

This can be seen as an early description of the arm's length principle and as a recognition of the need to develop methods to apply that principle in practice. Such methods were developed in the OECD 1979 Report on "Transfer Pricing and Multinational Enterprises" and have been reaffirmed and clarified in the recently published 1995 revision of that report by OECD "Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations".

10.4 Partnership income

10.4.1 *What is the source?*

Each partnership is a separate source. A source will cease to exist if the partnership is wound up, even though the individual may be a member of the other partnership. The International Tax Handbook provides at 1618:

The remittance basis [for UK domiciled individuals] lasted until 1974. If the [partnership] profits were kept abroad we could not tax them and often did not know there was a partnership. If the partnership was wound up – so that the Case V source ceased – and the accumulated profits were not remitted until the following year even the remittances escaped tax. Until 1965 companies could join in the fun although the very high rates of individual taxation meant that the remittance basis was more attractive to individuals.

10.4.2 *Situs of source*

Section 857 ITTOIA provides:

857 Partners to whom the remittance basis may apply

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a firm carries on a trade wholly or partly outside the UK,

- (b) the control and management of the trade is outside the UK, and
- (c) a partner who is a UK resident individual—
 - (i) meets condition A or B in section 831 (conditions to be met for income to be charged on the remittance basis), and
 - (ii) makes a claim to that effect for a tax year.
- (2) The partner's share of the profits of the trade arising in the UK is determined in accordance with sections 849 to 856.
- (3) The partner's share of the profits of the trade arising outside the UK is treated as relevant foreign income for the purposes of this Act (see Part 8).

The trade must be carried on wholly or partly outside the UK. It suffices if the trade is carried on partly outside the UK, so almost any offshore element should suffice.

The control and management of the trade must be situated outside the UK. The expression “control and management” is drawn from case law on company residence, and it is considered that it should be given the same meaning here. Thus the company residence case law gives good guidance.³ HMRC International Tax Handbook says at paragraph 1612:

Generally speaking we follow the thinking on companies and look at the place of the highest level of management rather than day-to-day management. Outside textbooks follow the same line.

In deciding the location of the control and management of a firm with both UK and overseas partners, we would usually regard as significant such factors as the comparative seniority of the partners in age and experience (a simple head count will not do of course), the extent of their interests in the firm, the source and control of the finance, the places of decision on policy and major transactions, the places and locations of partners' meetings and what was done at those meetings. The place of meetings incidentally is not a conclusive factor any more than it is – or ought to be – for companies. So the nature of the business done at the meeting is important. Is it really about control and

3 There is a discussion in the International Tax Handbook at 1614 as to whether “control and management” are two distinct tests with distinct meanings, or a composite phrase. If the author's approach is right, the words are a single composite phrase.

For a discussion of corporate residence, see the references at 3.29 (Residence of trusts and companies).

management or just part of a facade to mislead us about the place of actual control and management?

This is unobjectionable, though it does not take matters very far. The International Tax Handbook continues with another interesting point at 1613:

[Section 857 ITTOIA] refers simply to control and management being abroad and the view which we have, in general, adopted in determining whether the Section applies is that this means control etc must be wholly abroad. The strength of this view has never been tested in the Courts and the word ‘wholly’ does not appear in the Act. It is sometimes put to us that where control and management is partly abroad then [section 857] applies. On the other hand, we have argued that because the Section says ‘is situated abroad’ it means just that and if control is partly here then it is not abroad.

It is thought that the Commissioners would normally adopt a broad approach, looking at the whole picture in order to identify one overall place of control where possible, and situations where control was located in the UK and abroad would be rare. If it did arise, the HMRC view would probably be upheld.

10.5 Property income

ITTOIA uses the term “property income” to mean income from land. The key expressions are “UK property business” and “overseas property business”. Sections 264, 265 ITTOIA provide the starting point for these two definitions (but see below for an important refinement to the definition of “overseas property business”):⁴

4 A note on terminology. The commentary to TLR Exposure Draft No. 13 provides:

“Finding a suitable name

223. Letting income has long been referred to as “Schedule A income” by tax professionals. But that is not an informative label for the non-specialist and we are removing references to the Schedules.

224. We considered several possible new names for this type of income including “land income”, “letting income”, “rental income”, “property business income” and “property income”. We concluded that “property income” offered the best compromise because:

- it matches the names that are proposed for the other types of income:

264 UK property business

A person's UK property business consists of—

- (a) every business which the person carries on for generating income from land in the UK, and
- (b) every transaction which the person enters into for that purpose otherwise than in the course of such a business.

265 Overseas property business

A person's overseas property business consists of—

- (a) every business which the person carries on for generating income from land outside the UK, and
- (b) every transaction which the person enters into for that purpose otherwise than in the course of such a business.

10.6 Taxation of income from overseas property business

There are two charging regimes: Chapter 3, Part 3 imposes an arising basis and Chapter 11 sets out the remittance basis. The arising basis provisions are as follows:

268 Charge to tax on profits of a property business

Income tax is charged on the profits of a property business.

269 Territorial scope of charge to tax

- (1) Profits of a UK property business are chargeable to tax under this Chapter whether the business is carried on by a UK resident or a non-UK resident.
- (2) Profits of an overseas property business are chargeable to tax under this Chapter only if the business is carried on by a UK resident.
- (3) But, in the case of an overseas property business carried on by a UK resident to whom the remittance basis applies, the only profits of the

“trading income”, “employment income” and “savings and investment income”;

- for most people, it is likely to appear the most appropriate name; and
- it links directly with what we think is the most appropriate name for the business activity (“property business”): “land business” and “rental business” might be particularly misleading.

225. The disadvantage is that it might appear to go wider than income just from land; that is, strictly, “property” means more than just land and buildings. But we do not think that most people will find this confusing as the proposed use corresponds broadly to the popular use.”

business chargeable to tax under this Chapter are those in respect of land in the Republic of Ireland.

(4) For a UK resident to whom the remittance basis applies, see also Chapter 11 (charge to tax on overseas property income other than income arising in Republic of Ireland).

270 Income charged

(1) Tax is charged under this Chapter on the full amount of the profits arising in the tax year.

(2) Subsection (1) is subject to Part 8 (foreign income: special rules).

Chapter 11 sets out the remittance basis:

357 Charge to tax on overseas property income

Income tax is charged on the overseas property income of a person to whom the remittance basis applies.

ITTOIA continues:

358 Meaning of “overseas property income”

In this Chapter “overseas property income”, in relation to a person to whom the remittance basis applies, means amounts which—

(a) are not brought into account in calculating the profits of any overseas property business of the person, but

(b) would be if section 269(3) (charge to tax on profits of an overseas property business of a person to whom the remittance basis applies only in respect of land in the Republic of Ireland) were omitted.

359 Income charged

Tax is charged under this Chapter on the amount specified by section 832 (relevant foreign income charged on the remittance basis).

We are now in a position to understand the significance of s.263(4) which restricts the meaning of “overseas property business”:

References in this Act to an overseas property business are to an overseas property business so far as any profits of the business are chargeable to tax under Chapter 3 ...

Thus there are four types of property business:

- (1) UK property business (not discussed here).
- (2) Offshore property business taxed on arising basis under Chapter 3.
- (3) Foreign land business owned by foreign domiciliary within the remittance basis.
- (4) Foreign land business owned by non-resident (not taxed).

Statute does not provide a name for categories (3) and (4) although (confusingly) they are not within the definition of “overseas property business”. I refer to them as a non-resident’s foreign land business and a remittance basis foreign land business.

10.7 Losses of overseas property business

Section 379B ICTA provides loss relief for an overseas property business.⁵ It does this by the short cut of incorporating the loss relief rules for a UK property business:

379B Losses from overseas property business

The provisions of section 379A apply in relation to an overseas property business within the meaning given by Chapter 2 of Part 3 of ITTOIA as they apply in relation to a UK property business.

So, amended for an overseas property business s.379A would read:

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, where for any year of assessment any person sustains any loss in a [overseas] ~~UK~~ property business carried on by him either solely or in partnership—
 - (a) the loss shall be carried forward to the following year of assessment and, to the extent that it does not exceed them, set against any profits of that business for the year to which it is carried forward; and
 - (b) where there are no profits for the following year or the profits for that year are exceeded by the amount of the loss, the loss or, as the case may be, the remainder of it shall be so carried forward to the next following year, and so on....

⁵ For losses accruing before 1998, see ESC B25 and SATI (1995).

The significance of the restricted definition of “overseas property business” in ITTOIA section 263(4) is that loss relief is restricted. If the business is not “an overseas property business” (i.e. it is a non-resident’s or remittance basis foreign land business) when the loss accrues, the loss is not allowable at all. It may be desirable for an individual not to claim remittance basis treatment in the year that a loss accrues in order to obtain that loss relief. Though the cost of that claim must be set against the benefit of the remittance basis in that year.

Suppose the loss is allowable in the year it accrues but in a subsequent year the owner claims remittance basis treatment. The loss is not allowable in that year. However, it is suggested that the loss can be carried forward and set against profits of other years if the arising basis applies to those years.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

SETTLOR-INTERESTED TRUSTS

11.1 Introduction

Chapter 5 Part 5 ITTOIA contains a code of anti-avoidance provisions known as the Settlement Provisions. The most important is s.624(1) ITTOIA which provides:

Income where settlor retains an interest

(1) Income which arises under a settlement is treated for income tax purposes as the income of the settlor and of the settlor alone if it arises—

- (a) during the life of the settlor, and
- (b) from property in which the settlor has an interest.

In the following discussion “a settlor-interested” settlement is one where the settlor is living and has an interest. Foreign domiciliaries often create such settlements.

11.2 “The settlor”

On the definition of “settlor” see 37.1 (Who is the settlor?).

11.3 “A settlement”

Section 620(1) ITTOIA provides that:

In this Chapter “settlement” includes¹ any disposition, trust, covenant, agreement, arrangement or transfer of assets....

¹ The context shows this is an exhaustive definition, i.e. the word “includes” really means “means”.

HMRC rightly say in TS&E Manual:

4110. Restrictions to the definition of settlement

A purely commercial transaction at arms length is outside the meaning of ‘settlement’.

Settlement must include an element of bounty, as decided in the tax case of *CIR v Plummer* (54 TC 1). Bounty is the provision of value without any corresponding quid pro quo, usually a gift or a transfer at less than full value.

In this book, I only consider settlements which are trusts in the common sense of the word.

11.4 “Income arising under a settlement”

Section 648(1) ITTOIA provides:

References in this Chapter to income arising under a settlement include—²

- (a) any income chargeable to income tax by deduction or otherwise, and
- (b) any income which would have been so chargeable if it had been received in the UK by a person domiciled, resident and ordinarily resident there.

The points made in 12.14 (The amount of income of person abroad) and 12.13 (Capital receipt deemed to be income) apply also for the purposes of ascertaining what is the “income arising under a settlement” in the present context.

11.4.1 *Is income of company held by trustees “income arising under a settlement”?*

Income arising to a company held by trustees (not to trustees) is not “income arising under a settlement”. This follows from the repeal by Sch 17 FA 1989 of s.681(2)(b) ICTA (which formerly brought such income

2 The context suggests this is an exhaustive definition, i.e. the word “include” really means “mean”. Compare the above footnote.

into the scope of that expression).³ This conclusion is also supported by reference in the definition to “income chargeable to income tax”. Income arising to a company would normally be chargeable to corporation tax. Company income may fall within the transfer of asset provisions discussed in the following chapters.

11.4.2 *Is income of life tenant (not the settlor) “income arising under a settlement”?*

Income payable under the trust to a life tenant is “income arising under a settlement”. Admittedly, such income is usually regarded for tax purposes as the income of the life tenant, not of the trustees.⁴ But that is not relevant here, because:

- (1) the expression is “income arising under the settlement”, not “income accruing to trustees”; and
- (2) “settlement” is very widely defined: see 11.3 (“A settlement”).

This can be seen to be the case by considering a trust made by S, revocable by S, under which income is payable to B for life. It could hardly be argued that such income falls outside the scope of s.624 ITTOIA.⁵

11.4.3 *Income of life tenant settlor*

Where the settlor has an interest in possession, trust income actually received by the settlor is not within s.624 ITTOIA, and is subject to income tax under general principles.⁶ HMRC accept this: see 11.17 (Completion of settlor’s tax return: HMRC view). The reason is this. If the income of the life tenant settlor was within section 624, then applying section 624(1) that income “is treated” as the income of the settlor.

3 This was part of the repeal of the close company apportionment provisions, by a Government which paid more than lip service to tax simplification.

4 See 6.18.1 (Interest in possession type trusts).

5 This is also supported by the wording of s.689A(1) ICTA.

6 Trust income not received by the life tenant settlor is within s.624 ITTOIA. That applies to income used for trust expenses and income for tax purposes which is capital for trust law purposes.

However, income of this kind *is* the income of the settlor. Accordingly the deeming provision is not necessary or appropriate; one does not usually deem something to be the case which actually *is* the case.⁷

In practice it rarely matters much whether income is actually the income of the life tenant settlor, or is merely deemed to be the income of the life tenant settlor under section 624. It may however affect the rates of tax on interest and dividends: see 17.7 (Rates of tax on settlor).

11.4.4 *Rental income*

Property Income Manual 1045 contained helpful statements here on how one calculates rental income and the treatment of losses:

Various special provisions may apply to trusts and to those who set them up (the ‘settlor’). In particular, there is a rule to prevent tax avoidance which can treat trust income as being, for tax purposes, the income of the settlor. Such income is taxed on the settlor under Case VI of Schedule D but, where the income is within Schedule A, the normal Schedule A rules apply in calculating the income. (Section 660C ICTA)⁸ The more common case is where your trustees carry on the Schedule A business but you are a settlor caught by Section 660A ICTA. Under these circumstances the settlor can’t set any rental business losses of the trustees against personal Schedule A income. Similarly the settlor can’t merge personal rental business losses and the trust rental business profits which are deemed to be the settlor’s income and charged under Case VI of Schedule D. Thus:

- where the trustees have a rental business loss and the settlor has a personal rental business profit, the trust loss is carried forward and the settlor is taxed on the personal rental business profit; the amount of the trustees’ rental business profit charged on the settlor in the following year under Case VI will be reduced by the trust loss carried forward;

7 This view is supported by an obiter comment in *Perry v Astor* 19 TC 255 at 291 on a predecessor of the current legislation:

“It would be odd that the income of the funds covered by the disposition should be ‘deemed’ to be the income of the person whose income it is in fact.”

See too the references in *The Law’s Two Bodies*, J.H. Baker, OUP, 2001, p.44, fn.37.

8 [Author’s Note] In particular it follows that interest is in principle deductible.

- where the trustees have a rental business profit and the settlor has a personal rental business loss, the settlor is taxed on the trust rental business profit under Case VI; the settlor's personal rental business loss can't be merged with the trust profit; but, as a separate matter, the settlor may in some cases be able to set a personal Schedule A loss sideways against your other income, including any Case VI income deemed to arise from the trustees' rental business; see PIM 4625.

The position is different where the taxpayer is:

- the settlor; and
- the life tenant; and
- carries on the Schedule A business.

Under these circumstances the settlor can merge their personal property losses with the deemed income from the trust and vice versa.

This is thought to be correct.

11.4.5 *Gains from life policies and offshore funds*

See:

- (1) 20.9 (Section 624 ITTOIA and life policies);
- (2) 21.7 (UK resident settlor-interested trusts) and 21.8 (Non-resident trust holding offshore funds).

11.5 “Property in which the settlor has no interest”

Subject to narrow exceptions not discussed here, s.625(1) provides:

A settlor is treated for the purposes of section 624 as having an interest in property if there are any circumstances in which the property or any related⁹ property—

- (a) is payable to the settlor or the settlor's spouse,
- (b) is applicable for the benefit of the settlor or the settlor's spouse, or
- (c) will, or may, become so payable or applicable.

9 “Related property” is defined in s.625(5) ITTOIA.

In practice the settlor and spouse are usually expressly included as a beneficiary or expressly excluded, and no doubts or questions arise. For further discussion see *Drafting Trusts & Will Trusts*, 7th ed., Chapter 12.

11.5.1 *Subsequent exclusion of settlor from his settlement*

If the settlor originally has an interest in trust property but is later totally excluded (together with his spouse) then s.624 ITTOIA ceases to apply to income arising after the date of their exclusion. If the settlor is excluded from part of the trust fund, then he is strictly still within the scope of section 624 on all the income arising under the settlement.

11.5.2 *Transfer to new settlement*

If the trust fund is transferred to a new settlement from which the settlor is not excluded, then s.624(1) ITTOIA continues to apply. The old settlor is the settlor of the new trust: see 37.6 (Transfer from trust A to trust B by exercise of trustees' power).

If the entire trust fund is transferred to a new trust from which the settlor (and spouse) are entirely excluded then s.624 ceases to apply.

If part of the trust fund is transferred to a new trust from which the settlor and spouse are excluded, and part remains in the existing trust of which the settlor continues to be a beneficiary, then it is suggested that s.624 ceases to apply to the income arising under the new settlement. For the new settlement is a separate "settlement" within the income tax definition.

11.6 Rates of tax on settlor

See 17.7 (Rates of tax on settlor).

11.7 Section 624 foreign domicile defence

Section 648 ITTOIA provides a defence to the settlor-interested trust charge. It uses the clumsy but effective drafting technique of restricting the definition of "income arising under a settlement". That term is defined in s.648(1) and s.648 then continues:

(2) But this is subject to the rule in subsection (3) which applies if, in a tax year, the settlor is—

(a) not domiciled in the UK, ...

(3) The rule is that references in this Chapter to income arising under a settlement do not include income arising under the settlement in that tax year in respect of which the settlor, if the settlor were actually entitled to it, would not be chargeable to income tax by deduction or otherwise because of the settlor not being domiciled in the UK, UK resident or ordinarily UK resident.

I consider here a settlor who is UK resident but not UK domiciled and s.648(2)(3) confers on such a person what I shall refer to as the “s.624 foreign domicile defence”. We must imagine that the settlor is actually entitled to the income arising under the settlement. We then ask:

- (1) would the settlor be chargeable to income tax in respect of that income, and if not,
- (2) would he not be so chargeable by reason of his foreign domicile?

I call this “the first counterfactual question”.

11.7.1 *Meaning of “chargeable” in s.648(3)*

It is debatable whether a UK resident foreign domiciled individual should be said to be “chargeable” to income tax on unremitted foreign income in the ordinary sense of the word “chargeable”. I am not even sure if it is right to talk of the “ordinary” sense of this protean word.¹⁰ However, in s.648(3) ITTOIA it is plainly assumed that a foreign domiciled individual is not regarded as “chargeable” to tax on unremitted foreign income. (This must be so since s.648(4) implies that a UK resident but non-domiciled person may not be “chargeable” to income tax by reason of his

10 It was likewise assumed by the drafter of s.37 TCGA (consideration chargeable to tax on income) that unremitted foreign income is “charged” to income tax. Otherwise there would be a charge to CGT on unremitted income of an asset to which the RFI remittance basis applies but the CGT remittance basis does not apply. That would apply to a UK domiciled and resident but not ordinarily resident individual. Another example would be income accruing to a foreign domiciliary from an asset which was UK situate for CGT purposes, but a foreign income source for income tax purposes.

domicile.) So in this context a person is only “chargeable” to income tax on an amount of income if the amount is remitted.¹¹

11.7.2 *Analysis*

In imagining that the settlor is entitled to the income, one must imagine that he is entitled to the income as it arises, that is, that he has rights in the source of the income at the time it arises. This must follow from the fact that the settlor is deemed entitled to the income: he could not be entitled to the income unless he were entitled to the source of the income.

11.8 A simple example

We are now able to see how the s.624 foreign domicile defence works. Suppose:

- (1) A settlor-interested discretionary trust receives foreign investment income outside the UK.
- (2) The settlor is UK resident but not UK domiciled.

The answer to the first counterfactual question seems plain:

- (1) The settlor would not be chargeable to income tax on unremitted foreign investment income (had it been his), and
- (2) the reason he is not so chargeable is his foreign domicile.

In short, income qualifies in principle for the s.624 foreign domicile defence if it is foreign source income received (by the trustees) outside the UK.

11.9 The s.648 clawback

Section 648 continues:

¹¹ The proposition that “chargeable” takes its meaning from context needs no authority; for an example, see *Bibby v Prudential Assurance* [2000] STC 459.

(4) Subsection (5) qualifies the rule in subsection (3) if such income is remitted to the UK in circumstances such that, if the settlor were actually entitled to the income when remitted, the settlor would be chargeable to income tax because of being UK resident.

(5) The income is treated for the purposes of this Chapter as arising under the settlement in the year in which it is remitted.

This is here called “the s.648 clawback”.

Two conditions must be satisfied for the s.648 clawback to take effect:

- (1) there must be “such income”: i.e. income within the scope of s.648(3) (foreign income of settlement with foreign domiciled settlor); and
- (2) such income must be remitted to the UK.

Then comes what I shall call “the second counterfactual question”. We must imagine that the settlor is actually entitled to the income arising under the settlement when remitted. We then ask:

- (1) would the settlor be chargeable to income tax on the remitted income, and if so,
- (2) would he be chargeable by reason of being UK resident?

In practice this mainly concerns settlor-interested discretionary trusts. Income of a trust where the settlor has an interest in possession is in principle outside the scope of s.624: see 11.4.3 (Income of life tenant settlor).

Let us try to see how this works by examples.

11.10 Trustees remit trust income to UK

Suppose first the simplest case. A settlor (“S”) has made a settlor-interested discretionary trust. S is UK resident, but not UK domiciled. The trustees receive foreign income, so the circumstances of s.648(3) ITTOIA are satisfied. Later the trustees remit the income to the UK (without transferring it to S).

We ask the second counterfactual question: if S were actually entitled to that income when remitted, would he be chargeable to income tax by reason of his residence?

In principle an individual is subject to tax on remitted income if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The individual is entitled to the source of income when the income arises. It is suggested that a counterfactual assumption to this effect is implied by s.648(5) ITTOIA. Otherwise the s.648 clawback could never operate.
- (2) The individual is UK resident when the income arises and at the time of remittance.
- (3) The individual is not UK domiciled when the income arises. (If the person was UK domiciled the income would be taxed on an arising basis and the s.648 clawback would not operate.) The individual is also not UK domiciled in the year of remittance.
- (4) The source of income exists in the year of remittance.
- (5) The individual is entitled to the source in the year of remittance. It is suggested again that a counterfactual assumption is implied by the s.648(5) to the effect that the settlor is entitled to any source to which the trustees are entitled. Otherwise the s.648 clawback could never operate.

In short, income which is outside the scope of s.624 ITTOIA because of the foreign domicile defence *prima facie* falls back within s.624 if it is remitted.

Suppose trustees accumulate income and turn it into trust capital. The capital is then remitted. It is considered that the s.648 clawback applies. Its status as income or capital for trust law purposes is irrelevant; compare 7.20 (Capital/income terminology).

Suppose trustees purchase UK assets out of foreign income (land, say, or shares, or a residence, or chattels) but the income is not remitted to the UK in order to pay the purchase price: the purchase price is paid abroad. There is no taxable remittance. If the settlor had dealt with his foreign

income in this way, he would not be subject to tax. See 7.23 (Receipt must be of money) and 7.27.3 (Purchase of UK situate asset out of foreign income).

The deemed remittance rules¹² do not apply in the context of the s.648 clawback. For instance, suppose:

- (1) Trustees of a settlor-interested discretionary trust borrow.
- (2) The debt is UK-linked (lent in the UK or lent outside and remitted).
- (3) They use income to repay the borrowing (out of the UK).

There is no clawback charge under s.648(5). Although one applies the counterfactual assumption that the settlor is entitled to the income, one does not apply the further counterfactual assumption that the trustees' loan is made to the settlor.

11.11 Critique of s.648 clawback

The clawback charge has an appearance of symmetry with the ordinary remittance basis, but the two situations are not closely comparable. If an individual remits his own income to the UK, he is able to spend it here and there is some sense in taxing him. If trustees of a discretionary trust remit their income to the UK, the settlor is not in any way advantaged unless and until the trustees decide to transfer the income to him.

11.12 Avoiding the s.648 clawback

Practical ways of avoiding the clawback charge are as follows:

- (1) Give the settlor an interest in possession, so trust income is taxed on the RFI remittance basis, and is outside s.624.¹³
- (2) The trustees do not remit any trust funds to the UK.

¹² See 7.36 (Deemed remittances).

¹³ See 11.4.3 (Income of life tenant settlor).

- (3) The trustees segregate trust income and trust capital and remit trust capital, not trust income. There is no s.648 clawback charge if trustees remit to the UK a sum which is not income arising under the settlement. See 7.18 (Sums received “in respect of” the foreign income). The question may arise as to whether a remittance by trustees is of income. This is decided in accordance with the principles set out in 7.21 (Tracing principle) and 7.29 (Problem of mixed funds).
- (4) The trustees only remit income from sources which have ceased before the tax year of remittance. There is no tax charge if the source ceased to exist before the year of remittance. An example would be if the income is bank interest and the bank account was closed. The same applies if the trustees dispose of the source of income. (That could possibly be brought about by a transfer to a company or a new trust.) See 7.47 (When does a source cease?).

Suppose trustees of a settlor-interested trust transfer a source of income to a new trust under which the settlor still has an interest. Has the source ceased for the purposes of the source-ceasing principle? It is tentatively suggested that the answer is no. For the purposes of applying the counterfactual question under the s.648 clawback, one must assume that the settlor is entitled to all sources of income of all settlor-interested trusts. That construction is tenable on the words and would appeal to a court as it allows less scope for tax avoidance.

11.13 Trustees pay income to beneficiary (not settlor)

11.13.1 *Payment to beneficiary (not settlor)*

Suppose now:

- (1) Trustees of a settlor-interested discretionary trust pay the income to a beneficiary (“B”) (not the settlor); and
- (2) B receives the sum out of the UK but remits the sum to the UK.

Is there a s.648 clawback charge? One might say no, since the settlor is not entitled to the sum remitted. See 7.27 (Transfer of income completed

abroad). However, one is bound to put the question on the counterfactual basis that the settlor is entitled to the sum! So that argument fails. It is considered that there is, nevertheless, no tax charge on the remittance. The reason is that what is remitted to the UK is not “such income”; that is, it is not “income arising under the settlement”. It loses its nature as “income arising under the settlement” upon payment to B. It would be surprising if there were a tax charge because:

- (1) The settlor may have no way of knowing whether the income is remitted by B.
- (2) The payment to a UK resident beneficiary will often involve a tax charge on that beneficiary (under ordinary principles or s.740 ICTA) so there would be double taxation.

11.13.2 *Income payment to settlor-beneficiary*

Suppose:

- (1) trustees pay the income to the settlor (as his income); and
- (2) S remits the income.

The income is taxable as trust income. It cannot be taxed again under the s.648 clawback. The reason it is not taxed again is that it is not “such income”, i.e. income arising under the settlement. It is a new source of income.

11.14 **Trustees accumulate income and transfer or lend to settlor**

Suppose now:

- (1) the trustees accumulate the income;
- (2) the trustees pay it to the settlor as capital or lend it to the settlor; and
- (3) the settlor receives the sum outside the UK but remits the sum to the UK.

By parity of reasoning it is arguable that there remains no s.648 clawback charge; but it is unlikely that the Courts will accept the argument. The

better view is that in the absence of a “clean break” the sum received is to be regarded as “such income”. One might regard this as an application of the principle in *Harmel v Wright*: see 7.34 (Funds returning to taxpayer).

11.15 Income arising to trustees when settlor is non-resident, remitted when settlor is resident

Section 648(5) ITTOIA provides:

The income is treated for the purposes of this Chapter as arising under the settlement in the year in which it is remitted.

It seems at first sight that income arising while the settlor is non-resident, remitted while the settlor is resident, is caught as it is treated under the s.648 clawback as arising in the year of remittance. That would, however, be inconsistent with the scheme of s.624, which is to put the settlor in the position he would be in if he had not made the settlement. Income of a non-resident person is not taxable if remitted during a resident period: see 7.17 (Income arising when non-resident, remitted when resident). It is considered that the subsection must be construed so as to avoid that result. This applies wherever the settlor is domiciled.

11.16 Non-residence defence to s.648

I return to s.648 ITTOIA:

(2) But this¹⁴ is subject to the rule in subsection (3) which applies if, in a tax year, the settlor is— ...

- (b) not UK resident, or
- (c) not ordinarily UK resident.

(3) The rule is that references in this Chapter to income arising under a settlement do not include income arising under the settlement in that tax year in respect of which the settlor, if the settlor were actually entitled to it, would not be chargeable to income tax by deduction or otherwise because of the settlor not being domiciled in the UK, UK resident or ordinarily UK resident.

14 i.e. the term “income arising under a settlement”.

Where the settlor is non-resident, UK source trust income is within the scope of s.648, but foreign source income is not. Contrast s.739 which does not apply at all unless the transferor is ordinarily resident.

11.17 Completion of settlor's tax return: HMRC view

The TS&E Manual provides:

4575. Settlements legislation: how settlor returns income (February 2002)

Settlor is a life tenant

The settlor returns the trust income, after trust management expenses, according to its source. UK source income goes on the Trust page (there are a few exceptions detailed in the Notes on Trusts etc.). Foreign source income goes on the Foreign pages.

The amount of trust management expenses is chargeable on the settlor under the Part XV legislation [now ITTOIA Chapter 5 Part 5]. The settlor shows it on the SA return at 'Other income'. The grossing factor depends on the rate of tax chargeable on each source of income.

Trust is discretionary

The settlor shows the whole of the income arising to the trust on the 'Trusts etc' supplementary pages. The settlor does not deduct trust management expenses. All the income is chargeable under the Part XV legislation [now ITTOIA Chapter 5 Part 5]. That is why the settlor does not show overseas trust income on the Foreign pages.

11.18 Taxation of trustees of settlement within s.624

11.18.1 *Rates of tax: terminology*

Discussion is made more difficult by the multitude of rates of tax. Trustees are in principle liable at the basic, lower or dividend ordinary rates. For the purposes of this discussion I refer to those as the ordinary rates. If s.686 ICTA applies trustees are taxed at either the dividend trust rate or the "rate applicable to trusts".¹⁵ For the purposes of this discussion I shall refer to these rates as the DT (i.e. discretionary trust) rates. This is higher than the ordinary rates.

15 The expression "rate applicable to trusts" is inapt since it is only one of the rates applicable to trusts.

“Income within s.624” is income arising under a settlement within s.624.

11.18.2 *The DT trust rate*

Section 686(1) ICTA applies the DT rates to “income to which this section applies”. This takes us to s.686(2):

This section applies to income arising to trustees in any year of assessment so far as it—

- (a) is income which is to be accumulated or which is payable at the discretion of the trustees or any other person (whether or not the trustees have power to accumulate it); and
- (b) is not, before being distributed, either—
 - (i) the income of any person other than the trustees, or
 - (ii) treated for any of the purposes of the Income Tax Acts as the income of a settlor...¹⁶

The effect of s.686(2)(b)(ii) is that income to which s.624 ITTOIA applies is not subject to the DT trust rate.

However, if the settlor is within the s.624 foreign domicile, or non-residence defence, the income is not “income arising under the settlement” and therefore subject to tax at the DT additional rate. This rule makes perfect sense.

Suppose:

- (1) the settlor is UK resident but not domiciled in the UK;
- (2) foreign income arises to the discretionary trust; and
- (3) the income is remitted to the UK.

What would the tax position be? It is suggested that if the income is remitted in the tax year of receipt, it is not within the scope of the DT rates. If it is remitted subsequently it is subject to the DT rates. I would expect HMRC to allow a credit, notwithstanding the absence of any statutory provision to that effect. In practice this should be rare.

16 A third condition excludes charitable trusts and pensions and is not discussed here.

11.18.3 *Ordinary rates: position of trustees*

Income within s.624 is treated as income of the settlor and not as the income of any other person. So at first sight the trustees should not be chargeable to tax. However, s.646(8) ITTOIA provides:

Nothing in sections 624 to 632 is to be read as excluding a charge to tax on the trustees as persons by whom any income is received.

HMRC are entitled to collect tax at the ordinary rates on trust income from trustees (where there is no tax credit or deduction at source).

Where UK resident trustees receive non-UK source income, and there is a non-domiciled UK resident settlor not excluded from benefit, the trustees are still liable on the arising basis, whilst the settlor is taxable effectively on a remittance basis. There is no machinery to credit the tax paid by the trustees against the settlor's liability, but I understand that it is HMRC practice to allow a credit notwithstanding the absence of any statutory provision to that effect.¹⁷ A practical solution may be to appoint foreign domiciled trustees who will also enjoy the remittance basis.

11.18.4 *Position of non-resident trustees*

Non-resident trustees will not pay tax on foreign source income. For UK source income their position is the same as UK resident trustees as set out above.

11.19 **Taxation of life tenant (not settlor) of settlor-interested settlement**

Suppose a settlor-interested settlement under which a beneficiary ("B", not the settlor) has an interest in possession. Income within s.624 ITTOIA is treated as the income of the settlor and of the settlor alone, so that B cannot be taxable on it. B is in principle taxable on income not within s.624, that is, income within the s.624 non-residence or s.624 foreign domicile defences.

17 I am grateful to David Rothenberg for this observation.

11.20 Settlor's indemnity

Section 646 ITTOIA provides:

Adjustments between settlor and trustees, etc

(1) A settlor is entitled to recover from—

- (a) any trustee, or
- (b) any other person to whom the income is payable in connection with the settlement,

the amount of any tax paid by the settlor which became chargeable on the settlor under section 624 or 629.

11.21 Income taxed under section 624 subsequently paid to beneficiary

Suppose:

- (1) S makes a settlor-interested discretionary settlement.
- (2) S is charged under s.624 on income arising under the settlement (the exemption for foreign domiciled settlor not applying).
- (3) Income is distributed to a beneficiary.

There is no further income tax charge when the trust income is paid to S or to any other beneficiary in the exercise of the trustees' powers over income. HMRC accept this.¹⁸ The reason is that s.624 deems the income of the trustees to be the income of the settlor "and of the settlor alone". It follows that it is impossible for the purposes of income tax to say that

18 IR Consultation Paper (Modernising the Tax System for Trusts, 10 December 2003) para 38 provides:

"Any payment to a beneficiary out of the income of a discretionary trust is an annual payment even where the trust is settlor-interested, and so is taxed on the beneficiary. The settlor is also taxable on the trust income in that capacity. To avoid this double charge we treat payments of income out of the trust to beneficiaries, though not of course to the settlor themselves, as a gift by the settlor to the beneficiary."

The payment to the beneficiary is not of course a gift by the settlor in the ordinary sense. The payment is "treated as a gift" in the sense that, just as a gift by the settlor would not be subject to income tax, so here the payment from the trust is treated as not subject to income tax. A similar point is made in TS&E Manual 4570.

the beneficiary receives anything which derives from a right of action against the trustees, in respect of their income.¹⁹

11.22 Comparison of interaction of s.624 ITTOIA and s.739 ICTA

Sections 624 and 739 cover some similar ground. For a full comparison one would need to read all of the relevant chapters in this book. It may be helpful to summarise the major differences:

624	739
Applies if resident	Applies if <i>ordinarily</i> resident
Applies to trusts	Applies to non-resident trusts <i>and companies</i>
No motive defence	Motive defence available
Settlor indemnity	No settlor indemnity

Where s.739 ICTA applies as well as s.624 ITTOIA, it is a moot point which has priority. Section 739 originated in the FA 1936, section 624 originated in the FA 1938. But there is no reason why that distant historical priority should determine the issue. Income within s.624 is treated as income of the settlor “*and of the settlor alone*”. Section 739 lacks those additional words. So it is suggested that s.624 has priority over s.739. It will not matter much in practice, except in relation to the settlor’s indemnity. The settlor/transferor cannot be taxed twice on the same income.

11.23 Capital sums paid to settlor

Section 633 ITTOIA provides:

- (1) Any capital sum paid directly or indirectly in any tax year by the trustees of a settlement to the settlor is treated for income tax purposes as follows.
- (2) The sum is treated as the income of the settlor for the tax year so far as the amount of the sum falls within the amount of income available up to the end of the year.

19 This is supported by an obiter comment in *Perry v Astor* 19 TC 255 at 282.

“Available income” means (in short) income arising under the settlement which has not been “distributed”. Income taxable under s.624 is deducted in computing “available income” so it is not counted twice: see s.635 ITTOIA.

Section 633 (Capital sums) is therefore irrelevant to settlor-interested settlements. The settlor either will be taxed under s.624, or (if the foreign domicile defence applies) the income will not be “income arising under the settlement”. The section is only relevant where capital sums are paid to the settlor (or spouse) from a settlement which is not a settlor-interested settlement.

CHAPTER TWELVE

TRANSFER OF ASSETS ABROAD: INTRODUCTION

12.1 Introduction

The principle that non-residents pay no UK tax on foreign income (and may pay less tax on UK income) presents an obvious means of income tax avoidance. HMRC's first answer to this is Chapter 3 Part 17¹ ICTA, entitled "Transfer of assets abroad". There are two charging provisions: ss.739 and 740. This chapter considers the requirements they have in common. The next two chapters consider them individually.

12.2 The transfer of asset conditions

12.2.1 *Transfer of asset conditions in s.740*

Section 740(1) comes into effect if two sets of conditions are satisfied. The first, which is the subject of this chapter, is this:

- (a) [1] *by virtue or in consequence of a transfer of assets, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations,*
- [2] *income becomes payable to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK ...*

(Emphasis and paragraphing added)

1 A note on style. The "parts" of ICTA and other legislation were formerly numbered in roman numerals but ITEPA changed the practice to arabic numerals, presumably as part of its plain English principles. Arabic numbering is now the standard usage.

This sets out three basic conditions:

- (1) *A transfer of assets*: limb [1]
- (2) *Person abroad receives income*: Income becomes payable to a non-resident or non-domiciled person: limb [2]. I refer to the non-resident or non-domiciled person as a “person abroad”; this is the usage of s.743(5), which can be traced back to the side note to s.18 FA 1936.
- (3) *Causation*: Condition (2) is caused by:
 - (a) the transfer alone; or
 - (b) the transfer in conjunction with associated operations.

See limb [1].

These three basic conditions are here called the “transfer of asset conditions”. They are the subject of this chapter. It must be stressed that the fact that the three transfer of asset conditions are satisfied does not in itself cause a tax charge. The further conditions of s.739 or s.740 must be satisfied. These are the subjects of the next two chapters.

12.2.2 *Transfer of asset conditions in s.739*

Section 739(1) uses more challenging language and must be split up into its separate limbs in order to distil the sense:

- [a] ... the following provisions of this section shall have effect
- [b] for the purpose of preventing the avoiding by individuals ordinarily resident in the UK of liability to income tax
- [c] by means of *transfer of assets*
- [d] *by virtue or in consequence* of which, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations, *income becomes payable to persons resident or domiciled outside the UK*.

(Paragraphing and emphasis added)

It is easy to see here the same three basic conditions that have just been identified in s.740:

- (1) a transfer of assets – limb [c]
- (2) person abroad receives income – limb [d]
- (3) causation – limb [d]

Indeed, it is plainly from these words that the drafter of s.740 has drawn his text.²

Thus the three transfer of asset conditions are the common requirements of ss.739 and 740.

12.3 A “transfer” of “assets”

Section 742(9)(b) provides:

For the purposes of sections 739 to 741 ...

(b) “assets” includes property or rights of any kind and “transfer”, in relation to rights, includes the creation of those rights;

If two parties enter into any contract there are *two* transfers of assets as both parties acquire rights.

In *IRC v Brackett* 60 TC 134 T entered into a contract of employment with a person abroad, an offshore company in which he was interested. Rights under a contract of employment are an “asset”. Entering into a contract of employment is a “transfer”. So T was taxed under s.739 on all income accruing to the company in consequence of the transfer.

If B borrows from L there are two transfers of assets, for B acquires the money borrowed and L acquires a debt. If L is non-resident, then the interest is within s.739 (if one can identify a transferor or *quasi* transferor with power to enjoy) or else the income is in principle within s.740.

2 A further element in s.739(1), omitted in s.740, is limb [b], the reference to “avoiding by individuals ordinarily resident in the UK of liability to income tax”. So this is discussed in the next chapter.

Note that there may be a “transfer of assets” in circumstances where there is no individual who is the “transferor”.

12.4 Income becomes payable to person abroad

The condition here is that income becomes payable to a non-resident or foreign domiciled person (the person abroad). This condition is satisfied where the transfer is to a UK resident and domiciled person who later becomes non-resident or foreign domiciled: *Congreve v IRC* 30 TC 163 (a gift to a company which became non-resident), approved on this point in *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57.

In *Latilla v IRC*³ a partnership share was transferred to a company abroad which received its share of the partnership profits. It was argued that trading profits could not be described as income *payable* to the company. The House of Lords refused to accept this argument and held that there was no difference between trading income and other types of income. It seems amazing today that this technicality was thought arguable, so far has the pendulum swung from literal to purposive construction.

12.4.1 *Foreign incorporated company*

Section 742(8) ICTA provides:

For the purposes of sections 739 to 741, any body corporate incorporated outside the UK shall be treated as if it were resident outside the UK whether it is so resident or not.

This is otiose because even in the absence of this provision a foreign incorporated company would be “domiciled” outside the UK⁴ and so regarded as a person abroad. This rule made sense before the introduction of corporation tax in 1965; until then, foreign incorporated companies were taxed on the remittance basis. Now it is inappropriate because a UK resident company pays tax on all its profits on an arising basis.

One situation in which this arises is where a foreign incorporated company is accidentally UK resident, because of a failure to ensure that

3 25 TC 107. I mention for completeness only that this was followed in *Brackett v Chater* 60 TC 143.

4 See 2.16 (Domicile of company).

it is managed and controlled outside the UK. Another situation is where one deliberately uses a UK resident but foreign incorporated company. This may be done in order to obtain the IHT (or, formerly, CGT) advantages of foreign situate property.⁵

12.5 Transfer from one person abroad to another

Suppose assets are transferred from one person abroad to another, e.g. from offshore trustees to an offshore company. Can one argue that the transfer of asset conditions are not satisfied because one cannot say that income *becomes* payable to a person abroad? It was payable to a person abroad even before the transfer! The argument is linguistically possible, but the context shows that it is wrong. If the argument was right then the transfer of asset conditions would never apply to a transfer by a non-resident or foreign domiciled transferor, which is certainly not the case.

12.6 Situs of transferred assets

The heading “transfer of assets abroad” might suggest a requirement that UK situate assets must become non-UK situate, but that is obviously not the case.

It has been suggested that the assets must be UK situate at the time of the transfer. This was rightly rejected by the Special Commissioner in *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57 at 79. The taxpayer wisely abandoned this point on appeal.

12.7 Transfer for full consideration

The transfer of asset provisions (unlike the settlement provisions)⁶ can apply when there is a transfer for full consideration and no “bounty”.

12.7.1 *Transfer for issue of shares or debentures*

Suppose T transfers an asset to a foreign company in exchange for the issue of shares or debentures. This may well be full consideration. It is

⁵ On HMRC practice here, see 15.1 (Double taxation issues).

⁶ See 11.3 (“A settlement”).

nevertheless an archetypal s.739 situation. Tax avoidance arrangements set up in the 1920s and 1930s typically involved the transfer of assets to a Canadian company in consideration of debentures issued by that company.

12.7.2 *Transfer for cash or assets (not issue of shares or debentures)*

Suppose T sells an asset to a person abroad for a purchase price. At first glance, the transfer of asset conditions are satisfied. However, it is tentatively suggested that this is not the case if the purchase price paid to T:

- (1) represents full consideration to T; and
- (2) represents an asset which would otherwise have yielded income to the person abroad.⁷

In these circumstances, the person abroad acquires the income of the asset T transfers to him, but he loses the income from the purchase price which he pays to T. If the two (broadly) cancel each other out, it cannot be said that “income becomes payable” to the person abroad. If that is right, the transfer of asset conditions are not satisfied every time someone sells an asset to a non-resident person. That would be a sensible result. If T sells assets to an offshore trust, say, or to an offshore company, it would be surprising if his only defence to an assessment under s.739 was to claim the motive defence.⁸ The section assumes that one can identify the amount of income which accrues in consequence of the transfer. If that identification is not possible then it is suggested that the transfer of asset provisions do not operate.

John Avery Jones said in [1998] BTR 392:

7 This would not of course be the case if T transfers assets to an offshore company in consideration of an issue of shares or debentures or a life policy.

8 In such cases T would often have “power to enjoy”. Unless this is right, there is double taxation. T may be liable under s.739 for income tax on the income arising from the asset sold to the person abroad. T is also liable to income tax on income arising from the proceeds which he receives on the sale of the same asset. If my tentative view is wrong, then the motive defence should be generously applied in cases of a sale for full consideration.

I was hoping that filling in this year's tax return was going to be easier but I am having difficulty in answering part of question 6 on page 2:

Have you at any time made, or been associated with, a transfer of assets which has resulted in income becoming payable to a foreign entity ... ?

My first thought was no, I have not made any foreign trusts, etc., But then I thought: what about

[1] buying a ticket from a foreign airline, buying a meal or paying for a hotel room when abroad? There is a transfer of assets and it is clear that "income becoming payable" includes the receipt of sums which form part of the recipient's trading profits. Oh, and there is my IFA subscription, my subscription to *European Taxation*, my purchase of that overpriced new edition of *OECD Model Tax Convention*, and the new edition of *Klaus Vogel on Double Taxation Conventions* direct from the publisher. Foreign entities all of them. I expect if I think for a moment I shall think of lots more. What about my (foreign) car? Did I buy it from an agent for the manufacturer or from a UK subsidiary, and does it make any difference anyway?

[2] And then there is my life insurance policy with an Australian company? Did I take up a rights issue with a foreign company?

That was just last year; the question asks whether I have made such transfers *at any time* during my life. ... So it seems that the answer must be yes, as it may surely be for nearly all taxpayers. ...

It occurred to me to wonder whether Parliament had really authorised the asking of such a *[word deleted – ed.]* question. ...

(Paragraphing added)

If I am right, John Avery Jones should have replied "no" in relation to almost all the purchases in [1].⁹ Only his payment of the premium to the foreign life insurance company, and the rights issue with the foreign company, might require a "yes" answer and even then, only if the income arising from the transfer can be identified. It would not be the case that "nearly all taxpayers" would have to answer "yes".¹⁰

9 Strictly, this assumes (perhaps optimistically) that if John Avery Jones had not purchased the goods or services, someone else would have done so. Of course in practice considerations of materiality might also justify a 'no' answer.

10 Contrast the comment of Sir John Foster in a Parliamentary debate on the FA 1969: "I know one case where a person was asked this question with regard to foreign settlements, 'Have you ever made a transfer of assets to any partnership or

12.8 “By virtue or in consequence”: causation

The transfer of asset conditions are not satisfied merely because there has been a transfer of assets and income has become payable to a person abroad: the income must become so payable:

by virtue or in consequence of [the transfer] either alone or in conjunction with associated operations.

The test is one of causation. The phrase “by virtue or in consequence of” is a composite phrase with a single meaning. There are not two distinct tests or concepts (“by virtue of” or “in consequence of”). The two have the same meaning (like the popular “null and void”). “By means of” in s.739(1) has the same meaning.¹¹ In the interests of brevity, I abbreviate “by virtue or in consequence of” to “in consequence of”.

12.8.1 *Purchase of secondhand company*

Suppose T (UK resident) uses his assets to buy the shares of an already existing non-resident company (“a secondhand company”). That sale is a transfer of assets and is described in the following discussion as “the sale transfer”.

individual abroad?” The person who was asked this question happened to have been abroad, so he has begun by describing how, when he was five or six, he used to buy an ice from a partnership. It was a transfer of assets from himself to the person who sold him the ice. He has now got as far as the age of 10 and as he is in his seventies and has lived abroad for several years, travelling a great deal, he has a good way ahead of him to answer all these questions.

I use that example to counter the right hon. Gentleman if he says that the Revenue is always sensible. It cannot be sensible to ask somebody if he has ever made any transactions of that kind. That is the danger of Section [739], because people with enthusiasm who suspect that something has gone wrong can abuse the position.”

Hansard 17 July 1969, vol 787, col 950. Sir John Foster QC (1904–1982) was Conservative MP 1945–1974 so when he made this fine speech (worth reading in full) he was in opposition. The Government did not answer the point made, for the good reason that there is no answer. But the question Sir John was considering was a different (and much wider) question from that posed by the transfer of asset conditions and in John Avery Jones’ tax return.

11 *Congreve v IRC* 30 TC at 204.

It is the case that income accrues to a person abroad (the company). However, it cannot be said that the income became payable to the company in consequence of the sale transfer. The company merely continues to receive the income from its own assets, as it did before, and is not in any way affected by the change in ownership of its own shares. Thus if the vendor is UK resident and domiciled, the sale transfer does not meet the transfer of assets conditions.

Now suppose T purchases the shares from a person abroad. In that case the sale transfer may satisfy the transfer of asset conditions because the vendor may invest the proceeds of sale and receive income in consequence of the sale transfer. However, the income arising in consequence of the sale transfer would be the income accruing to the vendor, not the company's income.

In these cases there will usually have been (at least) one other transfer of assets, the transfer of funds to the secondhand company. I shall call this "the company funds transfer"). The company funds transfer does satisfy the transfer of assets conditions. If T is the transferor of that transfer then he will in principle be within s.739 and taxed on the secondhand company's income.¹² If T is not the transferor, he may be subject to tax under s.740 if he receives benefits (unless the company funds transfer qualifies for the motive defence).

Also if the secondhand company makes a transfer then that transfer will in principle satisfy the transfer of asset provisions (unless it qualifies for the motive defence) and if T procures that transfer, he is its transferor.

Now suppose:

- (1) T transfers assets to H, an offshore company ("the H transfer").
- (2) H uses its funds to purchase a secondhand company.

A similar analysis applies. The H transfer in principle satisfies the transfer of assets provision. However, no income arises to a person abroad in consequence of that transfer. Income does arise to the secondhand company, but not in consequence of the sale transfer.

However, if H provides funds for the secondhand company, directly or indirectly, then the secondhand company will receive income in

12 As to whether T is the transferor, see 13.4 (Who is the transferor?).

consequence of the H transfer and T will be subject to tax under s.739 accordingly.

12.9 Associated operation: definition

Section 742(1) provides the widest definition the drafter could devise:

For the purposes of sections 739 to 741 “an associated operation” means, in relation to any transfer, an operation of any kind effected by any person in relation to

[1] any of the assets transferred or

[2] any assets representing,¹³ whether directly or indirectly, any of the assets transferred, or

[3] to the income arising from any such assets, or

[4] to any assets representing, whether directly or indirectly, the accumulations of income arising from any such assets.

(Paragraphing added)

An associated operation does not exist in isolation, it exists in relation to a transfer. There are two requirements:

- (1) It must be an “operation”.
- (2) It must be “effected in relation to” items [1] to [4]; I describe this as being “associated” with a transfer.

The term “associated operations” is also used in the IHTA. However, the definition is different so only limited assistance can be drawn from IHT cases.

13 “Representing” is itself defined in s.742(9)(e):

“references to assets representing any assets, income or accumulations of income include references to shares in or obligations of any company to which, or obligations of any other person to whom, those assets, that income or those accumulations are or have been transferred.”

Thus if (1) T transfers assets to a company and (2) T transfers the shares in the company to a trust, the two transfers are associated operations. This would not have been clear without the definition.

12.9.1 “Operation”

“Operation” is not defined but is clearly a word of wide import. It includes a company becoming non-resident.¹⁴ It does not include death, but it does include an individual making a will.¹⁵

In *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 394 there was a sale (i.e. transfer) of assets to an Irish company and the company then “accumulated” income and “managed” its assets so as to be able to repay a loan to the transferor. There were held to be “operations” by most of the judges but this is obiter and extremely difficult to accept. Unlike IHT, “operation” does not include an omission. A company does not “accumulate” income (in the legal sense). If “management” is an operation then everything is an operation (all assets must be “managed”) and the expression makes no sense. Lords Pearce and Reid (more judiciously) left open the question of whether these were “operations”.

12.9.2 “Associated”

In *Fynn v IRC* 37 TC 627:

- (1) in 1948 T transferred assets to an Irish company;
- (2) in 1952 T lent money to the company.

The loan was not an associated operation in relation to the earlier transfer, because it was not effected “in relation to” the assets transferred.

An operation which is effected in relation to assets transferred by an earlier transfer is “associated” with that transfer even if the two were not part of any plan and many years apart. Suppose:

- (1) A transfers an asset to B (who is UK resident) in 1970; and
- (2) B transfers the asset in the year 2000 to an offshore trust under which A may benefit.

¹⁴ *Congreve v IRC* 30 TC 163.

¹⁵ *Bambridge v IRC* 36 TC 313. This case contains Harman’s aphorism: “Death, as we know, is an awfully big adventure, but even the Crown admits that it is not an associated operation.”

B's disposition is an associated operation in relation to A's transfer even though:

- (1) they are not part of a single arrangement;
- (2) A is unaware of B's disposition;
- (3) B's disposition is itself a transfer which satisfies the three transfer of asset conditions;
- (4) one or both transfers is a sale on arm's length terms.

The same would apply if A's transfer was made in 1870 or 1670. Indeed, anyone who purchases or disposes of an estate in English land is only effecting the most recent "operation" of a series of associated operations (dispositions of the land) which may perhaps be traced back to the Norman Conquest if not before, and only a lack of records prevents one tracing the sequence of associated operations to the dawn of civilisation.

12.9.3 *Can associated operations precede the transfer?*

RI 201 provides:

The wording of s742(1) is interpreted as meaning that an associated operation does not necessarily have to take place after a transfer of assets. A transaction undertaken "in relation to" a transfer of assets can precede the transfer.

While this seems correct, I cannot think of a practical case where it would matter.

12.10 **Significance of associated operations**

It is never enough to establish that there is an associated operation in relation to a transfer. This is just the first step. One must then go on to ask what (if anything) follows. The term "associated operations" is used in many places in the transfer of asset provisions:

(1) Transfer of asset conditions

739(1) and 740(1)(a): Income becomes payable to person abroad in consequence of transfer and associated operations.¹⁶

(2) Section 739

- (a) 739(2): Individual has ‘power to enjoy’ in consequence of transfer and associated operations; 742(2)(c): Power to enjoy.
- (b) 739(3): Individual receives capital sum connected with transfer and associated operations.

(3) Section 740

- (a) 740(1)(b): Individual receives a benefit in consequence of the transfer or associated operations.¹⁷
- (b) 740(3): “Relevant income” is income arising to person abroad and which in consequence of the transfer or associated operations can be used for providing a benefit.

(4) Section 741 motive defence

Test (a) and test (b) (set out at 16.2 (Enactment history)) must apply to the transfer and any associated operations.

12.11 Person abroad receives income as indirect consequence of transfer

In the words of s.740(1)(a):

- [1] by virtue or in consequence of a transfer of assets, either alone *or in conjunction with associated operations*,
- [2] income becomes payable to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK ...

(Paragraphing and emphasis added)

12.11.1 *Transfer from A to B followed by transfer from B to person abroad*

Suppose:

¹⁶ See 12.11 (Person abroad receives income indirectly).

¹⁷ See 14.6 (Benefit received indirectly)

- (1) in 1970 A transfers an asset to B (who is UK resident) (“A’s transfer”); and
- (2) in 2000 B transfers the asset to an offshore trust (“B’s trust”) under which A may benefit (“B’s transfer”).
- (3) A’s transfer and B’s transfer are not part of a single arrangement and A is unaware of B’s transfer.

B’s transfer obviously satisfies the transfer of asset conditions. The question is whether A’s transfer does likewise.

A’s transfer alone does not satisfy all three transfer of asset conditions. There is a transfer of assets, and (from 2000) income becomes payable to a person abroad. The causation condition is not satisfied by A’s transfer alone, that is, it is not in consequence of A’s transfer alone that income has become payable to the offshore trustees. However, B’s transfer is an “associated operation” in relation to A’s transfer. Is it the case that income becomes payable to the trustees in consequence of A’s transfer, in conjunction with the associated operation (B’s transfer)?

It cannot be the case that A is a transferor and within s.739, and taxable on the income of B’s trust. The motive defence is not a satisfactory solution to this problem:¹⁸ one must conclude that A’s transfer does not satisfy the transfer of asset conditions. How do we reach this result?

One might possibly reach this result by understanding the reference to “associated operations” to mean only those forming part of a single arrangement.¹⁹ However, it is suggested that a better analysis, the key to making sense of “associated operations” everywhere in the transfer of asset provisions, rests on the concept of causation. In the example above, although income accrues to the offshore trustees, it does not do so “in consequence” of A’s transfer in conjunction with B’s transfer. The only cause is B’s transfer.

18 The motive defence could not help if either A’s transfer or B’s transfer was made for tax avoidance reasons; or even if B’s transfer was innocent but A was unable to prove this: see 16.37 (Associated operations and the motive defence).

19 Contrast the approach to “disposition by associated operations” in *IRC v Brandenburg* [1982] STC 555, where Special Commissioners added a gloss that a disposition made by associated operations (for IHT purposes) must be “put in train” by one person: see “Gifts by Associated Operations”, Robert Venables QC, PTPR, Vol. 5, p.11.

But for A's transfer, B's transfer would not have happened, and so income would not become payable to the person abroad. However, causation in law (and indeed in ordinary English usage) does not apply a simple "but for" test.²⁰ B's transfer as an independent act will "break the chain of causation". That is, the reference to words of causation requires one to identify the real or effective or operative cause of the fact that income accrues to a person abroad (which in this case is B's transfer).

Although the statutory words are different, it is suggested that the appropriate test is the 'clean break' test, i.e. whether A is a settlor of B's trust, or did A provide the property indirectly.²¹

20 A full discussion on causation cannot be attempted here. The seminal work is Hart and Honoré, *Causation and the Law*, 2nd ed., 1985, see esp. p.42. Lord Bingham said in *Chester v Afshar* [2005] 1 AC 134 (dissenting but not on this point):

It is now, I think, generally accepted that the "but for" test does not provide a comprehensive or exclusive test of causation in the law of tort. Sometimes, if rarely, it yields too restrictive an answer, as in *Fairchild v Glenhaven Funeral Services Ltd* [2003] 1 AC 32. More often, applied simply and mechanically, it gives too expansive an answer: "But for your negligent misdelivery of my luggage, I should not have had to defer my passage to New York and embark on *SS Titanic*".

Banque Bruxelles v Eagle Star [1997] AC 191 at p.213:

A mountaineer about to undertake a difficult climb is concerned about the fitness of his knee. He goes to a doctor who negligently makes a superficial examination and pronounces the knee fit. The climber goes on the expedition, which he would not have undertaken if the doctor had told him the true state of his knee. He suffers an injury which is an entirely foreseeable consequence of mountaineering but has nothing to do with his knee.

On the Court of Appeal's principle, the doctor is responsible for the injury suffered by the mountaineer because it is damage which would not have occurred if he had been given correct information about his knee. He would not have gone on the expedition and would have suffered no injury. On what I have suggested is the more usual principle, the doctor is not liable. The injury has not been caused by the doctor's bad advice. ... The Court of Appeal's principle offends common sense because it makes the doctor responsible for consequences which, though in general terms foreseeable, do not appear to have a sufficient causal connection with the subject matter of the duty.

Likewise *Fairchild v Glenhaven Funeral Services Ltd* [2003] 1 AC 32.

21 See 37.3 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B).

12.11.2 *Transfer from A to UK trust followed by appointment of offshore trustees*

Suppose:

- (1) In 1970, A transfers assets to a discretionary trust with UK trustees (“A’s transfer”);
- (2) In 2000, the UK trustees appoint foreign trustees in their place and transfer the trust assets to them (“the appointment of foreign trustees”).

The appointment of foreign trustees satisfies all three transfer of asset conditions. (The appointment of foreign trustees involves a transfer of assets, in consequence of which income accrues to the non-resident trustees.) The question is whether A’s transfer does likewise.

A’s transfer alone does not satisfy all three transfer of asset conditions. There is a transfer of assets, and (from 2000) income becomes payable to a person abroad. But the causation condition is not satisfied, that is, it is not in consequence of A’s transfer alone that income has become payable to the offshore trustees. However, the appointment of foreign trustees is an “associated operation” in relation to A’s transfer. It is suggested that the transfer in conjunction with the associated operation do together satisfy the causation condition. That is, it *is* in consequence of the transfer and associated operation that the income accrues to the foreign trustees. This is so even if the appointment was not envisaged at the time of the transfer to the original settlement. The position in 12.11.1 (Transfer from A to B followed by transfer from B to person abroad) is different. There B’s transfer is independent in a way that trustees are not, because trustees are constrained by the fiduciary nature of their powers.²²

22 This view is also supported by obiter dicta in *Congreve v IRC* 30 TC at 205. This concerned a gift to a UK company which became non-resident. This satisfied the transfer of asset conditions without the association operations rule. But if it had not done so, the House of Lords would have held that the company becoming non-resident was an associated operation; and (by inference) income arose to the company in consequence of the transfer and associated operation. HMRC would have a further argument, if necessary, based on *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468.

12.11.3 *Transfer from A to trust followed by transfer from trustees to offshore company*

This is the same as 12.11.2 (Transfer from A to UK trust followed by appointment of offshore trustees). This applies whether the transfer by the trustees is gratuitous or in exchange for shares, debentures or an offshore life policy.

12.12 Income of person abroad

The concept of “income of the person abroad” is relevant for several purposes of the transfer of asset provisions:

- (1) The transfer of asset condition is only satisfied if “income becomes payable” to a person abroad. If *no* such income becomes payable then one of the essential transfer of assets conditions is not satisfied and neither s.739 nor s.740 can come into effect.
- (2) The *identity* of the income payable to the person abroad in consequence of the transfer is relevant:
 - (a) for s.739, as one must ask whether the transferor has power to enjoy that income;
 - (b) for s.740, as one must ask whether that income can be used to benefit an individual.
- (3) The *amount* of income payable to the person abroad in consequence of the transfer is relevant as ascertaining that amount is the first step in computing the amount on which tax is charged under s.739 or relevant income for s.740.

12.13 Capital receipts deemed to be income

The transfer of assets rules refer to “income”. This means “income for income tax purposes” which is a different concept from “income for trust

law purposes” or “income for accountancy law purposes”.²³

Section 383 ITTOIA provides:

- (1) Income tax is charged on dividends and other distributions of a UK resident company.
- (2) For income tax purposes such dividends and other distributions are to be treated as income.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), it does not matter that those dividends and other distributions are capital apart from that subsection.

This applies for the purposes of ss.739 and 740 ICTA and s.624 ITTOIA so the distribution on a purchase of own shares, for instance, is income for s.739, 740 and s.624 purposes²⁴ even though it is a capital receipt for trust law purposes. Likewise income deemed to accrue on a stock dividend under s.249 ICTA and a gain deemed to be income under s.776 ICTA (transactions in land). On gains from offshore funds: see 21.8 (Gains accruing to non-residents). On the issue of whether s.703 ICTA produces “income” for s.739 or 740 purposes, see Stephen Brandon QC’s *Taxation of Non-UK Resident Companies and their Shareholders*, Key Haven, 2002, para. 5.1.4.4.7.

12.13.1 *Gain from life policy*

A gain from a life policy held by a non-resident trust or company is not the income of the non-resident, and is not deemed to be income, and so is outside s.739: see 20.4 (Non-resident trust) and 20.5 (Non-resident company).

12.14 The amount of income of person abroad

This section considers the amount of the income arising to the person abroad in consequence of the transfer and associated operations.

12.14.1 *Dividend income: net or gross?*

In order to follow the discussion one needs to bear in mind the usual rules

23 See 6.3 (Why does “capital v income” matter?)

24 This is assumed to be the case in the drafting of s.686A(4)(b) ICTA.

for taxing a UK dividend or other distribution.

Section 398(1) ITTOIA provides for grossing up a UK dividend or other distribution by the amount of the tax credit:

If a person is entitled to a tax credit in respect of a dividend or other distribution, the amount or value of the dividend or other distribution is treated as increased by the amount of the tax credit for all income tax purposes (except section 397(1)).

A non-resident does not usually qualify for a tax credit. This allowed one taxpayer to argue that the measure of income for s.739(2) is the net dividend only:

100. [HMRC] contended that the income which the section deems to be income of the taxpayer is the dividends. Section 743(2) provides that:

‘In computing the liability to income tax of an individual chargeable by virtue of section 739, the same deductions and reliefs shall be allowed as would have been allowed if the income deemed to be his by virtue of that section had actually been received by him.’

It follows that the position is the same as if the taxpayer had actually received those dividends. They would be grossed-up by the amount of the tax credit and he would be entitled to the benefit of the tax credit. The position is just as if International Holdings [the person abroad] had never existed.

101. [The taxpayer] contended that the income which was deemed to be the taxpayer’s was the net income of the company from all sources after deduction of any reliefs which would have been available to an individual in a comparable position. The income lost its original characteristics and became charged under Case VI of Sch D. ...The effect of this approach is that because [the person abroad who received the dividend] is not entitled to the tax credit, the income is not grossed up but is not charged to income tax at the lower rate.

102. It is not necessary for me to decide this point but I find [HMRC’s] approach more attractive particularly as it precisely gives effect to counteracting the advantage of the transfer.

Carvill v IRC [2000] STC (SCD) 143. This is certainly right.

For s.740 purposes, the amount of a dividend would, strictly, be the gross amount. However, the tax credit is not income which can be applied for the benefit of any person so the amount of relevant income is the net amount without the tax credit.

12.14.2 *Deductions of investment and collection costs against investment income*

In *Chetwode v IRC* 51 TC 647 an offshore company received dividends and interest of about £3,000 per annum. The transferor was taxed on the gross amount of that income, without deduction for (i) investment advisory fees, (ii) management fees, (iii) safekeeping charges, (iv) security handling fees and bank charges, (v) registered office and executive office fees, totalling about £1,000 per annum. The approach of *Chetwode* was that section 739 should be construed so as to put the transferor in the same position as if he had retained the assets himself. Had he done so he could not have deducted these investment costs for the purposes of calculating his income. So there was no deduction for s.739 purposes.

HMRC allowed deductions in respect of estimates of such costs of collecting the investment income as would have been incurred had the investment income been instead received by the transferor in person. This was calculated (how?) at about £20 per year. There is no statement on whether this concessionary practice still obtains but it is (perhaps) worth claiming it to see.

For s.740 purposes such expenses will be deducted in computing relevant income.

12.14.3 *Trading income and trading losses*

It was accepted in *Chetwode* that trading income of the person abroad is calculated by setting trading receipts against trading expenses. The case does not discuss whether trading income is calculated:

- (1) by accountancy principles, under which statutory non-deduction provisions such as s.74 or s.577 ICTA would not apply, and depreciation would in principle be allowed; or
- (2) by tax principles applicable to calculating trading profits.

The approach of *Chetwode* suggests that the second is the correct view. For losses, RI 201 provides:

The Revenue's practice is only to allow trading losses to be carried forward and set against future trading profits. They cannot be offset

against investment income of the same, previous or future years.

This is consistent with the position for rental income. For s.740 losses will be deducted in computing relevant income if paid out of relevant income.

12.14.4 *Rental income*

The rules for measuring rental income are the same as for the settlement provisions; see 11.4.4 (Rental income). Transfer pricing may also be an issue here: see *Taxation of Non-UK Companies and their Shareholders*, Stephen Brandon QC, Key Haven Publications, 2002, para.4.2.6.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

TRANSFER OF ASSETS ABROAD: SECTION 739

13.1 The statute

Section 739 must be split up into its separate limbs in order to distil any sense from it and subsections (1) and (2) must be read together:

- (1) [a] ... the following provisions of this section shall have effect
- [b] for the purpose of preventing the avoiding by individuals ordinarily resident in the UK of liability to income tax
- [c] by means of transfer of assets
- [d] by virtue or in consequence of which, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations, income becomes payable to persons resident or domiciled outside the UK.

This has been discussed in the last chapter as the source of the transfer of asset conditions. The section continues:

- (2) Where
- [a] by virtue or in consequence of any *such transfer*, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations,
- [b] *such an individual* has, within the meaning of this section, power to enjoy, whether forthwith or in the future, any income of a person resident or domiciled outside the UK
- [c] which, if it were income of that individual received by him in the UK, would be chargeable to income tax by deduction or otherwise,
- [d] *that income* shall, whether it would or would not have been chargeable to income tax apart from the provisions of this section, be deemed to be income of that individual for all purposes of the Income Tax Acts.

(Paragraphing and emphasis added)

13.2 “Such transfer”: which transfer?

The first condition is s.739(2)[a]. It requires that “such transfer” must have been made. In the context the word “such” refers back to s.739(1)[c] and [d]. It means a transfer which satisfies the three transfer of asset conditions, discussed in the last chapter. In what follows I shall assume that “such transfer” has been made.

13.3 “Such an individual”: which individual?

The next condition is s.739(2)[b]. It requires that “such an individual” exists. The reference to “such an individual” refers back to s.739(1)[b]. There are different views possible of how much of s.739(1) is incorporated into the requirement that the individual to be taxed under s.739(2) must be “such an individual”. The wise words of Garner are worth quoting here:

Such is a deictic (pointing) term that must refer to a clear antecedent.¹

The drafter’s failure to observe Garner’s point – obvious though it may seem – has given rise to a good deal of litigation. What, then, is the reference implied by the expression “such an individual”?

On any view, it refers only to an individual ordinarily resident in the UK. Further, it is now settled that the section applies:

only where the person sought to be charged made or, maybe, was associated with, the transfer.²

1 *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage*, 2nd edition, entry under “Such”. Harold Pinter adroitly exploits the ambiguity in *No Man’s Land* where Spooner says:

“... there are some people who appear to be strong, whose idea of what strength consists of is persuasive, but who inhabit the idea and not the fact. What they possess is not strength but expertise. They have nurtured and maintain what is in fact a calculated posture. Half the time it works. It takes a man of intelligence and perception to stick a needle through that posture and discern the essential flabbiness of the stance. I am *such a man*.”

2 *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC at 587.

“Such an individual” refers to this specific individual: “the transferor”; see *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503 at 587. So s.739 only imposes a charge on a person who is an individual; and ordinarily resident in the UK; and who is a transferor.

13.4 Who is the transferor?

The problem which then arises is to identify the individual transferor (if there is one) in relation to any transfer. The problem hardly arose before *Vestey*, and there is little authority to guide us.

13.4.1 *Transfers by individuals*

In a simple case where one individual transfers one asset to a person abroad, no problem arises. If A and B own an asset as tenants in common, and together transfer their interest to a person abroad, each is transferor of his share. If A and B own an asset jointly the same applies: one can separate out their interest as being equal. RI 201 provides:

Where the same assets are transferred by several individuals, the Revenue’s practice is to assess the transferors in proportion to their share of the assets transferred. Thus, where, for example, shares of a UK company are held by three shareholders in the proportion 40%, 40% and 20% and there is s.739 liability in respect of the income of an overseas person to which the shares are transferred, the liability is assessed on each of the three shareholders in proportion to their respective holdings.

That seems obvious.

13.4.2 *Quasi transferor*

IRC v Pratt 57 TC 1 decided that a person who did not make the transfer may be within s.739 if he “procured” the transfer. The term used in *Pratt* is “quasi transferor”. An easy example is if T owns all the shares in the company and he procures the company to make the transfer.

Something of the sort might even be possible in the case of quasi transferors, where two or three of them own the company which makes the transfer, but where it is not possible to do just that, s [739] does not

bite at all. ... Where an identifiable portion of the asset transferred can be attributed to a particular transferor then, of course – at any rate in any normal case – that part actually transferred will produce a similar part of the income, and in no case is there any difficulty in applying the section, since one will apply it separately to each of the individual transfers, or each identifiable portion.³

Walton J expresses himself tentatively, but this is thought to be the law. The position would be different if shareholders had different classes of shares with different interests. In that case it may not be possible to separate out their interests and the shareholders would not be transferors.

The facts of *Pratt* were that the taxpayers (i) were three directors out of eight; and (ii) held 30% of the company. They had no control at director or shareholder level. They could not “procure” the transfer of assets made by the company, and so they were not even “quasi transferors” in relation to it. So they were outside the scope of s.739. Of course a person who is not a transferor (such as the successful appellants in *Pratt*) might fall within s.740 if he received benefits.

HMRC say in RI 201:

Section 739 can potentially apply not only to an individual who transfers assets but to someone who is “associated with” a transaction (according to the decision of the Courts in *Vestey v IRC*). The Revenue regard this as including anyone who procured the transfer of assets.

The first sentence correctly quotes *Vestey* but omits the “maybe”; without an explanation of what is meant by “associated” it is useless. The second sentence is correct but in practice this probably arises only in the context of transfers by companies.

13.5 Must the transferor have avoided income tax?

In *McGuckian v IRC* 69 TC 1 it was argued from s.739(1)[b] that s.739 only applied if (in the absence of the section) income tax would be avoided. The argument was politely but firmly rejected: see pp.77E, 82.

3 *IRC v Pratt* 57 TC at p.50.

13.6 Must the transferor have had the purpose of avoiding income tax?

The reference to “such an individual” in s.739(2)[b] might further refer only to an individual who has had the purpose of avoiding income tax by means of a transfer of assets. Before the FA 1997 it was therefore arguably a requirement of s.739 that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the transfer (or of the transferor) had to be the purpose of avoiding income tax. This point was never decided.⁴ But now s.739(1A) provides:

Nothing in subsection (1) above shall be taken to imply that the provisions of [s.739] apply only if ...

(b) the avoiding of liability to income tax is the purpose, or one of the purposes, for which the transfer was effected.

This applies to income arising on or after 26 November 1996. The date of the transfer or associated operation is irrelevant. This does not affect the operation of the motive defence, discussed at 16.1 (Motive defence).

13.7 Transferor not ordinarily resident

Section 739 refers to an individual who is ordinarily resident in the UK, but it does not say exactly when the individual must be ordinarily resident for the section to apply.

13.7.1 *Transferor not ordinarily resident when income accrues*

Section 739 does not apply to income which accrues while the transferor is not ordinarily resident in the UK. This was assumed in *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 39. A non-resident individual can transfer UK land to an offshore company in order to avoid higher rate income tax.⁵ (It is not usually necessary for an individual to transfer other assets to a company in order to avoid higher rate tax since s.128 FA 1995 provides relief.)

A person who is UK resident but not ordinarily resident may wish to transfer land and other UK sources of income to a company to avoid higher rate income tax. He may also wish to transfer foreign sources of income to a company in order to avoid tax on the remittance basis. A sale

⁴ The arguments are set out in *Botnar v IRC* [1998] STC 38 at p.63ff.

⁵ Of course, CGT, VAT, IHT, and SDLT all need consideration.

to an offshore company in return for debentures may be suitable. This was common planning before the introduction of s.739 in 1936.

13.7.2 *Transferor not ordinarily resident when transfer made*

The intention of those who were responsible for the legislation was that s.739 should only apply if the transferor was ordinarily resident in the UK at the time of the transfer.⁶ The court reached the opposite conclusion in *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 394, but this was reversed in *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57.

The position now is now governed by s.739(1A):

Nothing in subsection (1) above shall be taken to imply that the provisions of [s.739] apply only if—

- (a) the individual in question was ordinarily resident in the UK at the time when the transfer was made.

Thus non-residence at the time of the transfer is not a defence: s.739 may apply to any person after he becomes ordinarily resident, regardless of residence at the time of the transfer. This applies to income arising from 26 November 1996.

13.8 Power to enjoy

Once one has identified the transferor one asks whether he has “power to enjoy” any income of the person abroad; see s.739(2)[b]. “Power to enjoy” is elaborately defined and has given rise to a large case law. But in practice there is not often an issue here. In short, the transferor has “power to enjoy” if he may possibly enjoy any of the income of the person abroad, or if he is able to control the application of the income. A transferor has no power to enjoy if he and his spouse are excluded from all benefit and have no power of control. A widow of the settlor may be included as a beneficiary.

The test is slightly wider than that of s.624 ITTOIA,⁷ though for most

6 “There has to be a transfer of assets abroad by an individual resident in this country.” (W.S. Morrison, then Financial Secretary) 313 HL Official Reports 5th series col 685, cited in *IRC v Willoughby*.

7 See 11.5 (Property in which the settlor has no interest).

practical purposes they are the same. It is hard to see the reason for the distinction, but there it is.

On a transfer from a UK domiciled person to his foreign domiciled spouse, see 33.15 (Income tax planning for mixed marriages).

There are five heads of “power to enjoy”.

13.8.1 *Head (a): income in fact dealt with to benefit T*

The income is in fact so dealt with by any person as to be calculated, at some point of time, and whether in the form of income or not, to enure for the benefit of the individual.

(S.742(2)(a)).

The nuance of this unlaywer like language was discussed by the Special Commissioners in *Botnar v IRC*:

222. Section 742(2)(a) is concerned with how particular income is dealt with when it arises. Mr. Park however conceded that this is not confined to its immediate handling on receipt or even to what happens in the year of assessment, if for example it is received late in the year, but that we should look at how it is dealt with within a reasonable time of receipt.

...

224. It seems to us that, when the word “calculated” is considered in the context that it refers to income which is “in fact so dealt with”, the meaning “likely” is to be preferred to “thought out” in the sense of “intended”; however we are not sure that either “likely” or “intended” gives exactly the same flavour as “calculated”. “Calculated” here combines an element of objectivity with an element of forethought.

225. It may not however make much difference because if any income was intended to enure for the benefit of Mr. Botnar it is obviously more probable that it was likely to so enure and that it would be seen objectively as likely to so enure.⁸

13.8.2 *Head (b): income increases value of T’s asset*

The receipt or accrual of the income operates to increase the value to the individual of any assets held by him or for his benefit.

(s.742(2)(b))

8 The nuance of “calculated” is discussed *obiter* in *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503 at 555.

First one must identify assets held by T or “for his benefit”. Having identified the assets, one asks whether the receipt or accrual of the income operates to increase the value of those assets.

The concept of “assets held by T” is straightforward but what about assets held “for his benefit”? In *Howard de Walden v IRC* 25 TC 121 a promissory note held by trustees on trust for T for life was considered to be held “for his benefit”. One could have reached the same result by a different route since T’s life interest in the note was itself an “asset” held by T. If the asset is held on a discretionary trust under which T is merely a beneficiary, it is probably not held “for his benefit”. What if the asset is held on interest in possession trusts for T subject to an overriding power of appointment?

The second condition is that the receipt or accrual of income must increase the value of the asset. This also arose in *Howard de Walden v IRC*. Here T transferred assets to offshore companies and held (1) a life interest in promissory notes issued by the companies and (2) the benefit of debt due from the companies (T had lent money to the companies).⁹ The Court of Appeal held:

The receipt of the income by each company operates to increase the value of the notes and of the deposit debt...

But it is a question of fact in each case.¹⁰ If a debt is sufficiently covered by existing assets of a company, the receipt of further income by the company does not increase the value of the debt.

13.8.3 *Head (c): individual receives benefit*¹¹

The individual receives or is entitled to receive, at any time, any benefit provided or to be provided out of that income or out of moneys which are or will be available for the purpose by reason of the effect or successive effects of the associated operations on that income and on any assets which directly or indirectly represent that income.

9 In some but not all cases T also held a few shares in the companies. The Court of Appeal ignored this because if it had held that T was caught only by virtue of these shares, T would not have been assessable on the income of all the companies.

10 *IRC v Brackett* is another example.

11 See “Section 739 and benefits in kind”, Robert Venables QC, OTPR Vol 11 Issue 3 p.1.

(s.742(2)(c))

This again arose in *Howard de Walden*. The Court of Appeal said:

... the payments made and to be made in respect of the notes and deposits are “benefits” within the meaning of (c) since “benefit” as defined ... includes a payment of any kind.

There are two issues here. Firstly, is the repayment of the debt to T (or repayment of the promissory note) a “benefit” in the general sense? The Court of Appeal rightly thought it was not, since they relied on the definition clause. Secondly, does the definition clause extend the meaning of benefit to include a payment that is not a benefit in the normal sense? The Court of Appeal held that it did, but this was before s.743(5):

In any case where an individual has for the purposes of [section 739] power to enjoy income of a person abroad by reason of his receiving any such benefit as is referred to in section 742(2)(c), then ... the individual shall be chargeable to income tax by virtue of section 739 for the year of assessment in which the benefit is received on the whole of the amount or value of that benefit except in so far as it is shown that the benefit derives directly or indirectly from income on which he has already been charged to tax for that or a previous year of assessment.

This was introduced in the FA 1969 and upsets the reasoning of *de Walden* on head (c). Since the charge is now on the value of the benefit, and the value of a payment for full consideration (such as the repayment of a debt) is nil, s.739 does not now operate here.

In *Botnar* the Special Commissioners said:

245. ... Where the power to enjoy arises the tax is charged not on the income which the taxpayer has power to enjoy but on the value of the benefit. This may bear no relationship whatsoever to the income of the non-resident as long as it originated from it even indirectly. We do not accept that s 743(5) only operates where the benefit received in a year exceeds the relevant income. It seems to us that the words “notwithstanding anything in subs (1) above” would have been better placed later in the subsection perhaps after “the amount or value of that benefit”.

13.8.4 *Head (d): possibility of benefit*

The individual may, in the event of the exercise or successive exercise of one or more powers, by whomsoever exercisable and whether with or without the consent of any other person, become entitled to the beneficial enjoyment of the income.

(s.742(2)(d))

This would apply to a discretionary trust where T was a beneficiary (or could be added to the class of beneficiaries).

In *Vestey v IRC*:

- (1) The individual could receive accumulated trust income. Walton J held that the individual had no power to enjoy within (d) because what he received was no longer “income”.
- (2) Also, the trust held a company. Walton J held that the individual had no power to enjoy the company’s income within (d) because dividends from the company were not “the income” of the company.¹²

This is bizarre and in the House of Lords Viscount Dilhorne rejected it.¹³ It is considered that Dilhorne’s reasoning is to be preferred.

13.8.5 *Head (e): control*

The individual is able in any manner whatsoever, and whether directly or indirectly, to control the application of the income.

(S.742(2)(e))

Control means non-fiduciary control and so does not include the powers of control of a trustee or a protector with fiduciary powers:

The question is whether he was able to control the application of the income, and to answer that question affirmatively it must in my judgment be possible to say at least that he was in a position to ensure

¹² *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503 at 554-5.

¹³ p.555. Strictly, Dilhorne only rejected point (1). He did not address point (2). But the reason is the same in both cases so it logically follows he rejected Walton’s view on both points. No other judge considered this aspect.

that the trustees would act in accordance with his wishes without themselves giving any independent consideration and accordingly to act in disregard of their fiduciary duty.¹⁴

This is discussed by the Special Commissioners in *Botnar v IRC*:

260. It seems to us that due importance must be given to the words “able... to control” in [s.742(2)(e)] bearing in mind the words “in any manner whatsoever, and whether directly or indirectly”. An example of indirect control is to be found in *Lee v IRC* 24 TC 207, where the taxpayer as majority shareholder could appoint and remove the directors of the company in question.

261. In our judgment the ability to control must go beyond an assumption that those controlling the companies will comply with the transferor’s wishes and the fact that they do comply is immaterial. We accept the question posed by Mr. Munby, viz whether Mr. Botnar was in a position to ensure that the companies would act in accordance with his wishes.

262. There was in fact no material before us to indicate that Mr. Botnar could have done anything if Dr. Lenz had declined to do what he wanted. The position might have been different if Dr. Lenz was for example an employee who might have been dismissed in the event of failing to cooperate. There was however no evidence to suggest this. We are satisfied that the directors of the companies would have carried out his instructions. We have no doubt that Mr. Botnar was justified in assuming that Dr. Lenz would do what he wanted. However we do not consider that the mere fact that Dr. Lenz was in the saddle of the settlement meant that Mr. Botnar was able to ensure that the income would be applied for his benefit. On the authority of *Schroder* even decisive influence is not enough.

263. We readily accept Mr. Munby’s submission that Mr. Botnar wished to ensure that the shares in DUK later NUK would remain in friendly hands. In a sense it could be said that he did in fact control the settlement and the Companies because in fact Dr. Lenz did comply with his wishes: there was no evidence of any action by Dr. Lenz which was contrary to Mr. Botnar’s wishes. That is not however the same as Mr. Botnar having the ability, even indirectly, to ensure that the income would be applied in accordance with his wishes.

14 *IRC v Schroder* 57 TC 94, at 125 followed in the non-tax case, *R v Radio Authority ex p. Guardian Media Group* [1995] 1 WLR 334 at 345.

In practice it is very rare that head (e) applies and none of the other four heads would apply. *Lee* (shareholder's power to appoint and dismiss directors) offers an example: if T transferred assets to a company under which his only interest was management shares conferring votes but no dividends or capital, he would fall within head (e) (but the shares would also probably be within head (b) – as company income would tend to increase the value of the shares (voting shares would have some value)).

13.8.6 *Minority shareholding in offshore company*

If T holds a majority shareholding in an offshore company, he has power to enjoy all the income of the company since he has power of control under head (e). The same applies if T and his wife together have a majority shareholding. What is the position if T has a minority shareholding, say, 10% of the ordinary shares? At first sight one might think that T has power to enjoy all the income of the company, since the income of the company increases the value of his minority shareholding. But it is suggested that the better view is that T has only power to enjoy one tenth of the company's income in cases of this kind. This was assumed in *Bambridge v IRC* 36 TC 313.¹⁵

13.9 Power to enjoy: causation condition

It is not sufficient that the transferor has power to enjoy the income of the person abroad. A causation condition must also be satisfied. The individual must have the power to enjoy in consequence of the transfer, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations.

Suppose:

- (1) Year 1: A transfers an asset to a non-resident company wholly owned by B, who is not UK resident ("A's transfer").
- (2) Year 2: B transfers the company to an offshore trust under which A may benefit ("B's transfer").

A's transfer satisfies the transfer of asset conditions. However, in year 1

15 See R S Boyd, "Requiem for a Man of Straw", [1980] BTR 442 at p.457.

A is not within s.739 since he does not have “power to enjoy” the income of the company.

From year 2 onwards, A does have “power to enjoy”. He does not have that power in consequence of his transfer alone. However, A’s transfer and B’s transfer are associated operations: see 12.9 (Associated operations). So the question is whether A has power to enjoy in consequence of A’s transfer and the associated operation. This raises questions of causation similar to those discussed in paragraph 12.11 (Person abroad receives income indirectly). If B’s transfer is an independent act, it will “break the chain of causation” and A’s transfer will not be the real or effective or operative cause.

13.10 The income to be charged¹⁶

13.10.1 *Power to enjoy part of income of person abroad*

A person may have “power to enjoy” (as defined) over all the income of an offshore person even though his power to enjoy (in the natural sense of that expression) is limited to part¹⁷ or even none¹⁸ of the income. In such a case T is taxed on all the income: *Howard de Walden v IRC*.

However, if T has power to enjoy (as defined) over only part of the income, T is only taxed on the income which he has power to enjoy. As Cohen LJ said in *Congreve* 30 TC at p.199:

The only question is: What income of the non-resident does the resident individual have power to enjoy by reason of the transfer either alone or in conjunction with associated operations? It is that income which is deemed to be income of that individual for all purposes of the Income Tax Acts.

13.10.2 *Person abroad with independent source of income*

Suppose:

16 See R.S. Boyd “Requiem for a man of straw” [1980] BTR 442.

17 e.g. if T transfers shares to a company in which he holds debentures. If all the income of the company increases the value of the debentures just a little, T has power to enjoy over all the income under head (b).

18 e.g. if T has control within head (e).

- (1) T transfers assets to an offshore company.
- (2) The offshore company has two sources of income:
 - (a) income from the assets transferred by T;
 - (b) income from other sources which have nothing to do with T.
- (3) T has power to enjoy all the income of the offshore company.

We must once again return to sections 739(1), (2) set out at 13.1 (The statute) and not repeated here. The key subsection now is 739(2)[d]:

that income shall, whether it would or would not have been chargeable to income tax apart from the provisions of this section, be deemed to be income of that individual for all purposes of the Income Tax Acts.

What is the reference to which the words “that income” relate? The drafter has again overlooked the elementary point that the deictic (pointing) term *that* should refer to a clear antecedent. The choice lies between:

- (1) “That income” refers to section 739(2)[b], “any income” of the person abroad.
- (2) “That income” refers to section 739(1)[d], only the income which arises in consequence of the transfer of assets (either alone or in conjunction with associated operations).

On this occasion there need be no litigation to find the answer. RI 201 states:

It has not been determined by the Courts whether all the income of the overseas person should be assessed, or only the income of that person to the extent that it arose by virtue or in consequence of the relevant transfer of assets and any associated operation(s). It has been the Revenue’s practice (since the decision in *Vestey v CIR* 54 TC 503) to assess on the second of these two possible bases.

This must be so. Anything else would be “quite ridiculous”.¹⁹

13.11 Capital receipts and the measure of income within s.739

See 12.13 (Capital receipts) and 12.14 (Amount of income of person abroad).

13.12 Rates of tax on income within s.739(2)

See 17.8 (Rates of tax on transferor).

13.13 Transferor receives capital sum

Section 739(3) is an independent charging section. Like subsection (2), it needs to be split up into its parts in order to follow it:

Where,

- [1] whether before or after any such transfer,
- [2] such an individual
- [3] receives or is entitled to receive
- [4] any capital sum
- [5] the payment of which is in any way connected with the transfer or any associated operation,
- [6] any income which, by virtue or in consequence of the transfer, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations, has become the income of a person resident or domiciled outside the UK shall, whether it would or would not have been chargeable to income tax apart from the provisions of this section, be deemed to be income of that individual for all purposes of the Income Tax Acts.

Lord Greene correctly explains the purpose of s.739(3) in *Howard de Walden v IRC* 25 TC at p.135:

The provision was made ... to meet devices by which a transferor took care to give himself no “power to enjoy” any income of a non-resident transferee company within the meaning of [s.739(2)], but obtained the

19 Walton J in vehement form in *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC at 562, followed in *Carvill v IRC* [2000] STC (SCD) 143. The point had been left open in *Howard de Walden v IRC* 25 TC 119.

money he required, for example, by borrowing from the company, all the shares being vested (for example) in his children.

In practice it is rare for s.739(3) to apply in a case where s.739(2) does not, that is, the transferor receives a capital sum without having power to enjoy. An example would be a trust making an (arm's length) loan to a settlor who was excluded from benefit.

13.13.1 *Relationship of s.739(2) and (3)*

In *Vestey v IRC*, Walton J said:

These subsections are ... concurrent and not cumulative. A person cannot be taxed in any one year on the same sum under both [s.739(2) and also subsection (3)]. Like Warren Hastings, the Crown, in making this concession, doubtless stood amazed at its own moderation in view of its other claims in the two cases, but make it it did.²⁰

13.13.2 *"Such transfer", "Such an individual"*

These words bring in the three transfer of asset provisions and restrict the s.739(3) charge to the transferor (just as s.739(2)).

13.13.3 *"Receives"*

"Receives or is entitled to receive" is glossed in s.739(5):

For the purposes of subsection (3) above, there shall be treated as a capital sum which an individual receives or is entitled to receive any sum which a third person receives or is entitled to receive at the individual's direction or by virtue of the assignment by him of his right to receive it.

13.13.4 *"A capital sum"*

"Capital sum" is defined in s.739(4):

²⁰ 54 TC 503 at 556.

In subsection (3) above “capital sum” means, subject to subsection (5) below—

- (a) any sum paid or payable by way of loan or repayment of a loan,²¹ and
- (b) any other sum paid or payable otherwise than as income, being a sum which is not paid or payable for full consideration in money or money’s worth.

In *Botnar v IRC* 72 TC 205 at para.266 the Special Commissioners say:

In our judgment the entitlement to use the flat is not a capital sum within the definition in s.739(4); in particular we hold that the entitlement to use was not a “sum” within any normal use of English.

Section 739(6) provides relief for loans which are repaid:

Income shall not by virtue of subsection (3) above be deemed to be that of an individual for any year of assessment by reason only of his having received a sum by way of loan if that sum has been wholly repaid before the beginning of that year.

13.13.5 “*Connected with the transfer*”

In *Fynn v IRC* 37 TC 627:

- (1) In 1948 T transferred assets to an Irish company (“the transfer of assets”).
- (2) The company charged the asset for a debt (“the charge”).
- (3) In 1952, T lent the company £12,000 (“T’s loan”)

T was entitled to receive a capital sum (repayment of T’s loan). However, this had no “connection” with the transfer of assets or the charge (an operation associated with the transfer). So s.739(3) did not apply.

This is the only use of the word “connected” in the transfer of asset provisions (though the definition of associated operations uses the comparable concept “in relation to”). “Connected with” is of course a

²¹ ‘Loan’ is a fairly narrow term and does not include a purchase price left unpaid: *Ramsden v IRC* 24 TC 515.

concept used in other anti-avoidance provisions.²²

13.13.6 *What income is caught by s.739(3)?*

If the conditions of s.739(3) are applied then “any income” which in consequence of a transfer has become the income of the person abroad is deemed to be the income of the transferor.

In *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503, Walton J suggested that the charge under s.739(3) was limited to the amount of the capital sum. This was rejected by the two judges in the House of Lords who considered the point, obiter. Lord Wilberforce said:

It is “any income” of the foreign transferees which is deemed to be the income of the recipient of a capital sum, [indeed of each and every recipient of any capital sum,]²³ small or large, whenever received. From these words there is no escape.

If one rejects the view that the charge is limited to the value of the capital sum, the question arises as to whether it applies to:

- (1) income before the receipt of the capital sum; or
- (2) income of the year in which the capital sum is received; or
- (3) income of the year in which the capital sum is received and subsequent years.

Lord Wilberforce did not, I think, express a view on these alternatives. Since s.739 refers to income which ‘has’ accrued, solution (1) is the natural reading. However, Viscount Dilhorne preferred the last view:

While the income of the non-resident trustees would be deemed to be the income of [the taxpayer] on her receipt of the £100,000 [capital sum] on 2 May 1966, *in that and subsequent financial years*, I see nothing in [s.739(3)] which gives it retrospective effect. It does not provide that the income of the non-resident in any year before the person

²² See *Emery v IRC* 54 TC 607.

²³ But these words are wrong since the section is limited to transferors.

receives or is entitled to receive is to be deemed to be that person's income.²⁴

Suppose:

- (1) A trust under which a settlor has an interest, and under which he is taxed under s.624 ITTOIA or s.739 ICTA.
- (2) A small capital payment is made to the beneficiary. This is made free of income tax since all the trust income is taxed as his anyway.
- (3) The settlor is then excluded from benefit.

It has been suggested in these circumstances that all future income arising in the offshore trust will be deemed to be that of the beneficiary. That would be absurd and in practice HMRC do not take that point. It is suggested that since s.739(3) does not apply in a situation where s.739(2) applies, a capital payment made at that time must be disregarded. But this would allow avoidance. For instance:

- (1) Trustees borrow and make a substantial capital payment to the settlor.
- (2) The settlor is excluded.
- (3) The trustees receive income subsequently to repay the borrowing.

Is it possible that that income is outside the scope of s.739(3)?

The only way to construe the section which makes sense of these problems is to follow the view of Walton J that the charge under s.739(3) is limited to the amount of the capital sum.

13.14 No indemnity for transferor

The transferor has no express statutory indemnity against the transferee for the tax he pays under s.739. It is suggested that no indemnity can be implied.

24 54 TC at 594.

13.15 Section 739 foreign domicile defence

Section 743(3) provides:

An individual who is domiciled outside the UK shall not be chargeable to tax in respect of any income deemed to be his by virtue of that section if he would not, by reason of his being so domiciled, have been chargeable to tax in respect of it if it had in fact been his income.

This applies the same test as the “first counterfactual question” of the settlement provisions. The discussion on the Settlement Provisions is equally applicable here; see 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence). In short, where the transferor is UK resident but not UK domiciled, foreign income received by the person abroad is in the first instance outside s.739.

In the absence of s.743(3), income deemed to be the transferor’s income would have been (deemed) relevant foreign income, and so qualify for the RFI remittance basis, so s.743(3) is not strictly needed. (It is there for historical reasons: it was needed before ITTOIA because the charge under s.739 was under Schedule D Case VI, and did not qualify for the Case IV or V remittance basis.)

Is there a charge under s.739²⁵ if that income is remitted to the UK by:

- (1) the person abroad who receives it; or
- (2) the transferor if he receives it from the person abroad outside the UK?

It is considered that income subsequently received in the UK is tax free. Section 743(3) has no equivalent of the s.648 clawback: see 11.9 (The s.648 clawback). The whole purpose of the clawback is to deal with this situation. Michael Flesch QC agrees:

When considering the section 739 liability of a foreign domiciliary in respect of non-UK source income one must test the position either at the time of actual receipt of the income in question by the non-resident entity or, at latest, at the end of the year of assessment in which the income arises to the non-resident entity. There is in my view nothing

25 There may of course be a charge under the s.648 clawback in these circumstances.

in section 739 itself, or in section 743(3), that tells us that a subsequent remittance of that income can affect the situation.²⁶

At first sight it seems an attractive argument that the Court should apply a purposive construction and hold that s.743(3) imposes a charge in these circumstances. One would construe s.743(3) to read:

An individual who is domiciled outside the UK shall not be chargeable to tax in respect of any income deemed to be his by virtue of that section if *and so long as* he would not, by reason of his being so domiciled, have been chargeable to tax in respect of it if it had in fact been his income.

It would follow that s.648 clawback is otiose but this is not a fatal objection. The true objection is that this purposive argument wrongly assumes that the purpose of Parliament is to impose a charge on a remittance by the person abroad who receives the foreign income.²⁷ But on reflection that is a pretty daft state of affairs, for the reasons given in 11.11 (Critique of s.648 clawback).

13.15.1 *Tax planning for foreign income within section 739 foreign domicile defence*

In summary:

- (1) Capital may be remitted.
- (2) A foreign domiciliary may use income within s.739 abroad to meet his foreign expenditure.
- (3) He may use the income to make a gift. If the gift is completed abroad, the donee may remit the income without any charge. However, a gift to a spouse would not count for this purpose: see s.742(9)(a).

²⁶ *GITC Review* Vol 1 Issue 2 p.13 accessible www.taxbar.com.

²⁷ “Quite often the benefits of a ‘purposive’ approach are illusory, since the purpose which is used as a point of reference reflects the contention of one or other of the parties about what the words ought to mean”: *Chan Chi-hung v The Queen* [1996] AC 442 at 452.

- (4) Income from a source which has ceased to exist may also be remitted.

13.16 Comparison of interaction of s.624 ITTOIA and s.739 ICTA

See 11.22 (Comparison of interaction of ss.624 and 739)

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

TRANSFER OF ASSETS ABROAD: SECTION 740

14.1 Introduction

Section 740 ICTA comes into effect if two sets of conditions are satisfied. The first set is the three “transfer of asset” conditions.¹

The second set of conditions is found in s.740(1)(b) and is easier to follow if set out in separate limbs:

- [1] an individual ordinarily resident in the UK
- [2] who is not liable to tax under section 739 by reference to the transfer
- [3] receives a benefit
- [4] provided out of assets which are available for the purpose
- [5] in consequence of the transfer or of any associated operations.

14.2 Ordinary residence at time of receipt of benefit

Section 740 only applies if the individual is ordinarily resident at the time he receives the benefit. If he receives a benefit but is not ordinarily

1 Found in s.740(1)(a):

“by virtue or in consequence of a transfer of assets, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations, income becomes payable to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK.”

See 12.2 (Transfer of asset conditions).

In this book I only consider the situation where the person abroad (the person resident or domiciled outside the UK to whom income becomes payable) is a non-resident trust or company. Where the transfer of asset conditions are satisfied, and the motive defence and s.739 do not apply, I describe this trust or company as being “within section 740”.

resident at that time there is no charge under s.740 in relation to that benefit.

It might be possible to have the status of non-UK resident but at the same time be ordinarily resident in the UK. A benefit received by such a person is within the scope of s.740. But for convenience I shall refer below to a non-resident individual as outside the scope of s.740, and leave “ordinary” residence to be understood.

Suppose:

- (1) Year 1: B is ordinarily resident in the UK. Relevant income arises but B receives no benefit, so there is no s.740 charge.
- (2) Year 2: B is not ordinarily resident in the UK, but he receives a benefit.

There is no charge under s.740 in relation to this benefit, and this remains the case even if B later becomes UK resident again.

Now reverse the facts:

- (1) Year 1: B is not ordinarily resident in the UK and relevant income arises.
- (2) Year 2: B is ordinarily resident in the UK and receives a benefit.

The benefit is in principle² subject to tax by reference (if need be) to the relevant income of year 1.

Now suppose:

- (1) Year 1: B is ordinarily resident in the UK and receives a benefit. However, there is no “relevant income” (no income arises at all or it has all been distributed) so the benefit is not subject to tax under s.740.
- (2) Year 2: B is not UK resident or ordinarily resident but “relevant income” arises.

² Assume that the s.740 foreign domicile defence does not apply.

The benefit is in principle treated as income of B in year 2. It is arguable that this deemed income is not subject to tax by virtue of the implied territorial limitation of UK taxation; see 6.5 (Situs of source). The position is not clear however.

14.3 Transferor's s.740 defence

Section 740 does not apply if the individual who receives the benefit is

liable to tax under section 739 by reference to the transfer.

(s.740(1)(b)[2])

I refer to this as the transferor's s.740 defence.

14.3.1 *UK resident foreign domiciled transferor*

HMRC say (RI 201):

A non-UK domiciled individual who transfers assets but is outside the charge to tax under Section 739 by virtue of the provisions of Section 743(3),³ is not assessed under Section 740.

The reason is this. Section 743(3) provides that a transferor who qualifies for the s.739 foreign domicile defence is not *chargeable* to tax under s.739. Such a person is nevertheless regarded as being "*liable* to tax under s.739 by reference to the transfer", within the meaning of s.740(1)(b)[2]. This is because a distinction is drawn between "chargeable" and "liable".⁴

This view is also supported by the title of s.740 ("Liability of non-

3 See 13.15 (s.739 foreign domicile defence).

4 This might not seem to accord with the natural meaning of those words; but it is consistent with the generally accepted view that a charity within the charity exemption is "liable" but not "subject to" tax for the purposes of DTTs; see *Venables & Kessler on the Taxation of Charities*, 5th ed., Chapter 13 (DTTs & charities). *Stonor v IRC* [2001] STC (SCD) 199 might be cited against this view but a Special Commissioners' decision on other provisions, arguably obiter, and not fully argued, should not count for much.

transferors”).⁵ Whatever the reason, this is a sensible result. There is no need to apply s.740 to a transferor to whom s.739 applies. The application of s.739 gives HMRC all they should need.

14.3.2 *Transferor not ordinarily resident when transfer made, before 26 November 1996*

It has never been a requirement of s.740 that the transferor was resident at the time of the transfer, but this was a requirement of s.739 until 1996.⁶ RI 201 provides:

Similarly, a transferor of assets who is outside the charge to tax under Section 739 in respect of income arising before 26 November 1996 through being not ordinarily resident in the UK at the time of the transfer, is not assessed under Section 740.

This is looking at a transferor “T” (wherever domiciled) who:

- (1) is not UK ordinarily resident when he made the transfer;
- (2) later becomes UK ordinarily resident before 26 November 1996.

T was not taxed under s.739 until 26 November 1996. I refer to income arising before that date as “pre-1996 income”. If T receives a benefit after 26 November 1996⁷ he is not taxed under s.740. This is right because the transferor’s s.740 exemption does not apply to *income* “liable to tax under s.739”. It applies to an *individual* “liable to tax under s.739”. In the example, T (once ordinarily resident and after 26 November 1996) becomes an individual who is “liable to tax under s.739”. This is something of a windfall for T, but of course non-transferors may be taxed as the pre-1996 income is relevant income.

5 Another argument would be that a transferor who qualifies for the s.739 foreign domicile defence remains “liable to tax under s.739” because of the possibility of a charge under that section if the income is remitted to the UK. But the better view is that there is no charge on that remittance.

6 See 13.7.2 (Transferor not ordinarily resident when transfer made).

7 I need not now consider the position if the benefit was received before 26 November 1996 but the result was probably the same.

14.3.3 *Transferor not ordinarily resident at other times*

RI 201 does not address the situation where T is outside the scope of s.739 only because he is not ordinarily resident for a period. For instance, if:

- (1) T is ordinarily resident when he makes the transfer;
- (2) T is non-resident for a period (“the non-resident period”);
- (3) T returns to the UK.

The reasoning above shows that on these facts T is also outside s.740; he qualifies for the s.740 transferor’s defence in relation to income of the non-resident period.

14.3.4 *Spouse of transferor*

Section 742(9)(a) provides:

a reference to an individual shall be deemed to include the wife or husband of the individual.

Accordingly the spouse of the transferor also qualifies for the transferor’s s.739 defence. This only applies during the life of the transferor as a widow/er is not a “spouse”.⁸

14.4 “Benefit”⁹

The word “benefit” is used for two main purposes in the transfer of asset provisions:

- (1) Section 740 applies if the individual receives a “benefit” and the charge is by reference to the amount or value of that benefit.

⁸ On the meaning of “spouse” see 32.2.1 (Meaning of spouse).

⁹ The word “benefit” is used in many areas of law. The discussion in Venables, *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th ed., on the meaning of “benefit” for the purposes of s.87 TCGA is relevant here; likewise *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, 7th ed., para. 12.10 (Settlor exclusion clause).

- (2) The word “benefit” is used three times in the definition of “power to enjoy” which is relevant to s.739.

It is well established that “benefit” is a word of wide import. There are no express valuation provisions,¹⁰ so the value of a benefit means market value.

Section 742(9)(c) states that “benefit” includes a payment of any kind. “Payment” strictly means payment of money, though the context here suggests that the word means transfer of assets. But whatever payment means here, it is difficult to think of a payment which is not a “benefit” in the ordinary sense of the word which becomes a “benefit” by virtue of the definition.

14.4.1 *Benefit and arm’s length bargains*

A bargain for which the individual gives full consideration (e.g. a sale to or from a trust or company within section 740) is not a “benefit” in the normal sense.¹¹ Is it deemed to be a “benefit” by virtue of the definition? If it is, it makes no difference in s.740 because the value of the benefit is nil.

What if the parties act at arm’s length and have no gratuitous intent but owing to some mistake the individual gives less than full consideration? This is not a benefit¹² in the normal sense. It is arguable that the definition makes this a benefit for s.740 purposes, but the better view is that this is not the case.

The definition goes back to 1936, whereas s.740 was introduced in 1981. So the original drafter had in mind the use of the word “benefit” in the s.739 context (definition of power to enjoy), not s.740. At first sight it is difficult to see the purpose of the definition in that context. The 1936 Notes on Clauses state that the purpose was that capital payments as well as income payments would be taken into account.

10 Contrast the elaborate valuation rules for employee benefits; this is another manifestation of the patchwork nature of IT.

11 This is self-evident; but if authority is needed, see *IRC v Lactagol* 35 TC 230 and *Wilson v Clayton* [2005] STC 157.

12 *Wilson v Clayton* [2005] STC 157 decided that this is not a benefit for the purposes of employment-related benefits. Note the reference to arm’s length transactions in the passage from *Cooper* cited at 14.4.7 (Benefit under terms of trust); the same should apply for s.740.

14.4.2 *Receipt or sale of equitable interest*

RI 201 states:

For the purposes of Section 740(1)(b) a benefit is treated as not including

- [1] either the giving¹³ of a life interest to a beneficiary or
- [2] the receipt by a beneficiary of the proceeds of selling a life interest.

Point [1] (conferring a life interest) is not a benefit if the interest is revocable (or else the value of the benefit is nil).¹⁴ If the interest is not revocable, then its receipt is a benefit, but this is still outside the scope of s.740 because such a benefit is not “provided out” of trust assets, and to tax such a benefit is outside the scheme of the Act.

Point [2] (receipt of proceeds of sale of a life interest) is outside the scope of s.740 for those reasons, because a sale at market value is not a “benefit” to the vendor, or because the value of the “benefit” (if there was one) is zero.¹⁵

Although RI 201 refers to a life interest, the same reasoning must apply to any equitable interest.¹⁶

The same reasoning applies on the sale of shares or securities in a company within s.740.

14.4.3 *Interest-free loan and enjoyment of asset in kind*

RI 201 continues:

13 “Giving” a life interest is layman’s language. The term must include the conferring of a life interest by exercise of a power of appointment. Presumably it also includes the conferring of a life interest by exercise of a power of advancement or re-settlement.

14 A similar conclusion was reached by the Special Commissioners in the context of (what is now) s.201 ITEPA: *Dextra Accessories v Macdonald* [2003] STC 749. The point was not appealed.

15 The drafter of FA 1984 Sch 14 para. 5(4) reached the same conclusion for the purpose of what is now s.87 TCGA.

16 On a sale of an equitable interest, watch:

- (1) CGT on the disposal of the interest; and
- (2) TCGA Schedule 4A.

On the planning possibilities, see 14.35.2 (Sale of equitable interest scheme).

But it [“benefit”] is otherwise treated as including all benefits taken into account in determining whether an individual has power to enjoy income for the purposes of Section 739. It therefore includes for example receipt of a loan at less than a commercial rate of interest, and the use of trust property at less than an open market rental.

Interest-free loans and use of property at less than full rent are benefits within s.740: *Cooper v Billingham* 74 TC 139. On valuation of that benefit: see “Loans to Beneficiaries of Offshore Trusts – The Value of the Benefit”, David Williams, OTPR Vol 1, issue 3, p.35 and *IRC v Botnar* [1998] STC at p.81–85.

14.4.4 *Loan (not to life tenant): interest paid at commercial rate*

A simple way of avoiding s.740 is:

- (1) to make a loan at a market rate of interest;
- (2) if appropriate;
, provide the beneficiary with funds to pay the interest; and
- (3) the beneficiary pays the interest.

Take care that the interest does not have a UK source,¹⁷ and watch *Furniss v Dawson*. The same can be done for the use of property in kind provided the property is not in the UK.

14.4.5 *Loan (not to life tenant): interest rolled up*

What if interest at a commercial rate is rolled up unpaid? There is no income tax charge on unpaid interest: *Dewar v IRC* 19 TC 361. In principle there is no benefit (and so no tax charge under s.740). However, if the intention is that the interest will never be paid, the provision for payment of interest is a sham and ineffective for tax purposes. There are many trust law issues: do the trustees have power to make the loan? Unwinding the arrangement after the death of the beneficiary needs careful thought.

17 See 6.16 (Situs of source of interest).

14.4.6 *Interest bearing loan to life tenant*

It is impossible to have an interest bearing loan to a life tenant, under a transparent *Baker* type¹⁸ trust, because a person cannot pay interest to himself. Accordingly one cannot avoid a charge on a benefit in kind by purporting to charge interest regularly whether the “interest” is purportedly paid¹⁹ or purportedly rolled up.²⁰ It would be different if interest was payable after the death of the life tenant or if the loan was issued at a discount instead of at interest.

14.4.7 *Benefit to which a beneficiary becomes entitled under terms of trust*

Suppose:

- (1) A beneficiary is entitled to trust property absolutely subject to satisfying some contingency (e.g. attaining the age of 25).
- (2) The contingency is satisfied (the beneficiary reaches 25 and becomes entitled to the trust property).

There is a “capital payment” for the purposes of the CGT offshore beneficiary provisions: see section 97(2) TCGA. There is no equivalent provision in the transfer of asset rules. However, it is suggested that the beneficiary does receive a “benefit”²¹ and the value of the “benefit” is equal to the value of the trust property. The concepts of “value” and

18 It might be different if the trust was a non-transparent *Garland* type trust. See 6.18 (Income from IP type trusts).

19 Even if the parties go through a ceremony under which:

- (1) the life tenant pays “interest” to the trustees; and
- (2) the trustees return it to the life tenant.

Even if the parties do this there is no IT charge on the “interest”: *Styles v New York Assurance* 2 TC 460.

20 However, if interest accrues unpaid and the life tenant dies, the position alters and outstanding interest becomes payable to the trust (unless Apportionment Act 1870 principles apply, which will be rare).

21 It is generally agreed that repayment of an interest-free loan is a benefit for the purposes of s.624 ITTOIA. (The point was conceded in *Jenkins v IRC* 26 TC 295 and the concession was held to be correct in *Wachtel v IRC* 46 TC 543. The issue remains (just) arguable in the Court of Appeal.) However, these cases did not have to consider what was the value of the benefit.

“benefit” can (just) be stretched wide enough to support this conclusion²² and any other view would be inconsistent with the scheme of the provisions. This view is supported by *Cooper v Billingham* 74 TC 139 para 39:

The whole scheme of the legislation requires the Court to see what benefit a beneficiary actually receives, in cash or in kind, otherwise than as income or under an arm’s-length transaction. Any pre-existing beneficial interest belonging to the beneficiary is irrelevant. The Judge dealt with this point shortly²³ but there was no need for him to say more.

14.4.8 *Benefit on liquidation or redemption of shares or securities*

A similar point arises where:

- (1) A shareholder holds shares in a company within s.740.
- (2) The shareholder receives assets of the company on the liquidation of the company or on the redemption of its shares.

It is arguable that the shareholder does not receive a “benefit” since he merely receives the property to which he is entitled in the liquidation or redemption; or (which comes to the same thing) that the value of the “benefit” is nil. After all, a sale of the shares would not be a benefit, and is commercially very similar. And no-one would say that there is a benefit for the purposes of the income tax benefit in kind rules. However, once again, the better view, consistent with the scheme of the Act, is that the receipt of funds from the company is a “benefit” for the purposes of s.740. Similar points apply on the redemption of debt securities.

14.4.9 *Reimbursement of tax under statutory indemnity*

HMRC accept that the reimbursement of tax under a statutory indemnity

22 Contrast *R v Allen* [2000] 1 Cr App R(s) 497, where the Court of Appeal stretched the word in a comparable way in order to uphold a confiscation order. This view also gains (slender) support from the definition of “benefit” but it is not necessary to rely on that.

23 The Judge said: “...the recipient’s existing interest under the trust has to be left out of the calculation for the purpose of valuing the benefit ...”, 74 TC at p 155.

such as s.646 ITTOIA or paragraph 6 Sch. 5 TCGA is not a benefit: see SP 5/92 para.8.²⁴ HMRC have suggested that this does not apply if the reimbursement is made before the settlor has paid the tax for which he seeks reimbursement. But it is submitted that there is never a benefit (or the value of the benefit is nil) when trustees pay a sum to a settlor in a *bona fide* settlement of a claim or prospective claim for reimbursement.

14.4.10 *Benefit of use of asset owned jointly by individual and person abroad*

On this topic see 34.20 (Co-ownership defence).

14.4.11 *Benefit under Court Order in divorce proceedings*

A court sometimes orders a trust or company within s.740 to transfer property to the spouse (“W”) of the settlor and principal beneficiary (“H”). Assume that the parties are acting at arm’s length, which will normally be the case.

If the transfer is under a consent order, HMRC take the view (which is in fact highly questionable) that the transfer is made for actual consideration. If that is correct (and HMRC cannot argue otherwise), then there is no benefit to W (or the value of the benefit is nil). If the transfer is not under a consent order, there is no consideration for it.²⁵ Here too it is suggested there is no benefit. Even though there is no consideration (a contract law concept) the spouse does not gain anything. She merely receives what the court finds she is entitled to. For similar reasons H does not receive any benefit from the transfer either. The scheme of the legislation does not require “benefit” to be given an extended meaning. In any event, the benefit is not received in consequence of the transfer and associated operations. There is further argument if needed. The court only has power to make an order against H. It has no power to make the order against the trust.²⁶ In making the order, the court is effectively deciding that the trust or company within s.740 does not exist. On that basis it is impossible for there to be a charge under s.740 (or of course under s.87 TCGA). If this were wrong the benefit is as much a benefit to

24 In practice this is more of an issue for CGT than for s.740.

25 *G v G* [2002] EWHC 1339 [2003] Fam Law 14. HMRC accept this: RI 260.

26 There is a separate power for nuptial settlements, but I assume that power is not exercised.

H as a benefit to W; the fact that it is unclear which of H or W receives the benefit strongly suggests there is no benefit.

14.5 Who is the recipient of a benefit?

It is important to identify the recipient of a benefit because the individual who receives the benefit is the one who is taxable. It is especially important where some beneficiaries are and others are not UK resident or domiciled, because then the identity of the recipient may affect not only who pays the tax but whether any tax is payable at all.

For CGT purposes, the concept of “receipt” is explained by s.97(5) TCGA.²⁷ There is no statutory equivalent here but it is suggested that the same rules apply: s.97(5) is merely an explanation of the natural meaning of “receipt”.

Suppose trustees pay school fees for an individual’s minor children. The children receive the benefit. The parent merely receives an intangible, non-financial advantage which is not a “benefit” for the purposes of s.740. Where the parent is under a direct legal obligation to maintain and pay school fees for his children (such as may arise on a divorce or in other family law proceedings) there is a “benefit” to the individual but the benefit is outside the scope of s.740 because it is merely incidental.²⁸ It is suggested that the same analysis applies where a house is provided to a life tenant who then allows his spouse (or partner or children) to live there. The indirect benefit which the spouse (or partner or children) receive is not a “benefit” for the purposes of s.740, or, alternatively, it is not one which is provided “in consequence of the transfer or any associated operations”.

Where a married or unmarried couple of mixed domicile are both beneficiaries under a trust, there is scope for tax saving by arranging that the non-domiciled beneficiary receives the benefit (and so can qualify for

27 “For the purposes of sections 86A to 90 ... a capital payment shall be regarded as received by a beneficiary from the trustees of a settlement if—

- (a) he receives it from them directly or indirectly, or
- (b) it is directly or indirectly applied by them in payment of any debt of his or is otherwise paid or applied for his benefit, or
- (c) it is received by a third person at the beneficiary’s direction.”

28 Similar issues arise in relation to a settlor exclusion clause which prevents trustees from applying property for the “benefit” of the settlor, and the authorities are reviewed in *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, 7th ed., para. 12.10.

the s.740 foreign domicile exemption). The trust documentation in these circumstances is very important.

A similar issue arises where a benefit (say, cash) is given to A and A of his own free will passes the benefit to B. In these circumstances B certainly receives a benefit: the only issue is whether he has received it in consequence of the transfer and associated operations: as to which see 12.8 (Causation).

14.6 Benefit received indirectly

Not every benefit that an individual receives falls within s.740. The second set of s.740 conditions²⁹ requires that an individual:

- [3] receives a benefit
- [4] provided out of assets which are available for the purpose³⁰
- [5] in consequence of the transfer or of any associated operations.

Does limb [5] govern limb [3] or limb [4]? Or both? That is, does it refers to an individual who:

- [3] receives a benefit in consequence of the transfer or any associated operations
- [4] provided out of assets which are available for the purpose

Or does it refer to an individual who:

- [3] receives a benefit
- [4] provided out of assets which are available for the purpose in consequence of the transfer or any associated operations

Or does it refer to an individual who:

- [3] receives a benefit in consequence of the transfer or any associated operations
- [4] provided out of assets which are available for the purpose in consequence of the transfer or any associated operations

29 See 14.1 (Introduction).

30 This must mean, for the purpose of providing benefits to the individual.

It is the familiar problem of an sentence overloaded with subsidiary clauses, something to which the drafter of the transfer of asset provisions was particularly inclined.³¹ Grammar does not provide an answer: the solution must be found (if at all) from context. I am inclined to think it does not make much if any difference since the three readings overlap; the plastic expression “in consequence of” will bring the same result wherever it is placed.

14.6.1 *Benefit to B1 used by B1 to benefit B2*

Suppose:

- (1) A discretionary trust within s.740 has accumulated relevant income.
- (2) A beneficiary (“B1”), receives a trust asset (“B1’s asset”). Although B1 receives a benefit assume B1 does not pay tax under s.740 because he is non-resident, or qualifies for the s.740 foreign domicile defence.³²
- (3) B1 then (independently and not as part of a prior arrangement) gives the asset to another beneficiary³³ (“B2”) who is UK resident.

B2 has received a benefit, but is not subject to tax under s.740. This must be the case if steps (2) and (3) are many years apart. Any other rule would be absurd. It is necessarily part of the scheme of s.740 that when one beneficiary (“B1”) receives a benefit, and uses the benefit to benefit another (“B2”) only the first benefit counts. Otherwise what should be regarded in economic reality as a single benefit may give rise to a series of tax charges as it passes from one beneficiary to another and to

31 Compare “My client has discussed your proposal to fill the draining ditch with his partners”: *State of the Language*, ed Leonard & Ricks, 1980.

32 Although strictly the position of B2 is the same even if B1 is taxed on his benefit, either as a capital benefit under s.740 or as an income benefit under ITTOIA.

33 If B1 transfers the asset to a person (“C”) who is not a beneficiary of the trust (in the sense that trust income cannot be used to benefit C) then C cannot be subject to tax under s.740 as there is no relevant income in relation to C. But in a common form discretionary trust there is power to add any beneficiary in the world; this means that trust income is relevant income in relation to every person in the world (whether or not they are “Beneficiaries” identified specifically as such in the trust deed).

another.³⁴ But why is this the case?

Assume for the sake of argument that B1's asset is "available for the purpose" (of benefiting B2).³⁵ The answer is in the causation test implied in the words "in consequence of". Either:

- (1) the benefit is not provided in consequence of the transfer; or
- (2) the assets are not available for the purpose in consequence of the transfer.

"The transfer" is the gift to the trust by the settlor. True, the benefit may not have been provided (and the assets may not have been available) *but for* that earlier transfer. However, the only true cause that the benefit is provided (and that the asset is "available") is in consequence of B1's independent decision to benefit B2. An independent act by B1 will break the chain of causation.³⁶

Consider a trust where the settlor is a beneficiary and the settlor wishes to make a payment to another beneficiary, not the settlor. A direct payment from the trustees to that beneficiary may be within the scope of s.740. In that case the solution may be to make regular payments to the settlor who may subsequently and independently make a gift to the beneficiary.

14.7 Transfers between settlements

Section 90 TCGA provides a code dealing with transfers between settlements for the purposes of section 87 TCGA. This is needed because "trust gains" are computed by reference to "settlements". Each settlement has a notional amount of "trust gains".

Section 740 by contrast has no such need. Relevant income is *not* computed in relation to settlements. It is computed in relation to individuals.

Suppose:

- (1) A trust ("trust A") within s.740 has accumulated relevant income.

34 Assume there is sufficient relevant income.

35 This may itself be questionable.

36 The argument is the same as in 12.11 (Person abroad receives income indirectly).

- (2) Trust A transfers funds (“the transferred funds”) to a new UK trust on similar terms (“trust B”).
- (3) A beneficiary (“X”) receives a benefit from trust B out of the transferred funds.

The transfer from trust A to trust B is an operation associated with the earlier transfer to trust A. X has received a benefit and the benefit is provided in consequence of the transfer.³⁷ So X is taxed under s.740.

Suppose trust B was an established trust with a trust fund (“fund B”). If X receives a benefit from fund B he is not taxable under s.740 because that fund is not available in consequence of the transfer of assets to trust A.

It follows that a transfer between settlements will not in principle avoid s.740 charge. There is no reason why it should (except a misconceived analogy with s.90 TCGA).

14.8 Benefit chargeable to IT defence

Section 740 does not apply if the benefit is:

otherwise chargeable to income tax in the hands of the recipient.

(Section 740(2))

I refer to this as the “benefit chargeable to IT defence”.

It is considered that unremitted foreign income of a UK resident foreign domiciled individual is “chargeable” to income tax for this purpose. Before ITTOIA this was reasonably clear because ICTA drew a distinction between a “charge” and a “computation” and unremitted income was “chargeable” even though ignored in the computation of the charge. This question arises in a variety of situations where an individual receives foreign income and the s.740 foreign domicile defence does not apply.

³⁷ Or (if this is the test) the benefit is provided out of assets available for the purpose in consequence of the transfer of assets and associated operation.

14.8.1 *Unremitted income and non-excluded relevant income*

Suppose:

- (1) A discretionary trust within s.740 receives UK source income (or both UK and foreign source income).
- (2) A UK resident foreign domiciled beneficiary (“B”) receives income (“unremitted foreign trust income”) from the trust.

B is potentially taxable on the unremitted foreign trust income but assume the income is not remitted, so no tax is due.

Can HMRC argue that B is subject to tax on the unremitted foreign trust income under s.740?³⁸ The answer is, no, because the income is a benefit “otherwise chargeable to income tax”. By contrast, if B had received capital instead of income from the same trust, he would have been subject to tax on the benefit under s.740!

Of course, the word “chargeable” (like all words) takes its meaning from the context. So perhaps here HMRC may argue that unremitted foreign income is not “chargeable” to income tax, so it is within the scope of s.740. However, there is no need to apply s.740 in a situation where the ordinary remittance basis regime applies. The RFI remittance basis regime gives HMRC all they should need.³⁹ So it is considered that unremitted foreign income received by a UK resident individual is taxable, if at all, under ordinary principles and cannot be chargeable under s.740. This result is consistent with the transferor’s s.740 defence: s.739 applies to the exclusion of s.740: see 14.3 (Transferor’s s.740 defence). Anti-avoidance provisions, like hypotheses, should not be multiplied unnecessarily.

38 The s.740 foreign domicile defence is not in point because the trustees have received UK source relevant income: see 14.30 (Section 740 foreign domicile defence).

39 A further objection to this HMRC argument is that there may be a double charge to tax:

- (1) Tax under s.740 on receipt of the unremitted foreign trust income.
- (2) Tax under general principles when the foreign trust income was later remitted to the UK.

Arguably, s.744 provides relief here: see 15.5 (s.744 relief).

14.8.2 *Benefit remitted without remittance basis charge*

The same issue arises where B receives income in specie in the form of chattels, which are received in or brought to the UK. There is no tax charge under the RFI remittance basis until the chattels are sold.⁴⁰ The benefit is nevertheless “chargeable to tax” so s.740 does not apply.

The same issue arises in the situation where:

- (1) a discretionary trust within s.740 receives only foreign source income;
- (2) B receives income (unremitted foreign trust income) from the trust.

B is not subject to tax on the unremitted foreign trust income because the income is unremitted. B is not subject to tax under s.740 because of (1) the benefit chargeable to IT defence and (2) the s.740 foreign domicile defence. At this stage it does not matter which defence applies. Suppose however:

- (3) the trust comes to an end and the income is remitted in a subsequent tax year.

There is still no charge under the RFI remittance basis because the source ceasing rule applies. The benefit is now received in the UK so the s.740 foreign domicile defence ceases to apply.⁴¹ Could there be a charge under s.740? It is considered that the benefit was “chargeable to income tax” so s.740 does not apply.

14.9 Charge limited to lower of value of benefit and “relevant income”

Section 740(2) provides:

... the amount or value of any such benefit ... shall—

- (a) to the extent to which it falls within the amount of *relevant income* of years of assessment up to and including the year of assessment in which the benefit is received, be treated for all the purposes of the

40 See 7.25.1 (Dividend of chattel in specie).

41 See 14.32 (Receipt of asset outside UK and subsequent remittance).

Income Tax Acts as the income of the individual for that year and be charged to income tax on that individual for that year;

- (b) to the extent to which it is not by virtue of this subsection treated as his income for that year and falls within the amount of relevant income of the next following year of assessment, be treated for those purposes as his income for the next following year and be charged to income tax on him for that year,

and so on for subsequent years ...

In short, where an individual receives a benefit s.740 imposes a charge on the lesser of:

- (1) the value of the benefit; and
- (2) the amount of “relevant income” of years of assessment up to and including the year in which the benefit is received. Although the subsection does not say so, it clearly means relevant income in relation to that individual.

Contrast s.739, which imposes a charge on the whole of the income accruing to the person abroad.

14.10 Relevant income: definition

“Relevant income” is a central but perplexing concept. The absence of litigation on the subject is because HMRC have in practice generally applied s.740 in a way which leads to a sensible result. Section 740(3) provides the definition:

... the relevant income of a year of assessment, in relation to an individual, is any income which

- [a] arises in that year to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK and
- [b] which by virtue or in consequence of the transfer or associated operations referred to in subsection (1) above can directly or indirectly be used
 - [i] for providing a benefit for the individual or

[ii] for enabling a benefit to be provided for him.⁴²

(Sub-paragraphing added)

The condition in limb [a], income arising to an individual, is the same as s.739; see 12.4 (Income becomes payable to person abroad).

The term is not “relevant income” (in isolation). It is relevant income *in relation to an individual*. There may be relevant income in relation to anyone in the world (e.g. income of a discretionary trust with a power to benefit anyone in the world). There may be relevant income in relation to A which is not relevant income in relation to B (e.g. income of a discretionary trust under which A can benefit and B cannot). In this book, for ease of exposition, I do sometimes refer just to “relevant income” and leave the words “in relation to the individual” to be understood. One should only take that shortcut where the context is clear.

14.11 Capital receipts deemed to be income, policies and offshore funds

See:

- (1) 12.13 (Capital receipts deemed to be income).
- (2) 20.5 (Non-resident company).
- (3) 21.8 (Non-resident trust holding offshore funds).

14.12 Stock dividend received by offshore trust

Suppose non-resident trustees receive a stock dividend from a UK company. In that case “income is *treated* as arising to the trustees”; see s.410(3) ITTOIA. The amount is certainly “income” for the purposes of s.740, but the better view is that it is not “relevant income”. The amount is fictional so one cannot say that it “can” be applied for the benefit of any beneficiaries. The shares issued in the stock dividend can be used for that purpose, but they are not the same income. The distinction between a gain and an amount equal to the gain is one on which HMRC insist in a DTT

42 The words in [b][ii] are so obviously otiose that one must reluctantly conclude that the drafter did not care much about his use of language.

context;⁴³ here the distinction between the stock dividend shares and the fictional income is similar but clearer.

14.13 Is income of life tenant “relevant income”?

Consider an interest in possession trust: one where the trust income is payable to a beneficiary (“the life tenant”).

If the life tenant is UK domiciled and resident, the trust income is not relevant income because it does not meet the condition in s.740(3)[a]. It does not arise to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK.

If the life tenant is not UK domiciled then the condition in s.740(3)[a] is satisfied. Nevertheless, the trust income is not relevant income because it is distributed, see 14.19 (Income of discretionary trust distributed to beneficiary in tax year in which it arises).⁴⁴

There is nothing surprising in this conclusion: there is no need for s.740 in these circumstances, and one would not expect it to apply. If it did apply there could be double taxation – the life tenant being taxed on the income as he receives it, and on other benefits (if he receives any) to the value of the relevant income.

14.14 Is trust income within s.624 ITTOIA “relevant income”?

One must consider UK resident and domiciled settlors separately from those who are non-resident or domiciled.

14.14.1 *UK resident and domiciled settlor*

Suppose:

43 See CG Manual para. 34912.

44 Even if that were wrong:

- (1) The trust income is not relevant income in relation to the life tenant. One would not say in ordinary language that the trust income *can* be used for providing a benefit for the life tenant. The income *is* the property of the life tenant.
- (2) The trust income is not relevant income in relation to any other person. Since the income belongs to the life tenant, one cannot say that the income “can” be used for the benefit of anyone else. See 14.16 (Income which “can” be used to benefit another person).

- (1) a non-resident discretionary trust within s.740;
- (2) a UK resident and domiciled settlor “S” has an interest in the trust; and
- (3) all the trust income is accordingly within the scope of s.624 ITTOIA.

Section 624 ITTOIA provides in such a case:

Income which arises under a settlement is treated for Income Tax purposes as the income of the settlor *and of the settlor alone ...*

(Emphasis added)

The trust income is not “relevant income” as it does not meet the condition in s.740(3)[a]: the income is treated by s.624 as accruing to S, so it cannot be regarded as arising to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK. This is so even if S does not actually pay tax due on the income.

14.14.2 *UK resident foreign domiciled settlor*

Now suppose:

- (1) a non-resident discretionary trust within s.740;
- (2) a UK resident but not UK domiciled settlor “S” has an interest in the trust; and
- (3) the trust income is actually subject to tax under s.624 ITTOIA (the s.624 foreign domicile defence does not apply).⁴⁵

In this case the condition in s.740(3)[a] is satisfied since even applying s.624 the income is treated as accruing to S. However, it is submitted that the condition in s.740(3)[b] is not satisfied: if the income is treated as that of S, and of no other person, it is not income which “can be used for providing a benefit” for anybody else. So the income is not “relevant income”.

⁴⁵ See 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence).

The position is different if and to the extent that the s.624 foreign domicile defence applies. Section 624 does not apply to income within that defence: see 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence). Accordingly the trust income can, in principle, be relevant income for s.740.

What happens then if the income is later remitted, so it becomes taxable on S under s.624? It is tentatively suggested that the income retrospectively ceases to be relevant income, so that tax paid under s.740 can be recovered by a beneficiary. In practice this could arise only in fairly unusual circumstances, e.g. where:

- (1) Year 1: a beneficiary (“B”) receives a benefit but does not pay tax as there is no “relevant income”.
- (2) Year 2: foreign source income arises on which the settlor (“S”) is not subject to tax as the foreign domicile exemption for s.624 applies. This is relevant income in relation to B, so B pays tax under s.740.
- (3) Year 3: that income is remitted to the UK, so S pays tax under s.624.

Where s.739 applies (as well as s.624) see 14.15.

14.14.3 *Non-resident settlor*

Suppose now:

- (1) a non-resident discretionary trust within s.740; and
- (2) a non-resident settlor (“S”) has an interest in the trust.

Section 624 does not apply to foreign source trust income: see 11.16 (Non-residence defence to s.648). Accordingly foreign source income may in principle be relevant income.

Section 624 does apply to UK source income. Here too it is submitted that the condition in s.740(3)[b] is not satisfied: if the income is treated as that of S, and of no other person, it is not income which “can be used for providing a benefit” for anybody else. So the income is not “relevant income”.

14.15 Is income within s.739 “relevant income”?

The position is more arguable if income falls within s.739 and not s.624. HMRC say in RI 201:

Where a non-UK domiciled individual transfers assets but is not chargeable to tax under the provisions of s 739 owing to s 743(3), there is no bar in the Revenue’s view on the application of s 740 to others who did not themselves make the transfer but were beneficiaries of it.

In HMRC view the position is the same as in the s.624 case:

- (1) income taxed on the settlor under s.739 is not “relevant income” (this must be right); and
- (2) income within the s.739 foreign domicile defence is “relevant income”.

However, there is a difference between s.624 and s.739. The s.624 foreign domicile defence⁴⁶ states that income within the defence is not “income arising under a settlement”. Such income is therefore entirely outside the scope of s.624. It is not deemed to be the income of the settlor. By contrast, the s.739 foreign domicile defence⁴⁷ merely states that the transferor “shall not be chargeable to tax” in respect of income within the scope of the defence. This does not undo the effect of s.739(2) which provides that the income of the person abroad *is* deemed to be the income of the transferor. It appears at first sight, therefore, that HMRC’s view is incorrect and, where:

- (1) a foreign domiciled individual (“F”) makes a transfer of assets abroad; and
- (2) F is in principle within s.739(2); but
- (3) F is not chargeable to tax under the provisions of s.739 owing to s.743(3),

46 See 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence).

47 See 13.15 (s.739 foreign domicile defence).

the income within s.743(3) cannot be “relevant income” in relation to any beneficiary.

This argument leads to a sensible result. There is no need to apply s.740 to the situation where s.739 applies, because s.739 gives HMRC all the protection they need. It is also consistent with the scheme of s.739, which is to put the transferor in the same position as if no transfer had been made.

If this view is right, UK resident beneficiaries are better off if s.739 applies than if it does not. Where the transferor is UK resident but has no power to enjoy, a loan to him would trigger s.739(3) to the advantage of all concerned. See 13.13 (Transferor receives capital sum).⁴⁸

HMRC may raise this objection: although the income is treated as that of the transferor it also remains the income of the transferee, so it is also relevant income. If the reasoning in *R v Dimsey and Allen* 74 TC 263 is applied, that must be correct. If the Court was sympathetic to the taxpayer, *Dimsey* may perhaps be distinguished. It is tentatively suggested that HMRC’s view is likely to be upheld if challenged on this point.

If that is right, then why is income not relevant income if s.739 applies and the s.739 foreign domicile defence does not apply? The only answer must be s.744 ICTA. But if that is right there is a discretion as to who should be taxed, which is surprising. If there is a s.739 liability which is unpaid, then on this view the income is still “relevant income” because s.744 will not provide relief.

14.16 Income which “can” be used to benefit another person

An essential feature of the definition of “relevant income” in relation to an individual is the condition in s.740(3)[b] that the income “can be used for providing a benefit” for the individual.

“Can”, like most common words, has a variety of meanings, but the meaning here must be:

48 This does not mean that s.740 is entirely irrelevant where s.624 or s.739 applies. Suppose:

- (1) A non-resident trust to which s.739 applies.
- (2) A beneficiary receives a benefit. There is no relevant income in relation to this benefit, so no tax can be charged under s.740 at this stage.
- (3) Suppose, however, the transferor then dies, or becomes non-UK resident, so that s.739 ceases to apply. “Relevant income” may subsequently accrue to the person abroad, and the beneficiary may then be subject to tax by reference to the benefit received earlier.

Expressing a possible contingency; = May possibly.⁴⁹

One might refer to this as “can contingently”.

14.16.1 *Income received by individual*

Of course, any income “can” be used for the benefit of any individual in the world if it is received by a beneficial owner who so directs. That contingency plainly must be ignored or the definition does not work.⁵⁰

14.16.2 *Income received by company owned by individual*

Suppose an individual, T, transfers assets to a non-resident company all the shares of which he owns absolutely. Assume the transfer does not qualify for the motive defence. So long as T remains owner of the company:

- (1) The income of the company is relevant income in relation to T (unless it falls within s.739).

49 *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed. Another meaning of “can” is “to be able; to have the power, ability or capacity”. This meaning applies where one says that a *person* “can” do something. This meaning is not applicable here where the subject of “can” is the income. *Income* does not have any power, ability or capacity: only a *person* does.

50 The issue is not so much the meaning of the word “can”: if income is paid to A it is obvious that it “can” (in the “can contingently” sense of the word) be paid to B if A so directs. The better way to put the issue is: which hypothetical contingencies should be taken into account in order to ask the question whether or not income “can” be used for providing a benefit?

The question is similar to the issue which arises for the purposes of the settlement provisions, whether income “may” be used to benefit the settlor “in any circumstances whatsoever”. These words do not include the possible circumstance that there may be “a mere voluntary application of income by a beneficiary to the settlor”: see *Glyn v IRC* 30 TC 321 at 329. A similar question arose in reverse in *Inglewood v IRC* [1983] STC 133. The question was whether one could say that a beneficiary “will” become entitled to an interest in possession: held that one should ignore the contingency that the beneficiary may not become entitled by virtue of the beneficiary voluntarily assigning the interest to another person.

Another way to reach this conclusion is to say that the words “can be used for providing a benefit for the individual” by implication mean “can *by virtue of or in consequence of the transfer of assets and associated operations* be so used”.

- (2) The income of the company is not relevant income in relation to any other person.

For the position if T later gives the company to a trust, see 14.25 (Is income of a company held by trust “relevant income”?).

14.16.3 *Income of A&M trust only payable to B on remote contingency*

Now consider this quite common type of Accumulation and Maintenance trust, divided into two sub-funds:

- (1) A’s sub-fund: income to be applied for the benefit of A or accumulated; capital to be paid to A at the age of 25; if A dies under 25, the share accrues to B’s share.
- (2) B’s sub-fund is held on similar terms: income to be applied for the benefit of B or accumulated; capital to B at 25 with accrual to A if B dies under 25.

Suppose income is accumulated on A’s sub-fund. It is relevant income in relation to A. Is it relevant income in relation to B? It is payable to B only on the contingency that A dies under 25. It is tentatively suggested that this income is not relevant income in relation to B. One would not, in normal language, say that the income “can” be used to benefit B just because A may die under 25. The contingency is too remote.

If A dies:

- (1) income of A’s sub-fund arising after the death of A is (of course) relevant income in relation to B;
- (2) income of A’s sub-fund arising before the death of A subsequently becomes relevant income in relation to B if the “timing” issue discussed below is correctly answered.

If this is correct, the concept here is not the same as in s.624 ITTOIA, where the issue is whether income “may become payable” to the settlor *in any circumstances whatsoever*. It is reasonable to assume that the drafter of the transfer of assets provisions did not copy the language of the settlement provisions because he wanted a different result. Applying (as

one should) a purposive approach, this is the fair and just result and consistent with the general scheme of s.740. A settlor or transferor has the opportunity to exclude himself completely in a straightforward manner, and is taxed if he fails to do so. A beneficiary (not the settlor/transferor) has no such opportunity. To tax B on income of A's fund (on the facts of the above example) would not be just or fair.⁵¹

14.16.4 *Income of discretionary trust*

Conversely, consider a common form discretionary trust. In principle, all trust income "can" contingently be used to benefit any beneficiary, if the trustees exercise their discretion, and that is a contingency which naturally should be taken into account. Trust income is relevant income in relation to all beneficiaries.

Suppose, however, the trustees (perhaps guided by a letter of wishes) regard the fund as divided into (say) two shares for separate families. There is (assume) no practical possibility that more than one half of the income will be used for one particular beneficiary. There is a faint argument that only one half of the income is relevant income in relation to that beneficiary. HMRC may be more sympathetic than the Courts.

14.17 **When does one ask? – the timing issue**

One must ask whether income "can" be applied for the benefit of an individual. *At what moment in time does one ask this question?*

- (1) It often happens that, at the moment it arises, income can be used to provide a benefit for a person, B, but at a later point in time it cannot be so used; for instance if income of a discretionary trust is:
 - (a) distributed to another individual (not B);
 - (b) transferred to another trust (under which B does not benefit); or

51 Some support can be found in the discussion of 'can' (albeit in a different context) in *Mandla v Dowell Lee* [1983] 2 AC 548 at 565. A similar unfairness does arise for CGT under s.87 TCGA. However, it is at least possible to avoid that by transfers to another settlement.

- (c) retained by the trustees, but on terms under which B cannot benefit.
- (2) The converse also sometimes happens: at the moment it arises income cannot be used to provide a benefit for a person, but at a later time it can be so used; for instance:
- (a) if the person is not born until later;
 - (b) if one share of a trust fund accrues to another share (e.g. on the death of a beneficiary);⁵² or
 - (c) where a company within s.740, wholly owned by A, which has accumulated income during A's ownership, is given to a trust under which B can benefit.

So it is often important to ask at what moment in time one puts the question. I refer to this as “the timing issue”. There are in principle several possible answers:

- (1) the moment that the income arises;
- (2) the moment that the benefit is provided, if later than (1);
- (3) after a “reasonable” period (whatever that might be);
- (4) the end of the tax year in which either (1) or (2) or (3) occurs.
- (5) the earlier or later of some combination of the above.

An important consequence of all solutions except (1) is that trustees of an offshore discretionary trust or company within s.740 would usually have some period of time after income has accrued, during which they may:

- (1) distribute income; or

52 See 14.16.3 (Income only payable to B on remote contingency).

(2) apply the income in the payment of expenses.

Then the income will not be relevant income of the beneficiaries because *at the moment where one asks the question* it is no longer income which “can” be applied for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

14.17.1 *The legislation*

Let us return to s.740(3) ICTA:

... the relevant income *of a year of assessment*, in relation to an individual, is any income which arises *in that year* to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK and which by virtue or in consequence of the transfer or associated operations referred to in subsection (1) above can directly or indirectly be used for providing a benefit for the individual ...

(Emphasis added)

The legislation does not refer to “relevant income” in isolation. It refers to relevant income *of a year of assessment* and this is also the usage of s.740(2). This obviously deals with the situation where:

- (1) an individual receives a benefit in year 1;
- (2) the benefit is not taxed because there is no relevant income in year 1;
- (3) relevant income arises in year 2.

There is only relevant income *of year 2* and so the s.740 charge arises in year 2 and not in year 1. Hence the reference to years of assessment does not answer the timing issue.

Section 740 can be read in two ways:

- (3) ... the relevant income of a year of assessment, in relation to an individual, is any income which arises in that year to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK and which ... can [*at any time in that year* or *at the end of the year*] directly or indirectly be used for providing a benefit for the individual ...

or

(3) the relevant income of a year of assessment, in relation to an individual, is any income which arises in that year to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK and which ... can [*asking the question with the benefit of hindsight at the time which matters, which is the time that the benefit is conferred or that the income arises if later*] directly or indirectly be used for providing a benefit for the individual ...

[words added to the statute in each case]

The first is the more natural reading. The second is a more sensible result. The author tentatively suggests that one looks to the position at the later of:

- (1) the end of the tax year in which the relevant income has accrued, or
- (2) the end of the tax year in which the benefit accrues.

One asks whether *at that time* the income:

can ... be used for providing a benefit for the individual.

This seems to be the most sensible time to ask the question.⁵³ Or perhaps a better way to put it is that one asks the question with the benefit of hindsight, taking into account facts known at the time that the question matters. This approach appears to be accepted by HMRC in practice.

The moment the income arises is not a suitable moment to ask the question. In some cases it is impossible to ascertain the moment at which income arises and all that the tax system attempts is to attribute income to an accounting period or year of assessment.⁵⁴ In other cases it is only possible to ascertain a moment at which income arises, by rules of a

53 I have considered whether any guidance is to be found in the principle that:

“Income Tax is, of course, an annual tax, not only in the sense that it is annually imposed by the Finance Act, but in the sense that it is annual in its structure and organisation.”

The Luipaard's Vlei Estate and Gold Mining Co v IRC 15 TC 573. However, that does not shed much light on the problem.

54 e.g. trading or rental income.

somewhat arbitrary kind.⁵⁵

14.18 Trust and company expenses

HMRC practice is that income used to pay trust or company administration expenses will reduce relevant income. This is consistent with the approach taken above. This applies even to income used for capital expenditure of a trust. This is confirmed by (or at least consistent with) a published exchange of correspondence:

CIOT Letter

...

It would also be helpful if the Revenue could confirm that if the trustees do in fact make a payment to the settlor in response to a request for reimbursement, either under Part XV ICTA or under paragraph 6 of Schedule 5 to TCGA, such a payment would not be regarded as:

- (a) A capital payment for section 87 TCGA purposes;
- (b) Taken into account for section 740(1) ICTA purposes;
- (c) Income of the settlor for Case V Schedule D purposes.

The Revenue's reply

...

Using your lettering ...

- (a) already partly covered by paragraph 8 of SP 5/92;
- (b) *it will reduce the relevant income if paid out of income* but will not be a payment [ie not a benefit];
- (c) confirmed.

(*Taxation Practitioner*, April 1996 p.26, emphasis added)

14.19 Income of discretionary trust distributed to beneficiary as income in tax year in which it arises

Suppose income ("the trust income") accrues to trustees of a discretionary trust within s.740, and is distributed (as income) to a beneficiary, "B1", in the same tax year.

55 e.g. the rules in ss.18–19 ITEPA (When general earnings are received).

14.19.1 *Position of other beneficiaries*

The trust income is not relevant income in relation to any other beneficiary, since the income was distributed to B1. One cannot say that the income “can” be applied for the benefit of anyone else – if the author’s answer to the timing issue is correct. This is significant for the other beneficiaries who receive a benefit within s.740 (whether before or after the year in which the income arises and is distributed). They will not pay tax on the benefit by reference to the distributed income, because it is not relevant income. (They may pay tax on the benefit by reference to other relevant income if there is any.)

14.19.2 *Position of recipient beneficiary*

It is tentatively suggested that the income is not relevant income in relation to B1: it is not income which *can* be used for his benefit; it is income which *is* used for his benefit.⁵⁶ This is significant for B1 if:

- (1) B1 is UK resident but not domiciled, and
- (2) B1 receives a benefit in the UK, and
- (3) the trust income is paid to B1 and not remitted to the UK.

B1 is taxed on the RFI remittance basis on the trust income. He is not taxed on the benefit by reference to the distributed income, because it is not relevant income. (B may pay tax on the benefit by reference to other relevant income if there is any.)

14.20 Income of discretionary trust distributed to beneficiaries as income after the tax year in which it arises

Suppose income accrues to trustees of a discretionary trust, within s.740, and is retained (without being accumulated) in that tax year, but is distributed (as income) to beneficiary B1 in a subsequent year. If:

56 The same argument as 14.13 (Is income of life tenant “relevant income”?) but not so strong.

- (1) a UK resident beneficiary (“B2”) had received benefits in the past, and
- (2) had not paid tax under s.740, for lack of relevant income,

B2 will pay tax under s.740 in the year in which the income arises.

Suppose, however, that there have been no earlier benefits so this is not in point. The position is then the same as in the above paragraph, if the author’s answer to the timing issue is correct:

- (1) The income is not relevant income of B1.
- (2) The income is not relevant income of any other beneficiary.

14.21 Trust income accumulated

14.21.1 Income accumulated and retained on wide discretionary trusts

If trustees of a common form discretionary trust accumulate income, it remains relevant income in relation to all beneficiaries as long as it is retained by the trustees because the trust capital (which represents the income) can be paid or transferred to any beneficiaries.

14.21.2 Income accumulated and retained on narrower trusts

The position would be different if under the terms of the trust:

- (1) B was in the class of beneficiaries to whom income could be paid; but
- (2) B could not benefit in any way from income after it had been accumulated.

Accumulated income would cease to be relevant income in relation to B. This may happen automatically, e.g. a common form of accumulation and maintenance trust provides:

- (1) Income may be used for the benefit of any beneficiary under 25 (“B1”, “B2” or “B3”).
- (2) If not so used, it is accumulated and added to the share of one

particular beneficiary (B1) and can only be used for the benefit of B1 (not B2 or B3).

On receipt the income is relevant income in relation to B1, B2 and B3. After accumulation it is relevant income only in relation to B1.

A similar point arises in relation to a common form discretionary trust. Accumulated income is relevant income in relation to all the beneficiaries. Suppose the trustees exercise their overriding power to exclude B from the accumulated income, not from other trust capital. The income ceases to be relevant income in relation to B. It makes no difference whether this is done in the year of receipt or later.

Similar points arise if the income is transferred to a new trust, or if the income of a company within s.740 is capitalised by the issue of bonus shares.

14.21.3 *Income accumulated but later distributed as income*

It has been suggested that once income is accumulated, it is forever relevant income in relation to all the beneficiaries to whom it could have been paid. Subsequent distribution is irrelevant (unless it gives rise to a s.740 charge). This view gives rise to anomalies:

- (1) Some receipts which are capital for trust law purposes are treated as income for s.740,⁵⁷ and these cannot be “accumulated” in the normal trust sense. It would be odd if they were treated differently from ordinary income for s.740 purposes.
- (2) Income of a company within s.740 cannot be “accumulated” in the trust sense. It would be odd if companies were treated differently from trusts.

For my part I do not see why the formal process of accumulation should by itself make such a difference to the s.740 position. If income of a common form discretionary trust is accumulated, and later distributed as income to B1, it ceases to be relevant income in relation to other beneficiaries. This only applies if the sum distributed is (or represents) the accumulated

57 See 12.13 (Capital receipts deemed to be income).

relevant income. Intractable tracing problems will arise if income is accumulated, mixed with other trust capital, and then distributed to beneficiaries.

14.21.4 *Income accumulated and distributed as capital to beneficiary*

Suppose income of a common form discretionary trust is accumulated and distributed as capital to a beneficiary, B. It is considered that the income ceases to be “relevant income” in relation to any beneficiary including B. However, at the time of the payment it is relevant income in relation to B so that B is in principle subject to tax under s.740 if he is ordinarily resident in the UK. Any other conclusion would be absurd.

14.22 Company income distributed

Suppose a company within s.740 is held by a common form discretionary trust. The company income is distributed and retained by the trustees. It is suggested that s.744 relief prevents the income from counting as relevant income twice over; see 15.9 (s.740 trust/company structure). But if that is wrong, the distributed income ceases to be relevant income so it is not counted twice.

14.23 Distributed income: HMRC view

RI 201 states:

For the purposes of Section 740(3) the measure of “relevant income” is treated as not including such part of the income as has already been genuinely paid away to a beneficiary or to a bona fide charity.

Once relevant income has arisen *and continues to be available to provide a benefit*, it must in the Revenue’s view be carried forward year by year until extinguished by such a benefit, even if it is capitalised in the accounts of the overseas person.

(Emphasis added)

This does not address all the permutations set out above, but it seems to be more consistent with the above than with any other interpretation.

14.24 Distributing income: tax planning

A common strategy is:

- (1) distribute all income (from discretionary trust or underlying company within s.740) to a foreign domiciled settlor;
- (2) the settlor may re-settle the income on the same trusts.

This avoids “relevant income” in the trust or company.⁵⁸ It would be better to have an interest in possession trust so income at the trust level will be distributed automatically. It is doubtful whether *Furniss v Dawson* could apply here, but it is best to avoid provocative circularity.

A variant of this idea is to distribute income to a beneficiary who is not the settlor/transferor, but who is non-resident (or domiciled) and so outside s.740. Watch *Furniss v Dawson* here.

14.25 Is income of company held by a trust “relevant income”?

14.25.1 *Income accruing while company held by trust*

Suppose a trust with a common form power of appointment holds a trust subsidiary company to which s.740 applies.⁵⁹ Income of the company is in principle relevant income in relation to all beneficiaries. It remains so as long as the company retains the income.

14.25.2 *Income accruing to company before company is acquired by trust*

Suppose:

- (1) T owns all the shares of a company within s.740;
- (2) T gives the company to a discretionary or IP trust with a common form power of appointment.

⁵⁸ Also (if relevant) it ensures that the settlor receives the benefit of s.743(4) relief; see 15.3 (s.743(3) relief).

⁵⁹ In practice the motive defence may apply on the transfer to the company; see 16.30 (Transfer from trustees to trust subsidiary).

Income of the company arising after the gift of T is in principle relevant income in relation to the beneficiaries of the trust.

What is the status of income arising before then (“old income”)? HMRC say that old income is also relevant income in relation to all the beneficiaries. HMRC’s argument is simple: at the relevant time (when benefits are received) the old income “can” be used for the benefit of beneficiaries. The tax consequences of this are so severe that one feels it cannot be right, but what is the flaw in the argument?

At the time when the old income accrued to the company, that income “can” *only* be used to benefit T, the sole shareholder, so it is not relevant income in relation to anyone else. After the company has been given to the trust the same income “can” be used to benefit others. That is sufficient to meet the “can” condition, if the author’s answer on the timing issue is correct.

However, it is not enough that income “can” be used to benefit a person. The definition of relevant income requires that the income can be used to benefit an individual:

by virtue or in consequence of the transfer or associated operations referred to in subsection (1)⁶⁰ above.

Now, in this case there are two transfers:

- (1) The transfer of assets to the company.
- (2) The transfer of the shares in the company to the trust (an associated operation).

It is tentatively suggested that where the two transfers are not part of a single arrangement, but entirely independent, one cannot say that the individual can receive any benefit in consequence of the transfer to the company and any associated operation. The individual can receive a benefit in consequence of the transfer to the trust alone. The earlier transfer is not an effective real or operative cause. The reasoning is the same as 12.11.1 (Transfer from A to B followed by transfer from B to

60 There are two references to “associated operations” in subsection (1). The reference here is to the reference to associated operations in section 740(1)(b)[5] (as set out in paragraph 14.1 (Introduction)).

person abroad).

14.26 Individual not a beneficiary when income arises

14.26.1 Beneficiary unborn when income arises

Suppose:

Year 1: a discretionary trust within s.740 receives and accumulates relevant income.

Year 2: a beneficiary is born.

Is the income accumulated in year 1 before the birth “relevant income” in relation to that beneficiary? Robert Venables QC supports the view that it is not.⁶¹ The answer depends on the timing issue. If the author’s view is right, undistributed income accumulated before birth can be relevant income in relation to the newborn beneficiary, and that view does make more sense, having regard to the general scheme of the legislation.

14.26.2 Individual in existence but not a beneficiary when income arises

Suppose:

Year 1: a discretionary trust within s.740 receives and accumulates relevant income. The class of beneficiaries consists of the issue of the settlor and their spouses.

Year 2: an individual marries a beneficiary and so joins the class of beneficiaries.⁶²

Is the income accumulated in year 1 before the marriage “relevant income” in relation to that individual? The answer depends again on the timing issue. If the author’s view is right, undistributed income accumulated

61 *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th ed., para 2.6.5 (Can one avoid the “relevant income” anti-avoidance provisions?).

62 It is assumed there is no power to add beneficiaries so the income could not be applied for the benefit of the individual before the marriage.

before the marriage can be relevant income in relation to the individual. Those who take the view that pre-birth income is not relevant income might consistently take the view that this pre-marriage income is not relevant income. This is not quite a *reductio ad absurdum*, but it is surely a bold view. If necessary, a court would hold that the individual “can” benefit in year 1 because of the contingency that the individual may marry a beneficiary in year 2. See *IRC v Tennant* 24 TC 215. The author’s preferred analysis is perhaps less artificial.

14.26.3 *Beneficiary dead when income arises*

Now suppose the opposite situation:

Year 1: a beneficiary receives a benefit from a trust (which is not taxable for lack of relevant income).

Year 2: the beneficiary dies.

Year 3: relevant income accrues.

Here it is plain that there is no tax charge on the beneficiary. Income cannot be deemed to have accrued to him once he is dead.

The same applies in relation to income which accrues in the tax year of death, but after the death. One cannot say that income accruing after the death of a person “can” be applied for his benefit.

14.27 **Individual excluded from benefit**

Income arising after a former beneficiary is excluded from benefit cannot (on any view) be “relevant income” in relation to that beneficiary. It is not necessary that the beneficiary should be excluded from benefit altogether: just that he is excluded from benefit from the income.

14.28 **Relevant income must relate to the transfer from which the benefit arises (two transfers of assets)**

It is not enough for s.740 that (1) a person receives a benefit and (2) there is relevant income in relation to that beneficiary. Both must relate to the same transfer of assets. In the words of the statute:

(1) This section has effect where—

(a) by virtue or in consequence of a transfer of assets, either alone or in conjunction with associated operations, income becomes payable to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK; and

(b) an individual ordinarily resident in the UK who is not liable to tax under section 739 by reference to *the* transfer receives a benefit provided out of assets which are available for the purpose by virtue or in consequence of *the* transfer or of any associated operations.

(3) ... the relevant income of a year of assessment, in relation to an individual, is any income which arises in that year to a person resident or domiciled outside the UK and which by virtue or in consequence of *the* transfer or associated operations referred to in subsection (1) above can directly or indirectly be used for providing a benefit for the individual or for enabling a benefit to be provided for him.

(emphasis added)

This has important consequences. Suppose:

- (1) A settlor by a single disposition transfers assets to a settlement within s.740.
- (2) Part of the trust fund is invested in assets which yield relevant income.
- (3) Another part of the trust fund consists of a house occupied rent free by a beneficiary.

The beneficiary pays tax on the benefit by reference to the relevant income. By contrast, suppose:

- (1) A settlor by *two* separate transfers creates *two* settlements within s.740:
 - (a) a trust which holds income-producing assets and accumulates “relevant income”; and
 - (b) a trust which holds the family home.
- (2) A beneficiary enjoys the benefit of free occupation in the home.

The beneficiary is not subject to tax under s.740 as there is no “relevant income” in relation to this benefit. Thus the use of two settlements may avoid a tax charge under s.740 which would have arisen if there were one.

Indeed, it is not necessary to use two settlements. The same applies if there are two separate transfers of assets to one settlement.

14.29 Tax and tax credits of actual income of person abroad

This topic is not difficult to understand – at least it does not seem difficult once one has understood it. But it is impossible to summarise briefly. One must bear in mind three separate concepts:

- (1) The actual income of the person abroad.
- (2) “Relevant income” for s.740.
- (3) The income which is deemed to accrue to the UK resident individual who receives a benefit by virtue of s.740 (“s.740 deemed income”).

These must not be confused! The *actual income* of the person abroad is taxed (if at all) under general principles.

Relevant income is not taxed as such: it is merely something to be computed as a part of the process of ascertaining the amount of s.740 deemed income.

Section 740 deemed income is taxed at the lower/basic/higher rates. In practice an individual within s.740 is likely to be taxed on his s.740 deemed income at the higher rate of 40%.

This section considers the complications which arise if the actual income of the person abroad is subject to UK tax or foreign tax. How does this affect the s.740 deemed income? It is necessary to consider separately the position where the person abroad is:

- (1) A discretionary trust.
- (2) Any trust, on the purchase of own shares.
- (3) A company owned by the individual.
- (4) A company owned by a non-resident trust.

14.29.1 *Tax and tax credits of non-resident discretionary trust within s.740*

A non-resident discretionary trust will normally pay tax on its actual UK source income at the rate applicable to trusts. The amount of tax paid reduces the “relevant income” so that if the gross income is £100 and tax is 40%, the relevant income is reduced to £60. However, s.740 makes no further allowance for a beneficiary. So if a beneficiary receives a benefit of £60, taxable under s.740, he pays tax at the rate of 40% on the £60. The effective rate of tax on the actual income of the person abroad is therefore 64%. Section 744 ICTA probably does not help. It would be much better if the beneficiary received an income receipt from the trust.⁶³ Then s.740 would not apply⁶⁴ and instead the beneficiary will effectively obtain some credit for the UK tax paid by the offshore trust under the regime of sections 686, 687 ICTA.⁶⁵

The same point applies where the income accruing to the offshore trustees is subject to foreign tax which can qualify for double taxation relief in the UK under ESC B18. It is best to arrange that the income is received by a UK resident beneficiary in the form of income, avoiding s.740 deemed income where the possibility of any double taxation relief is lost.

An IP trust is better still for dividend income.

These are harsh rules, but the unfairness of s.740 is generally avoidable in practice and any other rule would certainly be extremely complicated to draft and to apply.

14.29.2 *Purchase of own shares*

The receipt on a purchase of own shares by a UK company is income: see 14.11 (Capital receipts deemed to be income).

Any trust, discretionary or IP, is subject to additional rate tax under s.686A ICTA on a purchase of own shares. This raises the same tax problems as a discretionary trust within s.686. One solution is to alter the terms of the trust before the purchase, so the proceeds of sale belong to the life tenant. Another solution may be to make the trust UK resident for income tax purposes.

63 As to how to achieve this, see 6.21 (Payment from trust: income or capital?).

64 See 14.8 (Benefit chargeable to IT defence).

65 Unfortunately the credit is less than full credit in the case of dividend income. The regime is too complex to set out here.

14.29.3 *Tax and tax credits of non-resident company within s.740*

A non-resident company will normally pay tax on its actual UK source income at the basic rate. The amount of tax paid reduces the “relevant income” so that if the gross UK source income is £100 and tax is 22%, the relevant income is reduced to £78. Once again, s.740 makes no further allowances. So if an individual receives a benefit of £78, on which he is taxed under s.740, he pays tax at the rate of 40% on the £78. The effective rate of tax on the actual income of the person abroad is therefore nearly 55%.

A similar point arises in relation to dividend income, which is not taxable in the hands of the company.

It would be slightly more efficient if the beneficiary received a dividend from the company. Then s.740 would not apply. The individual would still not receive any credit for the tax paid by the offshore company but his dividend income would at least be taxed at the slightly lower dividend upper rate of 32.5%.

14.29.4 *Tax planning by immigration of non-resident company*

Further tax planning is to make the company UK resident (or to acquire a UK resident company). Then the actual income of the company is paid out by way of dividend (assuming this is possible as a matter of company law) and taxed at the dividend upper rate with the benefit of the UK tax credit. Watch s.490(4) ICTA. The effective rate of tax on the dividend is reduced to 25%.

This has been the position since the current absurd dividend rules took effect in 1999. The result can hardly have been foreseen by the Government when the rules were enacted. The rules have not, however, been changed since. One would like to think that this was a pragmatic policy decision by the Government. For under this planning the Government do obtain *some* tax, whereas if the absurd 64% CGT rate were applicable, then offshore income and gains are unlikely to be remitted at all and everybody is the loser.

14.30 **Section 740 foreign domicile defence**

Section 740(5) provides an exemption for foreign domiciled beneficiaries, which I call “the section 740 foreign domicile defence”. It must be split

into parts to attempt to make any sense of it:

- [a] An individual who is domiciled outside the UK shall not, *in respect of any benefit not received in the UK*, be chargeable to tax under this section
- [b] by reference to relevant income which is such that if he had received it he would not, by reason of his being so domiciled, have been chargeable to income tax in respect of it; and
- [c] section 833 and 834 of ITTOIA 2005 shall apply for the purposes of this subsection as they would apply for the purposes of section 832 (remittance basis) of that Act if the benefit were relevant foreign income.

The foreign domicile defence applies if the benefit is not received in the UK.

The defence is only that such benefits are not charged *by reference to relevant income which meets the necessary requirements*. I shall call that income “excluded relevant income”. If there is other relevant income then the benefit received outside the UK can still be charged by reference to that income. Thus the defence is not a complete defence to a charge on benefits received outside the UK.

14.31 Where is a benefit received?

The section requires one to identify where a benefit is received (or at least, whether it is received in the UK). Just as every intangible asset has a situs (and only one situs), so every tangible benefit must have one (and only one) place of receipt. But to identify the place of receipt of a benefit is (at least) as hard (and arbitrary) as to identify the situs of property or the source of income, problems to which the courts have failed to find wholly satisfactory answers.

Where the benefit is the outright transfer of an asset, it is suggested that the benefit is received in the place where the asset is situate under private international law principles. So if the benefit is money paid to a beneficiary’s bank account it is received in the place where the account is kept. If the benefit is the transfer of a debt (or shares) it is received where the debt or shares are situated.

14.31.1 *Interest-free (or low interest) loan*

Where is the benefit of an interest-free (or low interest) loan received?
The possible solutions are:

- (1) where the money lent is originally received (ignoring what happens later);
- (2) where the money lent (or property representing that money) is situate for the time being;
- (3) where the debt is situate under private international law principles.⁶⁶

The main objection to solutions (1) and (2) is that the benefit is not the money lent, it is the interest foregone.⁶⁷ It is suggested that the best solution is that the benefit is received where the debt is situate.⁶⁸

The same solution would apply if the benefit was leaving outstanding a debt which was not a debt for money lent, for instance, if the offshore person sold an asset for full value to the individual and left the purchase price outstanding.

14.31.2 *Rent free (or low rent) use of chattel or land*

The position is different if the benefit is rent free (or low rent) use of a chattel or land. The chattel or land (unlike money in an interest-free loan) does not belong to the bailee, and the benefit is received where the land is situated or chattel is for the time being.

66 See 38.10 (Simple debt) and 38.12 (Specialties).

67 A further objection to solution (1) is that it only makes sense on the basis of the Flesch view (rejected at para. 14.32) that one cannot remit a benefit. A further objection to solution (2) is the problem of where the benefit of the interest-free loan is received after the money is spent. One could say that the benefit is (presumably for ever after) received where the money is spent, but this is artificial, and only raises further imponderable questions to identify the place where the money is spent.

68 Another possible solution is to ask where the situs of the source of the interest would be for IT purposes, if interest were payable on the loan. But this should be rejected since (1) the rules for identifying the source of interest are hopelessly unclear and (2) since interest is not payable this would be a difficult hypothetical question to answer.

14.31.3 *Release of debt*

Suppose:

- (1) money is lent to a beneficiary;⁶⁹
- (2) the loan is later released (a benefit).

Where is this benefit received? Again the choice is:

- (1) where the money lent (or the proceeds representing it) was received or is situate;
- (2) where the debt is situate.

The argument is similar to the discussion above on interest-free loans. The better view is that the place of receipt is where the debt is situate. The same applies on the waiver of interest, but there it is even clearer that solution (1) is not correct.

14.32 Receipt of benefit outside UK and subsequent remittance

Suppose:

- (1) a UK resident foreign domiciled individual receives a benefit in the form of the transfer of money (or a chattel) outside the UK, and
- (2) later remits that money (or chattel) to the UK.

(The deemed remittance rules discussed below do not apply.) It is considered that the foreign domiciliary's defence ceases to apply and the benefit becomes taxable under s.740. Michael Flesch QC has argued that all that matters is the place of receipt at the time the benefit is conferred and a subsequent remittance is irrelevant:

⁶⁹ It makes no difference whether the loan is at a commercial rate (not a benefit), or an interest-free loan (which confers the separate benefit of interest foregone until the date of release).

This is because the only benefit Mr. X received was received by him, from the company, *outside* the UK. When, three months later, Mr. X brought the money to the UK he was merely transferring money he already owned from one bank account to another. And that is not, in my view, the receipt of a benefit within section 740(5).

Putting it another way, just as one cannot step into the same river twice,⁷⁰ so too one cannot receive the same benefit more than once.⁷¹

This view is subject to the following objections:

- (1) One cannot receive the same benefit twice (in the sense that the second receipt is not a new benefit), but one can receive one benefit in different places (and the second receipt may be regarded as the receipt of the old benefit in the UK). The issue is, perhaps, what is the benefit. Flesch regards the benefit as the *transfer* of the asset, not the asset itself. The transfer can only happen once and cannot change situs. However, it is equally possible to say that the benefit is not the *transfer*, it is the *asset* transferred which (or proceeds representing which) can change situs.
- (2) The wording in s.740(5) is comparable to (and historically based on) the wording of RFI remittance basis (“sums received in the UK”). It is clear that those words cover a receipt outside the UK and subsequent remittance.
- (3) The Flesch view would make the charge easy to avoid by arranging a receipt outside the UK followed by a remittance to the UK. It requires a degree of literalism to which the Courts do not subscribe.
- (4) My view is more consistent with the application of the deemed remittance rules to the s.740 foreign domicile defence; see below.

Suppose:

- (1) an individual receives a non-UK situate asset;

70 Heraclitus’ *dictum* about the river raises questions about identity and is (deliberately?) provocatively debatable.

71 *GITC Review* Vol 1 Issue 2, p.16, accessible www.taxbar.com.

(2) the individual sells the asset and remits the proceeds.

The benefit is received in the UK and the s.740 foreign domicile defence ceases to apply.

Suppose:

- (1) an individual (“A”) receives a non-UK situate asset;
- (2) A transfers the asset to another individual (“B”) and B remits the asset or its proceeds.

It is reasonably clear that A is not subject to tax under s.740. He can only be subject to tax in respect of his benefit, and he has not received a benefit in the UK: although B has done so.⁷²

Does it make any difference if A and B are married? HMRC might argue that it does, as references in s.740 to “an individual” include the wife or husband of the individual: see s.742(9)(a). It is considered, however, that the deeming provision does not have this effect. The deeming provision is relevant for s.740 purposes for ascertaining what is “relevant income” in relation to an individual. That is, income which can be used to benefit the spouse of an individual is relevant income in relation to that individual. However, the deeming provision does not mean that whenever one sees the word “individual” one can substitute the spouse. That makes no sense. For instance, if W receives a benefit, it is W only who can be subject to tax on that benefit. HMRC cannot tax H on the benefit on the grounds that “an individual” (W) is to be identified with H.

14.32.1 *Receipt of asset outside UK used to repay debt or used as security*

What happens if a benefit is received outside the UK and used to repay a UK-linked debt?⁷³ This question takes us to s.740(5)[c]. This incorporates by reference the deemed remittance rules⁷⁴ on the counterfactual assumption that the benefit was relevant foreign income. Once amended as s.740(5)[c] requires, section 833(1) ITTOIA provides (so far as

72 As to whether B might be taxed under s.740, see 14.6 (Benefit received indirectly).

73 i.e. a debt for money lent in the UK (or lent outside the UK and later received in the UK); see 7.37 (UK-linked debt).

74 See 7.36 (Deemed remittances).

relevant):

For the purposes of section 832, if a person who is ordinarily resident, but is not domiciled, in the UK uses [a benefit] outside the UK to satisfy a UK-linked debt, the person is treated as receiving the [benefit] in the UK at the time when it is so used.

A benefit in the form of money received outside the UK and used to repay a UK-linked debt is “treated as received in the UK”. So it will no longer qualify for the protection of the s.740 foreign domicile defence.

14.32.2 *Beneficiary changes residence after receipt of foreign benefit*

The statute gives no guidance to the position where:

- (1) the beneficiary is ordinarily resident when he receives the benefit but not ordinarily resident when the benefit is remitted to the UK; or
- (2) the beneficiary is not ordinarily resident when he receives the benefit but is ordinarily resident when it is received in the UK.

This omission is probably the best argument in favour of the Flesch view that a subsequent remittance is not taxable (though it is not enough to win the day).⁷⁵ In table form:

Case No.	1	2	3	4
Ord. resident on receipt of benefit	Y	Y	N	N
Ord. resident on receipt in UK	Y	N	Y	N

Cases 1 and 4 raise no difficulty. It is considered that there is no charge in case 3: s.740(1) suggests the beneficiary must be ordinarily resident at the time when he receives the benefit. It is suggested that there is also no charge in case 2 (beneficiary leaves UK and then remits benefit). This is consistent with the normal remittance basis.⁷⁶ So the charge only arises if

⁷⁵ See too 14.33.2 (Beneficiary changes domicile after receipt of foreign benefit).

⁷⁶ See 7.17 (Income arising when non-resident, remitted when resident).

the beneficiary is ordinarily resident at the time he receives the benefit and at the time it is received in the UK.

14.33 Excluded relevant income

“Excluded relevant income” is my term for :

relevant income which is such that if he [the foreign domiciled UK resident individual] had received it he would not, by reason of his being so domiciled, have been chargeable to income tax in respect of it.

This applies the same counterfactual hypothesis as s.739.⁷⁷

The following is not excluded relevant income:

- (1) UK source income, or
- (2) Irish source income;
- (3) foreign source income which has been received in the UK (while the source of the income still exists).

To the extent that there is income of that kind, the s.740 foreign domiciliary defence will not apply.

14.33.1 *Source ceasing*

Suppose:

- (1) a trust has foreign source income (which is excluded relevant income);
- (2) the income is remitted.

The income ceases to be excluded relevant income. If the source ceases in a year before remittance, however, the income clearly remains excluded relevant income.

⁷⁷ See 13.15 (s.739 foreign domicile defence).

14.33.2 *Beneficiary changes domicile after receipt of foreign benefit*

Suppose:

- (1) a UK resident foreign domiciled beneficiary receives a benefit outside the UK, and
- (2) the beneficiary later becomes UK domiciled.

Income accruing after the change of domicile is not excluded relevant income and so is in principle taxable (up to the amount of the benefit). What if the beneficiary remits the benefit to the UK after the change of domicile? There is no guidance in the statute but it is suggested that there is no tax charge: this is some support for the Flesch view that a subsequent remittance is never taxed: see 14.32 (Receipt of benefit outside UK and subsequent remittance).

14.34 Section 739 and 740 foreign domicile defences compared

Sections 739 and 740 both offer a form of foreign domicile defence. The s.740 defence is less generous. So a transferor (liable under s.739 but not s.740) will often be in a better position than other beneficiaries (liable under s.740)! Example:

- (1) T (UK resident, foreign domiciled) creates a discretionary trust within s.739. T occupies a property owned by the trust. The trust also receives and accumulates foreign income. There is no tax charge.
- (2) T dies and S occupies the same property. S is taxed on the benefit of the rent-free accommodation.

14.35 Summary of responses to s.740

14.35.1 *Basic planning*

- (1) Avoid “relevant income” by
 - (a) distributing income:
 - (i) as it arises; or

- (ii) in a year before a beneficiary receives a benefit; or
 - (b) using interest in possession settlements in preference to discretionary; or
 - (c) not using trusts and companies where inappropriate.
- (2) Tax Motive Defence.
 - (3) Foreign Domicile Defence.
 - (4) Arrange that foreign domiciled beneficiaries receive benefits of an *income* nature (outside s.740 but not taxed on the remittance basis).

14.35.2 *Sale of equitable interest scheme*

The following arrangement may be worth considering:

- (1) An appointment confers a valuable equitable interest on a foreign domiciled beneficiary, B.
- (2) B sells the equitable interest for a capital sum.

Neither the conferring nor the sale of the interest is a benefit within s.740: see 14.4 (“Benefit”). CGT may be avoided if the sale involves the disposal of a non-UK situate asset: see 38.25 (Situs of equitable interest under a trust). Take care on implementation!

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

TRANSFER OF ASSETS ABROAD: DOUBLE TAXATION ISSUES

15.1 Undistributed UK taxable income of offshore company

Suppose an offshore company (“OC”) receives and retains UK taxable income,¹ say, rental income. If s.739 did not apply, there would be one charge to tax: income tax borne by OC. However, if s.739 applies, it appears at first sight that there are two charges to tax:

- (1) OC pays income tax at the basic rate under ordinary principles.
- (2) The transferor (“T”) pays income tax on the same income under section 739.

What is there to prevent double taxation?

15.1.1 *Section 743(1) credit*

Section 743(1) provides some relief for T:

Income tax at the basic rate, the lower rate or the dividend ordinary rate shall not be charged by virtue of section 739 in respect of any income

1 OC’s income may be UK taxable because:

- (1) the income has a UK source; or
- (2) OC is a UK resident foreign incorporated company.

For the purposes of this section, this makes little difference. (Of course it makes a difference for OC’s capital gains.) For simplicity it is assumed in the discussion that OC is non-resident and OC’s income has a UK source.

to the extent that it has borne tax at that rate by deduction or otherwise
...

I refer to this as s.743(1) credit. This was considered in *R v Dimsey & Allen* 74 TC 263 at para.53:

This provision would have dealt with the case where the transferee's income included income sourced in the UK and from which tax had already been deducted at source. But the words "or otherwise" show that the provision would have covered also any case in which the transferee had paid tax on its income.²

15.1.2 *The Dimsey concession*

The limitation of s.743(1) credit was explained in *Dimsey & Allen* at para.56:

Section 743(1) ... is looking at the double taxation problem from the point of view of the transferor on whom the liability to pay tax on deemed income is being imposed. There is no comparable provision protecting the transferee in a case where, under s 739(2), the transferor has paid tax on his deemed income.

In the course of argument in *Dimsey & Allen* HMRC announced a concession to solve this problem:

The Inland Revenue's Practice on section 739

- [1] If in any case tax is paid by the transferee, the Inland Revenue will give credit for that tax against any charge to tax on the transferor under section 739 ICTA on the same income;
- [2] and conversely, if in any case tax is paid on any income by the transferor under section 739, the Inland Revenue will not tax the transferee on that income.

So that in every case, the Treasury received in all the full amount of tax chargeable on the transferor as if he were the only person liable.

2 At paragraph 55 Lord Scott suggested (without deciding) that s.743(1) credit would also give relief in circumstances where OC was a UK resident foreign incorporated company even though such a company would be subject to corporation tax (rather than income tax). Since HMRC would give this relief in practice under the *Dimsey* concession [1], the point will not need to be decided.

Point [1] is the s.743(1) credit. I refer to point [2] as the *Dimsey* concession. The consequence is that either:

- (1) T pays all the tax on the income (and OC pays none); or
- (2) (a) OC pays tax (usually basic or dividend lower rate); and
 - (b) T has the credit for OC's tax (so he usually pays higher rate tax only).

This concession does not say whether (1) or (2) is to be the case. As far as HMRC are concerned it does not matter because the amount of tax collected will generally be the same. If T is the beneficial owner of OC, it may likewise not make much economic difference to T whether T or OC pay the tax. But T may have “power to enjoy” the income of OC while only having a remote and not particularly valuable interest in it.³ One can imagine a situation where T and OC each ask HMRC to assess the other! There is no mechanism for any tax paid by T to be recovered from OC or vice versa. HMRC have a broad discretion, subject to judicial review if they act unreasonably. How in practice should HMRC collect tax? It is suggested that HMRC's starting point should be that tax is to be borne by OC where tax is reasonably collectible from OC, i.e. if:

- (1) the income is dividend income with a tax credit (in this case, of course, no one has any choice about the matter);
- (2) tax is collectible under the non-resident landlord regulations, i.e. if OC complies with its duties under those regulations; or
- (3) OC is prepared to complete UK tax returns and pay the tax on its income.

It is fair that OC, which receives the income, should pay the tax on it. Then only higher rate tax is normally collected from T. Only in cases where OC refuses to pay should all the tax be collected from T.

3 For instance, if OC owes T a small debt.

It is arguable that section 744 also provides a defence to double taxation: see 15.5 (Section 744 relief). If this is correct, the *Dimsey* concession is the law. There is little practical difference between this and the *Dimsey* concession.

15.1.3 *Section 739(2) defence to double taxation?*

Section 739(2) deems the income of OC to be that of T “for all the purposes of the Income Tax Acts”. It should follow that OC is not taxed on its income; hypothesising (as one must) that the income is that of T, it is not possible that the sum could be in the hands of OC. The *Dimsey* concession would be unnecessary and its associated difficulties would not arise. This argument was rejected in *Dimsey & Allen*.

15.2 Distribution to T of income of company within section 739

So far we have been considering undistributed income of OC. I now turn to consider the position where the income is distributed to T by way of dividend. Suppose:

- (1) An offshore company (“OC”) within section 739 receives income (“OC’s income”).
- (2) T owns all the shares in OC.⁴
- (3) The income of OC is distributed by way of dividend to T (“the dividend income”).

Possible charges to tax here are:

- (1) IT on OC’s income paid by T (or by OC and T but with credit to avoid double taxation: see above) under section 739.
- (2) IT on the dividend (paid by T) on normal principles.

4 The position is not materially different if the shares in OC are held in a trust under which T is life tenant.

Is there any relief from economic double taxation?

15.3 Section 743(4) relief

Section 743(4) provides:

Where

- [a] an individual has been charged to income tax on any income deemed to be his by virtue of section 739 and
 - [b] *that income* is subsequently received by him,
- it shall be deemed not to form part of his income again for the purposes of the Income Tax Acts.

(Paragraphing and emphasis added)

I refer to this as s.743(4) relief. There are three conditions for this relief to apply:

- (1) The individual is charged to income tax on OC's income under section 739.
- (2) The individual receives the income.
- (3) The dividend income which the individual receives is "that income", i.e. the same income as OC's income.

Condition (1) would normally be satisfied; see 15.1 (Undistributed income of OC). Condition (2) is obviously satisfied. Condition (3) is satisfied: see 15.6.2 (When is income "the same" for s.743(4)?). Thus, even though OC's income is distributed to T:

- (1) there is only one tier of income tax, the charge under s.739.
- (2) T has the benefit of tax credits or DT Relief relating to OC's income.

At first sight this seems anomalous. If s.739 did not apply (e.g. because the individual owning OC was not the transferor or because the motive defence applied) then the position is quite different:

- (1) there will be two charges to tax if OC's income is UK source:
 - (a) income tax on OC's income paid by OC under ordinary principles; and
 - (b) income tax on the dividend paid to T.
- (2) T does not have the benefit of tax credits or DT Relief relating to OC's income.

On reflection, there is no anomaly. The object of s.739 is to put the transferor in the same position as if he had not made the transfer: see *Chetwode v IRC* 51 TC 647.

15.3.1 *Identifying income qualifying for s.743(4) relief*

It may happen that the income of OC for company law purposes is greater than the income of OC for tax purposes (e.g. because of capital allowances). Section 743(4) relief applies only so far as the income of the company has been subject to tax under s.739. For example, OC may have taxable income of 10, but accounting profits of 100. If OC declares a dividend of 100, then the charges to tax are:

- (1) IT on OC's income of 10 on T under section 739.
- (2) IT on the dividend on the amount of 90 (i.e. 100–10).

In these circumstances, the use of an offshore company does give rise to tax on the distribution which would not have arisen if there were no company.

Suppose OC receives £100 and spends £20 on expenses, but, the company having spare assets available for distribution, £100 is nevertheless distributed. It is suggested that the dividend of £100 should be identified with OC's income of £100 and so qualifies for s.743(4) relief in its entirety. The £20 spent on expenses is attributed to other assets, even though as a matter of tracing it was paid for out of the s.739 income. The position is analogous to the *Duke of Roxburghe* case; see 7.31 (Remittance from mixture of taxed and untaxed income).

15.3.2 *Planning implications: advantages of distribution and re-settlement*

It follows that where s.739 applies it is worthwhile distributing income to T and letting T re-settle the income if he wishes. If this is not done during T's life, the opportunity is lost later; see below.

15.4 Distribution (*not* to T) of income of company within section 739

Suppose:

- (1) An offshore company ("OC") within section 739 receives income ("OC's income").
- (2) T is not a shareholder in OC but has "power to enjoy" the income;⁵
- (3) P (a UK resident third party) owns all the shares;⁶
- (4) the income of OC is distributed by way of dividend to P.

In these circumstances it appears that there is economic double taxation:

- (1) OC's income is subject to tax in the hands of T (or T and OC) under s.739.
- (2) P is subject to tax on the dividend.

Section 743(4) relief does not help P because that relief only applies where OC's income is subsequently received by the transferor, T. The *Dimsey* concession does not cover this situation. However, section 744 relief applies.

15.5 Section 744 relief

Section 744(1) provides:

-
- 5 He may have power to enjoy by reason, perhaps, of a debenture or through being a beneficiary of the trust which holds OC.
 - 6 The position is not materially different if the shares in OC are held in a trust under which P is life tenant, and to which s.624 ITTOIA does not apply.

No amount of income shall be taken into account more than once in charging tax⁷ under the provisions of sections 739 and 740; and where there is a choice as to the persons in relation to whom any amount of income can be so taken into account—

- (a) it shall be so taken into account in relation to such of them, and if more than one in such proportions respectively, as appears to the Board to be just and reasonable; and
- (b) the jurisdiction of the Special Commissioners on any appeal against an assessment charging tax under those provisions shall include jurisdiction to review any relevant decision taken by the Board under this subsection.

I refer to this as s.744 relief. This provision prevents double taxation:

- (1) By double application of s.739; e.g. where there are two transferors.
- (2) By double application of s.740; e.g. where two different individuals receive benefits.
- (3) By application of s.739 and s.740.⁸
- (4) It is suggested that it should also be read to prevent double taxation under general principles and under ss.739 and 740.

7 Section 744(2) defines the “amount of income taken into account in charging tax”:

- “(a) in the case of tax which under section 739 is charged on income, to the amount of that income;
- (b) in the case of tax charged under that section by virtue of section 743(5), to an amount of the income out of which the benefit is provided equal to the amount or value of the benefit charged;
- (c) in the case of tax charged under section 740, to the amount of relevant income taken into account under subsection (2) of that section in charging the benefit.”

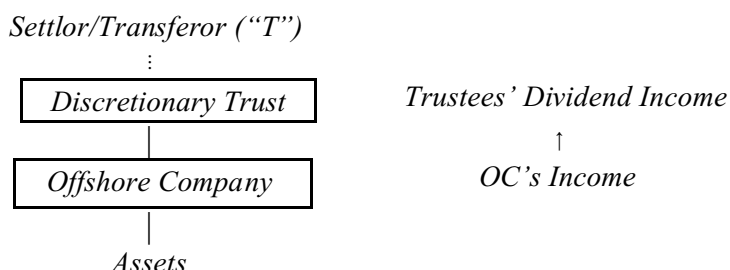
8 Although the words in s.744 *could* be construed to apply to situation (3) only, that would be absurd. (Indeed, it is unusual that income could be taxed under s.739 and s.740. An example might be if income accrues which is not within s.739 because it is not remitted to the UK, then there is a charge under s.740, and then there is a remittance.) Another example might possibly be if s.739(2) does not apply (because the transferor has no “power to enjoy”) but subsequently there is a capital payment within s.739(3). Another possible case is in 14.15 (Is income within s.739 relevant income?).

Although Lord Greene in *Howard de Walden* contemplated that there would be economic double taxation in these circumstances, that was before the enactment in 1981 of (what is now) section 744.

In practice this situation is rare as T either has no “power to enjoy” and so is outside s.739, or else he is life tenant/shareholder and receives the dividends personally and section 743(3) relief applies.

15.6 Section 739 trust/company and company/subsidiary structure

So far we have been considering the (relatively) simple situation where OC is held by an individual (or an IP trust). We now turn to consider the position where OC is held by a non-resident discretionary trust. That is, trustees of a discretionary trust within s.739 and s.624 hold a non-resident company within s.739:



Suppose:

- (1) Income is received by the OC (“OC’s income” at “stage (1)”).
- (2) OC’s income is paid to the trustees as dividend income (“the trustees’ dividend income” at “stage (2)”).

In principle this might give rise to two tax charges on T:

- (1) OC’s income charged under s.739 at stage (1);
- (2) the trustees’ dividend income charged under s.739 or s.624 at stage (2).

What is there to prevent double taxation?

15.6.1 *Section 743(4) relief*

It will be recalled that section 743(3) applies if:⁹

- (1) OC's income is within s.739;
- (2) the trustees' dividend income is received by T;
- (3) the trustees' dividend income is "that income" (i.e. the same income as OC's income);
- (4) the individual is charged to income tax on OC's income under section 739.

Condition (1) is satisfied. Condition (2) is satisfied because income is treated as received by T.

15.6.2 *When is income "the same" for purposes of s.743(4)?*

At first sight condition (3) is more doubtful.

OC's income and the trustees' dividend income are usually regarded for tax as separate sources of income, not the same income.¹⁰ "The income of the company and the income derived from the company by the shareholders are two quite different incomes": *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503 at 562. Walton J concluded that a shareholder had no "power to enjoy" the income of the company in which he held shares because he had power to enjoy different income! However, this view was rejected in the House of Lords.¹¹ OC's income is, in economic substance, the same and that is what matters here.

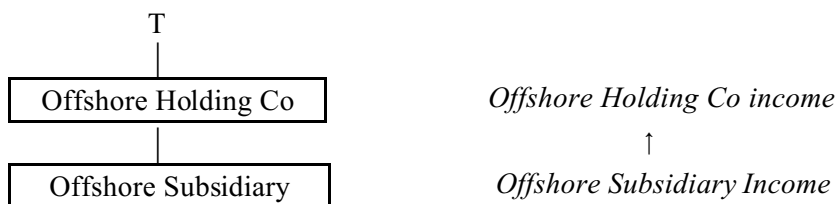
This is supported by *Aykroyd v IRC* 24 TC 515. The facts were relatively simple. T (UK domiciled) held an offshore holding company (within

⁹ See 15.3 (Section 743(4) relief)..

¹⁰ This is obvious but for authority see *Canadian Eagle Oil Co v The King* 27 TC 205 at 257: "for the purposes of Income Tax, the income of a foreign company and the income received from it in dividends by its British shareholders are not to any extent or effect one and the same income, but are two distinct incomes".

¹¹ See 13.8.4 (Head (d)).

s.739) which held an offshore subsidiary (within s.739):¹²



- (1) In 1936/7 the offshore subsidiary received income within s.739 (“the offshore subsidiary income”).
- (2) In 1937/8 the offshore subsidiary paid that income by way of dividend to the offshore holding company (“the offshore holding co. income”). This income was also within s.739.
- (3) The transferor (“T”) was assessed on the offshore holding co. income in 1937/8. He was not assessed on the offshore subsidiary income in 1936/7.

This was not a trust/company structure but a company/subsidiary structure, but in the context of s.743(4) relief the issue is the same.

T argued that he could be assessed at stage (1) and so he could not be assessed at stage (2). He relied on (what is now) s.743(4) relief. Macnaghten J accepted (rightly) that the relief could apply to the sequence of two dividends:

If the Appellant had in fact been charged in the year 1936–37, he could not have been charged again in the year 1937–38.

That is, the offshore holding co. income was (for s.743(4) purposes) the same income as the offshore subsidiary income.

The opposite view was taken in an obiter dictum in *Howard de Walden v IRC* 25 TC at 131, decided in 1940. Lord Greene MR said:

[Counsel] pointed out that in so far as the right to enjoy income of the

¹² More accurately, there were several holding and subsidiary companies but nothing turns on that.

four companies is vested in the Appellant's son, who holds the majority of the shares, income received by the son will be taxed in his hands in the ordinary way and at the same time the Appellant will be liable to tax on the whole income of the companies which is deemed to be his. This, said [Counsel], involves double taxation since no relief is afforded by [what is now] s.743(3). There is a short answer to this argument. There is no double taxation since the subject-matter of tax is different, the income of the son being one thing and the income of the companies being another.

This ignores the obvious purpose of s.743(4) which is directed at economic double taxation. This is also inconsistent with the view taken in *Aykroyd*. It is inconsistent with present HMRC practice. One might uncharitably describe this as wartime jurisprudence; "as we are at war", as Darling J said in another context, "the ordinary mode of construing legislation has been suspended".¹³

For another case where the Court looked at the economic substance in order to determine whether or not two assets were "the same" (for the purposes of stamp duty subsale relief) see *Fitch Lovell v IRC* [1962] 1 WLR 1325.

15.6.3 *When is an individual "charged to tax" under section 739?*

The next requirement of s.743(4) is that the individual must be "charged to income tax on income deemed to be his under section 739". In *Aykroyd* T failed because he had not been so "charged":

It was suggested that, if the [offshore subsidiary's income] were liable to assessment for the year 1936–37, that provision [s.743(4)] prevented them being chargeable in the following year. But that argument depended on the substitution of the word "chargeable" for the word "charged". There is no ground that I can see for making any such substitution. ... as he had not been charged in the previous year, there was nothing to prevent him being charged in the year in question.

This is not obiter, but it is at first sight surprising and it certainly does not appear from the Judge's terse comment that the Court had the benefit of a full argument on the point.

13 Cited "*R v Halliday in Retrospect*" [2003] LQR 455 (David Foxton).

Is it right? The word “charged” (like most words) takes its meaning from context. It may mean:

- (1) declaration of liability by statute;
- (2) assessment (including self-assessment);
- (3) payment.¹⁴

The most common and primary sense of the word “charged” is that it refers to the declaration of liability. Every year, for instance, the FA provides that income tax shall be charged for that year: see e.g. s.31 FA 2000. This is the statutory declaration of liability. It is not referring to the making of assessments or collection of tax.

However, this meaning poses impractical difficulties for HMRC who may not know that a s.739 liability arises or may be unable to make an assessment. So the *Aykroyd* interpretation that “charged” means “paid” is probably correct.

This does not mean that HMRC have an unfettered discretion:

- (1) to assess T on the subsidiary company’s income; or
- (2) to assess T on the holding company’s income.

Under self-assessment, T will normally self-assess his income and should in principle return the income of the offshore subsidiary as his income and s.743(4) relief applies. However, where T does not pay tax due on the offshore subsidiary’s income HMRC can collect tax on the offshore holding company’s income and s.743(4) relief does not apply.

Often it may not matter whether tax is charged on the offshore subsidiary’s income or the offshore holding company’s income. However,

14 These correspond to the three stages in the imposition of a tax:

“there is the declaration of liability, that is the part of the statute which determines what persons in respect of what property are liable. Next, there is the assessment. ... assessment particularises the exact sum which a person liable has to pay. Lastly, come the methods of recovery, if the person taxed does not voluntarily pay.”

Whitney v IRC 10 TC 87 at 109.

it may matter:

- (1) For identifying the source of the income to which s.739 applies. Is the transferor taxed under s.739 in respect of the subsidiary's income or the holding company's income? This may affect:
 - (a) rates of tax, e.g. if the underlying company receives interest or rental income it makes a difference between:
 - (i) 40% (higher rate due on interest); and
 - (ii) 32.5% (dividend upper rate on a foreign dividend);
 - (b) availability of s.743(1) credit for UK tax paid by the company and double tax relief.
- (2) It may also affect the year in which the income is subject to tax.

15.6.4 *Section 744 relief*

This provision is discussed in 15.5 (s.744 relief). It will apply in a s.739 trust/company or company/subsidiary structure but where s.743(4) covers the same ground it should not be needed.

15.6.5 *Trust/company structure: HMRC practice*

RI 201 provides:

where income arises in an offshore company underlying a settlement and income is not paid up immediately to that settlement the provisions of section 739 will be invoked where necessary to assess the income of the underlying company.

The position therefore depends on whether income is paid up "immediately".

- (1) *If the income is not paid up immediately.* The provisions of s.739 will be invoked. This is clearly correct. RI 201 does not address the question (discussed above) of relief for a subsequent dividend by the underlying company.
- (2) *If the income is paid up immediately.* RI 201 implies that:

- (a) s.739 will not be applied so OC's income (if non-UK source) will not be taxed; and
- (b) the settlor will be taxed on the trust income under s.624 ITTOIA in the normal way.

An important question is exactly the moment when one moves from (1) to (2). What is the meaning of "immediately"? Does it mean within a day? Or a week? Or at any time within the same tax year? Or at any time before the relevant returns are due or submitted? Do HMRC have a discretion? Does the answer depend on the type of income? One must bear in mind that some forms of income cannot be quantified until the end of an accounting period (e.g. trading and rental income).

If income is distributed immediately, RI 201 does not address the question whether the settlor is taxed (under s.624 ITTOIA) on the underlying company's income or on the dividend. It makes a difference if the underlying income has a tax credit.

This is a sorry muddle. In practice, the author suspects that HMRC apply the "immediately" concept with latitude and are not concerned as long as they can see that income comes into tax in one year or another, in one form or another.

15.6.6 *Trust/company structure: further example*

In the trust/company structure illustrated at 15.6 (Section 739 trust/company structures) the company:

- (1) receives £100 income;
- (2) spends £20 of the £100 it received on expenses (not deductible for the purposes of s.739); and
- (3) distributes £80.

It is suggested that £100 is taxable at stage (1) and the £80 is tax free at stages (2) and (3). Close examination of RI 201 (see above) suggests HMRC might assess £20 at stage (1) and £80 at stage (2). It is doubtful whether the statement is meant to bear close examination, but it makes little difference in practice.

15.7 Life policies

In *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57 Professor Willoughby (“T”) transferred assets to a non-resident life insurance company as a premium for a life policy. T was not taxed on the income accruing to the insurance company as the motive defence applied. Had the defence failed, there would in principle¹⁵ have been double taxation:

- (1) T would pay income tax on income arising to the life insurance company (to the extent that it arose in consequence of T’s premium); and
- (2) T would pay income tax on the gain arising from the policy under the chargeable events provisions.

The Special Commissioners noted correctly that s.743(4) provided no relief. The gain was not the same as the income. The potential double taxation is one reason for applying the motive test generously.

The decision records that HMRC offered relief against double taxation: see at p.83. It appears from this and the *Dimsey* concession that HMRC are often willing to offer such concessions at least if it is thought to give them a tactical advantage in litigation.

15.8 Section 740 charge followed by income distribution

I now turn to consider double taxation issues relating to s.740. Section 743(1) credit, the *Dimsey* concession and s.743(4) relief only apply to s.739, so they have no relevance here.

Suppose:

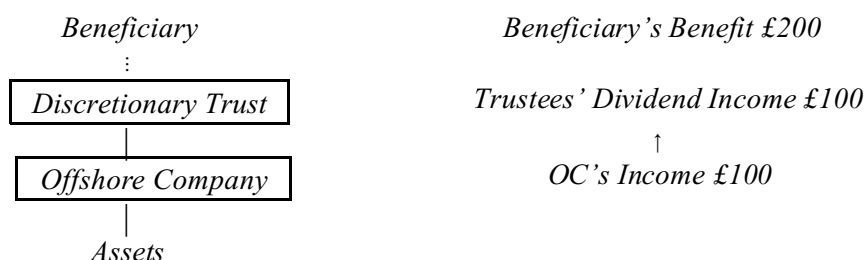
- (1) trustees of a trust receive income and do not distribute it;
- (2) a beneficiary receives a benefit taxable under s.740;
- (3) the income is later distributed to the beneficiary as income.

15 Arguably relief is available under s.527 ITTOIA.

It is understood that the distributed income is not taxed. This might be regarded as informal concession but the better view is that s.744 relief applies here.

15.9 Section 740 trust/company structure¹⁶

The problem is best illustrated by example:



Trustees of a discretionary trust within s.740 hold a non-resident company within s.740.

- (1) £100 income is received by the company (“the company’s income” at “stage (1)”).
- (2) The £100 is paid to the trustees as dividend income (“the trustees’ dividend income” at “stage (2)”).

Is the relevant income £100 or £200? That is, does the interposition of the company double the relevant income? If so, then if after stage 2 a beneficiary receives a benefit of £200 the s.740 charge is in principle on £200.

It is suggested that the s.744(1) defence applies; see 15.5 (Section 744 relief).¹⁷

¹⁶ Contrast 15.6 (s.739 trust/company structure).

¹⁷ If that is wrong, then a second argument is that after the company’s income is distributed it ceases to be relevant income. See 14.22 (Company income distributed).

This argument will not avail if the facts are a variant of the above example:

- (1) £100 income is received by the company; a beneficiary receives a benefit of £200.
- (2) The £100 is subsequently paid to the trustees as dividend income.

15.10 Double Taxation Relief: Treaties

On this topic see “Double Taxation Treaties: the Antidote to Anti-avoidance Provisions”, Robert Venables QC, OTPR Vol 6 p.151.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

TRANSFER OF ASSETS ABROAD: MOTIVE DEFENCE

16.1 The statute

Section 741 ICTA provides that ss.739 and 740 (the transfer of asset provisions) shall not apply if either:

- (a) the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation was not the purpose or one of the purposes for which the transfer or associated operations or any of them were effected; or
- (b) the transfer and any associated operations were bona fide commercial transactions and were not designed for the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation.

This is sometimes called “the motive defence”.¹ There are two tests, and the taxpayer need only satisfy one of them. They are here called test (a) and test (b).

16.2 Enactment history

The original wording was much simpler. It provided exemption if:

the transfer and any associated operations were effected mainly for some purpose other than the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation.²

1 The word “motive” is not used in s.741, but this label is convenient, not seriously misleading, and originates from the Board of Inland Revenue’s Notes on clause 18 Finance Bill 1936.

2 s.18 FA 1936. Section 28 FA 1938 substituted the present text.

The Solicitor-General explained why the change was made:

A taxpayer³ transferred a large amount – he was not one of the small people for whom my hon. and learned Friend was pleading – of foreign securities to a trust company abroad on certain trusts under which the income was to be accumulated until the death of the taxpayer. There was a discretion to the trustees to pay certain portions of the income to the taxpayer or to his son. The deed gives to the taxpayer and his son power, with the consent of the trustees, to revoke the trust, or, alternatively, they can withdraw all or any part of the trust property for their own benefit. The trust income has been accumulated, and none of it has been distributed. The vigilant Revenue authorities pursued this taxpayer, and he contended, successfully, as it transpired, on appeal, that the foreign trust was born because of his fears as to the financial position of this country and the dangers of the situation on the Continent ... in 1936. He stated that he wanted to find a stable country where he could make safe provision for his family. The Special Commissioners decided that the main purpose of the transaction was occasioned by A's pessimistic view of the European situation at the time; that, arising out of that, his main intention was to make provision for his family in a safer country; and that, if there was any intention of avoidance of taxation, it was incidental to the main purpose. They therefore decided that there was no liability under Section 18 FA 1936. That instance has only to be cited to the Committee for the Committee to realise that on this particular matter the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Mr. Benson) was a true prophet in 1936, when he said that the word "mainly" would be too wide.⁴

A case on similar facts might still succeed today, but the test is stiffer. The taxpayer would need to show:

- (a) tax avoidance was not even one of the purposes of the transfer (test a);
or

3 Presumably a UK resident and domiciled transferor. HMRC did not contend at that time that (what is now) section 739 applied to a transferor unless UK resident at the time of the transfer, and a foreign domiciled transferor would have qualified for the remittance basis. So one can see why HMRC found the case troubling.

4 Hansard 27 June 1938, col 1610. It is impressive that an income tax dispute relating to 1936/7 was resolved by a Special Commissioners' decision early in 1938.

(b) the transfer was “bona fide commercial” (test b).

16.3 Commercial

Commercial is a requirement for test (b) but not test (a). “Commercial” is an imprecise and difficult word⁵ and the epithet “bona fide” does not make it any clearer.⁶ It is submitted that there is no single factor to determine what is “commercial” but a number of factors may indicate one way or the other.

16.3.1 *Non-business transactions*

In *Carvill v IRC* the Special Commissioner ventured this explanation:

There was not much difference between the parties about what constituted a bona fide commercial transaction. Miss Gloster contended that this was any genuine transaction which implements or facilitates a business end; Mr. Vallance contended that the transaction must be in furtherance of commerce, ie a trade or business. I shall follow these two meanings.⁷

This is a fair paraphrase. At first sight it does not seem to take us very far because the word “business” is notoriously wide and slippery.

5 *IRC v Plummer* 54 TC 1 at 48: “What exactly is comprehended in the phrase ... ‘a bona fide commercial transaction’, I do not know” (Viscount Dilhorne). Cf *IRC v Goodwin* 50 TC 583 at 598.

6 The Latin tag is ambiguous. “Bona fide” can mean “not a sham” (*AG v Richmond* [1908] 2 KB 729 at 741) but then the words obviously add nothing. It can mean “honest” so as to exclude fraudulent non-criminal transactions such as a transaction defrauding creditors, or criminal (but otherwise commercial) transactions such as money laundering, drug dealing or sanctions busting; but that is not likely to be the purpose of the words. It is suggested that the words are what linguists call “a mere intensifier”, an appellation that the OED gives to some round Anglo-Saxon words which also begin with “b” and “f”. “Bona fide” commercial means “truly” commercial. Its significance is to alert the reader that the drafter thought that there was a particular risk of false or weak claims that a transaction was “commercial”. The tax law re-write agrees and is replacing “bona fide” with “genuine” or deleting it, in contexts such as here where it adds nothing: Responses to the draft ITTOI Bill 23/9/04, para.488. I refer hereafter to “commercial” transactions and leave “bona fide” to be understood.

7 [2000] STC (SCD) 143 at 166.

Nevertheless, one can suggest examples of transactions which should not be classified as commercial because they are not in furtherance of a business. One is the transfer of securities to a trust to avoid the hazards of war, discussed in 16.2 (Enactment history). Another example is a transfer to avoid claims by non-business creditors, e.g. a claim on divorce or forced heirship. These transfers may involve an element of bounty (and may be classified as non-commercial for that reason) but in any event they should be classified as non-commercial transactions because they are not in furtherance of a business purpose.

16.3.2 *Making and managing investments*

In HMRC's view:

The expression "bona fide commercial" in Section 741(b) is taken to apply [1] only to the furtherance of trade or business, and [2] not to the making or managing of investments.⁸

The proposition that the expression "commercial" applies to the furtherance of trade or business is not controversial. The proposition that "commercial" does *not* apply to making or managing investments is doubtful:

- (1) The statement does not say what the position is if the making or management of investments constitutes a business. A transfer may be both in the furtherance of a business *and* in the course of making or managing investments.⁹ Should this (difficult) concept of business mark the border of what is commercial?

8 (RI 201, paragraphing added). This was perhaps the view of the drafter of s.703(1) ICTA which refers to transactions:

"*either* for bona fide commercial reasons *or* in the ordinary course of making or managing investments."

(Emphasis added). But the last 9 words might have been added for the avoidance of doubt, or for some exceptional case, and it is not clear whether the drafter thought that making or managing investments would not usually be commercial.

9 Making or managing investments often constitutes a business. Thus s.105(3) IHTA refers to the business of making or holding investments; s.130 ICTA refers to the business of making investments.

- (2) More fundamentally, and contrary to HMRC statement, making or managing investments is generally regarded as “commercial”. What can be more “commercial” than the management to maximise the return from investments? This criticism is recognised in *Lewis v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 349 at 362:

It is trite law that in exercising their duties trustees must use as much diligence as a prudent man of business ... Faced with the self-investment problem their duty was to act in a business-like manner: this they did. Put another way, they acted commercially as was their duty. In our view it would be construing the statute too narrowly to hold that they did not carry out the transactions for bona fide commercial reasons, unless an investment decision cannot be for commercial reasons.

16.3.3 *Transfer with element of bounty*

A transaction with an element of benevolence or bounty is not commercial.¹⁰ The concept of bounty (unlike “commercial”) is relatively clear.¹¹ For instance, a gift to a trust for the benefit of a settlor’s family is

10 *Bulmer v IRC* [1967] Ch 145, cited *IRC v Goodwin* 50 TC 583 at p.607. HMRC adopt this approach in *Venture Capital Schemes Manual* para 12140:

“For the EI and CVS, an investor in a company is not eligible for relief unless the subscription is made for bona fide commercial purposes. This rules out any subscription which is motivated by considerations of benevolence. This would be the case if, for example, the company were the proprietor of an unsuccessful professional football club and a supporter of the club paid a large premium for shares in the company; that may well [interestingly, the text formerly said *would clearly*] not be a commercial subscription. Similarly, if the company is owned by a person whom the investor wishes to benefit, and the investor pays a large premium for the shares with the object of increasing the value of the other person’s shares, that too would not be a commercial subscription.”

Ambrose Bierce makes the same point: “A commercial pursuit is one in which the thing pursued is the dollar.” *The Devil’s Dictionary* (definition of “Merchant”).

11 The question does arise from whose viewpoint one assesses “bounty” or commerciality. The answer is that it should be looked at from the viewpoint of the transferor, but it would be a rare case where there is an arrangement under which one party is and the other party is not acting bounteously or commercially. In *IRC v Willoughby* the Special Commissioners found that Professor Willoughby’s investment in bonds for his pension was commercial. In this case HMRC accepted that bonds were commercial transactions for Royal Life who issued them but argued

not commercial. The same applies if the class of beneficiaries includes the settlor and the trust is revocable. By contrast, a transfer of assets to a company wholly owned by oneself may be a “commercial transaction” even if the transfer is for less than full (or nil) consideration, and a transfer to an employee trust may be commercial.¹²

16.4 “Avoidance”, “mitigation”, “tax reduction”, “evasion”: introduction¹³

I begin with a fourfold categorisation:

- (1) *Tax evasion*: Conduct which constitutes a criminal offence (fraud on HMRC or similar offences). This normally involves dishonest submission of an incorrect tax return. Dishonesty is essential to the offence.
- (2) *Honest misdeclaration*: The submission of an erroneous tax return without dishonesty. Those involved may be culpable (guilty of neglect or wilful default) but not dishonest.
- (3) *Tax avoidance*: Arrangements that reduce tax liability in a manner contrary to the intention of Parliament (I come later to consider this concept in more detail).

that they were not for Professor Willoughby who acquired them. The Special Commissioner did not agree:

“If a contract is entered into by two people and it is a bona fide commercial transaction for one of them, it cannot be not a bona fide commercial transaction for the other party to the contract in the absence of any reason for impeaching the latter’s good faith.”

70 TC at 86. The point was not discussed on appeal.

- 12 This is supported by *Wannell v Rothwell* 68 TC 719 at 733, a case on loss relief which uses the word “commercial”; and *IRC v Levy* 56 TC 68. The issue arose in *Levy* because the Courts at one time proposed to read in a gloss to the effect that the concept of “settlement” for the purposes of the settlement provisions excluded commercial transactions. (In *IRC v Plummer* 54 TC 1 Lord Wilberforce rejected this gloss, though some subsequent cases have nevertheless regarded it with favour. We need not be concerned with that here: what matters is the sense which the Courts gave to the expression “commercial” when they used it.)
- 13 For further reading, see Nabil Orow, *General Anti-Avoidance Rules* (Jordans, 2000). This has an extensive bibliography.

- (4) *Tax mitigation*: Conduct which reduces tax liabilities without “tax avoidance” (not contrary to the intention of Parliament).

The distinctions between these concepts (especially avoidance/evasion and avoidance/mitigation distinctions) are now commonplace. They may appear obvious. They are taught to every student. No policy debate would be possible without them. However, all four concepts and their associated terminology have only emerged after a gradual process of development. It is essential to bear this in mind on reading sources on this subject.¹⁴

16.4.1 *Avoidance/evasion distinction*

An avoidance/evasion distinction very similar to the present was recognised very early (and was surely self-evident at any time) but at first there was no terminology to express it. In 1860 Turner LJ suggested evasion/contravention (where evasion stood for the lawful side of the divide)¹⁵. In 1900 the distinction was noted as two meanings of the word “evade”.¹⁶ The technical use of the words avoidance/evasion in the modern sense originated in the USA where it was well established by the

14 e.g. the 1920 Royal Commission on the Income Tax discussed evasion, honest mis-declaration and avoidance in one chapter headed “The Prevention of Evasion”. In this discussion the words “avoidance” and “evasion” were used quite indiscriminately. See Cmd. 615 para 625. It is an interesting question whether the absence of terminology hampered a discussion of the issues or whether a lack of discussion or interest led to the absence of suitable terminology. I suggest the latter: in the 1920s, criminal prosecution for tax evasion was rare, and only in blatant cases. Thus the avoidance/evasion distinction was not relevant. Likewise, tax avoidance (in the modern sense) was then still in its infancy so the avoidance/mitigation distinction also had little relevance.

15 *Fisher v Brierly* (1860) 1 de GF&J 643 at 663. It is a pity this terminology did not catch on because it is much more transparent than avoidance/evasion.

16 *Bullivant v AG* [1901] AC 196 at p. 207:

“The word ‘evade’ is ambiguous. ... there are two ways of construing the word ‘evade’: one is, that a person may go to a solicitor and ask him how to keep out of an Act of Parliament – how to do something which does not bring him within the scope of it. That is evading in one sense, but there is nothing illegal in it. The other is, when he goes to his solicitor and says, ‘Tell me how to escape from the consequences of the Act of Parliament, although I am brought within it’. That is an act of quite a different character.”

1920s.¹⁷ It was slow to be accepted in the UK. By the 1950s, knowledgeable and careful writers in the UK had come to distinguish the term “tax evasion” from “avoidance/mitigation”.¹⁸ A discussion of evasion in the modern criminal sense is outside the scope of this chapter. It is important for our purposes to note that the term “evasion” was regularly used (by modern standards, misused) in the sense of avoidance, in the law reports and elsewhere, at least up to the 1970s.¹⁹ Only now that

17 It is found in the scholarly *Minimising Taxes*, Sears, 1922, Vernon Law Book Co and can be traced to Oliver Wendell Holmes in *Bullen v Wisconsin* (1916) 240 U.S. 625 at p 630. It regarded as basic in *Tax Avoidance*, Dennis Hartman, Legal Publishing Soc, Washington (1930) which cites two textbook definitions in similar terms. The practice of tax avoidance was more advanced in the USA; the first published work on the subject in England was Jasper Moore, *The Saving of Income Tax Surtax and Death Duties*, Butterworths, 1935 (the publication of which lead to the enactment of s.739).

18 The 1955 Royal Commission Cmd. 9474 para 1016:
“It is usual to draw a distinction between tax avoidance and tax evasion. The latter denotes all those activities which are responsible for a person not paying the tax that the existing law charges upon his income. *Ex hypothesi* he is in the wrong, though his wrongdoing may range from the making of a deliberately fraudulent return to a mere failure to make his return or to pay his tax at the proper time. By tax avoidance, on the other hand, is understood some act by which a person so arranges his affairs that he is liable to pay less tax than he would have paid but for the arrangement. Thus the situation which he brings about is one in which he is legally in the right, except so far as some special rule may be introduced that puts him in the wrong.”

Note that “evasion” is used here (unlike present usage) to describe dishonest criminal evasion and honest mis-declaration. Lord Templeman used this (by now old-fashioned) terminology in *IRC v Challenge Corporation* [1986] STC 548: “Tax evasion occurs when the commissioner is not informed of all the facts relevant to an assessment of tax. Innocent evasion may lead to a re-assessment. Fraudulent evasion may lead to a criminal prosecution as well as re-assessment.”

19 More recent examples include: *Coutts & Co v IRC* [1963] 2 WLR at 1418; *Jamieson v CIR* (1963) 41 TC at p 70; *Cory v IRC* [1965] AC at 1107; *Greenberg v IRC* (1971) 47 TC 240 at 271: “Parliament attempted to prevent this and other methods of tax evasion by provisions in the Finance Act 1960.” This usage seems to have stopped in the 1970s; at this time UK economists were “giving increasing attention to the subject of tax avoidance and evasion” (*Tax Avoidance*, p 1, IEA 1979) and their work perhaps had an effect on legal usage. Note that this is purely a semantic and not a substantive point that is being made here. The old usage certainly does not reflect the view that the evasion/avoidance distinction is unreal or unclear or that one can shade into the other. The legal distinction between the two is tolerably clear since evasion involves dishonesty, a tolerably well defined and understood concept.

the terminology has received official approval in the UK²⁰ can this usage be condemned as erroneous.²¹

16.4.2 Avoidance/mitigation distinction

The clear²² articulation of the *concept* of an avoidance/mitigation distinction goes back only to the 1970s²³ and the concept originated from economists, not lawyers. In 1973 C.T. Sandford wrote:

A government may have one of three attitudes to a particular ‘avoidance’ measure – using the wide definition of avoidance. It may welcome it; the government may have deliberately offered a tax concession to promote some objective, e.g. tax concessions on mortgage interest, combined with the abolition of Schedule A income tax, in order to encourage owner-occupation; or investment and initial allowances to stimulate new investment in development areas. Second, without having sought positively to encourage a particular ‘avoiding’ action the government may find it entirely acceptable as when an income tax payer reduces his tax liability by taking a wife or having children; or when a person on retirement transfers savings from a building society to some other form of investment in order to reclaim income tax. Third, the government may deplore certain actions as contrary to its intentions; the

The term “avoision” used in the IEA publication referred to was coined as a convenient term to mean avoidance/evasion. The book noted the lack of *economic* distinction between the two concepts; the economic similarity was the justification for the new coinage. (The book also noted the blurring of a moral distinction between the two concepts either because avoidance was not seen by some as moral or because evasion was not seen by some as immoral; the book did not suggest a lack of a legal distinction which was unquestioned then and still should be now.)

20 *Craven v White* (1988) 62 TC 1 at 197; OED 2nd edition (1989) entry under “Taxation.”

21 For an example of erroneous usage, see *R v Charlton* [1996] STC 1418 at 1421.

22 One can find some earlier examples: *Mangin v IRC* [1971] AC 739 is a moderately clear example; the concept is embryonically present in *Newton v Commissioner of Taxation of Australia* [1958] AC 450. But these cases do not draw the line as clearly or quite on the same basis as Sandford and modern cases following him.

23 In 1946, Wrottesley J was unaware of it in a s.741 context: “There cannot, I think, be two opinions as to what ‘avoiding’ means. Where what is to be avoided is a liability, it must mean to evade, or to keep out of the way of, whether it be as in Richard III, ‘The censures of the carping world’, or anything else unpleasant that might befall a man, such as a tax”: *Congreve v IRC* 30 TC 163. This is describing avoidance in the loose or etymological sense (including mitigation).

action is in accord with the letter of the law but not its spirit. *Only actions in this third category should rank as 'avoidance'.*²⁴

The use of the terminology avoidance/mitigation to *express* this distinction is an innovation of Lord Templeman in 1986.²⁵ The expression “tax avoidance” has very often been used in the loose sense, meaning or including mitigation²⁶. The reason may be either that the author does not have any avoidance/mitigation distinction in his mind or (if he does) that he is not using the modern terminology to express it. Even now, the term “tax avoidance” is sometimes still used in a loose or etymological sense to include mitigation but nowadays this usage is often jocular, which

24 *Hidden Costs of Taxation*, IFS, 1973, page 113 (emphasis added). Sandford proposed a second requirement of “avoidance” which he related to the taxpayer rather than to the legislature:

“It is reasonable to confine ‘avoidance’ to action which results in the would-be avoiders substantially achieving the objective to which the tax had become an obstacle. Let us give some examples. If a man ceases to buy cigarettes because of tobacco tax he has not achieved his pre-tax objective, i.e. to smoke. Buying sweets instead of cigarettes therefore, is not avoidance. Again, if a taxpayer decides to use most of his wealth for a consumption spree because estate duty makes it not worth while saving for heirs, he is not ‘avoiding’ for he has abandoned his objective of passing property to heirs. On the other hand, if he reacts to estate duty by making *inter vivos* gifts (assuming he survives for seven years), this is avoidance; it has achieved, though by a more circuitous route, the objective of passing to heirs an intact property.”

This is problematic, because there is no obvious way to identify the “objective to which the tax has become an obstacle”, and it has not been adopted into the law.

25 *IRC v Challenge* [1986] STC 548. In accordance with the declaratory theory of law, Lord Templeman did not say that he was describing a concept relatively new to tax jurisprudence and framing terminology altogether new to describe it. This avoidance/mitigation terminology (although now part of the law of New Zealand and the UK) does not appear to have caught on in America.

26 C.T. Sandford:

“Amongst tax practitioners the generally accepted definition of avoidance ... is any legal method by which a person can reduce his tax bill... this definition can cover almost anything... I can legally reduce my income tax bill by buying a more expensive house (on which I get additional mortgage interest relief), getting married, having more children, taking out more insurance or simply stopping work.”

(*Hidden Costs of Taxation*, IFS, 1973)

suggests that the technical meaning is seeping into public consciousness.²⁷ Likewise “mitigation” was and sometimes still is used in the sense of “avoidance”.²⁸

In this book I use the words “avoidance” and “mitigation” in the strict sense. It would be convenient to have a neutral term to describe both avoidance and mitigation (what is described above as the loose etymological sense of “tax avoidance”). There is no agreed term, but “tax reduction”,²⁹ “tax saving”, “tax planning” and “tax advantage” might all be used in this sense. It may be less confusing if less elegant to refer to “avoidance/mitigation” where one wishes to refer to the two.

16.5 Meaning of “avoidance” in section 741

The House of Lords in *IRC Willoughby* decided that “avoidance” in s.741 meant tax avoidance in the strict sense and not mitigation:

... it was essential to understand what was meant by "tax avoidance" for the purposes of s 741. Tax avoidance was to be distinguished from tax mitigation. ... My Lords, I am content for my part to adopt these propositions.³⁰

This would have surprised those who framed the legislation in 1936/8; they were unaware of any avoidance/mitigation distinction. But the

27 The author once saw an advertisement for PEPs: “Be a tax avoider!” PEPs were a tax free investment now replaced by ISAs. For another example, see *Board of Inland Revenue v Hoe*, A.P. Herbert’s *More Uncommon Law*, Methuen, 1982, p.199: “Evidently those who do not smoke or drink are ... avoiding taxation.”

28 e.g. C.T. Sanford wrote in 1973 that tax avoidance (in the strict sense) “is often referred to by expressions such as tax planning or tax mitigation”: *Hidden Costs of Taxation*, IFS, 1973, p.104. *Craven v White* 62 TC at 203 (a requirement of *Furniss v Dawson* is that a transaction “had no other purpose than tax mitigation”).

29 See s.748(3) ICTA (Controlled Foreign Companies). HMRC’s Guidance Note on the [CFC] legislation provides at INTM208010:

“Despite numerous valiant attempts there has never been a consensus about what is meant by ‘tax avoidance’ ...

The CFC motive test attempts to solve the first problem by avoiding any mention of the term ‘tax avoidance’, settling instead for the rather more neutral concept of a ‘reduction in tax’ ...”.

See www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctsacfc/.

30 [1997] STC 995 at p.1003.

enormously increased complexity of the tax system since 1936 makes the distinction sensible, perhaps necessary. HMRC accepted that the purchase of an ordinary offshore bond should be taxed under the chargeable event provisions and not ss.739 or 740. The best way³¹ to reach that result is to give a narrow meaning to tax avoidance in s.741 and so to widen the motive defence.

16.5.1 *Purpose of tax evasion*

Suppose an individual transfers assets abroad with the dishonest purpose of *evading* UK taxation. Can one apply the avoidance/evasion distinction and say that the individual did not intend to *avoid* taxation, so that – while he may be liable to criminal sanctions – the motive defence applies and excludes the transfer of assets rules? The answer is plainly no. The argument is anachronistic, since in 1936 and for 40 years afterwards, the word “evasion” was used in English jurisprudence to describe avoidance. More fundamentally, the context shows that the expression “tax avoidance” includes (criminal) tax evasion. Any other result would be absurd. This was assumed without argument in *R v Dimsey & Allen* 74 TC 263.

16.6 Meaning of “taxation” in section 741

It has been held that *taxation* in s.741 means any form of UK taxation, and not only income tax: *Sassoon v IRC* 25 TC 154. This is the HMRC view: Inspector’s Manual 4620:

In this context ‘taxation’ includes Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax as well as Income Tax.

Sassoon, though criticised,³² is a decision of the Court of Appeal and must

31 An alternative, obviously less satisfactory, would be to refuse to recognise the tax purpose of the acquisition, by saying that it is merely incidental, or by applying a *Brebner* or choice principle: see 16.10.1 (A choice principle?).

32 For the following reasons:

(1) The rule that an intention to avoid (say) stamp duty should have *income* tax consequences gives rise to obvious anomalies. The usual principle is that each tax must be considered separately. This is the approach usually adopted by anti-avoidance provisions: e.g. s.703 ICTA, or s.137 TCGA. But see

be taken to represent the present law.

Foreign tax is not “taxation” for this purpose. The House of Lords assumed that this was so without argument in *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 394. This must be right since (1) it is illogical that the purpose of avoiding foreign taxes should have UK tax consequences and (2) it would be almost impossible to apply an avoidance/mitigation distinction to foreign taxes (where the distinction would depend on the foreign tax culture and attitudes).

16.7 A two-stage test

It is submitted that the identification of a tax avoidance purpose (for the purposes of s.741) requires a two-stage approach: identifying and classifying purpose.

16.7.1 *Identify purpose: stage 1*

One must look into the mind of the transferor to ascertain whether his

s.75(5)(a) FA 1986 for an exception.

- (2) Since *Sassoon* was decided, the word “tax” has been given a limited definition: now s.832(3) ICTA:

“Except so far as the context otherwise requires, in the Tax Acts, and in any enactment passed after 12 March 1970 which by any express provision is to be construed as one with the Tax Acts, the Corporation Tax Acts or the Income Tax Acts, ‘tax’, where neither income tax nor corporation tax is specified, means either of those taxes.”

There are two reasons why this statutory change does not affect the position:

- (a) A definition of *tax* does not in principle determine the meaning of the cognate word *taxation*. (Would a definition of “engine” determine the meaning of the cognate word “engineer”?)
 - (b) The decision in *Sassoon* was given the implied approval of Parliament in the 1952 consolidation and it is not likely that the 1970 consolidation was intended to alter that.
- (3) The preamble to s.739 refers only to the avoidance of income tax; but see now s.739(1A).
- (4) Dicta in *Vestey v IRC* 54 TC 503 are said to be inconsistent with *Sassoon*; but this point was not an issue in *Vestey*.
- (5) A reversal of *Sassoon* would cut down considerably the multitude of issues that s.741 currently raises: see 16.17 (Practical examples).

While of course “context is king”, *Sassoon* is supported by consideration of s.22 F(No 2)A 1931 where “taxation” plainly means any tax.

(subjective) purpose was (to use the neutral term) to reduce tax. If he had no purpose to reduce tax then the motive defence applies.

In order to ascertain the transferor's subjective purpose, it is highly relevant to consider the objective questions:

- (a) whether the transfer did reduce tax, and
- (b) whether that tax saving was foreseeable at the time of the transfer.

If no such reduction was foreseeable, it is not likely to have been the purpose to achieve it. Conversely the fact that a tax advantage is objectively foreseeable as a consequence of the transfer may be cogent evidence of subjective purpose. We normally have the purpose of achieving the foreseeable consequences of our acts. However, this is not necessarily so.³³ First the transferor may not have foreseen the advantage even though a "reasonable person" might have done so: no one at all times acts with the foresight of the "reasonable man". Secondly, the transferor may have been aware of the advantage but it may nevertheless not properly be classified as his "purpose": see 16.9 (Foresight and purpose) and 16.10 (Subsidiary consequence not necessarily a purpose).

Before *Willoughby* identifying purpose was the beginning and end of the matter because an avoidance/mitigation distinction had not been recognised in this context. Now there is a second stage.

16.7.2 *Classifying purpose: stage 2*

If the transferor did have the purpose of reducing tax, one must (applying *Willoughby*) categorise that purpose as "avoidance" or "mitigation". This is determined objectively (or at least as objectively as possible).

It would be wrong at stage (2) to ask whether the transferor subjectively thought his purpose was "tax avoidance" (as opposed to mitigation) because that is an issue of law, a decision for the Court and not for him. Indeed, it would generally be pointless, since (unless the individual is a tax lawyer) he will not know the correct meaning of the term in the present context.

33 Contrast s.8 Criminal Justice Act 1967, the principle of which is also part of the common law: *Franklin v The Queen* [1987] AC 576.

The motive defence therefore involves a mixture of objective and subjective elements, as often happens. (Contrast for instance the question of whether or not there is a trade.)

Stage (1) – the mind of the transferor – is a question of fact, decided by the Special Commissioners on evidence and the appellate courts have had little to say about it. Anything which was said on the subject of tax avoidance in s.741 cases before *Willoughby* needs to be reviewed because it will not have considered stage (2).

16.7.3 HMRC view

RI 201 states:

[1] If a transaction involves tax avoidance, that is considered by the Revenue to be at least one of its purposes

[2] even if the transferor did not form the subjective intention of avoiding tax.³⁴

I take this to be a rejection of the stage (1) test set out above: if there is a foreseeable reduction³⁵ in tax, that is necessarily the transferor's purpose. HMRC would pay no regard to the question of whether the taxpayer had the subjective purpose of obtaining that reduction. That must be wrong for several reasons. First, the natural meaning of "purpose" is to connote a subjective concept. This meaning is supported by high authority.³⁶ Of

34 This is loosely based on a dictum of Lord Nolan in *IRC v Willoughby* [1997] STC 995 at p.1003:

"Where the taxpayer's chosen course is seen upon examination to involve tax avoidance (as opposed to tax mitigation), it follows that tax avoidance must be at least one of the taxpayer's purposes in adopting that course, whether or not the taxpayer has formed the subjective motive of avoiding tax."

35 I assume that is what is meant by a transaction 'involving' tax avoidance.

36 "I shall begin by considering the word 'purpose', for both sides have relied on this word in different senses. Broadly, the appellants contend that it is to be given a subjective meaning and the Crown an objective one. I have no doubt that it is subjective. A purpose must exist in the mind. It cannot exist anywhere else."

Chandler v DPP [1964] AC 763 at 804. *Dicta* apparently to the contrary in *Newton v Commissioner of Taxation* [1958] AC 450 at p 465–6 are rightly criticised and distinguished in John Avery Jones [1983] BTR 22–24. Twenty years later, Avery Jones had the opportunity to make the same point judicially in *Carvill v IRC* [2000] STC (SCD) 143.

course context may show the word is used in an unusual sense, but that is not the case here. Second, this is the way that s.741 has always been applied and understood.³⁷

One might think that an advantage of the HMRC view is that it becomes unnecessary to investigate the mind of the transferor. Instead one seeks an “objective purpose” of the transfer. But “objective purpose” is also difficult to determine. It means, I think, the purpose which an ordinary reasonable person would have if he had made the same transfer in the circumstances of the transferor. It is difficult to identify purpose in this way because different people may do the same act with different purposes. And which circumstances are relevant? For instance, take the example of the transferor concerned as to the situation in Europe in 1936; see 16.2 (Enactment history). His subjective purpose was not tax avoidance. Was his objective purpose tax avoidance? I do not know how to begin to answer the question.

The ink had hardly dried on the HMRC statement when the Special Commissioners rejected it; *Beneficiary v IRC*,³⁸ *Carvill v IRC*.³⁹ At present HMRC contend these decisions were wrongly decided and the point may reach the courts.

16.8 Transfer made for tax and non-tax purposes

16.8.1 *Test (a)*

Test (a) depends on the condition:

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- 37 The drafter of s.32(3) FA 1951 plainly agreed with this. This provided (in outline) that where “the main benefit which might have been expected to accrue” from a transaction was tax avoidance, then tax avoidance “was *deemed* to have been the purpose of the transaction”. This imposed an objective standard onto s.32(1) and only makes sense on the assumption that section 32(1) (which was modelled on what is now s.741) was otherwise determined subjectively.
- 38 “We reject counsel’s submission that we should look at effect. Purpose is not effect and in our view it is essential to look into the minds of the actors to discover their purpose.” But, “The question of whether there was tax avoidance must be looked at objectively.” *Beneficiary v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 134 at 143.
- 39 [2000] STC (SCD) 143 at paras. 9–13. The dictum of Lord Nolan in *IRC v Willoughby* mentioned above which appears to favour an objective approach is, as *Carvill* demonstrates, inconsistent with a long line of authority and has to be ignored (as in *Carvill*) or explained (as in *Beneficiary*). *Carvill* was followed in *Cast v Mitchell* SC 455.

that the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation was not the purpose or one of the purposes for which the transfer or associated operations or any of them were effected.

If one of these purposes is tax avoidance, the transfer fails test (a). It does not matter what the other purposes are.⁴⁰

16.8.2 *Test (b)*

Test (b) depends on two conditions; both must be satisfied:

that the transfer and any associated operations were:

[1] commercial transactions and

[2] were not designed for the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation.

What happens if a commercial transaction has two or more purposes? HMRC say in RI 201:

The Revenue's view is that one of the essential conditions of s 741(b) would not be satisfied where there was a significant element of tax avoidance purpose in the design of the transfer and any associated operations.

This paraphrase is rather⁴¹ too generous to HMRC. The Special Commissioner stated the law in *Carvill v IRC* [2000] STC (SCD) 143 at 166:

One must ask in para (b) whether the transfer was designed for the purpose of avoiding tax or not. This seems to me to require that the main purpose was not tax avoidance because if one has to categorise a transaction as being either designed for the purpose of tax avoidance or not, when it is clearly accepted that a transaction may be designed for more than one purpose, the only way to categorise the design into one purpose is to look at the main purpose of the design. I think, therefore, that the taxpayer's contention of sole purpose is too loose a test and the

40 This is stated in *Philippi v IRC* 47 TC 75 at p.110, but it is plain from the terms of s.741(a).

41 Depending what nuance one gives to the malleable word "significant".

Revenue's contention of significant purpose is too stringent a test although it will in practice be difficult to determine the difference between a significant and a main purpose.

This is easier to satisfy than under test (a). The point of test (b) is that (if one passes the "commercial" requirement) the "no tax avoidance" requirement is easier to satisfy. Otherwise there is no reason to have two tests.

16.9 Foresight and purpose

16.9.1 *Two senses of purpose*

Clause 14(1) of the draft Offences Against the Person Bill (a 1998 Home Office consultation paper) defines intention in a way which illustrates one possible meaning of the word "purpose":

A person acts intentionally with respect to a result if—

- (a) it is his purpose to cause it, or
- (b) although it is not his purpose to cause it, he knows that it would occur in the ordinary course of events if he were to succeed in his purpose of causing some other result.

This distinguishes between "intention" and "purpose".⁴² It recognises that a person may not have the purpose of causing a tax saving result if he has the purpose of causing another result even though he knows the tax saving would occur if he succeeds in his purpose of causing the other result.

"Purpose" is not always understood this way:

The word [purpose] can be used to designate either

- [1] the main object which a man wants or hopes to achieve by the contemplated act, or ...
- [2] those objects which he knows will probably be achieved by the act, whether he wants them or not.

I am satisfied that in the criminal law in general, and in this statute in particular, its ordinary sense is the latter one.

42 Bentham's terminology was direct and oblique intention: *The Principles of Morals & Legislation*, Chapter VIII (Of intentionality). See M. Cathleen Kaveny's excellent "Inferring Intention from Foresight" 120 LQR 81.

(*Chandler v DPP* [1964] AC 763 at 804)

Here the word “purpose” is understood in the same sense as “intention” (as defined above, i.e. foresight counts as purpose) and (I think) “object” is used in the narrower sense.⁴³

16.9.2 “Purpose” in s.741

In RI 201 HMRC say:

‘Purpose’ is taken to be the end it is sought to achieve by the transaction.⁴⁴

This adopts (I think) the narrower concept of purpose and it is suggested that this is the law. Purpose in s.741 is what a person wants or hopes to achieve (not merely foresight). The issue arises in test (a) cases.⁴⁵

16.10 Subsidiary consequence not necessarily a purpose

This was stated judicially in the “celebrated”⁴⁶ passage in *IRC v Brebner*:

43 But elsewhere “object” is said to have the same meaning as “purpose”: *Ensign Tankers v Stokes* 64 TC 617 at p.723. These examples neatly illustrate Lord Simon’s lament concerning:

“... the chaotic terminology, whether in judgments, academic writings or statutes. Will, volition, motive, purpose, object, view, intention, intent, specific intent or intention, wish, desire; necessity, coercion, compulsion, duress - such terms, which do indeed overlap in certain contexts, seem frequently to be used interchangeably, without definition ...”

DPP v Lynch [1975] AC 653 at 688. See John Avery Jones “The mental element in anti-avoidance legislation” [1983] BTR 22.

44 This is based on *Newton v Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia* [1958] AC 450 at 465. Note by the way how the use of the passive voice (“it is sought to achieve”) ducks the issue of whose purpose one is looking for. See George Orwell’s essay, “Politics and the English Language”.

45 The issue should not arise in a test (b) case (commercial transactions) because in a situation where one wanted the commercial transaction, and merely had foresight that a tax saving would follow, even if the tax saving was regarded as a purpose (as in the *Chandler* sense of purpose) it would not be the main purpose.

46 *Willoughby v IRC* [1995] STC at p.167.

- [1] My Lords, I would only conclude my speech⁴⁷ by saying, when the question of carrying out a genuine commercial transaction, as this was, is considered, the fact that there are two ways of carrying it out – one by paying the maximum amount of tax, the other by paying no, or much less, tax – it would be quite wrong, as a *necessary* consequence, to draw the inference that, in adopting the latter course, one of the main objects is, for the purposes of the section, avoidance of tax.
- [2] No commercial man in his senses is going to carry out commercial transactions except upon the footing of paying the smallest amount of tax involved.
- [3] The question whether in fact one of the main objects was to avoid tax is one for the Special Commissioners to decide upon a consideration of all the relevant evidence before them and the proper inferences to be drawn from that evidence.⁴⁸

The point being made here is not (or not just) that mere foresight of a tax advantage is not a tax avoidance purpose⁴⁹. Lord Upjohn goes further in point [2]: he suggests that where there is a “commercial transaction” knowledge and *choice* of the tax advantageous course over an alternative does not “necessarily” constitute the main purpose or even one of the purposes⁵⁰ of the transaction.

At what point does a conscious choice of a tax advantageous course become a tax avoidance purpose in its own right in addition to the

47 Pedants may wish to note that the TC reads “judgment” and the AC reads “speech”. “Speech” is strictly the correct term.

48 *IRC v Brebner* 43 TC at 718; emphasis original but paragraph numbers added. Another way to read this passage in *Brebner* is to see it as an early recognition of an avoidance/mitigation distinction but that would be anachronistic because the distinction was not then made. It would also be wrong because such a distinction is irrelevant in s.703 cases. This is stated in *Marwood Homes v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 44 para. 20 but it is clear from the definition of “Tax advantage” in s.709 ICTA. This term includes a relief from or repayment of tax, as well as the avoidance or reduction of a charge to tax. The concept includes both tax avoidance and mitigation.

49 The point made at 16.9 (Foresight and purpose).

50 *Brebner* is a s.703 case. The wording of s. 703 is not quite the same as test (a): s.703 refers to the “main objects” and s.741(a) refers to “purposes”. However, it is considered there is no significant distinction between them. This was presumably the view adopted in *Willoughby* in the Court of Appeal where *Brebner* was considered in a s.741 test (a) context.

commercial purpose? Lord Upjohn does not give an answer to this: to say at [3] that it is a question of fact for the Commissioners, if true, is not exactly helpful.

It is suggested that the test should be: does the tax advantage form an incidental or subsidiary aspect of achieving the commercial transaction (as opposed to being an end in its own right)? If so there is no tax avoidance purpose. This is an evaluative test which is perhaps easier to state than to apply, but it may sometimes be helpful. It overlaps with an avoidance/mitigation distinction, since an advantage which is judged to be incidental or ancillary to a commercial or family transaction is not likely to be contrary to the intention of Parliament: it is more likely to constitute mitigation than avoidance.

I suggest the point made in *Brebner* is really this: where a transaction is done for a non-tax reason, one should be slower to conclude that another purpose is tax avoidance than in the case of a purely tax motivated transaction. This reflects the reasonable assumption that a purely tax motivated transaction is more likely to be contrary to the intention of Parliament. I refer to this as the *Brebner* principle. The *Brebner* principle applies not only to commercial transactions, but also to any transaction carried out for primarily non-tax reasons including “ordinary family dealing”, which would include most trust transfers, at least those where the settlor is excluded.⁵¹

16.10.1 A choice principle?

The *Brebner* dictum is sometimes regarded as supporting a “choice principle”. “Choosing between two alternatives – if one is carrying out a commercial or a family or an investment transaction, choosing the most tax-efficient – is not avoidance.”⁵² But this formulation goes too far: if a UK settlor creates a trust for his family – a family transaction – he has to choose between UK and foreign trustees; but the choice of foreign trustees by the UK settlor is avoidance.

One can accept a choice principle if it is combined with the concept of the intention of Parliament, i.e. if the settlor makes choices within the

51 *Mangin v IRC* [1971] AC 739 at 751 and 756, restating the *Brebner* principle in the context of an extremely free reading of a New Zealand provision.

52 Philip Baker QC “Tax avoidance, tax mitigation and tax evasion”, accessible www.taxbar.com.

intention of Parliament, there is no tax avoidance; this is equivalent or very similar to the concept of “special tax regime”.⁵³

In an earlier edition I suggested a distinction between:

- (1) a tax saving which arises because the transfer *is made* (i.e. it would not arise if the transfer had not been made)⁵⁴; and
- (2) a tax saving which arises because the transfer is made *in one particular way* (i.e. it would not arise if the transfer were made in some other way).⁵⁵

This does not work, because classifying a transfer in category (1) or (2) is an arbitrary or evaluative exercise.

16.11 Purpose of advisors and agents

In the case where:

- (1) a company makes a transfer, and
- (2) there is no quasi transferor,⁵⁶

usual company law principles must be applied to attribute to the company the purpose of the individuals acting on its behalf.

In a case where a transferor is acting by agent or attorney, the purpose of the agent or attorney should, on normal agency principles, be attributed to the transferor.

If a person relies wholly on advisors, and executes documents without more than a vague idea of approving proposals put to him and not properly understood, he has adopted the purpose of his advisors or (which comes to the same thing) that the purpose of his advisors is to be attributed to

53 See 16.12.2 (Special tax regime).

54 Such as the saving of the settlor's own tax liabilities arising from the transfer; see 16.18.1 (No avoidance of settlor's tax liabilities).

55 Such as the saving of the beneficiaries' tax liabilities on a transfer to foreign trustees (which would not arise on a transfer to UK trustees).

56 In such a case of course there would be no *individual* “transferor” who is within s.739: see 13.4.2 (Quasi transferor). The purpose of the company which makes the transfer is still relevant for the application of the motive defence to s.740.

him.⁵⁷ In *IRC v Pratt*, Mr. Lucas “did not understand the scheme: it was masterminded by his own professional advisors”. Nevertheless, “he, *through his advisors*, was fully acquainted with the fact that what was to follow was a tax avoidance scheme, he must fall fairly within the section”: 57 TCI at p.47,49.

16.12 Avoidance/mitigation distinction

This section sets out the most important judicial and other statements on the avoidance/mitigation distinction.

16.12.1 Intention of Parliament

Lord Nolan said:

Tax avoidance within the meaning of section 741 is a course of action designed to conflict with or defeat the evident intention of Parliament.

[*IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57 at p.117]

This is now the authoritative general statement on the subject.

The Tax Law Review Committee used a similar definition of “avoidance”:

We have regarded tax avoidance as action taken to reduce or defer tax liabilities in ways that Parliament plainly did not intend or could not

57 See 37.15 (Agents of settlor). This point was not taken in *Philippi v IRC* 47 TC 75 where the Court of Appeal said at p 114:

“Young Mr. Philippi ... said that he never had any idea of tax in his mind when he made that transfer. It was true that it was saving him a great deal in UK tax ... but that had not occurred to him; the only reason why he had made the transfer was because his father and other members of the family had told him that he ought to do so. He appears to have had no idea why they gave him that advice. The Commissioners accepted ... his evidence that what he had done he did on his father's advice.”

Assuming that this implausible story is true (though “young Mr Philippi” was aged 23 at the time of the transfer) the Court should have held that he had adopted the (tax avoidance) purpose of his father. The point was not argued and hence not considered; it remains open to argue in another case.

possibly have intended had the matter been put to it.⁵⁸

HMRC have also adopted this approach:

Tax avoidance is any action taken to obtain a tax advantage in a way that Parliament did not intend or would not have intended had the matter been put before it. This definition is based upon the report on tax avoidance produced by the Tax Law Review Committee in 1997.⁵⁹

There have been some attempts to be more specific.

16.12.2 *Special tax regime*

Morritt LJ said:

The genuine application of the taxpayer's money in the acquisition of a species of property for which Parliament has *determined a special regime* does not amount to tax avoidance merely on the ground that the taxpayer might have chosen a different application which would have subjected him to less favourable tax treatment.

[*IRC v Willoughby* [1995] STC at 183, emphasis added]

This repeats the test of the intention of Parliament (what Parliament has “determined” is, I think, the same as what Parliament has intended). It brings the added refinement of identifying the “special tax regime” which Parliament has intended to apply. Professor Willoughby's offshore bonds seem reasonably clear⁶⁰ examples of a “species of property for which Parliament had determined a special tax regime”.

This category can be generalised into all occasions where Parliament has determined a “special tax regime” (regardless of whether there is any particular “species of property” involved):

58 Tax avoidance: A Report by the Tax Law Review Committee (1997) para. 1.13, citing *IRC v Willoughby*.

59 IR152 Trusts: An Introduction. HMRC have tried to alter the nuance by deleting the words “plainly” and “possibly” from the TLRC formulation, but that does not alter its essential nature.

60 Though it might be argued that Parliament had intended the chargeable events regime for normal bonds but not for personal portfolio bonds.

The adoption of a course of action which avoids⁶¹ tax should not fall within section 99 if the legislation, upon its true construction, was intended to give the taxpayer the choice of avoiding it in that way.⁶²

16.12.3 *Economic consequences*

Lord Nolan said in *Willoughby*:

The hallmark of tax avoidance is that the taxpayer reduces his liability to tax without incurring the *economic consequences* that Parliament *intended* to be suffered by any taxpayer qualifying for such reduction in his tax liability. The hallmark of tax mitigation, on the other hand, is that the taxpayer takes advantage of a fiscally attractive option afforded to him by the tax legislation, and genuinely suffers the *economic consequences* that Parliament *intended* to be suffered by those taking advantage of the option.⁶³

This repeats the test of the intention of Parliament with the added refinement of identifying the intended “economic consequences”. This is based on two Templeman judgments:

The material distinction in the present case is between tax mitigation and tax avoidance ... Income tax is mitigated by a taxpayer who reduces his income or incurs expenditure in circumstances which reduce his assessable income ... Income tax is avoided ... when the taxpayer reduces his liability to tax without involving him in the loss or expenditure which entitles him to that reduction. The taxpayer engaged in tax avoidance does not reduce his income or suffer a loss or incur expenditure but nevertheless obtains a reduction in his liability to tax as if he had.⁶⁴

61 Lord Hoffmann has here used “avoid” in the loose etymological sense (to include mitigation). Section 99 provided that an arrangement was void as against the Commissioner for Income Tax if its purpose or effect was “tax avoidance”.

62 *O’Neil v Commissioner of Inland Revenue* [2001] STC 742.

63 70 TC at 116 (emphasis added).

64 *IRC v Challenge* [1986] STC 548 cited in *Ensign Tankers v Stokes* [1992] STC at 240. (Lord Millett (whose decision in the High Court was reversed in *Ensign Tankers*) took the opportunity in *Collector of Stamp Revenue v Arrowtown Assets Ltd* (Court of Final Appeal of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, 4 December 2003) to cast doubt on the correctness of *Ensign Tankers*, but that does not affect the point here.)

The non-recourse loan in *Ensign Tankers* is a clear example of a transaction without economic consequences and in *Challenge* Lord Templeman gave another example which will be particularly relevant to the practical examples considered below:

When a taxpayer makes a settlement, he deprives himself of the capital which is a source of income and thereby reduces his income. If the settlement is irrevocable and satisfies certain other conditions the reduction in income reduces the assessable income of the taxpayer. The tax advantage results from the reduction of income.⁶⁵

These are transactions with obvious economic consequences.

It is curious that Lord Nolan emphasised this test, because Professor Willoughby's investment in his bond had no substantial "economic consequences" as compared to a direct personal portfolio investment.⁶⁶

Incidentally, one wonders what economists would think of the term "economic consequences". One suspects it is what John Kay derides as "DIY economics".⁶⁷

16.12.4 *Other indicia of tax avoidance*

It is suggested that "economic consequences" and "special tax regime" are categories of tax saving steps which do accord with the intention of Parliament but are not an exhaustive categorisation of mitigation. They should be regarded as indicia or "badges" of mitigation (like the badges of trade). One can think of others. The Tax Avoidance Schemes (Prescribed Descriptions of Arrangements) Regs 2004 are an interesting attempt to

65 *IRC v Challenge* [1986] STC at 554–5.

66 Lord Nolan did seek, somewhat unconvincingly, to identify economic consequences: "The reality in truth is that the bond holder has a contractual right to the benefits promised by the policy, no more and no less. It is therefore quite wrong to describe the bond holder as having, in the words of the Appellants' printed case 'in substance all the advantages of direct personal ownership without the tax disadvantages'. The significance of this misdescription would become all too apparent if—perish the thought—Royal Life were to become insolvent and unable to meet its obligations to the bond holders."

67 See *The Truth About Markets*, John Kay (Allen Lane, 2003). "Economic consequences" is, I suggest, a form *v* substance distinction under a more appealing name. This is a classification and not a criticism. There is nothing necessarily wrong with a form *v* substance distinction if it is recognised for what it is.

identify indicia of tax avoidance for the purposes of disclosure obligations. The indicia are:

- (1) confidentiality from other promoters; and
- (2) premium fees (typically linked to tax savings).

The OECD also identified secrecy⁶⁸ as a common characteristic of avoidance:

Secrecy may also be a feature of modern avoidance. In some cases tax advisers sell ready-made avoidance devices, one term of the contract of sale being that the taxpayer keeps the facts secret for as long as possible. It is in the interest of the avoiders to keep the administration from learning about new schemes because official and public knowledge may be followed by legislation to counter that kind of avoidance.⁶⁹

Neither secrecy nor premium fees are normally associated with the practical transactions discussed below. But if, exceptionally, that was the case then it would be a factor suggesting that the transaction should be characterised as tax avoidance.

An important indicia is familiarity and use. Once a tax avoidance arrangement becomes common, it is almost always stopped by new

68 There are different types of secrecy:

- (1) Secrecy (perhaps better described as confidentiality) against other tax advisers (the scheme vendor wishing to keep the profits of a scheme to himself).
- (2) Secrecy against HMRC (as the OECD envisage) in order to postpone the time when HMRC are informed for as long as lawfully possible. There is normally a significant delay between the date of a transaction and the date of any return.
- (3) Secrecy against HMRC in order to avoid or frustrate any investigation. Of course dishonest concealment of material facts marks a point where avoidance becomes evasion.

Concealment in category (3) is not primarily characteristic of tax avoidance schemes. It is a problem which may affect all aspects of tax collection (whether or not involving avoidance). The Keith Committee recognised this: Enforcement Powers of Revenue Departments (1983) Cmnd 8822 para 7.3.5. By contrast, lawful concealment in category (1) and (especially) category (2) is an indicia of tax avoidance.

69 OECD Report by Committee of Fiscal Affairs (1980) cited in OECD International Tax Avoidance and Evasion (1987), page 17.

legislation within a few years. If something commonly done is contrary to the intention of Parliament, it is only to be expected that Parliament will stop it. So that which is commonly done and not stopped is not likely to be contrary to the intentions of Parliament. It follows that tax reduction arrangements which have been carried on for a long time are unlikely to constitute tax avoidance. There are arguments against this view. It may be said to confuse the acts of HMRC with the intention of Parliament. It also seems strange that the same act might be stigmatised as tax avoidance if challenged by HMRC shortly after it is first done; but if such acts become the general practice over a long period of time then the intention of Parliament is decided differently. Nevertheless, it is submitted that the better view is to have close regard to this factor. Judges have a strong intuitive sense that that which everyone does, and has long done, should not be stigmatised with the pejorative term of “avoidance”. This, I suggest, is the true reason why the courts refused to regard bed-and-breakfast transactions or back-to-back loans as tax avoidance.⁷⁰ An example in this category is a transfer to an offshore company to avoid IHT, a standard practice since the inception of CTT.

Professor Sandford drew another categorisation of tax savings which offers another indicia of avoidance. He refers to:

- (1) Tax savings offered by government to induce a certain kind of behaviour or to fulfill what it feels to be an obligation.
- (2) Methods of saving that a government dislikes, but allows to remain for administrative reasons.
- (3) Tax savings deriving from technical loopholes unforeseen at the time of drafting.⁷¹

Category (1) is obviously mitigation and category (3) is obviously avoidance. It is suggested that category (2) should not be regarded as avoidance. A clear example is a transfer of a land-owning company (instead of its land) to reduce the rate of stamp duty land tax from 4% to 0.5%. The Government considered imposing 4% stamp duty on shares in land-owning companies to prevent this⁷², but decided not to proceed with the idea. Such transfers should be considered mitigation rather than avoidance. This category is particularly important to the practical

70 *Ensign Tankers (Leasing) v Stokes* 64 TC 617 at 739. Back-to-back loans have been accepted by HMRC for decades: International Tax Handbook, para 1201.

71 *Tax Avoidance* (1979, IEA) p 81.

72 Modernising Stamp Duty (HMRC, Consultative Document 2002) para 2.34.

examples considered below. An example is the use of offshore companies to hold UK assets to save IHT (even though the suggestion to impose IHT on such companies did not reach the level of formal discussion).

16.13 Failed indicia of tax avoidance

16.13.1 Spirit of the statute

Other approaches in distinguishing tax avoidance and tax mitigation are to seek to identify “the spirit of the statute” or “misusing” a provision. I take this to mean exactly the same as the “evident intention of Parliament” properly understood. If that is right, the expression adds nothing but rhetoric and confusion. If it means anything vaguer or more intuitive than that, then the concept deserves the ridicule expressed in *Norglen v Reeds Rains Prudential*.⁷³ Either way, the expression is best avoided in our context.

16.13.2 Artificial transactions and “devices”

Another approach is to seek to identify “artificial” transactions. But while tax avoidance frequently involves transactions that can be described as “artificial”, this is not always the case. You can have tax avoidance without much (if any) artificiality⁷⁴ and, of course, artificiality without tax avoidance. That in itself would not be a fatal objection if we are merely seeking badges of avoidance and not a test which will work every time. However, the unlawyerlike term “artificial” is too vague to be useful even as a badge of tax avoidance.⁷⁵ It is of no use in determining whether any of the practical examples considered below are tax avoidance. Try it and

73 “It is not that the statute has a penumbral spirit which strikes down devices or strategies designed to avoid its terms or exploit its loopholes. There is no need for such spooky jurisprudence.” [1999] 2 AC 1 at 14.

74 e.g. an appointment of non-resident trustees.

75 The 1955 Royal Commission on the Taxation of Profits and Income commented on s.44 F(No. 2)A 1915 (“A person shall not, for the purpose of avoiding payment of excess profits duty, enter into any fictitious or artificial transaction ...”):

“A transaction is not well described as ‘artificial’ if it has valid legal consequences, unless some standard can be set up to establish what is ‘natural’ for the same purpose. Such standards are not readily discernible.”

Cmd. 9474 para 1024.

see.

The same objection applies to that particular obstacle to clear thinking, the term ‘device’.⁷⁶

16.14 Intention of Parliament v intention of Government

I suggest two broad approaches to “tax avoidance” can usefully be distinguished:

- (1) “Tax avoidance” as politicians, civil servants (and perhaps most non-tax lawyers) use the term. This means a tax reduction arrangement which is contrary to the intention or wish of the *Government of the day* (ministers or civil servants, primarily HMRC). For a revealing example of this usage see the National Audit Office Report (Countering VAT Avoidance, 1992):

Avoidance involves complex issues and the position is constantly changing. A policy change in the UK, or a ruling from the European Commission or European Court of Justice, can easily result in today’s unacceptable avoidance becoming tomorrow’s acceptable tax mitigation, and vice versa.

This is “tax avoidance” for the purposes of politics and administration.⁷⁷

- (2) “Tax avoidance” in the sense used by tax lawyers. This means a tax reduction arrangement which is contrary to the intention of *Parliament*. The view of the Government or HMRC should not come into it.

This lawyer’s concept of “tax avoidance” is better in law because it is consistent with the rule of law: the rule of law requires that tax liabilities are to be determined by settled rules derived from statute and other sources of law, and not by the opinion or decision of a civil servant or politician.

76 *Norglen v Reeds Rains Prudential* [1999] 2 AC 1 at 13: “I do not think that it promotes clarity of thought to use terms like stratagem or device.”

77 A purist may say this usage is incorrect or debased; that takes us to the debate as to whether or not there is such a thing as “correct” English usage (where different groups use English differently) and how one determines it if there is. But the purist cannot stop the word being used in this political sense.

This concept is also less volatile. It is right, indeed necessary, for it to be so. If the meaning of “tax avoidance” were “constantly changing” as a result of a mere “policy change in the UK or ruling from the European Commission” then the concept is unworkable for tax.

The avoidance/mitigation distinction is not self-explanatory, it is not a given. It is a construct defined and determined by reference to values and attitudes of the tax culture in which we live. The difference between the approaches (1) and (2) is partly: *whose* values and tax culture does one apply, and partly: *to what materials* does one refer to ascertain these values? I will give an example. In 1973, C.T. Sandford wrote:

At present gifts made more than seven years prior to death pay no tax (with the possible exception of capital gains tax). ... Is there evidence that such gifts are contrary to the intention of Parliament? Both circumstantial evidence and logic point to this conclusion. Thus if Parliament were indifferent to the making of gifts prior to death, would there have been successive increases in the gifts *inter vivos* period, which, since 1894, has risen in four successive stages from one to the present seven years?

Sandford considered and dismissed some policy arguments in favour of an estate duty and concluded:

A reasonable interpretation would be that the gifts *inter vivos* provision was intended to prevent as many gifts as possible from circumventing estate duty.⁷⁸

The repeal of CTT and return to an estate duty under the name of Inheritance Tax shows that lifetime giving since 1986 cannot now be regarded as “tax avoidance”, but I suggest that lifetime giving was not “avoidance” (in the strict sense) of estate duty even in 1973. If Parliament intended to tax all lifetime gifts it would *not* have increased the lifetime gift period to seven years. It is obvious that such an increase would not stop tax-free lifetime giving. Parliament would certainly not have enacted a taper relief under which gifts made more than four years before death pay a reduced rate! How then did Professor Sandford reach the wrong conclusion? Perhaps because he wished to advocate the imposition of a

78 *Hidden Costs of Taxation*, IFS, 1973, page 113.

capital transfer tax. When one wishes to impose a new tax law, the temptation to describe the old law as permitting “avoidance” is irresistible (as a tool of advocacy) and also has a certain underlying logic. There is tax avoidance in a political if not a lawyer’s sense. One point to note is that a comment from the Government (or any advocate of a tax reform) that existing law permits “avoidance” needs especial scrutiny because it is easy to confuse the intention of Parliament with the intention of Government (or of the advocate).

16.15 How to ascertain “the evident intention of Parliament”?

This is the problem at the heart of the concept of “tax avoidance”. If this term means an arrangement contrary to the intention of Parliament, one must identify that intention. C.T. Sanford addressed the problem:

But here we meet the major difficulty. ... As individuals we may feel certain that a particular action is contrary to the intention of the law; but the *objective* interpretation of that intention can only be found in the words the law uses.⁷⁹

Sanford was right. The issue is statutory interpretation and the principles of statutory interpretation should be applied. The intention of Parliament should be decided primarily from the words of the statutes. Other material may be relevant on the usual principles of statutory interpretation, e.g. White and Green Papers, Royal Commission Reports, Hansard on *Pepper v Hart* principles, textbooks and the occasional learned article.

Lord Nolan refers to the *evident* intention of Parliament. Unless there is an “evident” intention, there is no tax avoidance. This qualification does not remove a penumbra of uncertainty, but perhaps it helps to reduce it.

16.15.1 *Two levels of intention*

Now, it may be objected that a concept of “tax avoidance” based on what is contrary to “the intention of Parliament” is not coherent. The object of construction of any statute is always said to be to find “the intention of Parliament”.⁸⁰ In any successful tax avoidance scheme, even as blatant a

79 *Hidden Costs of Taxation*, IFS, 1973, page 114 (emphasis in original).

80 See *Cross on Statutory Interpretation*, 3rd ed., 1995, chapter 2.

scheme as *Fitzwilliam*,⁸¹ the House of Lords concluded that the intention of Parliament was not to impose a tax charge in the circumstances which the tax avoiders had placed themselves. A.A. Shenfield made this point:

What is meant by the intentions of the law and in what sense does avoidance circumvent them? Courts of law in our system seek to find the intention of a law in the words it uses. In this sense the avoiders does not circumvent its intentions but abides by them.⁸²

The answer is that the expression “intention of Parliament” is being used in two senses. It is perfectly consistent to say that the *Fitzwilliam* scheme:

- (1) escapes IHT (there being no provision to impose an IHT charge); and yet
- (2) constitutes the avoidance of IHT.

One is seeking the intention of Parliament at a higher, more generalised level. A statute may fail to impose a tax charge, leaving a gap that even a court cannot fill even by purposive construction, but nevertheless one can conclude that there would have been a tax charge had the point been considered. An example is the notorious case of *Ayrshire Employers Mutual Insurance Association v IRC* 27 TC 331 where the House of Lords held that Parliament had “missed fire”.⁸³ A.A. Shenfield recognised this (perhaps grudgingly):

What the complainant against avoidance means by the intentions of a law is not what may be deduced from what it says, but what parliament intended it to say, or what parliament ought in the complainant’s

81 67 TC 614.

82 A.A. Shenfield, *The Political Economy of Tax Avoidance*, Institute of Economic Affairs, Occasional Paper 24, 1968, p.20–1.

83 It might be objected that this case is wrongly decided by modern standards of statutory interpretation: “I venture respectfully to suggest that if, as in this case, the Courts can identify the target of Parliamentary legislation their proper function is to see that it is hit: not merely to record that it has been missed”; “The Courts as Legislators”, Presidential Address of The Rt. Hon. Sir Kenneth Diplock, The Holdsworth Club, 1965. However, in *Cooper v Billingham* 74 TC 139 the Court of Appeal was prepared to say that the same result could happen today (albeit rarely).

opinion to have intended it to say, or what in his opinion it would have been equitable for it to say. Now I do not say that this can never have substance. We all know that, quite apart from outright errors of draftsmanship, there is a distinction between the letter and the spirit of a law. But the spirit of a law is elusive. It is tempting to believe that one has grasped the spirit of a law when in truth one is moved by prejudice or preconception. We ought to be extremely careful ...⁸⁴

16.16 Reduction, deferral and unsuccessful avoidance

16.16.1 Reduction

Section 741 refers to “avoidance” alone but several later provisions refer to “avoidance *or reduction*” of tax.⁸⁵ In this expression it could be that avoidance is used in the strict sense and reduction is referring to mitigation, but that is anachronistic (since the distinction was not known at the time). The word “reduction” was probably added to forestall an argument that the mere reduction of tax was not avoidance as long as some tax remained payable.⁸⁶ But nowadays a court would not be so literal and there is no doubt that (for the purposes of s.741) a reduction of tax from £10 to £6 amounts to the avoidance of £4.

16.16.2 Deferral

It is considered that arrangements to defer tax may be regarded as “avoidance”, and indeed the classic avoidance case *Furniss v Dawson* might be characterised as involving mere “deferral” of tax. (Of course, the fact that tax is merely deferred, and will or may later be paid, may be a factor which supports the conclusion that the arrangement is to be characterised as mitigation and not avoidance.)

16.16.3 Unsuccessful avoidance

The OECD correctly states:

⁸⁴ *Ibid*, note 82 .

⁸⁵ The earliest of these was s.35 FA 1941 (Excess Profits Tax); the formula is found in modern provisions: s.775 ICTA and as part of the more lengthy formula in s.709(1) ICTA.

⁸⁶ Contrast the common statutory expression “mitigate or remit” a penalty.

Successful tax reduction is neither a sufficient nor a necessary test of tax avoidance. It is not sufficient because this would cover acceptable tax planning [ie mitigation] and it is not necessary because an avoidance scheme designed to reduce tax may not succeed.⁸⁷

16.17 Practical examples: introduction

We can test these general principles by trying to apply them in some practical cases. There is no test like the test of practice. I first consider transfers to six types of non-resident trust (here called “trust transfers”):

- (1) Trusts where settlor is excluded:⁸⁸
 - (a) Foreign settlor: UK and foreign beneficiaries;
 - (b) Foreign settlor: only UK beneficiaries;
 - (c) UK settlor: UK beneficiaries;
 - (d) UK settlor: foreign beneficiaries.

(“Foreign” here refers to someone not resident or domiciled in the UK and not expecting to become resident or domiciled.)

- (2) Trusts where the settlor is a beneficiary:
 - (a) Settlor foreign domiciled but UK resident;
 - (b) Settlor foreign domiciled and non-UK resident.

This by no means covers all the possible circumstances of trust transfers, but one can extrapolate from these to others which may arise. It may be helpful to summarise the questions that arise on a trust transfer. One must ask: Is the purpose to avoid (1) income tax? (2) CGT? (3) inheritance tax? It is obviously necessary to consider each tax separately; I will consider CGT and IT first, and then IHT. Thus what seemed like a single issue (is there tax avoidance?) raises 3 sub-issues; that is an inevitable consequence of the ruling that taxation includes any tax.⁸⁹

However, a tax charge does not arise in isolation, but is charged in

87 OECD Report by Committee of Fiscal Affairs (1980) cited in OECD’s International Tax Avoidance and Evasion (1987), page 17.

88 It is assumed that the spouse of the settlor is also excluded.

89 See 16.6 (Meaning of “taxation” in s.741.)

different ways on the settlor, trustees⁹⁰ or beneficiaries. It is best to consider these three classes of taxpayer separately, though the issues partly overlap. So in the case of a trust transfer one must ask whether the purpose is avoidance of IT/CGT/IHT liabilities of (1) the settlor; (2) the trustees; (3) the beneficiaries. Thus what seemed like only 3 sub-issues raises 9 sub-issues. Further, post-*Willoughby* one must consider whether there is a factual subjective purpose to reduce any of these tax liabilities and then whether the purpose (if present) is to be classified as avoidance or mitigation. So what seemed like a single issue (is the purpose of a trust transfer to avoid taxation?) actually turns out to raise 18 sub-issues (is the purpose to save IT/CGT/IHT by settlor/trustees/beneficiaries and, if so, is it mitigation or avoidance?).

16.18 Trust transfers where settlor excluded

Transfers to a trust from which the settlor is excluded have two common features which are relevant for the motive defence:

16.18.1 No avoidance of settlor's tax liabilities

The trust transfer will usually bring a tax advantage to the settlor (compared to the position if there is no transfer.) As far as the settlor's tax liabilities are concerned, since she is excluded from the trust, any tax advantage she might obtain in this way is mitigation not avoidance. It is not in principle the intention of Parliament that she should pay tax in respect of income/gains/capital from which she is excluded.⁹¹ However, HMRC rightly say that the purpose of a trust transfer may be to avoid tax liabilities of the trustees and beneficiaries and here closer investigation is needed.

16.18.2 Non-tax reason for creating trust

There will usually be non-tax reasons for the settlor to make a trust, rather

90 Although trustees are in economic reality paying tax on behalf of beneficiaries, the rules for taxation of trustees are distinct from the rules for taxation of beneficiaries so it is best to consider trustees separately.

91 See Lord Templeman's dictum in 16.12.3 (Economic consequences). The exceptional case of s.86 TCGA is discussed below.

than making absolute gifts. The advantages are asset protection in the broadest sense: protecting the trust fund from profligate beneficiaries, divorcing spouses, and sometimes forced heirship or foreign exchange control. These are good reasons but not commercial ones. So a trust transfer must pass test (a), not test (b), but it does so in the context of a transaction which is not usually wholly tax driven. In the absence of tax considerations the usual form would naturally be (and in practice generally is) a discretionary trust.

16.19 Foreign settlor; UK and non-UK beneficiaries

This section considers a transfer to a trust whose beneficiaries include (but are not primarily) UK resident and domiciled beneficiaries, and exclude the settlor.

16.19.1 Avoidance of trustees' tax

In deciding whether the trust transfer yields a tax advantage for the trustees, one obviously cannot compare the actual position (appointment of foreign trustees) with the position if the transfer had not taken place. One must compare it with something else the settlor might have done (which in this context must be the appointment of UK trustees). That seems a reasonable comparable; the settlor has a choice: to transfer to trustees in the UK or elsewhere and he must do one or the other. In the absence of UK tax, there will often be no reason to prefer the one to the other.

The choice of UK trustees (rather than foreign trustees) will not in principle yield any greater CGT.⁹² There is no question of CGT avoidance.

Income tax is slightly more complicated. The choice of exclusively UK trustees of a discretionary trust will yield HMRC some income tax on foreign source income not due from non-resident or mixed resident trustees.⁹³ However, if one trustee (even a minority trustee) is resident outside the UK, the trust is not (in short) subject to income tax on foreign

92 As long as the UK trustees are professionals: see 4.8 (Professional trustees treated as non-resident).

93 See 4.3 (Trust residence for income tax). The position before the FA 1989 was thought by HMRC to be the same, and was held in *Dawson v IRC* 62 TC 301 to be only slightly (and for present purposes not materially) different.

income. Does that mean that the choice of non-resident trustees is income tax avoidance? It is submitted that the answer is plainly no. Section 110 FA 1989 assists in the appointment of non-resident trustees, suggesting that this cannot be contrary to the intention of Parliament. To hold otherwise would be to suggest that the settlor has a duty to maximise UK income tax liability. Any IT saving here must be mitigation.

16.20 Avoidance of beneficiaries' income tax liabilities

In deciding whether the trust transfer yields an income tax advantage for the beneficiaries, one obviously cannot compare the actual position (transfer to trust) with the position if the transfer had not taken place. One must compare it with something else the settlor might have done

The actual position of the UK beneficiaries is that they will pay tax on normal principles in respect of income distributions from the trust, but no tax on accumulated income and (in the absence of s.740) no income tax on capital distributions. This is certainly an income tax advantage if the transfer to a discretionary trust is compared with a transfer to the beneficiaries or to a transfer to an interest in possession trust.

Is the purpose of the transferor to obtain this advantage? Normally his purpose will be to obtain non-tax advantages, and even foresight of the tax advantage will not constitute purpose.⁹⁴

16.21 If there is a tax saving purpose is it avoidance or mitigation?

Returning to the practical example of a transfer to a trust by a foreign settlor, with both UK and foreign beneficiaries. Is the purpose (if it exists) of saving income tax by the beneficiaries to be classified as avoidance? The difference between being a beneficiary of a discretionary trust and owning capital outright is normally⁹⁵ a difference with "economic consequences". On an economic consequences test this should be mitigation.

There is another indication that the intention of Parliament is not infringed. If s.740 applies, in this class of case, the result is unfair and sometimes extremely unfair. The UK beneficiaries will pay income tax on

⁹⁴ See 16.9 (Foresight and purpose).

⁹⁵ It might be different if the trustees (perhaps guided by a strongly worded letter of wishes) slavishly follow the wishes of a beneficiary.

capital payments on an amount by reference to relevant income which may greatly exceed their “share” of the income of the trust computed on any just and reasonable basis.

If there is avoidance of UK tax there is likely to be avoidance of tax in every other jurisdiction where beneficiaries are resident;⁹⁶ it is impossible for the settlor to make a discretionary trust (allowing tax free accumulation) anywhere without tax avoidance elsewhere – which, if not absurd, is somewhat startling.

16.22 Avoidance of beneficiaries’ CGT liabilities

The CGT position is complicated by recent tax reforms. Before 1998, capital payments from the trust would be free of tax to the beneficiaries. This was expressly set out in s.87 TCGA. One must take that as a special tax regime intended by Parliament. Pre-1998 transfers cannot be regarded as involving CGT avoidance by the beneficiaries.

After 1998, capital payments to UK domiciled beneficiaries give rise to CGT by reference to trust gains regardless of the domicile of the settlor. This could be taken to suggest that post-1998 transfers constitute CGT avoidance by the beneficiaries. But the points made in relation to IT avoidance/mitigation apply here too, and s.69(2) TCGA is even stronger than s.110 FA 1989. So the better view is that any CGT saving is mitigation.

16.23 Foreign settlor; only UK beneficiaries

The next case to consider is a transfer to a trust whose beneficiaries are all UK resident and domiciled. A trust transfer primarily motivated by non-tax advantages (asset protection) should not normally be regarded as having the purpose of tax reduction.

In an unusual case, however, that might be one of the settlor’s purposes. Indeed, it could be his primary purpose. It can happen be that the settlor creates a trust primarily for a UK beneficiary, and the only reason he does this is tax considerations. Asset protection does not concern every settlor. He would make an absolute gift to a UK beneficiary but for UK tax reasons only he makes a transfer to a trust for his benefit. The transfer is

96 Assuming they are in a jurisdiction with a tax system comparable to the UK.

solely UK tax driven.⁹⁷

In these (factually unusual) circumstances the question arises whether the tax saving purpose is avoidance or mitigation. Section 69(2) TCGA and s.110 FA 1989 show the intention of Parliament to be that the choice of foreign trustees by a non-resident and non-domiciled settlor should not be regarded as avoidance of trustees' IT or CGT. These sections apply regardless of the residence and domicile of the beneficiaries. The inference should probably be carried across that there is likewise mitigation not avoidance of beneficiaries' IT and CGT liabilities; but the point is arguable.

16.24 UK settlor and UK beneficiaries

Contrast now a settlor who is UK resident and domiciled, making provision for UK beneficiaries. Assume the settlor is not to be a beneficiary. Again, he will often prefer a trust to outright gifts, for non-tax reasons, and the choice is UK or offshore. If he chooses the latter, his purpose (or one of his purposes) is likely to be to reduce CGT or Income Tax and this purpose will be tax avoidance rather than mitigation. This is not an invitation to partake in a statutory regime; we all know that this income tax saving is what s.740 is intended to stop.

The distinction is therefore between:

- (1) foreign settlors (whose offshore trusts are not in principle regarded as tax avoidance), and
- (2) UK settlors (whose offshore trusts are in principle regarded as tax avoidance).

This is clearly drawn in the 1974 Green Paper on Wealth Tax:

Overseas trusts

22. Trusts where the trustees are not resident in the UK and the administration of the trust is ordinarily carried on outside this country

97 This might be made evidentially clear by contemporary correspondence, or if, perhaps, the settlor's gift to a UK child is settled and his gift to other children outside the UK is absolute; but such details only go to identify the settlor's purpose, and are not otherwise significant for tax.

fall into two broad categories.

“Genuine” overseas trusts

23. The first category includes all those trusts set up with non-resident trustees by settlors who have little or no connection with this country. *In such a case even if there are one or more beneficiaries or discretionary objects resident in this country there are no grounds on which it would be right to bring the trustees or the whole of the trust assets within the charge to the tax.* But a UK resident individual with an interest in such a trust, whether in possession or reversion, has a realisable asset which should be included in his personal wealth at its actuarial value. If such a trust is discretionary however its objects generally have no interests in the trust assets on which they should be assessed.

“Artificial” overseas trusts

24. The second category includes those trusts where a UK settlor arranges for the trustees to be non-resident or where the administration of an existing resident trust passes overseas. The legal ownership of the settled property is thus vested in persons outside UK jurisdiction and *the arrangement is very frequently prompted by tax avoidance considerations.* Accordingly, where settled funds are provided directly or indirectly by a person who at the time the funds were provided was domiciled or ordinarily resident in the UK, the trustees will be liable to the same extent as if the trust had been resident.⁹⁸

While the Paper was addressing the issue of what the Wealth Tax should cover, this passage illustrates very well the general understanding of the concept of tax avoidance in the context of offshore trusts.

16.25 UK settlor; foreign beneficiaries

Now consider a UK settlor making a trust (from which he is excluded) for foreign beneficiaries.

What about liabilities of the beneficiaries? Since they are not UK resident, they are largely outside the scope of IT and CGT, so there is no avoidance.

In deciding whether the trust transfer yields a tax advantage for the trustees, one can again compare the actual position (appointment of

⁹⁸ Wealth Tax, Cmnd 5704, 1974 paras. 22–4 (emphasis added). The fact that the Wealth Tax proposal was abandoned does not affect the relevance of the passage.

foreign trustees) with the appointment of UK trustees. UK trustees would pay IT if the trust were discretionary but not (for all practical purposes) if it were interest in possession. Any IT saving must be mitigation. CGT is different: UK trustees will pay the tax, and foreign trustees will not. However, trustees are in economic reality paying tax on behalf of the beneficiaries. Where the beneficiaries are not within the scope of the tax then any tax saving by the trustees must be mitigation. This is consistent with the rule that the anti-avoidance provisions of s.87 TCGA and s.740 ICTA will not in principle apply on payments to beneficiaries outside the scope of CGT and IT.

16.26 UK settlor; UK & foreign beneficiaries

Where there is a mixture of UK and non-UK beneficiaries I suggest the starting point is that one would expect the settlor to make his trust here, so a transfer to foreign trustees would be regarded as avoidance. (In such a case there is something to be said in income tax terms for the creation of two separate trusts for two separate classes of beneficiaries, the residents and the non-residents, so one at least qualifies for the motive defence. But CGT considerations point the other way.)

16.27 Transfer to trust; settlor a beneficiary

16.27.1 Foreign domiciled UK resident settlor-beneficiary

The next case concerns a foreign domiciled UK resident settlor who transfers assets to a non-resident trust under which he is the principal beneficiary.

Income tax is not avoided since trust income continues to be taxed on a remittance basis under s.624 ITTOIA. There may be an IT reduction after the death or exclusion of the settlor but it will not (normally) be the purpose (or even one of the purposes) of the settlor to obtain that (normally very long term) advantage, quite apart from the question of whether the advantage is avoidance or mitigation.

There is in principle a significant CGT advantage⁹⁹ and to obtain that advantage is often one of the purposes of the trust. If so, is it CGT

99 See 19.11 (CGT planning).

“avoidance”? It must have been a decision of Parliament *not* to apply s.86 TCGA to a foreign domiciled settlor. It is suggested that there is no CGT “avoidance”. This is a “statutory invitation” in plain terms.

16.27.2 *Non-resident non-domiciled settlor-beneficiary*

Where the settlor is the principal beneficiary and neither domiciled nor resident then UK tax saving is not likely to be a purpose during the life of the settlor, because no saving in fact arises. After the death of the settlor there may be a saving if there are UK beneficiaries. The position then becomes like that of a trust where the settlor is excluded, and the discussion above is relevant. The question of avoidance/mitigation does not then arise.

16.28 When is the appointment of non-UK resident trustees of an existing UK resident trust made for the purpose of avoiding IT or CGT?

Similar principles apply. One case is where the settlor and beneficiaries are wholly UK based, the settlor has created a UK trust, and foreign trustees are later appointed. The inference that the appointment has the purpose of saving UK income tax or CGT is very strong and this purpose is avoidance not mitigation.

At the other end of the scale is the case where the settlor and the principal beneficiaries have gone to live abroad permanently and local trustees are appointed. One reason for the export of the trust is that the settlor may (or may continue to be) a trustee. If so, the appointment may have no tax saving purpose at all. But if (as is likely) it has a tax saving purpose, that is mitigation and not avoidance.

What if all the beneficiaries are abroad but the settlor remains in the UK? The same tax savings could in principle be had by winding up the trust with outright appointment to beneficiaries, and that transfer is not likely to constitute avoidance. So the appointment of foreign trustees should not be avoidance.

What if the settlor goes abroad and the beneficiaries remain in the UK? It is tentatively suggested that a tax saving purpose (if it exists) is likely to be avoidance.

A more borderline case is where the settlor and beneficiaries go to live

abroad for a medium term period (say more than five years¹⁰⁰). Non-UK resident trustees are appointed with the intention that the trust will continue to be non-resident even after the settlor returns to the UK. This is probably to be classified as tax avoidance, albeit long-term tax avoidance, but views may differ, especially if the time spent abroad is longer than five years.

16.29 When is a trust transfer made for the purpose of avoiding IHT?¹⁰¹

16.29.1 Change of situs without alteration of ownership

The transfer of money by a foreign domiciled person from a UK bank to a foreign bank in order to make the money excluded property, is an act of tax mitigation, not avoidance. See *Beneficiary v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 134 at 145. The same would apply if the transfer is made by trustees of a trust with a non-domiciled settlor. The same would apply to a sale of UK situate property and re-investment in non-UK situate property.

16.29.2 Transfer to trustees

The residence of trustees is almost wholly irrelevant for IHT.

A gift by a settlor to a trust from which he is excluded is mitigation of his own IHT¹⁰² but it is also necessary to consider the IHT savings of trustees and beneficiaries.

If a foreign domiciled settlor gives, and the trustees retain, non-UK property, any IHT saving purpose which may exist is mitigation. This is so even if the beneficiaries are UK domiciled (so an absolute gift to them would have brought the trust property into the scope of IHT). Section 48 IHTA provides that property in a trust made by a person not domiciled in the UK is, if not situate in the UK, excluded property. Any inheritance tax advantage conferred by the trust, so far from being contrary to the evident intention of Parliament, would appear to be in accordance with Parliament's evident intention. The argument to the contrary amounts to

100 There is no particular significance in selecting five years as illustrative of a medium term period, but it is consistent with the rule that an individual leaving for any shorter period now remains within the scope of CGT: s.10A TCGA.

101 For transfers before 27 March 1974 it would be necessary to consider Estate Duty.

102 See 16.18.1 (No avoidance of settlor's tax liabilities).

an argument that the settlor has a duty to maximise inheritance tax liabilities.¹⁰³

A gift by a settlor to a trust from which he is not excluded, in circumstances where the settlor is anticipating becoming UK domiciled, is borderline. Section 48 IHTA makes it plain that such a gift carries substantial IHT advantages. But is it “contrary to the evident intention of Parliament” to enjoy these advantages? The author tentatively suggests that such a gift should be regarded as IHT mitigation not avoidance. This is consistent with the rule (generally accepted though questioned by some) that the gifts with reservation provision does not apply here.¹⁰⁴

16.30 Transfer of UK assets from non-resident trustees to non-resident trust subsidiary

By “trust subsidiary” I mean a company wholly owned by trustees, which holds beneficially what might in substance be regarded as trust assets.

16.30.1 Is the transfer a commercial transaction?

Transfers to trust subsidiaries arise in a wide variety of circumstances and may be made for the purpose of non-tax advantages:

- (1) Advantages of trust administration:
 - (a) Segregation of trust funds of trustee (or occasionally combining trust funds) for ease of management.
 - (b) Avoiding problems of trustees investing in civil law countries.
- (2) In the case of land (or other onerous property), avoiding personal liabilities of trustees arising from direct ownership.
- (3) In the case of interest in possession trusts, to allow effective accumulation of income (avoiding distributing income to life tenant.)

It is a question of fact in each case whether the purpose of a transfer to a

103 The avoidance/mitigation issue did not arise in *Beneficiary v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 134, because the Special Commissioners held that reducing IHT was not a purpose in the mind of the transferor.

104 See 28.13 (GWR to discretionary trust).

company is to obtain these non-tax advantages and a question of law whether they should be regarded as commercial.

Where it is the policy of trustees that all its trust funds should be held in separate wholly owned trust subsidiaries¹⁰⁵, the conclusion that purpose (1) is a commercial purpose seems factually likely. (Purpose (2) is rarer but certainly commercial when it occurs. Purpose (3) is not commercial.) If the analysis of “commercial” above is accepted, purpose (1) should be regarded as commercial: it arises in the ordinary course of managing investments. A transfer from trustees to a company is more often than not a commercial transaction, and for the motive defence one applies test (b) and not test (a).

16.30.2 *Is the transfer for tax avoidance?*

Transfer of UK assets¹⁰⁶ from trustees to a trust subsidiary may offer significant tax advantages. It is a question of fact whether any of these advantages are purposes of the transfer and a question of law whether the purpose is avoidance or mitigation.

I begin with a case where s.624 ITTOIA does not apply. There are three possible tax advantages:

- (1) Obtaining IHT excluded property status where the settlor was not domiciled in the UK.

This should normally¹⁰⁷ be regarded as mitigation. There is of course no economic difference between owning a UK asset directly (non-excluded property) and holding it via a company (effectively converting it into excluded property). But the principle that companies are not transparent for tax purposes is very deep in the tax system. Planning of this kind has been possible since the repeal of the Mortmain Acts (which were enacted to prevent tax avoidance by vesting land in companies) and cannot be

105 The Edwards report suggests that 80–90% of Jersey trusts hold their assets through underlying companies: Review of Financial Regulation in the Crown Dependencies Cm 4109 (Andrew Edwards, 1998) para. 12.5.2 accessible on www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm41/4109/4109-i.htm. Trusts managed in Switzerland always use underlying companies for Swiss law reasons.

106 Similar considerations apply to a transfer of non-UK assets with a view to realisation and re-investment in UK assets.

107 An exceptional case would be if the property was put in the company shortly before a ten year anniversary and taken out shortly thereafter.

regarded as contrary to the intention of Parliament.

The transfer to a company also has a possible CGT disadvantage,¹⁰⁸ and a possible income tax disadvantage,¹⁰⁹ so any tax reduction may be regarded as part of a “package deal”, with advantages and disadvantages. This does not savour of tax “avoidance”.

(2) Escaping additional rate income tax (on UK source income of discretionary trust).

The striking thing about this tax is that there is generally¹¹⁰ no effective method for HMRC to collect it and in practice no one expects it to be paid in cases where all the beneficiaries are outside the UK.¹¹¹ Perhaps this supports a conclusion of mitigation.

(3) Escaping higher rate income tax (on income of interest in possession trust).

I suggest that a distinction should be drawn between UK resident life tenants (tax advantage is avoidance) and non-residents (tax advantage is mitigation). In many circumstances, however, non-residents do not pay income tax at the higher rate: s.128 FA 1995.

16.30.3 *Transfer to trust to which s.624 applies*

If the purpose is to avoid a charge under s.624 ITTOIA, this is plainly avoidance and not mitigation.

16.30.4 *Transfer of non-UK assets to trust subsidiaries*

When non-UK assets are transferred to a trust subsidiary, the UK tax advantage may be less or nil or there may only be tax disadvantages in the loss of double taxation reliefs. In the absence of an intention to re-invest in the UK the purpose cannot as a matter of fact be a tax reduction purpose.

108 Doubling up of trust gains, with serious implications under s.87 TCGA.

109 Loss of tax credits and double taxation relief; sometimes, possible charge under income tax benefit in kind rules.

110 Except in the case of UK land.

111 It is considered that non-payment is not in principle dishonest, and so not a fraud on HMRC, though this conclusion depends to some extent on the facts of the case.

16.31 Non-resident foreign domiciled individual transfers UK property to offshore company

A foreign domiciled non-UK resident individual who transfers his UK assets to a company incorporated abroad and not UK resident may also enjoy comparable tax advantages:

- (1) Obtaining IHT excluded property status.
- (2) Avoiding higher rate income tax.

Such transfers also give significant advantages which have nothing to do with tax. In particular, in the case of UK land, avoiding personal liabilities arising from direct ownership. In such cases, the motive defence may well apply. But if a purpose of the transfer is to reduce IHT or IT, this is mitigation not avoidance; the arguments are the same as above.

16.32 Transfer by UK resident foreign domiciled individual to offshore company

Suppose the facts are as in the above paragraph but the transferor is UK resident. If a purpose was to reduce IHT, the transfer is IHT mitigation. A transfer to reduce income tax is IT avoidance.

16.33 Transfer to UK resident foreign incorporated company

There are many reasons why assets may be transferred to UK resident foreign incorporated companies. A foreign domiciliary starting a new UK resident company for trade or investment would prefer a non-UK incorporated company so as to own non-UK situate property.¹¹² This is a commercial transaction and clearly within test (b).

A foreign domiciliary (F) wishing to sell a UK unincorporated business may enter into an arrangement under which:

- (1) F gives the business to a UK resident foreign incorporated company.

¹¹² See 18.14 (CGT planning before acquisition of asset or trade).

(2) F sells the company (not UK situate property).

If the purpose is to avoid CGT (by utilising s.162 TCGA relief) then the claim for s.741 defence is weak.

16.34 Transfer from one trust to another trust

There are many reasons why funds may be transferred between trusts. It is impossible to generalise as to whether such transfers are made for tax avoidance: one must look at the reason for the transfer.

One reason such transfers are made is where a single trust holds several sub-funds for different branches of a family. The transfer avoids the unfairness which arises under a single trust, that gains accruing to one share are taxable on a beneficiary of another share who receives a capital payment. It is considered that a transfer for this reason does not have the motive of CGT “avoidance”.

16.35 Time to ascertain purpose and change of purpose of transferor

What matters is the purpose of the transferor at the time of the transfer.¹¹³ It is quite common that a transfer is made by a foreign settlor for foreign beneficiaries, unimpeachably for non-UK tax reasons, and later some of the beneficiaries move to the UK. Then they will find the trust qualifies for the motive defence and is a useful vehicle for income tax purposes. There are three possibilities:

- (1) The change of purpose may be accompanied by a new transfer of assets carried out for a tax avoidance purpose. In that case the transfer of asset provisions may apply in relation to the new transfer.
- (2) There may be no further transfer of assets but there may be associated operations carried out for a tax avoidance purpose. The question whether this brings the transfer of asset rules into operation is discussed in paragraph 16.37 (Associated operations and the motive defence).

¹¹³ The point was made in *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 394; but it is plain from the terms of s.741.

- (3) There may be a change of purpose without any new transfer or associated operation. In that case the motive defence remains available and transfer of assets provisions do not bite at all.

16.36 Time to ascertain intention of Parliament and changes in law

The concept of tax avoidance as an act contrary to the intention of Parliament raises the question of *at what time* Parliament's intention is to be ascertained. The intention of Parliament may change and the same act could be tax avoidance at one time but not at another. Of course, it needs an Act of Parliament to make this change. For the purpose of the motive defence, tax avoidance must mean an act contrary to the intention of Parliament at the time the transfer took place. This is consistent with the rule that one examines the purpose of the transferor at the time of the transfer.¹¹⁴ Otherwise changes in the intention of Parliament would often have considerable retrospective effect: a transfer which was not tax avoidance when it was made would retrospectively be treated as made for a tax avoidance motive (or indeed vice versa).

16.36.1 *Transfer by non-resident before 1996*

Parliament decided in 1936 not to apply s.739 to transfers made by non-ordinarily¹¹⁵ resident transferors, and that was (after some vacillation) held to be the law.¹¹⁶ In principle, a transfer of assets by a non-resident between 1936 and 1996 could not be said to be contrary to the intention of Parliament, and so it could not constitute income tax avoidance.¹¹⁷ However, the legislation which reversed *Willoughby* and brought transfers by non-residents into the scope of the transfer of asset provisions applies to pre-1996 transfers.¹¹⁸ The explanation is that a transfer by a non-resident before 1996 does not normally involve income tax avoidance. However, there are special circumstances where a transfer by a non-

114 See 16.35 (Time to ascertain purpose).

115 For convenience, non-resident is hereafter used to mean non-ordinarily resident.

116 See 13.7.2 (Transferor not ordinarily resident).

117 Contrast pre-1936 transfers by UK resident individuals; these were caught by the new 1936 legislation, but Parliament had never made a decision that such transfers should not be taxed so it would be correct to regard such transfers as made for tax avoidance purposes.

118 s.81 FA 1997. There is an exemption only for income arising before 1996.

resident may be for income tax avoidance¹¹⁹ and, of course, a pre-1996 transfer made for CGT or IHT avoidance would also be caught.

16.36.2 *Transfer before 1981; transferor having no power to enjoy*

Similar considerations apply to a transfer before 1981 to which s.739 did not apply (because the transferor had no power to enjoy the income of the asset transferred). Parliament decided in 1936 not to apply the transfer of asset provisions to transfers unless the transferor had power to enjoy, and that was (again after some vacillation) held to be the law.¹²⁰ So such a transfer should not constitute income tax avoidance. In 1981 Parliament brought in s.740 which applied to pre-1981 transfers.¹²¹ The better view is that a transfer outside s.739 made before the 1981 reforms is not to be regarded as income tax avoidance in the absence of special circumstances. A pre-1981 transfer may be within s.740 where it was made for IT avoidance (one example would be where the settlor did have power to enjoy but later died) or where it was made for CGT or IHT avoidance purposes.

16.37 Associated operations and the motive defence

Applying the motive test is relatively straightforward when there is a single transfer. It is more complicated if there are also associated operations to consider.

Test (a) provides:

that the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation was not the purpose or one of the purposes for which the transfer *or associated operations or*

119 Examples of special cases are:

- (1) a transfer in anticipation of becoming UK resident or
- (2) a transfer made just before the enactment of the new legislation (when the change of the law was predictable.).

Another view could be that such transfers constitute tax avoidance from after the 1952 and 1970 consolidations, which Parliament enacted on the basis of the *Congreve* and *Herdman* decisions (later reversed) that transfers by non-residents were caught. But that offends common sense and the principle that a consolidation does not alter the law.

120 See 13.3 (Which individual).

121 s.45 FA 1981; there is an exception for income arising before 1981.

any of them were effected.

Test (b) provides:

that the transfer *and any associated operations* were bona fide commercial transactions and were not designed for the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation.

(Emphasis added)

The transfer and any relevant associated operations must each separately satisfy the motive test if the motive defence is to apply. One does not group the transfer and the associated operations together, and look for a single main purpose of the group.

16.38 Which associated operations are relevant for the motive defence?

The motive test refers to “*any associated operations*”. However, it cannot mean any associated operations whatsoever. Suppose in 1096 a Crusader transferred land to trustees to avoid feudal duties, and in 2000 the land is again transferred to trustees. The 1096 transfer is an operation associated with the 2000 transfer. See 12.9 (Associated operations). It cannot be that the Crusader’s (arguable)¹²² tax avoidance purpose would prevent the transfer in 2000 from qualifying for relief!

In context, the reference is to the associated operations that are referred to in s.739 or s.740. That is, the associated operations relevant to the operation of those sections. Those are the transfer and operations by virtue of which:

- (1) (in any case) income accrues to the person abroad; or
- (2) (in a s.739 case) the transferor has power to enjoy; or
- (3) (in a s.740 case) the individual receives a benefit or income can be

¹²² Feudal duties would be “taxation”; see 16.6 (Meaning of “taxation”). I forbear to consider the question whether the 1096 transfer should be regarded as avoidance or mitigation of feudal duties (and would that depend on attitudes to taxation in the Middle Ages or contemporary attitudes or a combination of the two?).

used to benefit him.¹²³

There may and generally will be other operations associated with the transfer, but those are irrelevant and must be ignored. See *Herdman v IRC* 45 TC 394 where:

- (1) Assets were sold to an Irish company in consideration of shares and a loan. This was an innocent transfer (the purpose was to avoid Irish tax).
- (2) The company accumulated income. This was (arguably) an operation associated with the transfer, and the purpose was to avoid UK tax.

The motive defence applied. Income did not arise to the person abroad by virtue of the associated operation and the transferor did not acquire power to enjoy because of it.

The Special Commissioners held in an unreported decision that this is still the law¹²⁴ and HMRC now accept this. RI 201 provides:

123 See 12.10 (Significance of associated operations).

124 HMRC argued that the law was altered by s.33 FA 1969. This was supported by a statement by Harold Lever (then Financial Secretary to the Treasury) in Hansard, 17 July 1969, column 955–6:

“The *Herdman* decision in the House of Lords was to the effect that section [739] did not apply in cases where a change of circumstances enabled arrangements which were originally innocent of the purpose of avoiding tax to be used later on for the purpose of tax avoidance. If anyone had the good fortune to find himself connected with a settlement abroad originally of the most innocent intent he was free, without the impact of section [739], to exploit it without limit because section [739] would not bite on it, according to the *Herdman* decision.

It therefore became necessary to put back the teeth in section [739] which had been knocked out by the *Herdman* case. If we are to have a section [739], it has to bite on all settlements abroad which at any time are used for avoidance of tax even though originally started for innocent purpose. Supposing a man has transferred money to set-up a Bible society in Bulawayo and his heir being more sophisticated and perhaps more materialistic, finds himself with a settlement set up for unimpeachable purposes and decides that it would make a useful vehicle for the avoidance of all income tax and surtax. The *Herdman* decision meant that section [739] would not prevent this. Clause 27 therefore knocks out the *Herdman* decision and I think that the hon. and learned Gentleman would be fair enough to say that that is reasonable.”

The law was amended in 1969 following a decision of the Courts (in *IRC v Herdman* 45 TC 394) that only the transfer and any associated operations giving a power to enjoy at the outset were relevant for determining whether the terms of s 741 were satisfied. The amendment to the legislation sought to bring all associated operations into consideration when s 741 was invoked. Because of doubts expressed as to the effectiveness of this amendment, it has been the Revenue's practice in considering whether a defence under s 741 is available to *consider only the transfer and any associated operations which directly establish a power to enjoy the income of the overseas person under any particular sub-head in s 742(2)*.

(Emphasis added)

The last sentence goes too far and is not to be taken literally. Suppose:

- (1) T transfers assets to a UK trust by an innocent transfer, and
- (2) Foreign trustees are appointed (an associated operation) for tax avoidance purposes.

The associated operation is relevant (since it causes income to accrue to the person abroad) so the motive defence does not apply.

Suppose:

- (1) T transfers assets to a non-resident company in return for shares in that company ("the first transfer"). Suppose the first transfer is innocent (no tax avoidance purpose). Income accruing to the company is not caught by ss.739 or 740 as the motive defence applies.
- (2) T transfers the shares in that non-resident company to an offshore trust ("the second transfer"; the second transfer has a tax avoidance purpose.

See also the obiter dictum of Morritt LJ in *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC at p.97:

"In the FA 1969, legislation was enacted, s.33, to nullify the decision of the House of Lords on the point."

However, the law is plain and there is no ambiguity which might justify recourse to *Hansard* on *Pepper v Hart* principles.

The second transfer is an operation associated with the first. But that associated operation is not relevant for the purposes of s.739. Income accrues to the non-resident company in consequence of the first transfer. It does not accrue in consequence of the first transfer in conjunction with associated operations.

Take the same transactions, but assume that the first transfer had a tax avoidance motive, and the second transfer was innocent. The motive defence plainly does not apply. It is not enough to find an innocent associated operation. So income of the company is within s.739 or s.740. Dividends from the company to its shareholders are caught by s.739 or s.740 since the income arises by virtue of the tainted transfer to the company and an associated operation (the dividends).

16.39 Life policies

On the application of the motive defence to gains from these policies, see 20.8 (Motive defence to s.740).

16.40 Section 741 claim in tax return

Section 741 does not, it is submitted, require a formal claim. If there has been an innocent transfer, a taxpayer was formerly entitled (indeed required) to complete his tax return on the basis that the motive defence applied; he was not required to prove the motive defence applied to the satisfaction of the Board before completing his tax return on that basis. However, it is now necessary for an individual to indicate on the self-assessment return that he has taken advantage of the motive defence.

HMRC say in RI 201:

Taxpayers are required to disclose clearly in their self-assessment return if there is any income or benefit assessable under s 739 or 740, and whether reliance is being placed on s 741 to exclude income or benefit from assessment. Where such a disclosure has been made and exemption under s 741 claimed, the Revenue will make any necessary enquiries about that exemption in the statutory period allowed, and will not seek to reopen that year's return on discovery grounds if the s 741 exemption has to be reconsidered in later years.

In the 2003/04 tax return, a claim for the s.741 defence is made by ticking

box 6.5A in the Foreign section of the return. The words next to box 6.5A state with misleading concision:

Tick box 6.5A if you are *omitting income* from boxes 6.4, 6.4A or 6.5 - see Notes, pages FN11 and FN12.

The Notes to this box explain the meaning of this:

The provisions relating to transfers of assets do not apply if you can show that the purpose of the transfer and any associated operations was not to avoid tax. But if you omit income for this reason from boxes 6.4, 6.4A or 6.5 you must

[1] tick box 6.5A and

[2] enter details of the income omitted, together with details of the assets transferred and details of the offshore trusts, companies, etc. involved, in the 'Additional information' box, box 6.39 on page F5.

The comment at [1] shows it is not correct to tick the box if the sections 739/740 do not apply for some other reason, such as the foreign domicile defence.

As to [2] there is no strict obligation to give full details, but it would be sensible to give sufficient details to allow HMRC to review the claim. Once a claim is agreed, I see no reason to give any further details in subsequent tax returns.

Inspector's Manual para. 4620 (October 2003) tells Inspectors how to deal with a claim:

Any claim that [s. 741] applies should be referred to the Centre for non-residents, Bootle, Section 739 Group. Inspectors should not, in any circumstances, offer a view to the taxpayer or agent as to the validity of such a claim. A claim to, or information concerning, the provisions of ICTA Section 741 may appear in box 6.5A of the Foreign Pages or in the additional information box of the Self Assessment Return Form, or may be submitted separately. In any such case, automatic referral to the Centre for non-residents is required before any decision is taken whether or not to open enquiries under TMA 1970 Section 9A.

In practice, expect an enquiry to be opened unless the issue has been resolved in earlier years.

16.41 Dealing with HMRC enquiries

Section 741 provides:

Sections 739 and 740 shall not apply if the individual shows in writing or otherwise to the satisfaction of the Board that [the motive defence applies].

This imposes the burden of proof on the taxpayer. That makes no practical difference as the burden of proof generally rests on the taxpayer, and in any event, disputes are rarely decided by the burden of proof.¹²⁵

Contemporary correspondence and background documentation may be relevant to the factual issue of whether the transferor had the purpose of reducing tax. It will not shed much light on the issue of whether the purpose should be classified as avoidance or mitigation. Some factors such as confidentiality or tax related agreements may shed light on this, or at least, on whether the parties regarded the matter as tax avoidance.¹²⁶ In *IRC v Willoughby* 70 TC 57 for instance, the Special Commissioner reviewed sales literature relating to the offshore bonds. In practice, expect HMRC to ask for contemporary documentation. The advisors should review it before making a claim. In the case of a transfer to a trust, this includes:

- (1) Trust documentation and letters of wishes.
- (2) If not evident from the above, details of intended beneficiaries.
- (3) Details of assets transferred.
- (4) Contemporary correspondence between trustees, accountants and settlor. (Legal advice may be privileged.)

Often the issue arises many years after the transfer of assets, and the contemporary records have been lost. That should not matter, as secondary material and inferences from common sense should suffice, but efforts should be made to recover original documentation, if only to avoid

¹²⁵ See 2.5.1 (Proof of intention).

¹²⁶ See 16.12.4 (Indicia of avoidance).

the suspicion that damaging documents may have been suppressed.

16.41.1 *Appeals*

Section 741 provides:

The jurisdiction of the Special Commissioners on any appeal shall include jurisdiction to review any relevant decision taken by the Board in exercise of their functions under this section.

The jurisdiction of the Special Commissioners is appellate and not supervisory; see *Lothbury Investment Co. Ltd v IRC* 53 TC 223 (where this conclusion was reached on comparable legislation now obsolete). This was common ground in *Beneficiary v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 134.

A decision of the Special Commissioners is, on ordinary principles, binding on the parties (subject to an appeal) only in relation to the assessments under appeal. It does not bind the parties in other respects, and in *Carvill v IRC* [2000] STC (SCD) 143 a Special Commissioner allowed a section 741 appeal in circumstances where an earlier appeal relating to earlier years had been decided against the taxpayers. The taxpayers then sought to recover from HMRC the tax which they had paid under the earlier assessments, but this rightly failed. There must be some finality in tax, even when wrong decisions are reached by the courts. See *Carvill v IRC (No. 2)* [2002] STC 1167 and *R (on the application of Carvill) v IRC* [2003] STC 1539. That issue will rarely, if ever, arise again in practice.

A more common problem is where tax has been paid under section 739 or 740 for a number of years without due consideration being given to the section 741 defence, and then it occurs to a taxpayer that a section 741 defence is possible. It is considered that the principle in *Carvill (No. 2)* only applied where a motive defence had been litigated and decided by the Special Commissioners, and in the absence of litigation on the point it should be possible to put in an error or mistake claim under usual principles.

An appeal will be made by the individual subject to tax (not the trustees or company within s.740 who have no *locus standi*). If the trustees fund an appeal by the individual against assessment under s.740, will that funding constitute a benefit (which will in turn be subject to tax under s.740 if the appeal is unsuccessful)? The answer must depend on the facts.

If the reason the trustees fund the appeal is in order to sort out their tax planning for the future, or in order to benefit other beneficiaries, then no taxable benefit is received by the appellant, the benefit is received by all the beneficiaries and there is no rational means of apportionment. At the other extreme, if the trust fund is (more or less) wound up by a capital payment, and the appeal procedure is specifically to benefit one beneficiary, then the trustees financing the appeal would constitute a benefit taxable in principle under s.740.

16.42 Can an individual disclaim the motive defence?

An interesting question (which would have amazed those who framed the transfer of asset provisions) is whether it is possible for an individual to disclaim the motive defence. There are at least two circumstances where the application of section 739 or 740 may reduce a tax charge:

- (1) A UK domiciled and resident beneficiary who receives a capital payment from an offshore trust would usually prefer to be taxed under s.740 than under s.87 TCGA, which may apply if s.740 does not.
- (2) A UK resident transferor who receives a distribution from a non-resident company may be more lightly taxed under s.739: he is taxed on the company's income but has the benefit of tax and tax credits paid by the company, and the distribution is tax free.

It is arguable that the words "the individual shows" etc., indicate that the benefit of s.741 can be disclaimed. The individual may choose not to show that there was no tax avoidance purpose. Otherwise we would have the absurd result that a transfer for tax avoidance may be less harshly taxed than one which was not.

However, this view would cause considerable difficulties. Suppose a non-resident trust has relevant income of £1m and trust gains of £1m, and capital payments of £1m are made in year 1 to beneficiary A and in year 2 to beneficiary B. A and B are both resident and domiciled in the UK. Suppose the trust is in principle within the motive defence because the transfer to it was not for tax avoidance purposes. A would probably wish to disclaim the motive defence, if he could, so the capital payment to him was subject to income tax, and he avoided the CGT surcharge. However, it would be in the interest of B to argue that the motive defence did apply,

so that the payment to A “washed” the capital gain and the payment to B was tax free. It is evident that the offshore trust rules simply do not work if the motive defence can be disclaimed by one beneficiary and claimed by another. Nor do they work fairly if it can be disclaimed by one beneficiary in a manner which binds all the others. So the better view is thought to be that the motive defence (if applicable on the facts) is compulsory and binds all the beneficiaries.

16.43 Assessment of avoidance/mitigation distinction

For an assessment of subjectivity, morality and judicial criticism of the avoidance/evasion distinction see my article “Tax Avoidance Purpose and s.741 ICTA” [2004] BTR 375 at p.407.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

RATES OF INCOME TAX

17.1 Introduction

To keep the discussion within reasonable bounds, I concentrate on two common types of income: interest and dividends.

It may be helpful first of all to list the eight possible rates of income tax on individuals:

Rate of tax		Applicable to
Starting rate	10%	Income up to £2,090
Lower rate	20%	Savings income under basic rate limit
Basic rate	22%	Other income up to basic rate limit
Higher rate	40%	Income above basic rate limit
Dividend ordinary rate	10%	Dividends up to basic rate limit
Dividend upper rate	32.5%	Dividends above basic rate limit
UK dividends under basic rate limit: effective rate	0%	Dividends up to basic rate limit
UK dividends above basic rate limit: effective rate	25%	Dividends above basic rate limit

Rates of tax on trustees are not considered here.

17.2 Starting/basic/higher rates

Section 1(2) ICTA introduces the starting/basic/higher rates:

Where any Act enacts that income tax shall be charged for any year, income tax shall be charged for that year—

(aa) in respect of so much of an individual's total income as does not exceed [£2,090], at such rate as Parliament may determine to be the starting rate for that year [10%] ;

(a) in respect of any income which does not fall within paragraph (aa) above or paragraph (b) below [income between £2,090 and £32,400], at such rate as Parliament may determine to be the basic rate for that year [22%];

(b) in respect of so much of an individual's total income as exceeds [the basic rate limit, £32,400], at such higher rate as Parliament may determine [40%];

but this subsection has effect subject to any provision of the Income Tax Acts providing for income tax to be charged at a different rate in certain cases.

These rates apply unless disapplied by any other provisions. The important provisions for our purposes are ss.1A and 1B ICTA.

17.3 Terminology

I need to coin some definitions to deal with the clumsy drafting.

17.3.1 “*The basic rate limit*”

The limit at which income passes from s.1(2)(a) to s.1(2)(b), in 2005/06, £32,400, I call (slightly inaccurately) “the basic rate limit”.

17.3.2 *UK and foreign “interest income”*

Section 1A(2)(a) ICTA refers to:

any income (other than relevant foreign income) under —

- (i) [Chapter 2 Part 4 ITTOIA - interest]
- (ii) [Chapter 7 Part 4 ITTOIA - purchased life annuities]

(iii) [Chapter 8 Part 4 ITTOIA - deeply discounted securities]

I refer to this (slightly inaccurately) as “UK interest income”.

Section 1A(3)(a) refers to:

relevant foreign income which—

(a) would fall within subsection (2)(a) but for the exclusion of relevant foreign income;

I refer to this (slightly inaccurately) as “foreign interest income” and “interest income” is used to refer to UK and foreign interest income.

17.3.3 *UK and foreign “distribution income”*

Section 1A(2)(b) ICTA refers to:

any income chargeable under Chapter 3, 5 or 6 of Part 4 of ITTOIA

I refer to this (slightly inaccurately) as “UK distribution income”.

Section 1A(3)(b)(c) refers to:

any relevant foreign income which...

(b) is a dividend chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of ITTOIA; or

(c) is a relevant foreign distribution chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of that Act.

I refer to this as “foreign distribution income” and “distribution income” is used to refer to UK and foreign distribution income.

17.3.4 *“Income to which s.1A applies”*

Section 1A(2)(3) ICTA provides the definition.¹ So far as matters for our

¹ This provides:

“(2) Subject to subsection (4) below, this section applies to the following income—

(a) any income (other than relevant foreign income) chargeable under—

(i) Chapter 2 of part 4 of ITTOIA (charge on interest);

(ii) Chapter 7 of that Part of that Act (charge on purchased life annuity payments) other than income from annuities specified in section

purposes, s.1A applies to interest and distribution income. This is subject to s.1A(4) which I consider below.

17.4 Rates of tax on interest

Section 1A(1) ICTA provides:²

Subject to sections 469(2), 686 and 720(5), so much of any person's total income for any year of assessment as—

(a) comprises income to which this section applies, and

(b) in the case of an individual, is not—

(i) savings income falling within section 1(2)(aa) [i.e. starting rate income], or

(ii) income falling within section 1(2)(b) [i.e. higher rate income],

shall, by virtue of this section, be charged for that year at the rate applicable in accordance with subsection (1A) below, instead of at the rate otherwise applicable to it in accordance with section 1(2)(aa) and (a).

718(2) of that Act; or

(iii) Chapter 8 of that Part of that Act (charge on profits from deeply discounted securities);

(aa) any amount chargeable to tax by virtue of section 714, 716 or 723;

(b) any income chargeable under Chapter 3, 5 or 6 of Part 4 of ITTOIA.

(c) subject to subsection (4) below, any income falling within subsection (3) below; and

(d) any amount included in an individual's total income by virtue of section 465 of ITTOIA (gains from contracts for life insurance etc).

(3) The income which falls within this subsection is any relevant foreign income which —

(a) would fall within subsection (2)(a) but for the exclusion of relevant foreign income;

(b) is a dividend chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of ITTOIA; or

(c) is a relevant foreign distribution chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of that Act ”

2 Section 1A ICTA is headed “*Application of lower rate to income from savings and distributions*” but the heading is wrong: Section 1A applies the lower rate to interest but the dividend ordinary rate to dividends. The heading was accurate when s.1A was enacted in 1996 but ceased to be accurate when the section was amended in 1997.

The scheme of s.1A is to replace the starting and basic rates with different (more favourable) rates. Section 1A does not affect the higher rate: s.1A(1)(b)(ii). The drafter wanted “savings income” to continue to qualify for the (even more generous) starting rate. He achieved this effectively (though clumsily) by excluding from s.1A “savings income falling within s.1(2)(aa)”.³ Section 1A(1A) sets out these favourable rates:

- (1A) The rate applicable in accordance with this subsection is—
 - (a) in the case of income chargeable under Chapter 3, 5 or 6 of Part 4 of ITTOIA [UK distribution income], the dividend ordinary rate [10%];
 - (b) in the case of
 - [1] dividends chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of [ITTOIA] or
 - [2] relevant foreign distributions chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of [ITTOIA] [foreign distribution income], the dividend ordinary rate [10%]; and
 - (c) in the case of any other income, the lower rate [20%].

The reader who follows this fantastic labyrinth will conclude that the rates of tax on:

- (1) UK interest income; and
 - (2) foreign interest income when the arising basis applies
- are the starting/lower/higher rates, 10%/20%/40%.

3 “Savings income” (in short) is UK interest and foreign interest. The definition is in subsection (1AA):

“In subsection (1)(b)(i) above “savings income” means income to which this section applies other than—

- (a) income chargeable under Chapter 3, 5 or 6 of Part 4 of ITTOIA (dividends etc. from UK resident companies etc., stock dividends from UK resident companies and loans to participants), or
- (b) dividends chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of that Act (dividends from non-UK resident companies) or relevant foreign distribution chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of that Act (income not otherwise charged)”.

The label “savings income” is not an accurate one.

17.5 Rates of tax on interest under remittance basis

Section 1A(4) ICTA provides:

This section does not apply to—

- (a) any relevant foreign income which is charged in accordance with section 832 of ITTOIA (relevant foreign income charged on the remittance basis);

This disapplies s.1A and returns to s.1. So foreign interest income taxed on the remittance basis is taxed on the starting/**basic**/higher rates, 10%/22%/40%. How much is at stake? At most the difference between the lower rate and the basic rate, 2%, for income between the starting rate and higher rate limits. In 2005/06, this is 2% of (£32,400–£2,090) = £606.

There is a (perhaps good) reason for dealing with foreign interest income in this way. A UK resident foreign domiciled individual will often have different types of foreign income. If he remitted only some of his income, it would be necessary, in the absence of s.1A(4), to investigate whether the remitted income represents interest (taxable at 20%) or some other source of income taxable at 22%. By disapplying s.1A, and returning to s.1, it is not necessary to ask this question.

17.6 Rates of tax on distribution income

The effect of s.1A ICTA set out above is that:

- (1) UK distribution income and
- (2) foreign distribution income taxed on an arising basis

are taxed at the dividend ordinary rate (10%) up to the basic rate limit. Section 1A does not affect the higher rate. But s.1B ICTA provides:

Rates of tax applicable to distribution income

- (1) In the case of so much of an individual's income which consists of—
 - (a) income chargeable under Chapter 3 of Part 4 of ITTOIA (dividends etc from UK resident companies etc.) (if any), and
 - (b) [1] dividends chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of that Act (dividends from non-UK resident companies) (if any) or

[2] relevant foreign distributions chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of that Act (income not otherwise charged) (if any), as is income falling within section 1(2)(b) [higher rate income], income tax shall, by virtue of this subsection, be charged at the dividend upper rate, instead of at the rate otherwise applicable to it in accordance with section 1(2)(b).

The reader who follows the twists and turns of ss. 1A and 1B will conclude that UK distribution income is taxed at the dividend ordinary rate/the dividend upper rate 10%/32.5%. After allowing the tax credit and grossing up, the effective rates on net UK dividends are 0%/25%. Foreign distribution income is also taxed at 10%/32.5% when the arising basis applies but without the tax credit or grossing up.

17.6.1 *Rates of tax on foreign distribution income under remittance basis*

What about foreign distribution income taxed under the remittance basis? Section 1A does not apply: see 17.5 (Rate where remittance basis applies). So this income is taxed at the starting rate/basic rate, 10%/22% up to the basic rate limit.

What about income above the basic rate limit? Where the remittance basis applies, the income is charged under s.832 ITTOIA (Chapter 2 of Part 8). So it does not fall within s.1B ICTA.

Thus a person taxed under the remittance basis who remits his foreign distribution income will be taxed at the starting/basic/higher rates, 10%/22%/40%, and so will pay more tax than an individual who is UK domiciled! See however 7.10 (Circumstances where it is desirable not to claim remittance basis treatment).

17.7 Rates of tax on settlor within section 624 ITTOIA

Section 619 ITTOIA provides:

619 Charge to tax under Chapter 5

(1) Income tax is charged on—

(a) income which is treated as income of a settlor as a result of section 624 (income where settlor retains an interest), ...

(2) The charge on the settlor under subsection (1)(a) ... above operates on distribution income by treating the income as if it were income to which section 1A of ICTA (application of lower rate to income from

savings and distributions) applies as a result of subsection (2)(b) of that section (income chargeable under Chapter 3, 5 or 6 of Part 4: dividends etc. from UK resident companies etc. ...).

There are two rules: one rule for distribution income; and another rule for other income.

17.7.1 *Rate on distribution income within s.624*

This is defined in s.619(3) ITTOIA:

In subsection (2) “distribution income” means income which represents income received by the trustees of the settlement, or any other person to whom it is payable, which is—

- (a) income chargeable under Chapter 3 of Part 4 (dividends etc. from UK resident companies etc.),
- (b) income chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 (dividends from non-UK resident companies),
- (c) income chargeable under Chapter 5 of Part 4 (stock dividends from UK resident companies),
- (d) income chargeable under Chapter 6 of Part 4 (release of loan to participator in close company), or
- (e) a relevant foreign distribution⁴ chargeable under Chapter 8 of this Part (income not otherwise charged).

This is identical with the term “distribution income” which I coined for the discussion of normal rates of tax.⁵

The s.624 charge on the settlor operates on distribution income by treating the income “as if it were income to which section 1A of ICTA applies as a result of subsection (2)(b) of that section”.

Distribution income up to the basic rate limit is chargeable at the dividend ordinary rate and qualifies for the tax credit. What about distribution income above the higher rate limit?

4 This term is defined in s.619(4):

“In subsection (3) “relevant foreign distribution” means any distribution of a non-UK resident company which—

- (a) is not chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4, but
- (b) would be chargeable under Chapter 3 of that Part if the company were UK resident.”

5 See 17.3.3 (UK and foreign “distribution income”).

It will be recalled that s.1B ICTA applies to:

- (a) income chargeable under Chapter 3 of Part 4 of ITTOIA (dividends etc from UK resident companies etc.) (if any), and
- (b) [1] dividends chargeable under Chapter 4 of Part 4 of that Act (dividends from non-UK resident companies) (if any) or
[2] relevant foreign distributions chargeable under Chapter 8 of Part 5 of that Act (income not otherwise charged) (if any)

Unfortunately income within s.624 is charged under s.619 (Chapter 5 of Part 5) and does not fall within s.1B. So it seems that the top rate is 40% and not the dividend upper rate, 32.5%! However, s.623(2) ITTOIA provides:

The same deductions and reliefs are allowed as would have been allowed if the amount treated as the settlor's income as a result of this Chapter had been received by the settlor as income.

It is suggested that s.1B is a "relief" so that the dividend upper rate applies after all. This is consistent with the purpose of s.624, which is to put the settlor in the position he would be in if the settlement had not been made.

The same applies to foreign dividend income when taxed on an arising basis.

17.7.2 *Rate on foreign distribution income within s.648 clawback*

What about foreign dividend income which qualifies for the s.624 foreign domicile defence, but is later remitted and becomes taxable under the s.648 clawback?⁶ This is *still* taxable at the starting/basic/higher rates. It does not fall within s.1A(1A) ICTA. It does not qualify for the lower or dividend ordinary rate. This is consistent with the ordinary remittance basis.

17.7.3 *Rate on interest within s.624 clawback*

Section 619 ITTOIA provides a special rule for distribution income. It says nothing about interest. Interest within s.624 is chargeable under

⁶ See 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence).

Chapter 5 Part 5 ITTOIA. It is outside s.1A ICTA.⁷ Accordingly, at first sight it is taxed at the starting/basic/higher rates of 10%/22%/40% and not at the starting/**lower**/higher rate of 10%/**20%**/40%. It is tentatively suggested that s.1A is a relief and so s.623(2) restores the benefit of the lower rate. The difference is only 2%.

17.8 Rates of tax on transferor within s.739 ICTA

Sections 743(1) (1ZA) (1A) ICTA are (so far as relevant here) the same as s.619 ITTOIA, so the position is the same as set out for s.624 above:

(1) Income tax at the basic rate, the lower rate or the dividend ordinary rate shall not be charged by virtue of section 739 in respect of any income to the extent that it has borne tax at that rate by deduction or otherwise but, subject to that, income to which section 739 applies shall be charged to income tax.

(1ZA) The charge to income tax under subsection (1) above operates on income falling within subsection (1A) below by treating the income as if it were income to which section 1A applies by virtue of subsection (2)(b) of that section.

(1A) Income falls within this subsection if it is [distribution income].

17.9 Commentary

Before 1997 the rates of income tax were relatively simple. Now the complexity appals even tax practitioners enured to it.⁸ The causes are political. Malcolm Gunn identifies them:

- (1) The desire to raise taxes without increasing the basic or higher rates of income tax. Hence the 1997 raid on pension funds and charities which brought the dividend lower and upper rates, and the 2004 increase in the rate applicable to trusts from 34% to 40%.
- (2) The desire to score headlines. After the 1999 Budget we saw: ‘the lowest starting rate of tax since 1962’. Those deceptive headlines

⁷ See 17.3.2 (Interest income).

⁸ “Every time I try to work through sections 1, 1A and 1B, Taxes Act to see if I have correctly remembered what rates of tax apply to different types of income, I despair” (Maurice Parry-Wingfield *Taxation*, 1 March 2001, p.513).

have long since been forgotten, but we live with the consequence of them.

The Tax Law Rewrite Bill 4 will no doubt simplify the drafting, which is a triumph of obfuscation. Only political reform can provide a much needed simplification of these rules.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON INDIVIDUALS

18.1 CGT and residence

Section 2 TCGA provides:

... a person shall be chargeable to capital gains tax in respect of chargeable gains accruing to him in a year of assessment
[1] during any part of which he is resident in the UK, or
[2] during which he is ordinarily resident in the UK.

In principle, therefore, an individual who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in the UK during a tax year is not within the scope of CGT. The expression “neither resident nor ordinarily resident” is a clumsy one. In this chapter I shall for simplicity abbreviate it to “non-resident” and leave “and not ordinarily resident” to be understood.

The non-resident individual is in principle outside the scope of CGT regardless of domicile and regardless of the situs of the asset disposed of. Contrast income tax and IHT, where tax is charged on UK source income and UK situate property regardless of the residence of the individual.

There are two exceptions to the general rule:

- (1) Temporary non-residents.
- (2) A non-resident trader with a UK branch or agency.

It follows that an individual (regardless of his domicile) can generally avoid CGT if he disposes of an asset in the tax year before he acquires the status of UK resident or ordinary resident – or if he postpones the disposal until the tax year after he has lost that status. The simplest form of CGT

planning for an individual whose stay in the UK is a short term one is not to dispose of assets giving rise to chargeable gains while UK resident.

On years of arrival and departure see 5.13 (CGT on individuals: year of arrival and departure).

18.2 Requirements to qualify for CGT remittance basis

Section 12(1) TCGA provides:

In the case of individuals resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK,

- [1] capital gains tax shall not be charged in respect of gains accruing to them from the disposal of assets situated outside the UK...
- [2] except that the tax shall be charged on the amounts (if any) received in the UK in respect of those chargeable gains, any such amounts being treated as gains accruing when they are received in the UK.

(Paragraphing added)

In short, where a foreign domiciled individual is UK resident (and so within the scope of CGT), and disposes of assets situated outside the UK, tax is charged (if at all) only on gains remitted to this country.

The CGT remittance basis applies only to foreign domiciled individuals. The use of the word “individual” means that trustees, personal representatives and companies do not qualify for the remittance basis. The RFI remittance basis is slightly wider and can apply to trustees and some UK domiciled individuals.

No claim is required, unlike the RFI remittance basis, see 7.9 (Claims). This is deliberate. Foreign domicile treatment will be advantageous to the taxpayer in almost all circumstances but not in relation to losses; see 18.18 (Capital losses). If a claim was required, an individual could elect for UK domicile treatment in a year he realised his losses, and foreign domicile treatment in a year he realised his gains.

There is no guidance on the position of a UK resident individual who changes his domicile during a tax year. It is suggested that gains accruing during the non-domiciled part of the year qualify for the remittance basis.

The CGT remittance basis applies to foreign situated assets. The situs of assets is discussed at 39.1 (Situs of assets for CGT). (By contrast, the

RFI remittance basis applies to income from a foreign source; this is a different concept.)

The CGT remittance basis applies to assets situate in Ireland. (By contrast, the RFI and earnings income remittance bases do not apply to Irish source income.)

18.3 Operation of CGT remittance basis

The term “received in the UK” is derived from the RFI remittance basis, see 7.11 (The remittance basis). Its meaning is extended in two ways by s.12(2):

- [a] ... there shall be treated as received in the UK in respect of any gain all amounts paid, used or enjoyed in or in any manner or form transmitted or brought to the UK, and
- [b] sections 833 and 834 of ITTOIA shall apply as they would apply for the purposes of section 832 of that Act (remittance basis) if the gain were relevant foreign income.

(Paragraphing added)

Limb [a] extends the concept of receipt in the same manner as the employment income remittance basis; see 8.12 (Meaning of “remitted to the UK”). This probably brings into charge chattels representing gains which are enjoyed *in specie* in the UK; see 8.14 (Assets purchased out of employment income and brought to UK).

Limb [b] applies to CGT the deemed remittance rules; see 7.36 (Deemed remittances).

A standard way of avoiding the RFI remittance basis is to remit after the termination of the relevant source of income. This does apply to CGT which has no equivalent to the source doctrine.

18.4 Interrelationship of remittance basis with (1) taper relief and (2) other CGT reliefs

TCGA Schedule A1 para.16(4) applies:

- In relation to any gain that is treated by virtue of—
- (a) subsection (1) of section 12 ...

as accruing after the time of the disposal from which it accrues ...

This applies to a gain taxed under the CGT remittance basis, under which gains are treated as accruing when received in the UK. This gives a fictitious date of accrual (and, by implication, a fictitious date of disposal). The fiction is undone for taper relief. Paragraph 16(4) provides:

... references in this Schedule
[a] to the disposal on which the gain accrues,
[b] to the asset disposed of on that disposal and
[c] to the time of that disposal
shall be construed disregarding that subsection.

(Paragraphing added)

So taper relief is calculated by reference to the actual date of disposal.

Example

- (1) A foreign domiciliary acquires a foreign situated asset in year 0.
- (2) He sells the asset a year later, in year 1.
- (3) He remits the proceeds a year later, in year 2.

CGT taper relief is calculated on the basis that he held the asset for one year. But for other reliefs, the date the gain accrued (and by implication the date of disposal) is deemed to be the date of remittance. This will be relevant to, for instance, claims for CGT roll-over relief or EIS reinvestment relief.

18.5 Remittance of part of gain

Suppose a foreign domiciliary purchases a foreign asset for £1m; he sells it for £3m and realises a chargeable gain of £2m. If he remits the entire £3m proceeds he will clearly pay tax on the entire £2m gain. But what is the position if he remits only £1m and retains the balance abroad? There would seem to be three possibilities:

- (1) The amount remitted is “in respect of” the gain and CGT is charged on £1m.
- (2) The amount remitted is not “in respect of” the gain and is not chargeable to tax.
- (3) A proportionate part of the amount remitted is in respect of the gain and CGT is charged on two-thirds of £1m.

HMRC take view (3):

Where a capital remittance is made to the UK from a fund or account into which the proceeds of sale of assets situated outside the UK have been paid, the remittance will include a due proportion of any capital gains arising from the disposal transactions. This is because, whilst the income content of any fund is a separate and distinguishable part of that fund, a capital gain is merely part of the whole proceeds of a disposal transaction that has no separate identifiable existence within those proceeds.

(Inspector’s Manual, paragraph 1567, published 9/95)

While the contrary is arguable, it is considered that the prospects of success in the (likely) event of litigation are slim.

18.6 Gains accruing when non-resident, remitted when UK resident

CG Manual 25310 provides:

An individual who becomes resident or ordinarily resident in the UK but remains domiciled abroad may have realised gains on assets located outside the UK before¹ he or she became resident in the UK. Those gains may be remitted to the UK after that individual has become resident. In applying the remittance basis the remittance of such gains should be ignored.

¹ The meaning is, in clear tax years before becoming non-resident. For the year of arrival, see 5.13 (CGT on individuals: year of arrival and departure).

This is sensible and right.

18.7 Gains accruing when resident, remitted when non-resident

HMRC accept that there is no charge on gains accruing when a taxpayer is UK resident and remitted when non-resident. CG Manual 25312–3 provides:

25312 Remittance basis/UK domicile

In other words the conditions for remittance basis to apply to gains arising from foreign assets are that

- the individual realising the gains is within the charge to Capital Gains Tax at both the date of disposal and the date of remittance (ie is resident and/or ordinarily resident at those dates)
- and
- the individual was not domiciled at the date the gain was realised.

25313 Remittance basis/UK domicile

The individual's domicile status (although not his or her residence status) at the date of the remittance is irrelevant.

But see 18.15 (Temporary non-residents) below on the possible application of s.10A TCGA in this situation.

18.8 Gains remitted after acquisition of UK domicile

CG Manual 25311 provides:

An individual who is resident or ordinarily resident but who has not been domiciled in the UK may change his or her domicile status and become domiciled from some date. If that individual:

- realised gains on foreign assets in the period when he or she was resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled, and
- remits those gains after becoming domiciled,

he or she should be assessed on the gains remitted in accordance with TCGA, s.12. The fact that he or she has become domiciled does not prevent assessment of the gains on the remittance basis.

The contrary view is arguable: s.12 TCGA only applies “in the case of an individual resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK” so it arguably does not apply following acquisition of a UK domicile. This

view is, indeed, the more natural reading of s.12. The CGT position (if this view is correct) is only consistent with the position under the RFI remittance basis: see 7.13 (Remittance after acquisition of UK domicile). The difficulty with this is that it seems anomalous that UK tax should be saved by acquisition of a UK domicile. The fact that the anomaly apparently exists for IT is not a powerful reason for extending it to CGT. It is considered that a Court would be likely to strain the construction of the section in order to uphold the HMRC view and prevent an unmerited tax saving. The HMRC approach is said to be supported by a decision of the General Commissioners. On balance, the author considers the prospects of success on an appeal on this point to be slim.

18.9 Gain on gifts and other deemed gains

18.9.1 *The CGT background*

In economic reality a gift cannot give rise to a gain and will normally give rise to a loss. However, for CGT purposes a disposal is treated as made for market value if (in the clumsy phrase of the statute) it is a disposal:

otherwise than by way of a bargain made at arm's length.

On a disposal between connected persons, the transaction is treated as "otherwise than by way of a bargain made at arm's length"; see s.18(2) TCGA.

18.9.2 *Gift by foreign domiciliary*

The CG Manual at 25331–2 states:

Where an individual assessable on the remittance basis has gifted foreign assets to another person and has not received any disposal proceeds he or she may still be deemed to have realised a gain on the disposal. As that gain is not represented by any money or money's worth in the hands of the individual making the gift, it is not possible for the individual to remit the gain. The gain arising on the making of the gift can therefore never become assessable.

Similarly it is never possible to assess other deemed gains arising to such individuals from foreign assets when the gains are not represented by any asset that can be remitted to the UK.

This is correct, but in view of the importance of the point for tax planning it is reassuring to see it stated unequivocally in the Manual.

18.9.3 *Sale by foreign domiciliary to connected person*

Suppose now:

- (1) F (not UK domiciled) transfers an asset (not UK situate) to B for (say) £100;
- (2) F and B are connected persons; so the sale is treated as being for market value, and a gain (which may be more or less than £100) is treated as arising.

It is suggested that the £100 is to be regarded as a sum received “in respect of” the gain. If the sum is received in the UK there will be a charge to tax. If the £100 equals the market value of the asset then the computation is straightforward. Interesting questions arise on a sale at an undervalue. Supposing the asset is worth £200 and has a base cost of £50, giving rise to a deemed gain of £150. If the £100 is remitted it is suggested that one half of the deemed gain should be brought into charge, but other views are possible.

18.10 Liquidation of offshore company

If:

- (1) a foreign domiciliary owns non-UK situate shares in a company which is put into liquidation, and
- (2) the individual receives sums from the liquidator of the shares,

there will be a disposal: s.122 TCGA. It is considered that under the CGT remittance basis any gain is taxable if the liquidator transfers to the shareholder money in the UK or assets enjoyed *in specie* here. It should

normally be possible to avoid this.

18.11 CGT planning by avoiding a remittance of gains

If a foreign domiciliary has realised a foreign gain, he must attempt to avoid remitting the proceeds. It may be convenient to retain three types of funds in three accounts:

1. Relevant foreign income.
2. Proceeds of disposals representing substantial chargeable gains.
3. Proceeds of disposals which did not represent any (or any substantial) chargeable gains.

Then if funds are remitted to the UK they can be taken from account 3, and no (or no substantial) tax charge arises; then from account 2, where the gain is taxable but the tax charge is not on the entire proceeds remitted. Funds in accounts 1 and 2 (income and realised gains) can be given to others (while abroad) and a remittance by them would not be taxable provided the gift is genuine, unconditional and completed abroad: see 7.27 (Transfer to third party completed abroad).

In computing CGT liabilities on remittances the legislation requires unworkable computations in all but the simplest cases. HMRC take a realistic approach, see CG Manual 25420:

Where there have been a large number of transactions in a bank account and sums have been traced through a number of investments and/or transfers between bank accounts it may be very difficult [!] to carry out the analysis necessary to arrive at the correct figure for assessment. Because of this you may adopt any method suggested by, or acceptable to, the taxpayer which seems likely to produce a reasonable approximation to the liability which would result from the strict application of the rules.

Examples are given in the Manual at 25421.

18.12 CGT planning by turning UK situate into non-UK situate property

18.12.1 *Moveable assets in UK*

Moveable assets could perhaps be moved offshore prior to a disposal.

18.12.2 *Unincorporated UK business carried on by foreign domiciliary*

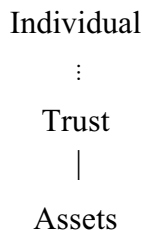
This could be transferred to a foreign incorporated company under s.162 TCGA and shares later sold (or settled first). Watch stamp duty. Even if the company were subsequently to become non-resident on emigration of shareholder/directors, no tax would arise except on growth in value since transfer to the company.

18.13 CGT planning before disposal of foreign situate asset

A possibility would be to give the asset to a connected person. The connected person may be a trust created by the foreign domiciliary or a member of his family, or a company owned or controlled by him. A non-resident trust will usually be the most convenient option. No CGT charge arises: see 18.9 (Gains on gifts and other deemed gains). The trust acquires the asset at market value. It will not realise a gain when the asset is sold in due course, by reason of its high acquisition value. And in any case the trust may be effectively outside the scope of CGT. Watch *Furniss v Dawson*.

18.14 CGT planning before acquisition of asset or trade

18.14.1 *A general policy*



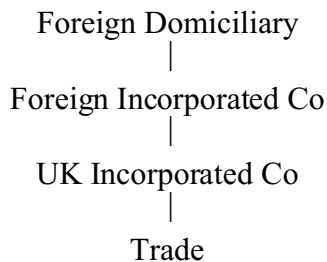
A good general policy would be that assets on which a chargeable gain

may arise should be acquired by a non-resident trust. The anti-avoidance provisions relating to offshore trusts do not apply to foreign domiciled beneficiaries and any gain made by the trustees can be remitted to the non-domiciled settlor in the UK without charge: see 19.2 (Charges to tax on offshore trusts). Take care that the trust is non-resident.

18.14.2 *Structure for UK trading company*

It is not ideal for a foreign domiciled individual to carry on trade through a UK incorporated company which he owns absolutely, as that would give rise to CGT. If the foreign domiciliary does not want to go to the trouble and expense of using an offshore trust, what is the alternative? One possibility is to use a foreign incorporated UK resident company. The shares in the company will not be UK situate for CGT; see 39.4 (Registered shares). A possible drawback is that s.739 ICTA will apply unless the motive defence can be used.² This may in fact be an advantage, because it allows distributions from the company to be made tax free. Thus the shareholder may be taxed as a sole trader but without NICs. However, if profits are to be retained in the company it is a disadvantage.

A possibility is to trade through a UK incorporated and resident trading company held by a UK resident but foreign incorporated holding company:



The trading income will not be within the scope of s.739. However, the use of two companies may arguably restrict the small companies rate. So the original suggestion of an offshore trust would be the best solution.

² See 12.4.1 (Foreign incorporated company) and 16.33 (Transfer to foreign incorporated company).

18.15 Temporary non-residents

Prior to the FA 1998, a simple method of avoiding CGT was as follows:

- (1) An individual left the UK for the minimum period required to become non-resident.
- (2) He disposed of assets during the period of non-residence.
- (3) In the following year he would return to the UK.

In practice this technique was used mainly by UK domiciled individuals. Section 10A TCGA is intended to prevent this, but applies to UK domiciled and non-domiciled individuals alike. The conditions for the application of the section are set out in s.10A(1):

This section applies in the case of any individual (“the taxpayer”) if—

- (a) he satisfies the residence requirements [in short, is UK resident] for any year of assessment (“the year of return”);
- (b)
 - [i] he did not satisfy those requirements for one or more years of assessment immediately preceding the year of return but
 - [ii] there are years of assessment before that year for which he did satisfy those requirements;³
- (c) there are fewer than five years of assessment falling between the year of departure and the year of return; and
- (d) four out of the seven years of assessment immediately preceding the year of departure are also years of assessment for each of which he satisfied those requirements.

(Sub-paragraphing added)

The consequence of the section applying is set out in subsection (2):

3 Limb [ii], appears to be otiose, given paragraph (d); but it does not matter.

The taxpayer shall be chargeable to CGT as if—

- (a) all the chargeable gains and losses which (apart from this subsection) would have accrued to him in an intervening year ... were gains or, as the case may be, losses accruing to the taxpayer in the year of return.

(It is mentioned for completeness that there is a complex exception for assets acquired by the taxpayer while abroad.)

This section does apply to a foreign domiciled individual. It may be fairly rare for the foreign domiciled individual to reside in the UK for the minimum of four years, leave, and return within five years; nevertheless this will happen from time to time. If, in such cases, the individual disposes of UK situate assets while non-resident, he will be charged to tax on his return.

The more difficult question is how s.10A applies to foreign assets. That is, how does s.10A interact with s.12 TCGA (remittance basis for foreign situated assets)? Section 12(1) provides:

In the case of individuals resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK, capital gains tax shall not be charged in respect of gains accruing to them from the disposal of assets situated outside the UK (that is, chargeable gains accruing in the year 1965–66 or a later year of assessment) except that the tax shall be charged on the amounts (if any) received in the UK in respect of those chargeable gains, any such amounts being treated as gains accruing when they are received in the UK.

There are two apparent conflicts between s.10A and s.12. First, s.10A provides that the taxpayer shall be charged to CGT; s.12 provides that CGT shall not be charged in respect of certain gains. Here, plainly, the words of s.10A do not override the narrow exemption in s.12. Second, s.10A provides that the gains accrue in the year of return, and s.12, that the gains accrue in the year of remittance. Again, it appears that s.12 takes precedence.

In all the following examples, “F” is a person non-UK domiciled but within the scope of s.10A: he has resided in the UK for a period (“the original UK resident period”) sufficient to satisfy the requirement of s.10A(1)(d); he leaves the UK for one year (“the non-resident period”) and then returns (“the year of return”).

Example 1

F disposes of foreign assets during the non-resident period, and does not remit the gains to the UK.

It is conceived that one first applies s.10A (which says that the taxpayer shall be charged to CGT as if the gains were gains accruing to the taxpayer in the year of return) and then one applies s.12 (which says that CGT shall not be charged) – so no CGT is payable. Any other result is absurd.

Example 2

F disposes of foreign assets during the non-resident period but remits the proceeds to the UK after the year of return.

Applying s.12 again, the gain is taxed in the year of remittance.

Example 3

F disposes of foreign assets during the non-resident period, and remits the proceeds to the UK in the non-resident period.

It is submitted that there is no tax charge in these circumstances. The gains are treated as accruing when received in the UK (applying s.12, overriding s.10A).

Example 4

F disposes of foreign assets during the original UK resident period and remits the proceeds during the non-resident period.

It is again submitted that there is no tax charge in these circumstances. The gains are treated as accruing when received in the UK (applying s.12, overriding s.10A).

18.16 Double tax treaties as a defence to CGT charge

A person who is resident in another state may find he is within the scope of UK CGT because:

- (1) he is also resident in the UK, or
- (2) he becomes resident in the UK in the same tax year, or

(3) he is within the scope of s.10A TCGA.

The OECD Model Convention provides that gains accruing to an alienator who is resident (for the purposes of the Treaty) in the other country shall not be subject to tax in the UK. This was often used as a defence to the s.10A charge by persons domiciled in the UK. It was less often necessary for a person who is not domiciled in the UK to rely on this. Treaty relief is now overruled by s.32 F(No. 2)A 2005. For a detailed discussion of the treaty issues, see the 3rd edition of this book.

18.17 UK branch or agency

Section 10 TCGA provides that the non-resident individual or trustee is subject to tax if he is carrying on a trade, profession or vocation in the UK through a branch or agency. Tax is charged on disposals of UK assets which are, or have been, used in a trade. Tax will also be charged on a disposal of the trade itself.

Where an asset ceases to be a chargeable asset, e.g. if the business ceases, or if it becomes situated outside the UK, it is deemed to have been disposed of at market value, thereby crystallising any inherent capital gain: the gain is restricted to the increase in value since 14 March 1989.

However, these rules can easily be avoided by a well advised individual. The business, including chargeable assets, could be transferred to a company as a going concern in exchange for shares and relief claimed under s.162 TCGA so that the gain is rolled into these shares. This would enable the non-resident to sell the shares in the company free of tax. Section 10 would have no application in these circumstances. Such a plan is subject to the possible application of the *Ramsay* principle, especially if the company does not retain the business which is acquired for very long. With this in mind, the transfer to the company should be made before the vendor has found a purchaser for the asset, or at least before the purchaser has committed himself to the purchase.

18.18 Capital losses

“Allowable losses” are in principle deductible for CGT. CGT is charged on *the total amount of chargeable gains less allowable losses* of a tax year (and unused losses of an earlier year): see s.2 TCGA. Section 16 TCGA explains the term “allowable loss”, subject to immaterial exceptions:

(1) ... the amount of a loss accruing on a disposal of an asset shall be computed in the same way as the amount of a gain accruing on a disposal is computed.

(2) Except as otherwise expressly provided, all the provisions of this Act which distinguish gains which are chargeable gains from those which are not, or which make part of a gain a chargeable gain, and part not, shall apply also to distinguish losses which are allowable losses from those which are not, and to make part of a loss an allowable loss, and part not; and references in this Act to an allowable loss shall be construed accordingly.

(2A) A loss accruing to a person in a year of assessment shall not be an allowable loss for the purposes of this Act unless, in relation to that year, he gives a notice to an officer of the Board quantifying the amount of that loss; and sections 42 and 43 of the Management Act shall apply in relation to such a notice as if it were a claim for relief.

Two important provisions restrict the term “allowable losses”.

18.18.1 *Loss on disposal by non-resident*

Section 16(3) TCGA provides:

A loss accruing to a person in a year of assessment during no part of which he is resident or ordinarily resident in the UK shall not be an allowable loss for the purposes of this Act unless, under section 10, he would be chargeable to tax in respect of a chargeable gain if there had been a gain instead of a loss on that occasion.

A loss accruing to a person who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in the UK is not an allowable loss. This is the corollary of the more general principle that a gain accruing to such a person is not a chargeable gain (leaving aside the exception for the UK branch or agency/permanent establishment). The realisation of losses outside the scope of CGT is wasteful and to be avoided wherever possible. The individual leaving the UK may consider realising his losses before he acquires non-resident and non-ordinarily resident status. The individual returning to the UK may postpone the disposal of assets with inherent losses until he re-acquires UK resident status.

18.18.2 *Loss on disposal by foreign domiciliary*

Section 16(4) TCGA provides:

In accordance with section 12(1), losses accruing on the disposal of assets situated outside the UK to an individual resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK shall not be allowable losses.

This wording is confusing. It means that losses accruing to a foreign domiciliary on a disposal by the foreign domiciliary of foreign situated property are not allowable.⁴

The rule is capable of acting harshly. A foreign domiciliary will be worse off than a UK domiciliary if:

- (1) he realises losses on foreign situate property; and
- (2) he realises gains:
 - (a) on UK situate property; or
 - (b) on foreign situate property and remits the gains to the UK.

It is, however, difficult to think of any better rule.⁵

It may sometimes be possible for a foreign domiciliary to avoid the problem by taking action before disposing of an asset on which a loss will accrue. Consider:

- (1) arranging that assets are situated in the UK prior to disposal, by a reversal of the techniques discussed in 18.12 (CGT planning by turning UK situate into non-UK situate property before disposal);
- (2) inter-spouse transfer if the other spouse is UK domiciled; see 33.14.3 (Asset yielding a loss).

4 The section could be taken to mean that losses are not allowable on a disposal (by any person) to a foreign domiciliary; but that cannot be correct.

5 Relief on all losses is too generous when gains are taxed on a remittance basis. Relief on losses remitted to the UK seems sensible at first sight, but in practice it would usually be easy to remit the losses to the UK, so that amounts to a relief for (almost) all losses, at least for a well advised taxpayer.

In practice, a foreign domiciliary would normally be able to avoid CGT on his foreign situated assets and the restriction on allowable losses is a small price to pay for that privilege.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND TRUSTS

19.1 Basic principles

Section 69(1) TCGA provides:

In relation to settled property, the trustees of the settlement shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as being a single and continuing body of persons (distinct from the persons who may from time to time be the trustees)...

A trust is in principle treated as a single unit. If the trustees are UK resident, they are subject to CGT. If non-resident, they are broadly outside the scope of CGT but various anti-avoidance provisions may tax the settlor or beneficiaries. On the concept of residence, see 4.4 (Trust residence for CGT).

19.2 The charges to tax on offshore trusts

Because a trust is an entity for CGT purposes it follows that UK trustees are subject to CGT even if their beneficiaries have no connection with the UK. More significantly, the converse will also apply; offshore trustees are not subject to tax even if their beneficiaries are resident in the UK. It is usually an easy matter to select or appoint offshore trustees who will not be liable for CGT. Beneficiaries are, in principle, to be ignored and are taxed neither on trust gains nor on payments out of the trust.

If this principle were to be applied without qualification, CGT would be very easy to avoid. The logical principle is therefore tempered with compromise. Little attempt is made to charge offshore trustees with CGT (unlike IT or IHT). However:

- (1) If the settlor is UK domiciled and has an interest under the settlement (as widely and artificially defined) he will be liable to tax on capital gains accruing to the offshore trustees. See s.86 TCGA. I refer to this as the *s.86 charge*.
- (2) UK domiciled beneficiaries of an offshore trust may be subject to tax if they receive capital payments from the trustees. See s.87 TCGA. I refer to this as the *s.87 charge*.

A full discussion of these rules requires, and has received, a long book to itself: Robert Venables QC, *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th ed., 2000. Since the problems mainly affect UK domiciled individuals, and this book is long enough already, the discussion here is an outline only.

19.3 The s.86 charge

The statute provides:

Attribution of gains to settlors with interest in non-resident or dual resident settlements

(1) This section applies where the following conditions are fulfilled as regards a settlement in a particular year of assessment—

- (a) the settlement is a qualifying settlement in the year;
- (b) the trustees of the settlement fulfil the condition as to residence [in short, are non-UK resident];
- (c) a person who is a settlor in relation to the settlement (“the settlor”) is domiciled in the UK at some time in the year and is either resident in the UK during any part of the year or ordinarily resident in the UK during the year;
- (d) at any time during the year the settlor has an interest in the settlement;
- (e) by virtue of disposals of any of the settled property originating from the settlor, there is an amount on which the trustees would be chargeable to tax for the year under section 2(2) if the assumption as to residence ... were made [in short, assuming UK resident trustees]

...

(4) Where this section applies—

- (a) chargeable gains of an amount equal to that referred to in subsection (1)(e) above shall be treated as accruing to the settlor in

the year, and

(b) those gains shall be treated as forming the highest part of the amount on which he is chargeable to capital gains tax for the year.

19.4 Foreign domiciliary exemption for s.86

The s.86 charge applies if the settlor:

is domiciled in the UK at some time in the year and is either resident in the UK during any part of the year or ordinarily resident in the UK during the year.

In short, the s.86 charge does not apply where the settlor is a foreign domiciliary. Note that no protection is afforded (unlike inheritance tax) by the settlor having a foreign domicile merely at the time that the settlement was made. The s.86 charge will apply if the settlor is UK domiciled and either resident or ordinarily resident in the year of assessment in which the gains accrue.

19.5 Two settlors for CGT s.86 charge

The s.86 charge only applies to disposals of settled property “originating from the settlor”. This expression is defined in TCGA Schedule 5 paragraph 8, see 37.2.2 (CGT definitions of “settlor”).

19.5.1 *Two direct settlors: A adds property to B’s trust*

The position is straightforward if one individual (“A”) creates a trust and another (“B”) adds property to it. A and B are both settlors. If A is foreign domiciled and B is UK domiciled, then A is not subject to CGT under s.86 and B is subject to tax on gains from the funds he provided.

The same applies if B adds value indirectly to A’s trust (e.g. by a gift to a company held by the trust). B is a “settlor” for s.86 purposes: see 37.10 (Provision of property for company held by trust). A “just apportionment” is practical, though it may not be easy.

The CG Manual contains the following unexceptionable guidance:

34894.

[June 2003]

If IR Trusts—Bootle or Financial Intermediaries and Claims Office (formerly Claims Branch) have given advice on apportionment for Income Tax purposes, this should be followed for CGT. Otherwise, if settlors together make the settlement, the gains in such a case should be apportioned according to the amounts each put in. If a settlor adds to a settlement, then the amount put in should be compared with the value of the settlement at that time. Districts should endeavour to reach a fair and easily worked solution.¹

19.5.2 *Direct and indirect settlors*

The position is less clear where there is an arrangement under which:

- (1) A makes a gift of property to B, and
- (2) B gifts the property to a trust.

There are two settlors, an indirect settlor (“A”) and a direct settlor (“B”). See 37.3 (Gift to B followed by gift to trust by B). Both have provided the *same* property. No issue arises if A and B are both foreign domiciled. What is the position if they are both UK domiciled? There is no clear provision how to apportion the gains between A and B, and since the gains cannot be subject to tax twice, it is strongly arguable that there is no tax charge at all. The Courts would have taken that view in the past: see *Lord Herbert v IRC* 25 TC 91. It is possible that a Court applying a “never mind the words” purposive approach would seek to identify a “real” settlor (presumably B) and infer that A is not to be regarded as the settlor.

If A is UK domiciled and B is not (or *vice versa*) there is no double charge, but the argument just about still runs that A (the UK settlor) cannot be taxed; though in these circumstances the argument is unmeritorious and one would not like to rely on it.

This issue usually arises in the context of failed tax planning of the kind discussed at 37.22 (Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor).

If A is not UK domiciled and B is UK domiciled, there is no double charge. B can argue that he is not the “real” settlor. In practice this factual situation should not arise.

¹ The Manual continues with an anodyne example not printed here.

19.6 The s.87 charge

The statute provides:

Attribution of gains to beneficiaries

(1) This section applies to a settlement for any year of assessment during which the trustees are at no time resident or ordinarily resident in the UK.

(2) There shall be computed in respect of every year of assessment for which this section applies the amount on which the trustees would have been chargeable to tax ... if they had been resident or ordinarily resident in the UK in the year; and that amount ... is ... referred to as the trust gains for the year.

...

(4) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the trust gains for a year of assessment shall be treated as chargeable gains accruing in that year to beneficiaries of the settlement who receive capital payments from the trustees in that year or have received such payments in any earlier year.

19.7 Foreign domicile exemption for s.87

Section 87(7) provides the exemption:

A beneficiary shall not be charged to tax on chargeable gains treated by virtue of subsection (4) above as accruing to him in any year unless he is domiciled in the UK at some time in that year.

A beneficiary who is not domiciled in the UK at any time during the tax year is altogether exempt from the s.87 charge regardless of his residence or ordinary residence and regardless of the domicile of the settlor. This exemption is much more generous than the remittance basis, for the beneficiary may receive the gains in the UK free of tax.

19.7.1 *Change of domicile of beneficiary*

The beneficiary qualifies for the relief if he is domiciled outside the UK throughout the year that the gain is deemed to have accrued to him. That is the later of:

- (1) the year of the capital payment; and
- (2) the year the trust gains accrue.

If, therefore:

- (1) the capital payment is made in year 1 when the beneficiary is not UK domiciled; and
- (2) the trust has no “trust gains” at that time; and
- (3) trust gains accrue in a later year (“year 2”) during which the beneficiary is UK domiciled,

then the foreign domicile relief does not apply.

The position would be different if trust gains equal to (or exceeding) the capital payment accrued in year 1. In that case, the trust gains of year 2 would not be attributable to the beneficiary, even if he has become UK domiciled by then. Section 87(5) provides:

The attribution of chargeable gains to beneficiaries under subsection (4) above shall be made in proportion to, but shall not exceed, the amounts of the capital payments received by them.

19.8 Four basic strategies for the s.87 charge

The problem of s.87 only applies where there is a UK domiciled beneficiary, and is therefore strictly outside the scope of this book. In outline, however, the position is as follows:

19.8.1 *Indefinite deferral*

This is obvious and straightforward. Beneficiaries are only liable to the s.87 charge if they receive a capital payment, and only then if they are UK domiciled. But there may be no immediate need for a capital payment to be made. Instead, the capital of the trust fund may be retained abroad and any trust gains reinvested there. The beneficiaries of the settlement would enjoy immediate or (if the trust income is accumulated) long-term benefits of a trust fund unreduced by the burden of CGT. In this way the charge

may be postponed until further tax planning becomes possible – or indefinitely, and the s.87 charge remains no more than a cloud on the horizon.

19.8.2 *Non-resident beneficiary*

Trust gains are treated as chargeable gains accruing to a beneficiary who receives capital payments. But a beneficiary who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in the UK is not subject to capital gains. Such a beneficiary may therefore receive capital payments from the trust tax free, just as he can realise capital gains of his own without incurring any tax charge. However, a temporary non-resident will be subject to CGT on his return under s.10A TCGA. The conditions for the application of s.10A are set out in s.10A(1) discussed at 18.15 (Temporary non-residents). The consequences of the section applying are set out in s.10A(2):

...the taxpayer shall be chargeable to capital gains tax as if—

- (a) all the chargeable gains and losses which (apart from this subsection) would have accrued to him in an intervening year,
 - (b) all the chargeable gains which under section 13 or 86 would be treated as having accrued to him in an intervening year if he had been resident in the UK throughout that intervening year, and
 - (c) any losses which by virtue of section 13(8) would have been allowable in his case in any intervening year if he had been resident in the UK throughout that intervening year,
- were gains or, as the case may be, losses accruing to the taxpayer in the year of return.

Section 87 is not mentioned here, so at first sight it might seem that s.87 trust gains are not caught; but this is not the case. Subsection (a) applies to gains accruing to the individual on actual disposals. If a non-resident individual disposes of assets, chargeable gains do accrue to him (even though under s. 2 TCGA he is outside the charge to CGT). Subsection (a) likewise applies if a individual receives a capital payment, as trust gains are treated as accruing to the beneficiary under s.87, even if he is non-resident. However subsection (a) would not catch s.86 or s.13 gains, as gains under these sections do *not* accrue to a non-resident. The sections only apply to a UK resident settlor or participator. Hence the drafter correctly extends section 10A(2) by subsection (b), which apply sections 13 and 86 by deeming the taxpayer to be UK resident. He does not need

to do this for s.87.

19.8.3 *Mixed UK and foreign beneficiaries: simple capital payments*

Trust gains which have been attributed to a beneficiary in an earlier tax year cease to be available for the purpose of the s.87 charge in the following year. This principle applies whether or not the beneficiary was subject to the s.87 charge. Suppose that capital payments had been attributed to a non-resident or a foreign domiciled beneficiary and the capital payments equal the total trust gains. Those gains are sometimes said to have been *washed*. In subsequent tax years these are not taken into account and a capital payment may be made to a UK beneficiary without incurring any tax charge under s.87. The trustees should note that correct timing is of vital importance. The payment to the exempt beneficiary must be made in one tax year and the payment to a UK beneficiary must be postponed until the following tax year. Subsequent trust gains may be taxed on the UK beneficiary.

19.8.4 *Mixed UK and foreign beneficiaries: capital payment and resettlement*

If one or more of the beneficiaries of the settlement are at any time not domiciled in the UK, the trustees might consider advancing the trust capital to those beneficiaries absolutely. The beneficiaries might then independently resettle the property and gain additional inheritance tax advantages. The CGT position would be substantially improved for the other beneficiaries by washing out an amount of trust gains equal to the advancement. Great care is needed in implementing arrangements of this kind. See also Example 2 in 37.22 (Tax planning to create a settlement with foreign domiciled settlor).

19.9 CGT problems on termination of a non-resident settlement

If the settlement comes to an end, outstanding trust gains at that time will be attributed to the beneficiaries who become entitled to the trust property: s.97(2) TCGA. This rule will not, in practice, affect well drafted settlements, whose life may extend for a century or more. Moreover, if action is taken in good time it will generally be possible to extend the life of poorly drafted settlements by judicious exercise of trustees' powers.

Trustees should diarise the date when their settlement may come to an end so as to take action beforehand.

19.10 Non-resident companies held by trustees

There is no CGT advantage to be gained by transferring trust assets to a company the shares of which are held by trustees on the terms of their settlement. Gains accruing to such a company are normally attributed to the trustees and constitute trust gains: s.13 TCGA. In addition, there may be a chargeable gain when the offshore trustees dispose of the company's shares. The use of the company may therefore double the potential CGT charges. However, this will normally be of concern only to UK domiciled settlors or beneficiaries.

19.11 Capital gains tax planning

In the short term the foreign domiciliary may be content to use the remittance basis to avoid any CGT liability. In the longer term, this is bound to become unsatisfactory and something more is required. The principle of the foreign domiciliary's long-term CGT planning is that the foreign domiciliary should hold his wealth through the medium of an offshore trust. The offshore trustees will not be subject to CGT in any event, and neither will foreign domiciled beneficiaries, even if all the gains are remitted to the UK.

19.12 Creating a settlement

The creation of an offshore trust presents no CGT problem if:

- (1) the individual is non-resident; or
- (2) the asset transferred is sterling; or
- (3) the asset transferred is not UK situate; or
- (4) the asset transferred does not give rise to a gain.

For UK assets pregnant with gain, see 18.12 (CGT planning by turning UK situate into non-UK situate property).

19.13 Capital gains tax planning for offshore trustees

Offshore trustees must firstly ensure that they do not themselves become liable for the tax: see 19.1 (Basic principles) above. The trustees' next aim should be the careful consideration and avoidance of the s.87 charge on the beneficiaries: see 19.8 (Four basic strategies for the s.87 charge).

19.14 UK resident trust

A UK resident trust is in principle subject to CGT even if the settlor is a foreign domiciliary. One might avoid this problem for the future by exporting the trust (appointing non-resident trustees) but there will be a "migration" charge under s.80 TCGA. This applies even if the assets are not situated in the UK. The remittance basis does not apply as that only applies to "individuals"; trustees are not individuals: s.65(2) TCGA.

One solution may be to transfer assets from the trust to foreign domiciled beneficiaries absolutely. Although this involves a disposal by the trustees, it will often be possible to claim CGT hold-over relief. The relief applies on a disposition to a UK resident foreign domiciled beneficiary, even though that beneficiary may later be able to sell without a CGT charge.

19.15 UK resident trust (settlor a beneficiary)

An interesting question arises where the settlor is foreign domiciled, UK resident, and has an interest in the trust (as defined). Section 77(1) TCGA provides, so far as relevant:

- (1) Where in a year of assessment—
 - (a) chargeable gains accrue to the trustees of a settlement from the disposal of any or all of the settled property,
 - (b) after making any deduction provided for by section 2(2) in respect of disposals of the settled property there remains an amount on which the trustees would be chargeable to tax for the year in respect of those gains ...
 - (c) at any time during the year the settlor has an interest in the settlement,
 - [i] the trustees shall not be chargeable to tax in respect of those² but

2 i.e. those gains.

- [ii] instead chargeable gains of an amount equal to that referred to in paragraph (b) shall be treated as accruing to the settlor in that year.

(Paragraphing added)

Suppose the trustees dispose of assets situated outside the UK. Does the remittance basis apply? HMRC say it does not.³ CG Manual 34911 provides:

The remittance basis of assessment provided by Section 12 TCGA, see CG25300+, does not apply to trust gains attributed to a settlor who is not domiciled in the UK. If settled property situated outside the UK is disposed of by trustees, the chargeable gain which in consequence is treated as accruing to the settlor does not accrue to that person *by reason of* the disposal of assets situated outside the UK. It accrues as a consequence of the operation of the statutory provisions. The requirements of Section 12(1) are therefore not satisfied.

(Emphasis added)

Now, s.12 provides that CGT shall not be charged *in respect of* gains accruing to [the foreign domiciliary] *from* the disposal of assets situated outside the UK.

Note first of all that section 12 does not say that there must be disposal by the foreign domiciled individual.

The HMRC argument set out above is wrong (or at least wrongly expressed) because it asks the wrong question. The issue is not whether the gain accrues *by reason of* the disposal of foreign assets. The issue is whether s.77 imposes a charge to CGT *in respect of* gains accruing to the foreign domiciliary *from* the disposal of foreign assets.

HMRC could reformulate their argument and say that the gains accruing to the foreign domiciliary do not arise from the disposal of the trustees' assets but only as a consequence of s.77. But the fact that it needs a statutory provision to deem the gain to accrue to the settlor should not

3 This is also the view of Robert VENABLE QC: *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th ed., 11.6.4 (Charge on settlor with interest in settlement – UK settlor provisions). A similar question is whether gains taxed under s.77 may qualify for private residence relief under s.222 TGA (where s.225 TCGA does not provide relief).

mean that the gain does not accrue *from* the disposal of the foreign assets.

A better HMRC argument is that s.77 does not deem the gains from the assets to accrue to the settlor, but *chargeable gains of an amount equal* to those gains.⁴ However, the distinction between a chargeable gain and an amount equal to a chargeable gain is so slender as to be meaningless. The two gains can be identified. Even if they cannot be identified, the artificial gain deemed to accrue to the settlor may still be said to arise *from* the disposal of the foreign assets by the trustees, albeit indirectly.

Does the scheme of the legislation shed any light on the issue? HMRC may say there is an anomaly in that (on the author's view) trustees with a UK resident foreign domiciled settlor may escape tax but tax will be charged if the settlor is not UK resident. But, in the first case, the settlor is subject to tax on a remittance basis, so the anomaly is not that serious.

Comparisons can be drawn with s.624 ITTOIA, but that section operates in an entirely different way and does not shed much light on the current issue.

Note that if the settlor were to die in the same year of assessment, the gains would not be attributed to him (see s.77(6) TCGA) and would be chargeable in full on the UK trustees.

4 Similar questions arise in relation to DTT relief where the trust is resident in a jurisdiction with a double tax treaty. See *Taxation of Non-Resident Companies and their Shareholders*, by Stephen Brandon QC, Key Haven Publications.

CHAPTER TWENTY

LIFE POLICIES AND CONTRACTS ("BONDS")

20.1 Introduction

This chapter considers:

- (1) policies of life insurance,
- (2) life annuity contracts, and
- (3) capital redemption policies.

In practice life insurance is more common than life annuities or capital redemption policies. These are together referred to as "a policy or contract". This is the terminology generally used in the legislation. The asset is often described in the life insurance industry as a bond; statute has adopted that term in the expression "personal portfolio bond". Strictly the term "bond" is wider, meaning any obligation undertaken by deed.

They fall within Chapter 9 Part 4 ITTOIA, known as the "chargeable event" regime. The subject needs a book to itself. The provisions are sometimes very crude. Partial surrender is a particular trap. There is also scope for tax planning. This is the only place I have seen in HMRC Manuals where districts are warned "not to attempt any discussion or explanation as to the equity of the treatment for tax".¹

It is possible to structure an investment in the form of a life insurance

1 Assessment Procedures Manual, 3147a.

policy (with only a nominal element of life insurance). So one can effectively opt into the chargeable event regime by choosing to invest in a policy rather than in some other form.

In outline, there are three stages to the application of the provisions. The first is to ascertain whether there is a "chargeable event". The second stage is to compute the gain arising² on the chargeable event. These aspects are not discussed here. The third stage is to ascertain the person chargeable.

20.2 Charge on individuals and individual 'creators'

Section 465 ITTOIA provides:

- (1) An individual is liable for tax under this Chapter if the individual is UK resident in the tax year in which the gain arises and condition A, B or C is met.
- (2) Condition A is that the individual beneficially owns the rights under the policy or contract in question.
- (3) Condition B is that those rights are held on non-charitable trusts which the individual created.
- (4) Condition C is that those rights are held as security for the individual's debt.

Condition A – gain charged on individual if he is beneficial owner – is natural and sensible.

There are two strange features about condition B, where a policy or contract is held in a trust. Firstly, it does not refer to the "settlor", which is the normal tax terminology, but to trusts "created" by a person. In practice, the settlor will usually be the creator.³

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- 2 The general usage of the CGT legislation is that gains "accrue"; in the chargeable events legislation, gains "arise". There is no difference in meaning.
 - 3 The reason for the different term was, possibly, (1) to avoid the rule that a "settlor" must have provided an element of bounty or (2) a concern that a company may not be a "settlor"; see 37.21 (Trust made by company), or (most likely) (3) as a rough and ready way to deal with the two-settlor situation. That is, if one person created a trust and another added property, only the first was the creator; and was formerly subject to tax on the whole of the gain. (Contrast Civil Procedure Rules 64.4(2) which distinguishes the person who created the trust from one who provided property for the purpose of the trust.)

Secondly, amazingly, the creator is charged on the gain accruing to his trust quite regardless of the identity of the beneficiaries. The individual has a right of recovery against the trustees, so ultimately it is the beneficiaries who bear the burden of the charge, but they do so at the creator's marginal rates. This is wholly contrary to principle, which elsewhere only charges the settlor in this way if he or those closely connected to him are beneficiaries. But following the increase in the trust tax rate to 40%, this rule can only favour the taxpayer.

Condition C – gain charged on individual if held as security for the individual's debt – is an incredibly rough and ready solution to the problem of imposing the tax charge where the economic ownership lies. CGT has the opposite rule: s.26 TCGA.

Sections 469–472 ITTOIA deal with cases of joint ownership and jointly created trusts.

20.2.1 *UK resident foreign domiciled individual*

Section 465(5) ITTOIA provides:

For the purposes of calculating the total income of an individual liable for tax under this Chapter, the amount charged is treated as income.

The drafting technique is that the gain is added to the individual's "total income". The gain is taxed on an arising basis. The remittance basis does not apply even if the individual is not UK domiciled and the gain arises from an offshore policy. This is a surprising inconsistency with the general scheme of taxation for foreign domiciliaries. I wonder if this was due to a historical oversight. However that may be, the law set out in ITTOIA is clear.

It follows that a policy or contract which will give rise to a gain under the chargeable event provisions is not a suitable form of investment for:

- (1) a UK resident foreign domiciled individual; or
- (2) a trust with a UK resident foreign domiciled creator,⁴

⁴ But it may be suitable if held by a non-resident company held by the trust: see below.

unless the individual expects to be non-resident in the year of the chargeable event.

20.2.2 *Individual non-resident in year of chargeable event*

The charge only applies “if the individual is UK resident in the tax year in which the gain arises”: s.465(1) ITTOIA. It was formerly clear from ESC B53 that the split year concession⁵ did not apply. Now ESC B53 is obsolete, in relation to individuals, and this point is not expressly stated in ESC A11 which at face value applies a split year treatment in all cases including this one. However, it is likely that HMRC will not change their practice, and their decision to do that could not be formally challenged.

The CGT temporary non-residence rule does not apply; see 18.15 (Temporary non-residents).

20.2.3 *Non-resident period relief*

There is a relief for the individual who is UK resident in the year that the gain arises (so he is within the charge) but who has formerly been non-resident. I refer to this as “non-resident period relief”. The relief is set out in s.528 ITTOIA:

(1) The gain from a foreign policy of life insurance or foreign capital redemption policy is reduced for the purposes of this Chapter if the policy holder was not UK resident throughout the policy period.

(2) The amount of the reduction is the appropriate fraction of the gain.

(3) The appropriate fraction is $(A \div B)$ where—

A is the number of days on which the policy holder was not UK resident in the policy period, and

B is the number of days in that period.

The relief applies where individuals are charged on the gain as beneficial owners or security owners (conditions A or C). It does not help individuals who have had non-resident periods but who are charged as creators of a trust (condition B). Section 529(1) provides:

Section 528 does not apply if, when the chargeable event occurs or at

⁵ See 5.11 (Gains from life policies).

- any time during the policy period, the policy is or was held—
- (a) by a non-UK resident trustee,
 - (b) by non-UK resident trustees, or
 - (c) by a foreign institution.

20.3 Policy held by UK trust where creator not taxable

If the creator of the trust is alive and UK resident, he will be taxed on the gain: see 20.2 (The charge on individuals). Section 467 ITTOIA provides:

467 Person liable: UK resident trustees

- (1) Trustees are liable for tax under this Chapter if immediately before the chargeable event in question occurs they are UK resident and condition A, B, C or D is met.
- (2) Condition A is that the rights under the policy or contract are held by the trustees on charitable trusts.
- (3) Condition B is that—
 - (a) those rights are held by the trustees on non-charitable trusts, and
 - (b) one or more of the absent settlor conditions is met.
- (4) The absent settlor conditions are that the person who created the trusts—
 - (a) is non-UK resident,
 - (b) has died, or
 - (c) in the case of a company or foreign institution (see section 468(5)), has been dissolved or wound up or has otherwise come to an end.
- (5) Condition C is that—
 - (a) the rights under the policy or contract are held by the trustees on non-charitable trusts,
 - (b) condition B does not apply, and
 - (c) neither section 465 or 466 above nor section 547(1)(b) of ICTA (circumstances in which a company is liable for tax under Chapter 2 of Part 13 of ICTA) applies.
- (6) Condition D is that the rights under the policy or contract are held as security for a debt owed by the trustees.

The rate (except for charities) was increased in 2004 to 40%: s.467(7) ITTOIA. An appointment to beneficiaries before the chargeable event may reduce the rate of tax.

20.4 Non-resident trust

Non-resident trustees are outside the scope of the charge because s.467 (the provision imposing the charge on trustees) applies only to UK resident trustees. Section 468 ITTOIA provides (so far as relevant):

468 Non-UK resident trustees and foreign institutions

- (1) This section applies if a gain is treated as arising under this Chapter and ...
- (a) trustees who are non-UK resident would be liable for tax in respect of the gain as a result of section 467 if the trustees were UK resident immediately before the chargeable event in question occurs, ...
- (2) Section 740 of ICTA (which prevents avoidance of tax where an individual who is ordinarily UK resident benefits from a transfer of assets) applies with the modifications specified in subsection (3) or (4).
- (3) In a case within subsection (1)(a), section 740 applies as if—
 - (a) the gain were income becoming payable to the trustees, and
 - (b) that income arose to the trustees in the tax year in which the gain arises. ...

Section 739 does not apply as the gain is not income in the general sense or treated as income for tax purposes. Section 739 is not needed here as unless the transferor is dead or non-resident he would normally be taxed as the creator of the settlement.

20.5 Non-resident company

A non-resident company is outside the scope of the charge under ITTOIA (which does not apply to companies). It is outside the scope of the charge in ICTA (which only applies to corporation tax). Section 468 ITTOIA provides (so far as relevant):

468 Non-UK resident trustees and foreign institutions

- (1) This section applies if a gain is treated as arising under this Chapter and ...
- (b) immediately before that event occurs—
 - (i) a foreign institution⁶ beneficially owns a share in the rights,

6 Defined in s.468(5): "In this Chapter "foreign institution" means a company or other institution resident or domiciled outside the UK."

- (ii) the rights are held for the purposes of a foreign institution, or
 - (iii) a share in them is held as security for a foreign institution's debt.
- (2) Section 740 of ICTA (which prevents avoidance of tax where an individual who is ordinarily UK resident benefits from a transfer of assets) applies with the modifications specified in subsection (3) or (4).
- ...
- (4) In a case within subsection (1)(b), section 740 applies as if—
- (a) the gain were income becoming payable to the institution, and
 - (b) that income arose to the institution in the tax year in which the gain arises.

Section 739 will not apply to a policy held by a “foreign institution”⁷, because the gain is not income or deemed to be income. This is an omission which gives some scope for tax planning to anyone bold enough to plan on the assumption that the current law will still apply when a policy is surrendered at some time in the future.

20.6 Transferor's defence to s.740

Suppose a foreign company or trust within s.740 receives a gain, and the *transferor* receives a benefit. Normally a transferor is outside the scope of s.740: see 14.3 (Transferor's s.740 defence). There is an argument that the section should not apply even here. However, the resulting anomaly is unlikely to be accepted in a modern Court.

20.7 Foreign domicile defence to s.740

Suppose:

- (1) a foreign company or trust within s.740 receives a gain; and
- (2) a foreign domiciled beneficiary receives a benefit outside the UK.

The foreign domicile defence does not apply: the gain (which is deemed to be income for the purposes of s.740) is not “excluded relevant income”, because the remittance basis does not apply to these gains. See 14.33

⁷ See definition at above footnote.

(Excluded relevant income).

20.8 Motive defence to s.740

Suppose a gain arises to a company or trust which qualifies for the motive defence to s.740: see 16.1 (Motive defence). Here there is a conflict between two sections: s.741 ICTA states that "section 740 shall not apply" and s.468(2) ITTOIA states that s.740 "applies". Which prevails? Robert Venables QC prefers the view that the motive defence prevails.⁸ The point is arguable both ways and the outcome of litigation unpredictable.

20.9 Section 624 and life policies

Section 624 ITTOIA never has application to a gain arising on the disposal of a life policy or contract. To see why, it is helpful to distinguish:

- (1) UK resident settlor;
- (2) non-UK resident settlor:
 - (a) non-resident trustees;
 - (b) UK resident trustees.

The provisions taxing a UK resident creator leave no scope for section 624 where the settlor is UK resident. Where the settlor is non-resident and the trustees are non-resident, section 624 has no application because the gain arising on the disposal of the life policy or contract is not "income" and so it is not "income arising under a settlement". Where the trustees are UK resident, but the settlor is not resident, the gain is deemed to be income of the trustees. In these circumstances the s.624 non-resident settlor defence will apply.⁹

⁸ *Non-Resident Trusts*, 8th ed., 12B, 3.3.3 (Trustees non-resident).

⁹ That is, the gain is such that if the settlor were actually entitled thereto, he would not be chargeable to income tax by reason of being non-resident: see 11.16 (Non-resident defence to s.648).

20.10 Planning for immigrant to UK

20.10.1 Immigrant policyholder who has become resident in the UK

The advisors of a foreign domiciled person who has recently come to the UK should check whether he or any trust he has created has any life policy or contract. If so, the position needs to be considered carefully.

An assignment of the policy or contract from an individual to a trust (resident or not) does not help, if the individual remains UK resident.

One simple form of planning is to arrange there is no chargeable event in a year when the individual is UK resident. The partial surrender of up to 5% of the premium paid for the policy or contract per year is not a "chargeable event". The surrender, assignment for money or money's worth and maturity of the policy or contract is normally a chargeable event but this can be anticipated and perhaps postponed to a year when the individual is non-resident. A death giving rise to benefits under the policy is also a chargeable event unless the policy is a qualifying policy. In such a case one would be at risk that the individual may die while UK resident, giving rise to the tax charge on his estate.

If a chargeable event is anticipated, the policy or contract could be assigned to a non-resident company, perhaps held by a trust. This postpones the charge to the time that an ordinarily resident individual receives benefits: see 20.5 (Non-resident company). An assignment for no consideration is not a chargeable event. Another course is for the individual to surrender his policy shortly after becoming UK resident; most of the gain will qualify for non-resident period relief; see 20.2.3 (Non-resident period relief).

Another possibility is that the trust holding the policy or contract is or becomes resident in an area with a suitable double tax treaty.

20.10.2 Planning before becoming UK resident

There are further possibilities if the individual acts before the tax year in which he becomes UK resident. One possibility is to surrender the policies.

20.11 Personal portfolio bonds

Urgent action needs to be taken if the individual (or trust created by him)

holds a “personal portfolio bond” as defined in s.516 ITTOIA. This topic, on which HMRC have issued 36 pages of Guidance Notes, cannot be pursued here.

20.12 CGT

Section 210 TCGA provides an exemption for policies and contracts. In outline, gains are exempt unless the policy has been assigned for consideration (known as secondhand policies). The exemption does not apply to capital redemption policies. This may be because in practice such policies only give rise to income rather than capital gains.

20.13 Situs

On this topic see 38.17 (Insurance policy situs for IHT); 39.14 (Insurance policy situs for CGT).

20.14 IHT on UK situate policy

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM30039 - Definition and extent of liability: policies effected by a person who dies domiciled outside the UK

Under the proviso to the [Revenue Act 1884]¹⁰ s.11 as amended by the [Revenue Act 1889 s.19] a grant of representation (IHTM05001) in the UK is not necessary in order to recover money payable under a policy or life assurance effected with any insurance company by a person who dies domiciled outside the UK. For the purposes of this section, any policy under which a sum of money becomes payable on a death may be treated as a policy of life assurance, and any association of persons which issued policies in the ordinary course of its business, whether incorporated or not, may be treated as an insurance company.

These provisions do **not** confer any exemption from IHT. Where policy moneys are situate in the UK, tax is nonetheless payable though the moneys may be receivable without the production of a UK grant of representation.

The insurance company can however be liable for the tax where

- it retains policy moneys for the benefit of the beneficiary for

10 The Manual wrongly refers to the Customs & Inland Revenue Acts.

investment purposes, outside the terms of the life assurance contract, in which case IHTAs200(1)(c) may apply to the company as a vestee, or

- it received prior notice that the policy in question is subject to a statutory charge for tax under IHTAs237.

Where there is other estate in the UK in respect of which a UK grant is necessary, but the UK representatives are only administrators acting under a power of attorney and in point of fact have not intermeddled with the policy moneys and, without knowledge of the claim for tax in respect of such moneys, have parted with the assets collected by them to their principal (the foreign executor), the claim in respect of the policy moneys should not be pursued against the UK administrators.

Similar conditions apply in Scotland to a Factor or Attorney authorised by executors abroad to give up an Inventory (in such cases it is the executors who are confirmed, not the Factor or Attorney).

Refer to TG (IHTM01080) for consideration

- all enquiries on this topic
- any case where it is apparent that policy moneys have been paid out without a grant being produced.

(This text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)

The withheld text may well state that IHT in many cases is uncollectible and sets out the circumstances in which no attempt should be made to collect it. In practice a well advised foreign domiciliary will not acquire or retain a UK situate policy.

CHAPTER TWENTY ONE

OFFSHORE FUNDS

21.1 Introduction

This subject needs a book to itself. It would be an unrewarding work, however, because the rules are not well observed in practice. The reader who studies this chapter will see why. Changes had been expected in the light of the consultative document “Offshore Funds” (April 2002) but the result in the FA 2004 was merely tinkering. The following focuses on the questions which most affect foreign domiciliaries.

In outline, the provisions apply to an offshore income gain (“OIG”) arising on a disposal of a material interest in a non-qualifying offshore fund.

21.2 Meaning of “offshore fund”

In outline, the definition is provided by s.756A(1) ICTA. An offshore fund is:

a collective investment scheme¹ constituted by—

(a) a company that is resident outside the UK;

(b) a unit trust scheme the trustees of which are not resident in the UK;
or

(c) arrangements not falling within paragraph (a) or (b) taking effect by virtue of the law of a territory outside the UK and which under that law create rights in the nature of co-ownership (without restricting that expression to its meaning in the law of any part of the UK).

1 “Collective investment scheme” has the meaning given by section 235 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

An offshore fund is a non-qualifying fund unless it is certified by HMRC as a distributing fund: see section 760 ICTA. HMRC publish a list of such funds. Non-qualifying funds tend to out-perform distributing funds. The best fund managers no doubt see no advantage in complying with the rules for distributing fund status. So investors may have the unhappy choice between investment returns and better tax treatment. Very broadly, the legislation is dealing with funds known as “roll up funds”. Hedge funds usually take this form.

21.3 Meaning of “material interest”

In outline, the definition is provided by section 759(2) ICTA:

Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person’s interest in an offshore fund is a material interest if, at the time when he acquired the interest, it could reasonably be expected that, at some time during the period of seven years beginning at the time of his acquisition, he would be able to realise the value of the interest² (whether by transfer, surrender or in any other manner).

21.3.1 *Policy of insurance*

Section 759(5) ICTA provides:

2 “Able to realise the value of the interest” is defined in s.759(3)(4) ICTA:

“(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, a person is at any time able to realise the value of an interest if at that time he can realise an amount which is reasonably approximate to that portion which the interest represents (directly or indirectly) of the market value at that time of the assets of the fund.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3) above—

(a) a person is able to realise a particular amount if he is able to obtain that amount either in money or in the form of assets to the value of that amount; and

(b) if at any time an interest in an offshore fund has a market value which is substantially greater than the portion which the interest represents, as mentioned in subsection (3) above, of the market value at that time of the assets concerned, the ability to realise such a market value of the interest shall not be regarded as an ability to realise such an amount as is referred to in that subsection.”

An interest in an offshore fund is not a material interest if—

- (a) it is an interest in respect of any loan capital or debt issued or incurred for money which, in the ordinary course of a business of banking, is lent by a person carrying on that business; or
- (b) it is a right arising under a policy of insurance.

Insurance policies are excluded because they are covered by the chargeable events provisions.

21.3.2 *Offshore companies*

Section 759(8) ICTA provides:

An interest in a company that is not resident in the United Kingdom is not a material interest in an offshore fund at any time when the following conditions are satisfied, namely—

- (a) that the holder of the interest has the right to have the company wound up; and
- (b) that, in the event of a winding up, the holder is, by virtue of the interest and any other interest which he then holds in the same capacity, entitled to more than 50 per cent of the assets remaining after the discharge of all liabilities having priority over the interest or interests concerned.

Wholly owned offshore companies are not offshore funds for the separate reason that they are not collective investment schemes.

21.4 Meaning of “disposal”

In outline, the position is governed by section 757(2) ICTA:

Subject to the following provisions of this section and section 758, there is a disposal of an asset for the purposes of this Chapter if there would be such a disposal for the purposes of the [TCGA].

21.5 “Offshore income gains”

The legislation distinguishes:

- (1) Offshore income gains (the offshore funds concept); and

(2) chargeable gains (a CGT concept).

Offshore income gains are computed in accordance with Schedule 28 ICTA.

21.6 The charge to tax

This is governed by section 761 ICTA which provides:

Charge to income tax or corporation tax of offshore income gain

(1) If a disposal to which this Chapter applies gives rise in accordance with section 758 or Schedule 28 to an offshore income gain, then, subject to the provisions of this section, the amount of that gain—

- (a) shall be treated for all the purposes of the Tax Acts as income arising at the time of the disposal to the person making the disposal, and
- (b) shall be charged—
 - (i) to income tax for the year of assessment in which the disposal is made...

21.6.1 *Non-residents*

Section 761(2) provides a territorial limitation for non-residents:

Subject to subsection (3) below, sections 2(1) and 10 of the [TCGA] (persons chargeable to tax in respect of chargeable gains) and section 11(2)(b) shall have effect in relation to income tax or corporation tax in respect of offshore income gains as they have effect in relation to capital gains tax or corporation tax in respect of chargeable gains.

Amended as s.761(2) directs, s.2(1) TCGA provides (so far as relevant):

... a person shall be chargeable to [income tax] in respect of [offshore income gains] accruing to him in a year of assessment during any part of which he is resident in the UK, or during which he is ordinarily resident in the UK.

By implication, a person not resident (and not ordinarily resident) is not chargeable to IT on offshore income gains. This incorporates the CGT

residence rules by reference.³ The CGT temporary non-residence rule does not apply.

21.6.2 *UK resident foreign domiciled individual*

Section 761(5) provides a remittance basis for the UK resident, foreign domiciled individual:

In the case of individuals resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK, section 12 [TCGA] (which provides for taxation on a remittance basis) shall have effect in relation to income tax chargeable by virtue of subsection (1) above on an offshore income gain as it has effect in relation to capital gains tax in respect of gains accruing to such individuals from the disposal of assets situated outside the UK.

Amended as s.761(5) directs, s.12 TCGA provides:

Foreign assets of person with foreign domicile

(1) In the case of individuals resident or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK, [income tax] shall not be charged in respect of [offshore income gains] accruing to them from the disposal of assets situated outside the UK ... except that the tax shall be charged on the amounts (if any) received in the UK in respect of those [offshore income gains], any such amounts being treated as gains accruing when they are received in the UK.

This incorporates the CGT remittance basis by reference. See 18.3 (CGT remittance basis). It is theoretically possible that an offshore fund may be UK situate for CGT purposes but in practice that will not happen.

21.6.3 *UK resident trust*

A UK resident trust is in principle subject to tax on offshore income gains. Tax is charged at the rate applicable to trusts, 40%: see section 764 ICTA.

3 Section 761 (2)(3) also incorporates s.10 TCGA which would apply if a non-resident carried on a trade through a branch or agency and used the offshore funds for the purposes of the trade. This gives a neat symmetry with the CGT rules but it is hard to imagine that this has or ever will apply in practice.

21.7 UK resident settlor-interested trust

The OIG accruing to UK trustees is not “income” in the general (trust law) sense but since it is “treated for all the purposes of the Tax Acts as income” it will fall within s.624 ITTOIA. But since the rate of tax in the absence of s.624 is 40%, the provision can only reduce the tax rate (or make no difference).

Suppose now that the settlor is not UK domiciled and the OIG is not remitted. The OIG then falls within s.624 foreign domicile defence: see 11.7 (s.624 foreign domicile defence). It follows that the OIG is then chargeable on the trustees after all.

21.8 Non-resident trust holding offshore funds

Where an OIG accrues to a non-resident trust the trustees are not subject to tax on that gain. However, s.87 TCGA and ss.739, 740 ICTA apply, with refinements just for the OIG rules. The result is exquisite complexity.

21.8.1 *Section 624 ITTOIA*

A non-resident settlor-interested trust is not within s.624 ITTOIA unlike a UK resident trust. The OIG is treated as income under s.761(1) ITCA, but this rule is disapplied for non-resident trusts by s.761(7) ICTA 1988.

21.8.2 *Sections 739 and 740 ICTA*

Section 762(5) ICTA provides:

Subject to subsection (6) below, for the purpose of determining whether an individual ordinarily resident in the UK has a liability for income tax in respect of an offshore income gain which arises on a disposal to which this Chapter applies where the disposal is made by a person resident or domiciled outside the UK—

- (a) sections 739 and 740 shall apply as if the offshore income gain arising to the person resident or domiciled outside the UK constituted income becoming payable to him, and
- (b) any reference in those sections to income of (or payable or arising to) such a person accordingly includes a reference to the offshore income gain arising to him by reason of the disposal to

which this Chapter applies.

If the transferor is not UK domiciled, the s.739 foreign domicile defence will apply, provided the OIG is received offshore. This view has been questioned. The objection is that s.762(5) deems the OIG to be income only for the purposes of ss.739 and 740, not for the purposes of s.743(3) (the s.739 foreign domicile defence). So (it is said) s.743(3) does not apply to non-resident trusts. But since s.743 is expressed to be “supplemental” to ss.739 and 740, the argument is clearly wrong.

The application of s.740 is wider than the s.87 OIG charge because the s.740 foreign domicile defence is more limited.

21.8.3 *Section 87 TCGA*

Section 762(2) incorporate the s.87 TCGA rules by reference but with amendments:

Subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, sections 87 to 90 and 96 to 98 of the [TCGA] (gains of non-resident settlements) shall have effect in relation to offshore income gains subject to the following modifications ...

Amended as s.762 directs, s.87 TCGA reads (so far as relevant):

Attribution of gains to beneficiaries

(1) This section applies to a settlement for any year of assessment during which the trustees are at no time resident or ordinarily resident in the UK.

(2) There shall be computed in respect of every year of assessment for which this section applies the amount on which the trustees would have been chargeable to [income tax by virtue of section 761 ICTA] if they had been resident or ordinarily resident in the UK in the year; and that amount, together with the corresponding amount in respect of any earlier such year so far as not already treated under subsection (4) below or section 89(2) as [offshore income gains] accruing to beneficiaries under the settlement, is in this section and sections 89 and 90 referred to as the trust gains for the year...

(4) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the trust gains for a year of assessment shall be treated as [offshore income gains] accruing in that year to beneficiaries of the settlement who receive capital payments from the trustees in that year or have received such payments

in any earlier year.

(5) The attribution of [offshore income gains] to beneficiaries under subsection (4) above shall be made in proportion to, but shall not exceed, the amounts of the capital payments received by them. ...

(7) A beneficiary shall not be charged to [income tax or corporation tax] on [offshore income gains] treated by virtue of subsection (4) above as accruing to him in any year unless he is domiciled in the UK at some time in that year...

It is necessary to distinguish the normal s.87 rules and the OIG s.87 rules: The rules are similar but not identical. I refer below to:

(1) the CGT s.87 charge (applying to CGT trust gains)

(2) the OIG s.87 charge (applying to OIG trust gains).

The s.87 OIG charge does not directly concern a foreign domiciled beneficiary because s.87(7) provides a complete defence.

21.8.4 *Trust with CGT & OIG trust gains*

Section 762(4) ICTA deals with a trust which has CGT trust gains and OIG trust gains:

If, in any year of assessment—

(a) under subsection (3) of section 87 of the [TCGA], as it applies apart from subsection (2) above, a chargeable gain falls to be attributed to a beneficiary, and

(b) under that subsection, as applied by subsection (2) above, an offshore income gain also falls to be attributed to him, subsection (4) of that section (gains attributed in proportion to capital payments received) shall have effect as if it required offshore income gains to be attributed before chargeable gains.

That is, the OIG s.87 charge has priority to the CGT s.87 charge. This is helpful because it facilitates operation of the OIG distribution defence.

21.8.5 *OIG distribution defence to ss.624 ITTOIA, 739, 740 ICTA*

Section 762(6) ICTA provides:

To the extent that an offshore income gain is treated, by virtue of
[a] subsection (1)⁴ or
[b] subsection (2) above,⁵
as having accrued to any person resident or ordinarily resident in the
UK, that gain shall not be deemed to be the income of any individual for
the purposes of section 739 or 740 above or any provision of Chapter 5
Part 5 ITTOIA.

I refer to this as “the OIG distribution defence”. The important point here is that an OIG may be treated as *accruing* to a UK resident non-domiciled beneficiary even though he is not subject to tax on that OIG. Thus the OIG distribution defence offers a defence to s.739/40 without any tax charge. It is pleasing to note that the unprincipled extension of s.87 TCGA in 1998 had the effect of increasing the scope of the OIG distribution defence.

Suppose:

- (1) a non-resident trust within s.740.
- (2) the trust receives an OIG.

If a capital payment is made to a UK resident beneficiary:

- (1) the beneficiary is subject to tax under the OIG s.87 charge if UK domiciled but not if non-domiciled.
- (2) the relevant income is reduced by the amount of the capital payment (even if the beneficiary is not UK domiciled.)

A trust within s.740 with UK resident foreign domiciled beneficiaries would do better to invest in non-qualifying offshore funds (outside the scope of s.740) rather than distributor funds (which produce relevant income for s.740 purposes).

Suppose:

4 This relates to OIGs accruing to companies within s.13 TCGA.

5 Subsection (2) applies the OIG s.87 charge: see 21.8.3 (s.87 TCGA).

- (1) a non-resident trust within s.739;
- (2) the trust receives an OIG. The settlor/transferor is taxed (unless the foreign domicile s.739 defence applies).

The settlor/transferor likewise escapes the charge if (in the same year) capital payments are made to UK resident beneficiaries. A payment in a subsequent year comes too late.

21.8.6 *Capital payment to non-resident beneficiary*

What about a capital payment to a non-resident beneficiary? This does not qualify for the OIG distribution defence. However, such a payment will:

- (1) reduce trust gains (under ordinary principles),⁶ and
- (2) reduce OIG relevant income if made out of that income.

21.9 OIG accruing to company owned directly by individual

Section 762(1) incorporates s.13 TCGA with modifications. Amended as s.762 directs, s.13 TCGA reads:

Attribution of gains to members of non-resident companies

(1) This section applies as respects [offshore income gains] accruing to a company—

- (a) which is not resident in the UK, and
- (b) which would be a close company if it were resident in the UK.

(2) Subject to this section, every person who at the time when the [offshore income gain] accrues to the company is resident or ordinarily resident in the UK, who, if an individual, is domiciled in the UK, and who is a participator⁷ in the company, shall be treated for the purposes

6 The deemed disposal rules of Schedule 4B TCGA do not apply to OIGs, but the monstrous provisions of Schedule 4C TCGA may apply.

7 Section 13(12) provides:

In this section “participator”, in relation to a company, has the meaning given by section 417(1) of the Taxes Act for the purposes of Part XI of that Act (close companies).

of this Act as if a part of the [offshore income gain] had accrued to him.
(3) That part shall be equal to the proportion of the gain that corresponds to the extent of the participator's interest as a participator in the company.

Thus if the individual is not domiciled, the gain accruing to the company is outside s.13. The gain is within s.739 (subject to the s.739 foreign domicile defence).

The gain is within s.740, subject to the rather less generous s.740 foreign domicile defence. The OIG distribution defence does not apply here as the OIG is not treated as having accrued to the foreign domiciled shareholder; contrast the position for trusts set out above.

21.10 OIG accruing to company held by non-resident trust

The OIG is attributed to the trustees as s.762(1) incorporates s.13(10) subject to modifications. Amended as s.762(1) directs, s.13(10) reads:

The persons treated by this section as if a part of [an offshore income gain] accruing to a company had accrued to them shall include trustees who are participators in the company, ... if when the gain accrues to the company the trustees are neither resident nor ordinarily resident in the UK.

The position is then as set out in paragraph 21.8 (Non-resident trust holding offshore funds) above.

21.11 Application of remittance basis to Irish offshore funds

A UK resident foreign domiciled individual is taxed:

- (1) on Irish source income, on an arising basis;
- (2) on Irish situate capital gains, on a remittance basis.

Since the offshore fund rule incorporates the CGT rules, an Irish source OIG of an individual is taxed on a remittance basis.

What about an Irish source offshore income gain of a non-resident trust or company in which the settlor is interested, if the settlor is resident and

not UK domiciled? The OIG qualifies for the s.739 foreign domicile defence. The defence applies the counterfactual test of whether the settlor would be taxable if he had in fact received the income. See 13.15 (Foreign domicile defence). It follows that the defence incorporates the CGT remittance basis. Irish source OIGs fall within this defence.

21.12 Losses and interaction with CGT

A disposal for the offshore funds rules is generally also a disposal for CGT. Section 763 ICTA gives relief against a double charge:

Deduction of offshore income gain in determining capital gain

(1) The provisions of this section apply where a disposal to which this Chapter applies gives rise to an offshore income gain; and, if that disposal also constitutes the disposal of the interest concerned for the purposes of the 1992 Act, then that disposal is in the following provisions of this section referred to as “the 1992 Act disposal”.

(2) So far as relates to an offshore income gain which arises on a material disposal (within the meaning of Part I of Schedule 28), subsections (3) and (4) below shall have effect in relation to the 1992 Act disposal in substitution for section 37(1) of that Act (deduction of consideration chargeable to tax on income).

(3) Subject to the following provisions of this section, in the computation of the gain accruing on the 1992 Act disposal, a sum equal to the offshore income gain shall be deducted from the sum which would otherwise constitute the amount or value of the consideration for the disposal.

This legislation only applies where there is an offshore income gain. Where a loss arises on the disposal, there is no relief for income tax.⁸ The loss will be allowable for CGT if ordinary CGT principles permit;⁹ in

⁸ Section 762(2)(d) shows that this unfair rule was deliberate.

⁹ Inspector’s Manual 4107 (October 2003) provides:

“Where the disposal on which an offshore income gain arises is also a disposal for the purpose of CGT, the amount of the offshore income gain is deducted from the consideration for the disposal in order to compute the residual chargeable gain (for example, any gain accruing up to 1 January 1984) (see Examples 1 and 2 at IM4108).

It is important to remember that, for CGT purposes, the indexation allowance is usually available for the entire period of ownership. As a consequence,

practice this means that foreign domiciled individuals and non-residents have no loss relief; see 18.18 (Capital losses). The loss is computed on CGT principles (not in accordance with the OIG computation rules of Schedule 28).

where a Part I offshore income gain arises on a disposal, and both the acquisition and disposal take place after 1 January 1984, there will normally be a CGT loss equal to the amount of the indexation allowance (see Example 3 at IM4108). This loss is allowable against other capital gains or may be carried forward under normal rules.”

This text was written before the de-indexation of losses in 1993 and ending of indexation relief in 1998. It is relevant as showing that HMRC (correctly) accept the principle that a disposal of offshore funds may give rise to an allowable loss.

CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

ACCRUED INCOME SCHEME

This subject needs a book to itself. It would be an unrewarding labour since the rules are “widely ignored by both taxpayers, their advisors and within HMRC”.¹ Reform is promised in 2006 but radical change has been rejected so the likely response is merely tinkering.

The following focuses on the questions which most affect foreign domiciliaries. The Inspector’s Manual has some useful material which is not set out here.

The provisions apply on a transfer of securities.

22.1 Meaning of “securities”

In outline, the definition is in s.710(2)–(3) ICTA:

(2) “Securities” does not, except as provided by subsection (2A) below, include shares in a company but, subject to subsection (3) below, includes any loan stock or similar security—

- (a) whether of the government of the UK, any other government, any public or local authority in the UK or elsewhere, or any company or other body; and
- (b) whether or not secured, whether or not carrying a right to interest of a fixed amount or at a fixed rate per cent of the nominal value of the securities, and whether or not in bearer form.

(2A) “Securities” includes shares in a building society which are qualifying shares for the purposes of section 117(4) of the 1992 Act (qualifying corporate bonds).

¹ Responses to Consultation Exercise on Reform of the AIS (Inland Revenue) December 2004.

- (3) “Securities” does not include— ...
- (b) national savings certificates (including Ulster Savings Certificates as defined in s.693(7) ITTOIA);
- (c) war savings certificates;
- (ca) uncertified eligible debt security units within the meaning of s.552(2) ITTOIA.
- (d) certificates of deposit (within the meaning of section 552(5) ITTOIA);
- (da) any security which is a right falling within s.552(1)(c) ITTOIA at the time of the transfer concerned;
- (e) any security which fulfils the following conditions, namely, it is redeemable, the amount payable on its redemption exceeds its issue price, and no return other than the amount of that excess is payable on it;
- (f) any security which is a deeply discounted security for the purposes of Chapter 8 Part 4 ITTOIA

22.2 Meaning of “transfer”

In outline, the definition is in s.710(5) ICTA:

“Transfer”, in relation to securities, means transfer by way of sale, exchange, gift or otherwise, but—

- (a) does not include the vesting of securities in a person’s personal representatives on his death...

22.3 Meaning of transfer “with accrued interest”

In outline, the definition is in s.711(5) ICTA:

Securities are transferred with accrued interest if they are transferred with the right to receive interest payable on—

- (a) the settlement day, if that is an interest payment day; or
- (b) the next (or first) interest payment day to fall after the settlement day, in any other case;

and they are transferred without accrued interest if they are transferred without that right.

In practice it is difficult for fund managers always to dispose of securities on the interest payment date, so securities tend to be disposed of with a little accrued interest.

22.4 Deemed receipts, relief, and charge to tax

In outline, s.713(2)(3) ICTA provides:

- (2) If securities are transferred with accrued interest—
 - (a) the transferor shall be treated as entitled to a sum on them in the period of an amount equal to the accrued amount;² and
 - (b) the transferee shall be treated as entitled to relief on them in the period of the same amount.
- (3) If securities are transferred without accrued interest—
 - (a) the transferor shall be treated as entitled to relief on them in the period of an amount equal to the rebate amount;³ and
 - (b) the transferee shall be treated as entitled to a sum on them in the period of the same amount.

Section 714 ICTA imposes the charge to tax:

- (1) Subsection (2) below applies if a person is treated as entitled under section 713 to a sum on securities of a particular kind in an interest period, and either—
 - (a) he is not treated as entitled under that section to relief on securities of that kind in the period; or
 - (b) the sum (or total sum) to which he is treated as entitled exceeds the amount (or total amount) of relief to which he is treated as entitled under that section on securities of that kind in the period.

2 Section 713(4) ICTA provides:

In subsection (2) above “the accrued amount” means—

- (a) if the securities are transferred under an arrangement by virtue of which the transferee accounts to the transferor separately for the consideration for the securities and for gross interest accruing to the settlement day, an amount equal to the amount (if any) of gross interest so accounted for; and
- (b) in any other case, an amount equal to the accrued proportion of the interest applicable to the securities for the period.

3 Section 713(5) ICTA provides:

In subsection (3) above “the rebate amount” means—

- (a) if the securities are transferred under an arrangement by virtue of which the transferor accounts to the transferee for gross interest accruing from the settlement day to the next interest payment day, an amount equal to the amount (if any) of gross interest so accounted for; and
- (b) in any other case, an amount equal to the rebate proportion of the interest applicable to the securities for the period.

(2) The person shall be treated as receiving on the day the period ends income of an amount which is (depending on whether subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) above applies) equal to the sum (or total sum) to which he is treated as entitled or equal to the amount of the excess; and the income shall be chargeable to tax for the chargeable period in which it is treated as received.

22.5 Non-resident transferor

There is an exemption in s.715(1)(f) ICTA:

- (1) Section 713(2)(a) or (3)(a) (as the case may be) does not apply ...
- (f) if the transferor does not fulfil the residence requirement for the chargeable period in which the transfer is made and is not a non-resident UK trader in that period;

...

- (4) For the purposes of this section a person fulfils the residence requirement for a chargeable period if he is resident in the UK during any part of the period or is ordinarily resident in the UK during the period.

22.6 UK resident foreign domiciled transferor

There is an exemption in s.715(1)(j) ICTA:

Section 713(2)(a) or (3)(a) (as the case may be) does not apply...

- (j) if the transferor is an individual who, if he became entitled in the year of assessment in which the transfer occurs to any interest on the securities transferred, would be liable, in respect of the interest, to tax charged in accordance with s.832 ITTOIA [RFI remittance basis] ...

This is (surprisingly) a complete exemption: a subsequent remittance of the proceeds of the transfer would not be taxed. The Inspector's Manual para.4253 provides:

FOREIGN SECURITIES TO WHICH THE REMITTANCE BASIS APPLIES

Sub-sections (1)(j) and (2)(b) exclude individuals from the Accrued Income Scheme as regards transfers of foreign securities in circumstances where, if interest arose on the securities, any tax liability on the interest under Case IV or V Schedule D would be computed on

the remittance basis rather than the normal arising basis – see ICTA Section 65(4) and IM1560.

This appears to accept the position as set out above.

22.7 Trusts: application of section 624

Section 720(6) ICTA provides:

In any case where—

- (a) a trustee of a settlement is treated as receiving income under section 714(2), or
- (b) a trustee of a settlement who is resident or domiciled outside the UK throughout any chargeable period in which an interest period (or part of it) falls would, at the end of the interest period, have been treated under section 714(2) as receiving income or income of a greater amount if he had been resident or domiciled in the UK during a part of each such chargeable period,

Chapter 5 Part 5 ITTOIA (settlements: amounts treated as income of settlor) and Chapter 1C of Part 15 ICTA (liability of trustees) shall have effect as if the amount which the trustee is or would be treated as receiving were income arising under the settlement.

Thus the gain is within the scope of s.624 ITTOIA if the settlor has an interest. This applies to resident and non-resident trusts. However, the s.624 foreign domicile defence can apply and will provide a complete defence: the s.648 clawback will not apply.

22.8 Application of sections 739/740

In the absence of express provision, no “relevant income” would accrue on the transfer of securities with accrued interest because the trustees’ receipt is capital and not income.⁴ However, s.742(4)(5) ICTA deals with this:

- (4) Subsection (5) below applies where a person resident or domiciled outside the UK throughout any chargeable period in which an interest period (or part of it) falls would, at the end of the interest period, have

4 See 12.13 (Capital receipt deemed to be income).

been treated under section 714(2) as receiving annual profits or gains or annual profits or gains of a greater amount if he had been resident or domiciled in the UK during a part of each such chargeable period.

The references to “annual profits or gains” should now be references to “income” in accordance with the ITTOIA reforms of the AIS; but the meaning is clear and nothing turns on this.

(5) Sections 739 to 741 shall have effect as if the amount which the person would be treated as receiving or the additional amount (as the case may be) were income becoming payable to him; and, accordingly, any reference in those sections to income of (or payable or arising to) such a person shall be read as including a reference to such an amount.

The s.739 domicile defence will apply so this will not usually concern a foreign domiciled transferor.

How does the rule that distributed income is not relevant income⁵ operate in this context? Is it necessary merely to distribute the “accrued amount” or is it necessary to distribute the entire proceeds of the transfer (sale) of the security? The matter is closely analogous to an issue which arises when a UK resident foreign domiciled beneficiary sells a non-UK situate asset and realises a chargeable gain. Tax is charged on the amounts received in the UK in respect of the gain. If the individual remits (say) one-half of the proceeds of sale, he is regarded as remitting one-half of the gain. This is the HMRC view, which is generally accepted as correct.⁶ HMRC explain:

This is because, whilst the income content of any fund is a separate and distinguishable part of that fund, a capital gain is merely part of the whole proceeds of a disposal transaction that has no separate identifiable existence within those proceeds.

(Inspector’s Manual, paragraph 1567)

The same reasoning would apply here. Thus the only way to avoid relevant income by distribution would be to distribute the entire proceeds of the transfer. It is conceivable that HMRC will not apply the law on this

5 See 14.19 to 14.23 (Distributed income).

6 See 18.5 (Remittance of part of gain).

point strictly, but do not rely on this without clearance.

The ideal course, where possible, would be to sell assets on an interest payment date or hold until redemption. Alternatively, the securities might be sold ex-dividend or the trustees might invest via offshore funds.

CHAPTER TWENTY THREE

DEEPLY DISCOUNTED SECURITIES

This subject needs a book to itself. The following focuses on the questions which most affect foreign domiciliaries. The Inspector's Manual has some useful material which is not set out here. In outline the charge is on the profits on the disposal of a deeply discounted security ("DDS").

23.1 Meaning of "deeply discounted security"

In outline the definition is in s.430 ITTOIA:

430 Meaning of "deeply discounted security"

(1) The general rule is that a security is a "deeply discounted security" for the purposes of this Chapter if, as at the time it is issued, the amount payable on maturity or any other possible occasion of redemption ("A") exceeds or may exceed the issue price by more than $A + 0.5 \times Y$,— where Y is the number of years in the redemption period or 30, whichever is the lower.

(2) If the redemption period is not a number of complete years, for the purposes of subsection (1) the incomplete year is expressed as twelfths, treating each complete month and any remaining part of a month as one-twelfth.

(3) In this section "redemption period" means the period between the date of issue and the date of the occasion of redemption in question.

(4) Interest payable on an occasion of redemption is ignored in determining for the purposes of this section the amount payable on that occasion.

ITTOIA EN Vol II explains:

295. A security is capable of yielding a "deep discount" if the amount

payable on redemption could exceed the issue price by more than a specified percentage of the amount payable on redemption. In the rare case where the security has an expected life of 30 years or more, the percentage specified is 15%. In all other cases the percentage specified is equal to half the number of years between the date of issue and the date of redemption.

296. This means that a deep discount occurs where the amount payable on redemption could exceed the issue price and the potential difference amounts to more than 0.5% of the amount payable on redemption for each year of the security's life. For example, a five year bond issued for £90 and redeemable for £100 is a deeply discounted security because the discount is more than the specified 2.5% (that is, 0.5% for each year of the bond's life). This is expressed in subsection (1) by means of a formula.

23.2 The charge to tax

Sections 427 and 428 ITTOIA impose the charge;

427 Charge to tax on profits from deeply discounted securities

(1) Income tax is charged on profits on the disposal of deeply discounted securities.

(2) The profits are treated as income for income tax purposes if they would not otherwise be income.

428 Income charged

(1) Tax is charged under this Chapter on the full amount of profits arising in the tax year.

(2) The profits on a disposal are to be taken to arise when the disposal occurs.

23.3 Securities out of the UK

Section 428(3) brings in the RFI remittance basis for a DDS outside the UK:

(3) If the profits arise on a disposal of securities that are outside the UK—

(a) they are treated for the purposes of section 830 (meaning of “relevant foreign income”) as arising from a source outside the UK, and

(b) subsection (1) is subject to Part 8 (foreign income: special rules).

How does one decide whether a security is “out of the UK”? In the HMRC view the test is the residence of the issuer. Inspector’s Manual para 1541 provides:

Where the security was issued by a UK resident any profit is assessable under Case III of Schedule D. Where the security was issued by a non-UK resident, any profit is assessable under Case IV of Schedule D.

This is not obviously right but it is as good a test as any other and (in relation to a non-resident issuer) at least we know where we stand.

23.4 “Disposal”

Section 437 ITTOIA provides:

437 Transactions which are disposals

(1) References in this Chapter to the disposal of a deeply discounted security are—

- (a) to its redemption,
- (b) to its transfer by sale, exchange, gift or otherwise, including a transfer treated as made by subsection (3), and
- (c) so far as not covered by paragraph (a) or (b), to its conversion under its terms into shares in a company or other securities (including other deeply discounted securities).

(2) The person treated as making a disposal is—

- (a) in the case of a disposal within subsection (1)(a), the person entitled as the security’s holder to any payment on the disposal,
- (b) in the case of a disposal within subsection (1)(b), the transferor, and
- (c) in the case of a disposal within subsection (1)(c), the person who would be entitled as the security’s holder to any payment on the disposal, if such a payment were made.

(3) A person who dies while entitled to a deeply discounted security is treated as transferring it immediately before death to the personal representatives.

23.5 Meaning of “profit”

Section 439 ITTOIA provides:

439 Calculating the profit from disposals

(1) A person’s profit on a disposal is the amount by which the amount

payable on the disposal exceeds the amount paid by the person to acquire the security.

(2) No account is to be taken of any incidental expenses incurred in connection with the disposal or acquisition.

Section 440 provides:

440 Market value disposals

(1) On the disposal of a deeply discounted security by a transfer of a kind specified in subsection (2), for the purposes of this Chapter an amount equal to the market value at the time of the disposal is treated as payable.

(2) The transfers are—

- (a) a transfer made otherwise than by a bargain at arm's length,
- (b) a transfer between connected persons,
- (c) a transfer for a consideration which is not wholly in money or money's worth,
- (d) a transfer treated as made by section 437(3) (death), and
- (e) a transfer by personal representatives to a legatee.

23.6 UK resident trustees

Section 457 ITTOIA provides:

457 Trustees

(1) This section applies if profits are taken to arise on a disposal of a deeply discounted security by trustees.

(2) For the purposes of Chapter 5 of Part 5 (settlements: amounts treated as income of settlor), the profits are to be taken to be income arising under the settlement from the security.

(3) For the purposes of Chapter 1C of Part 15 of ICTA (settlements: liability of trustees), the profits are to be taken to be income arising to the trustees.

(4) Income tax that is charged on the trustees is to be charged at the rate applicable to trusts for the tax year in which the disposal occurs.

Thus the profit is within the scope of s.624 ITTOIA.

23.7 Non resident trusts: s.624

Section 458(1) ITTOIA provides:

Tax is not charged under this Chapter if the disposal is made by the trustees of a settlement and they are non-UK resident.

This disapplies s.624 in respect of non-resident trusts.

23.8 Sections 739 and 740 ICTA

Section 459 ITTOIA provides:

459 Transfer of assets abroad

(1) This section applies if profits are taken to arise on the disposal of a deeply discounted security by a person resident or domiciled outside the UK (“A”).

(2) For the purpose of determining whether an individual ordinarily UK resident is liable for income tax in respect of the profits, sections 739 and 740 of ICTA (transfer of assets abroad) have effect as if the profits, when arising, constituted income becoming payable to A.

(3) For this purpose it does not matter if A is not liable to income tax under this Chapter because of section 458 (non-UK resident trustees).

Thus the only anti-avoidance provisions for non-resident trusts are ss.739 and 740. If these do not apply because the motive defence applies, then there is no income tax charge on the disposal of a DDS.

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR

WITHHOLDING TAX ON INTEREST

24.1 Introduction

This chapter considers when tax must be deducted at source from the payment of interest. This topic is important to foreign domiciliaries since they (or connected trusts) often take out loans on which tax may be deductible from the interest. This book only considers payments made by individuals and trustees (not companies).

24.2 Obligation to deduct

The obligation is in s.349(2) ICTA. So far as relevant to individuals and trustees paying interest, it provides:

Subject to subsection (3) below and to any other provision to the contrary in the Income Tax Acts, where any yearly interest of money which falls within Chapter 2 of Part 4 of ITTOIA (interest) (excluding anything specially exempted from income tax and discounts treated as interest by section 381 of that Act) ... is paid—

...

(c) by any person to another person whose usual place of abode is outside the UK;

the person by or through whom the payment is made shall, on making the payment, deduct out of it a sum representing the amount of income tax thereon for the year in which the payment is made.¹

The obligation therefore arises when the following conditions are

¹ Text concerning only companies and partnerships including companies is omitted.

satisfied:

- (1) A payment of “yearly interest of money”.
- (2) The interest falls within Chapter 2 Part 4 ITTOIA.
- (3) The payment is made to a person whose “usual place of abode” is outside the UK.

24.3 Exceptions to obligation to deduct

24.3.1 *Foreign source interest*

Section 349(3) provides:

Subsection (2) above does not apply—

(za) to interest chargeable to income tax as relevant foreign income.

It is considered that whenever interest is relevant foreign income (i.e. whenever it has a foreign source)² then it falls within this exemption and is not subject to withholding tax. (That is, the words “chargeable to IT as” are otiose. If interest is RFI it is “chargeable to IT” as RFI: those words do not impose any further requirement.)

24.3.2 *Interest to bank within charge to corporation tax*

Section 349(3) provides a number of other exceptions, of which only the first is relevant here:

Subsection (2) above does not apply ...

(a) to interest payable on an advance from a bank, if at the time when the interest is paid the person beneficially entitled to the interest is within the charge to corporation tax as respects the interest...

24.3.3 *Double tax treaty defence to deduction at source*

Another exception is provided by Regulation 2 Double Taxation Relief

² See 6.16 (Situs of source of interest).

(Taxes on Income)(General) Regulations 1970:

(1) The following provisions of these Regulations shall have effect where, under arrangements having effect under section 497 ICTA 1970,³ persons resident in the territory with the government of which the arrangements are made are entitled to exemption or partial relief from UK income tax in respect of any income from which deduction of tax is authorised or required by the Income Tax Acts.

(2) Any person who pays any such income (referred to in these Regulations as “the UK payer”) to a person in the said territory who is beneficially entitled to the income (such person being referred to in these Regulations as “the non-resident”) may be directed by a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the Board that in paying any such income specified in the notice to the non-resident he shall—

(a) not deduct tax, or

(b) not deduct tax at a higher rate than is specified in the notice, or

(c) deduct tax at a rate specified in the notice instead of at the lower or basic rate otherwise appropriate;

and where such notice is given, any income to which the notice refers, being income for a year for which the arrangements have effect, which the UK payer pays after the date of the notice to the non-resident named therein shall, subject to the following provisions of these regulations, be paid as directed in the notice...

For the procedure see RI 79, Tax Bulletin 41 and CNR Guidance Note No. 1 07/02 (Applications for Relief at Source on Interest Payments where both Lender and Borrower are outside the UK).

24.3.4 *Short interest*

The duty to deduct tax does not apply to interest which is not “annual” interest (known as short interest). It is not practical to rely on this except for very short term loans.

24.3.5 *Discounts and premiums*

The duty to deduct tax does not apply:

3 Now section 788 ICTA.

- (1) to profits on discounts (which are normally treated as interest but which are expressly taken out of the duty to deduct);
- (2) premiums even though such profits may be charged to tax as interest.

HMRC rightly say:

Relevant discounted securities: Deduction of tax

[October 2003]

Discounts or premiums payable on the redemption of relevant discounted securities⁴ are not payments of interest. Consequently the payments are made without deduction of tax.

(Inspector's Manual 1548)

24.4 EU Savings Tax Directive

The European Savings Tax Directive 2003/48/EC came into force on 1st July 2005. The Directive only applies to EU countries, but it is supplemented by agreements with individual tax havens.

Under the agreements, the trustees who pay interest to a beneficiary of a transparent *Baker* type IP trust⁵ resident in the UK have one of two choices:

- (1) If the life tenant gives authority, the trustees may report the interest payments to HMRC in the UK.
- (2) Alternatively the trustees must impose a withholding tax on the payment of interest.

Some countries take the view that the withholding/disclosure requirement does not apply when a payment of interest is made to a UK resident foreign domiciled individual, if the interest is not remitted (and so not

4 Discounts and premiums on securities which are not "relevant discounted securities" are also not "interest". However, the distinction between interest and discounts/premiums can be fraught.

5 Payment from a discretionary trust or non-transparent IP trust is not "interest" and so it does not require withholding or disclosure. No doubt the Directive will eventually be extended to cover this.

subject to UK tax).⁶ This is a doubtful purposive construction, as the point is not made in the text of the agreements. However it is not necessary to pursue this point here. In practice, if interest is remitted (or if the trustees guided no doubt by the local authorities take the view that the duty of withholding/disclosure applies to unremitted interest), the beneficiary will usually consent to the disclosure. Then there will be no withholding tax. No difficulty will normally arise out of that disclosure. The directive and supplemental agreements are designed to prevent criminal tax evasion, not lawful tax planning of the kind with which this book is concerned.

6 See e.g. paragraph 32 of the Isle of Man Treasury Guidance Notes accessible <http://www.gov.im/lib/docs/treasury/incometax/guidance.pdf>:

“32. In deciding to whom the retention tax will need to be applied the focus should be on the ultimate aim of the Directive which is to enable savings income in the form of interest payments made in one Member State to beneficial owners who are individuals resident in another Member State to be made subject to effective taxation in accordance with the laws of the latter Member State. The emphasis should be on individuals, and also on those individuals who are not only resident in a Member State but are persons subject to effective taxation in accordance with the laws of the Member State. It is therefore consistent with the aims of the Directive, and therefore of the Agreements into which the Crown Dependencies have entered, that the retention tax will not apply to interest payments made to ...

- a trust (unless, as in the case of an interest in possession trust, a relevant beneficiary has the immediate and absolute entitlement to an interest payment);
- ...
- an individual where it is known to the paying agent that they benefit in their Member State of residence from an exemption from income tax; or where because no interest is remitted to the individual no liability to income tax arises in their Member State of residence.”

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE

DEEMED DOMICILE FOR IHT

25.1 Overview of inheritance tax terminology

One can launch into income tax or CGT knowing nothing about the subject. IHT is more technical. A brief outline for those unfamiliar with IHT is accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. I assume the reader is familiar with the following terms:

Term	Definition
Transfer of value	: s.3(a) IHTA
Chargeable transfer	: s.2 IHTA
Exempt transfer	: Part II IHTA
PET	: s.3A IHTA
“Discretionary trusts regime”	: the system for taxing (in short) discretionary trusts, imposing 10 year charges and exit charges.

25.2 The three classes of domicile for inheritance tax

The general concept of domicile is discussed in Chapter 2. In principle, an individual must have either a UK domicile or a foreign domicile; there is no middle way. But a foreign domiciliary can often secure effective exemption from inheritance tax and can live indefinitely in the UK without acquiring a UK domicile of choice. The inheritance tax code therefore distinguishes the foreign domiciliary who has close UK connections and provides that for most (but not all) purposes, such an individual is to be treated as if he were a UK domiciliary. The IHTA has failed to supply a suitable term for its new conception. In this book I shall refer where necessary to three classes of individuals as:

- (1) True or actual UK domiciliaries;
- (2) Deemed UK domiciliaries (or deemed domiciliaries); and
- (3) True or actual foreign domiciliaries.

25.3 Deemed UK domicile

25.3.1 The statute

Section 267(1) IHTA provides:

A person not domiciled in the UK at any time (in this section referred to as “the relevant time”) shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as domiciled in the UK (and not elsewhere) at the relevant time if—

- (a) he was domiciled in the UK within the three years immediately preceding the relevant time, or
- (b) he was resident in the UK in not less than seventeen of the twenty years of assessment ending with the year of assessment in which the relevant time falls.

I refer to condition (a) as the 3 year domicile test and condition (b) as the 17 year residence test.

25.3.2 The 3 year domicile test

The first test concerns the person who is actually UK domiciled and who loses his UK domicile. Such a person is deemed domiciled in the UK for three years from the date of his change of domicile. Unlike test (b) this period is not related to years of assessment.

25.3.3 The 17 year residence test

The second test concerns the person who is not a true UK domiciliary but who becomes resident here. Once he has been resident in the UK for seventeen out of the last twenty years of assessment he becomes deemed domiciled here under the seventeen year residence test.

Note that the immigrant foreign domiciliary does not need to be present in the UK for seventeen full years. In an extreme case, fifteen years and

two days may suffice. An individual who arrives in the UK on 5th April 1983 may arguably be resident in the UK in the year of assessment 1982/83. (Although this seems unlikely, this would be the HMRC view, under paragraph 3.1 of IR20 if the individual came to the UK to live here permanently or intending to stay for three years or more.) If he was still here on 7th April 1998 he may be resident in the tax year 1998/99. The seventeen year residence condition would then be satisfied.

25.3.4 *Comparison of the two tests*

A person who satisfies either test is deemed UK domiciled.

The seventeen year residence test may be stricter than the three year domicile rule. Consider a person who has always been UK resident and domiciled and who ceases to be UK domiciled on 1st August 1998. He ceases to be caught by the three year domicile test on 1st August 2001. However, as he was UK resident in 1998/99, he will still be deemed UK domiciled under the seventeen year residence test until 6 April 2002, the start of the year 2002/03.

By contrast, a UK domiciled person may reside outside the UK for twenty years and then acquire an actual foreign domicile. Such a person is not affected by the seventeen year residence test. But three more years must pass before he ceases to be UK domiciled under the three year domicile test.

25.4 Deemed domiciliary leaving the UK

Suppose:

- (1) A person who is not actually UK domiciled becomes deemed UK domiciled, having spent seventeen tax years resident here.
- (2) He then ceases to be resident in the UK. In the following tax year he ceases to satisfy the seventeen year test.

Is the person still treated as domiciled here for three years under the three year domicile test? In other words, does the deemed domicile test in (a) apply to a person who was only a deemed domiciliary under (b)? The answer is, no. The better view is that (a) and (b) are independent tests dealing with separate circumstances. This interpretation would be

consistent with the reasoning in *Russell v IRC* [1988] STC 195. If that were wrong, then the following absurdity arises. Suppose T, non-resident for many years, ceases to be UK domiciled. In year 1 he becomes deemed domiciled. In year 4 he ceases to be deemed domicile. HMRC could argue that since he was (deemed) domiciled in year 3, he must wait three more years before he can cease to be deemed domiciled. Then, of course, three years later he is still deemed domiciled. He can never throw off the deemed domicile. This shows that domicile in s.267(1)(a) means true domicile and not deemed domicile. The word should have the same meaning throughout the section.

25.5 Domicile of child of a deemed domiciliary

A child under 16 usually takes the domicile of the father as a domicile of dependency and that domicile changes with the domicile of the father. If the father is treated as UK domiciled under s.267, is the child treated as having acquired a UK domicile of any type? Suppose a man becomes deemed domiciled in the UK at a time when he has a 15 year old son. Does one say that since the father is treated as UK domiciled, the child is likewise treated as having a UK domicile of dependency? The question will not often arise, since the domicile of children and young persons only rarely needs to be ascertained. The author takes the view that the child will not be deemed to be UK domiciled in such circumstances. Section 267 does not affect the real domicile, as it expressly applies only to persons who are not domiciled in the UK and the child's domicile of dependence should remain unaffected. The child's domicile has to be determined first by the general law and only then do his own residential circumstances need to be examined to see whether he is deemed domiciled himself.

25.6 Meaning of “residence” for the purposes of deemed domicile

For the purposes of deemed domicile:

the question whether a person was resident in the UK in any year of assessment shall be determined as for the purposes of income tax.

(Section 267(4))

Thus in this context “residence” has its normal income tax meaning,

whatever that is; see 3.1 (Residence).

However, for years prior to 1993/94 residence is to be determined:

without regard to any dwelling house available in the UK for his use.

(Section 208(3),(4) FA 1993)

This exception remains significant when determining residence for the years up to 1992/93 which will feature as part of the seventeen year calculation until 2010.

25.7 When deemed domicile does not matter

There are two situations where a deemed domicile rule does not apply: these concern exempt gilts and pre-1975 double tax treaties.

25.7.1 *Exempt gilts*

Estate duty (the forerunner of IHT) had no equivalent of the deemed domicile rule. It did, however, have an exemption for exempt gilts. Such gilts were issued with the condition that they were not liable to any taxation, present or future, if (in short) owned by persons not ordinarily resident and not *actually* UK domiciled. Accordingly s.267(2) IHTA provides:

Subsection (1) above shall not apply for the purposes of section 6(2) or (3) or 48(4) above ...

That is, the deemed domicile rules does not apply for the purposes of the exemption allowing exempt gilts to be excluded property. All that the drafter needed to do was to disapply the deemed domicile rule to exempt gilts in issue at the time of the introduction of CTT (now IHT) in the FA 1975. It was not necessary to exclude the deemed domicile rule from gilts issued later. But that is the rule. Presumably the intention was to avoid having two classes of exempt gilts governed by different rules; or to act as a further encouragement for foreigners to invest in exempt gilts. A person who is deemed domiciled but not actually domiciled in the UK and who is not ordinarily resident in the UK can avoid IHT by holding exempt gilts.

25.7.2 *Double taxation agreements*

A similar transitional problem arose in relation to double taxation agreements in force at the time that estate duty was replaced by CTT (now IHT) in the FA 1975. Section 267(2) provides:

Subsection (1) above ... shall not affect the interpretation of any such provision as is mentioned in section 158(6) above.

This takes us to s.158(6) which refers to double taxation arrangements:

- (a) made, or having effect as made, under s.54 F(No 2)A 1945 [which concerned double taxation agreements relating to estate duty], and
- (b) in effect immediately before the passing of the IHTA.

Thus, effectively, the deemed domicile rule does not apply to double taxation agreements surviving from the estate duty era. There are four treaties in this category: France, Italy, India and Pakistan. (The drafting would have been easier to follow if the drafter had referred to these treaties by name. But there it is.)

The deemed domicile rule does apply to post-1975 double tax treaties.

25.8 Settlements made on or before 9 December 1974 and other transitional rules

Section 267(3) contains five transitional rules:

Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) above shall not apply in relation to a person who (apart from this section) has not been domiciled in the UK at any time since 9th December 1974, and paragraph (b) of that subsection shall not apply in relation to a person who has not been resident there at any time since that date; and that subsection shall be disregarded—

- (a) in determining whether settled property which became comprised in the settlement on or before that date is excluded property,
- (b) in determining the settlor's domicile for the purposes of section 65(8) above in relation to settled property which became comprised in the settlement on or before that date, and
- (c) in determining for the purpose of section 65(8) above whether the

condition in section 82(3) above is satisfied in relation to such settled property.

The most important rule is that a deemed domicile is ignored for property settled on or before 9 December 1974.

25.9 Tax planning for the deemed domiciliary

(1) The emigrant deemed domiciliary

An individual who has emigrated from the UK remains an “emigrant” deemed domiciliary for three years. His inheritance tax planning, if in good health, is simple; he should refrain from making any gifts until he has obtained the status of a true foreign domiciliary. If he wishes to make substantial gifts before then he might consider purchasing exempt gilts or some other property which qualifies as excluded property. Deathbed planning would be the same. In addition he might consider taking out a loan to purchase excluded property: see 30.6 (Borrowing and acquisition of excluded property).

(2) The immigrant deemed domiciliary

The immigrant deemed domiciliary is the foreign domiciliary who has resided for a long period in the UK. His scope for planning is greatly restricted; he should really take proper steps before the statutory deadline when his deemed domicile arises.

If the individual is domiciled (in reality) in the Isle of Man or in the Channel Islands then he has some scope for acquiring excluded property in the form of exempt saving certificates: see 26.5 (Individual domiciled in Channel Islands or Isle of Man). Otherwise it may be possible to cease to be UK resident for the necessary period of three tax years so that the deemed domicile rules cease to apply.

EXCLUDED PROPERTY FOR IHT

26.1 Introduction

“Excluded property” is an appropriate term to describe property which is broadly¹ outside the scope of inheritance tax. Sections 6 and 48 IHTA provide the definitions of the term. The reasoning behind the rather complex rules may be better appreciated if the following points are borne in mind.

- (1) The starting point is that property situated out of the UK owned by a foreign domiciliary is excluded property.
- (2) A separate definition of excluded property is needed for settled property since such property does not have a straightforward beneficial owner. The statute adopts a simple (perhaps too simple) test which is to look at the domicile of the settlor at the time the settlement was made.
- (3) The definition is then extended to include certain government stocks, AUTs and OEICs with a view (rightly or wrongly) to encouraging investment in these assets by foreign domiciliaries.
- (4) The scheme of the IHTA is to ignore reversionary interests in settled property and certain other assets. The drafter achieves this with an economy of language by providing that such assets also qualify as excluded property and thus enjoy the benefit of exemptions designed primarily as territorial exemptions.

1 See 26.13 (Occasions where excluded property is relevant for IHT).

This chapter sets out the rules. The implications for tax planning are discussed at 29.1 (Creating excluded property).

26.2 Non-settled property: general excluded property rule

Section 6(1) IHTA provides:

Property situated outside the UK is excluded property if the person beneficially entitled to it is an individual domiciled outside the UK.

This is the main category of excluded property.

Excluded property status depends on the domicile of the individual at the time a transfer of value is made. Likewise, excluded property status depends on the location of assets at that time only. It is irrelevant that the assets may previously have been situated in the UK. If a foreign domiciled individual transfers his property out of the UK the moment before he dies, or the moment before he makes a gift of the property, he obtains the full benefit of excluded property status: see *Kwok Chi Leung Karl v Commissioner of Estate Duty* [1988] STC 728. On the situs of assets, see 38.1 (Situs of assets).

26.3 Non-settled property: exempt gilts

A second category of excluded property consists of certain British government securities (also called FOTRA securities,² and popularly known as “exempt gilts”). Exempt gilts are situated in the UK and so cannot qualify as excluded property under the general principle above. Section 6(2) IHTA provides:

Where securities have been issued by the Treasury subject to a condition authorised by section 22 of the F(No.2)A 1931 (or section 47 of the F(No. 2)A 1915) for exemption from taxation so long as the securities are in the beneficial ownership of persons of a description specified in the condition, the securities are excluded property if they are in the beneficial ownership of such a person.

2 “Free of Tax to Residents Abroad”.

26.3.1 *Conditions for exemption*

The conditions for exemption are not stated in the IHTA. The conditions must be:

- (1) authorised by the relevant statutory provision; and
- (2) set out in the prospectus for the particular gilts concerned.

The statutory authority is in the following terms. (I only set out the provisions so far as relevant for inheritance tax and omit the income tax exemption):

F(No.2)A 1931 s.22(1)

Any securities issued by the Treasury under any Act may be issued with the condition that ...

(b) so long as the securities are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the UK, neither the capital thereof nor the interest thereon shall be liable to any taxation present or future.

FA 1940 s.60(1)

The power of the Treasury under s.22 F(No.2)A 1931 to issue securities with the condition as to exemption from taxation specified in that section shall extend to the issuing of securities with that condition so modified, whether as to the extent of the exemption or the cases in which the exemption is to operate, as the Treasury may specify in the terms of the issue.

FA 1996 s.154(1)

The modifications which, under s.60 of the FA 1940, may be made for the purposes of any issue of securities to the conditions about tax exemption specified in s.22 of the F(No.2)A 1931 shall include a modification by virtue of which the tax exemption contained in any condition of the issue applies, as respects capital, irrespective of where the person with the beneficial ownership of the securities is domiciled.

It will be seen that the statutory provisions since 1940 do not specify the condition for exemption. So the details must be found in the prospectus

for each gilt concerned.³

Before 6 April 1998 some gilts were issued without FOTRA conditions. These have now been given the benefit of FOTRA conditions by s.161 FA 1998:

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, any gilt-edged security⁴ issued before 6 April 1998 without FOTRA conditions shall be treated in relation to times on or after that date as if—

- (a) it were a security issued with the post-1996 Act conditions; and
- (b) those conditions had been authorised in relation to the issue of that security by virtue of s.22 of the F(No. 2)A 1931....

(5) In this section “the post-1996 Act conditions” means the FOTRA conditions with which 7.25% Treasury Stock 2007 was first issued by virtue of s.22 of the F(No. 2)A 1931.⁵ ...

(7) This section does not apply to any 3½% War Loan 1952 Or After which was issued with a condition authorised by virtue of s.47 of the F(No. 2)A 1915.

There are, therefore, two classes of exempt gilts for IHT purposes, with different conditions attached:

(1) Gilts where the condition requires the individual to be domiciled⁶ and ordinarily resident outside the UK. These include:

- (a) 3½% War Loan 1952 Or After, issued under s.47 F(No.2)A 1915.
- (b) Gilts issued under s.22 F(No.2)A 1931, where this was the

3 Prospectuses can be found on www.dmo.gov.uk/gilts/public/prospectus/index.htm.

4 “Gilt-edged securities” has the CGT definition: see s.161(6).

5 This was one of the first gilts issued in 1996/97. The condition provides: “the Stock will be exempt from all UK taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown that the Stock is in the beneficial ownership of persons who are not ordinarily resident in the UK”.

6 Deemed domicile is irrelevant for this purpose: see s.267(2) IHTA. The reason is historical. The concept of deemed domicile was introduced with CTT in 1974. At that time gilts had been issued free from taxation if the owner was not (actually) UK domiciled. The deemed domicile rule could not have been applied to those gilts. Although new gilts could have been made subject to a deemed domicile rule, the decision was made to treat all gilts in the same way.

condition set out in the prospectus.

- (2) where the condition requires the beneficial owner to be ordinarily resident outside the UK but domicile is irrelevant. This applies to:
 - (a) Gilts issued before 6 April 1998 without FOTRA conditions; these now have the benefit of “post-1996 Act conditions” under s.161 FA 1998.
 - (b) Gilts issued after 1996, where the prospectus set out this condition. I understand that all gilts issued after 29 April 1996 contain this condition.

IHT Manual 27243 sets out a list of gilts where the requirement is that the beneficial owner is ordinarily resident outside the UK (domicile irrelevant). Para. 27244 sets out a list of the gilts where the requirement is that the beneficial owner is neither domiciled nor ordinarily resident in the UK. However, it would be wise to check the prospectus in each case.

26.3.2 *Beneficial ownership*

The gilts must be in the ‘beneficial ownership’ of the individual. There have been many cases discussing the meaning of “beneficial ownership” in the context of provisions concerned with groups of companies, and the reader who wishes to research this area further should refer to the discussion on group relief in corporation tax and SD textbooks. Unfortunately the case law is in disarray and a number of contradicting dicta can be found. But two propositions seem reasonably clear. Gilts remain in the beneficial ownership of an individual even if he has granted a mortgage or charge.⁷ Gilts are not in the beneficial ownership of an individual if he has entered into a contract to sell them, even a conditional contract.⁸

Gilts subject to put and call options remain in the beneficial ownership of the holder, according to *Sainsbury v O'Connor* 64 TC 208

Ownership correctly understood consists of a bundle of rights over property, in the case of gilts, the right to dividends, redemption and rights

⁷ *English Sewing Cotton v IRC* [1947] 1 All ER 679.

⁸ *Wood Preservation v Prior* 45 TC 112.

of disposal. The courts have raised unnecessary problems by regarding these rights not as separately existing, but as merged into one general right of ownership and, further, insisting that this right of ownership must (with two limited exceptions) be regarded as vested in one person or another. This causes artificial results when property is subject to a contract and beneficial ownership is said to be vested in either the vendor or purchaser. The true analysis should be that ownership rights are split between them, so neither should be regarded as the beneficial owner. Likewise for property subject to a put and call option. On this analysis *Wood Preservation* was rightly decided but for the wrong reasons, and *Sainsbury* was wrongly decided. But however unconvincing the reasoning, the law on this point is settled below the House of Lords.

26.3.3 *Registration*

The IHT Manual provides:

04294 Type and ownership

FOTRA gilts are not considered to be in relevant ownership for the purposes of their exclusion from IHT unless, at the date of the transfer concerned, they are **in fact** registered in the name(s) of the transferor or, where the securities are settled property, of the trustees.

This is indefensible: gilts held in the name of a nominee may be in the beneficial ownership of an individual and so may qualify for relief.⁹ The most that can be said is that if the gilts are not registered in the name of the transferors, further proof may be needed to show that the transferor actually is the beneficial owner.

IHTM04294 continues:

9 This is obvious, but for authority (if needed) see *Sainsbury v O'Connor* 64 TC 208 at 250: "If company A is the registered holder of shares in company B as nominee, i.e., as a bare trustee, for company C, the beneficial ownership of the shares or the equitable interest in them is vested in company C".

It is conceivable the conditions in the prospectus of particular gilts once imposed the condition that they must be registered in the name of the taxpayer, but this does not seem to have been the case.

If a worthwhile amount is at stake¹⁰ you should investigate the possibility of a last-minute purchase. Except where the available information (e.g. inclusion of sufficient income/interest) reasonably rules out that possibility, you should seek specific confirmation that the securities concerned were in fact registered in the transferor's, or the trustee's, name(s) at the date of the relevant transfer.

(The text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)

In practice, register the gilts in the name of the transferor or the trustees to avoid possible dispute. Perhaps the withheld text instructed Inspectors how to identify false claims for relief.

26.3.4 *Interest and tax repayment on exempt gilts*

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27260 Exclusion of interest on exempt securities

The exclusion for exempt securities can also apply to certain payments etc of interest on the securities. Payments that qualify for the exclusion are:

- [1] warrants or coupons for interest already received but not encashed at the date of the relevant chargeable event
- [2] apportionment of interest due up to, but receivable after, the date of the chargeable event
- [3] in the case of a trust, any interest payments already encashed but held – at the date of the chargeable event – by the trustees pending distribution in the administration of the trust. This is so even if no separate moneys can be identified as relating directly to interest on exempt securities.

The **exclusion for interest does not apply** to any warrants or coupons already encashed, or payments of interest already received, by the beneficiary in his lifetime, in connection with any chargeable event occurring after the encashment or the receipt. This is so whether he is the absolute owner of the exempt securities or a beneficiary under a trust.

This is correct, but point [3] seems generous. The Manual continues:

10 Understandably, the HMRC view on what is “worthwhile” in this context is not in the public domain.

IHTM 27261 Exclusion of repayment of IT on exempt securities

Repayment of income tax relating to interest on exempt securities also falls within the exclusion for such securities:

- if an existing warrant for repayment remains uncashed at the date of the relevant chargeable event
- in the case of a trust, if the proceeds of an encashed warrant are held – at the date of the chargeable event – by the trustees pending distribution in the administration of the trust or
- if the repayment due up to the date of the chargeable event is receivable after the date.

A repayment encashed – before a chargeable event – by the person beneficially entitled to the repayment is not eligible for the exclusion on that event.

This is generous.

26.3.5 *Practical use of exempt gilts*

The exemption is useful for individuals who are:

- (1) UK domiciled (or deemed domiciled);
- (2) not ordinarily resident in the UK (so they can satisfy the conditions for exemption).

26.4 **Authorised unit trusts and OEICs**

Sections 6(1A) and 48(3A) IHTA provide:

6(1A) A holding in an authorised unit trust and a share in an open-ended investment company is excluded property if the person beneficially entitled to it is an individual domiciled outside the UK.

48(3A) Where property comprised in a settlement is a holding in an authorised unit trust or a share in an open-ended investment company—

- (a) the property (but not a reversionary interest in the property) is excluded property unless the settlor was domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made, and
- (b) section 6(1A) above applies to a reversionary interest in the property but does not otherwise apply in relation to the property.

This applies from 16 October 2002 and represents successful lobbying by the investment management industry and a pragmatic decision by the Government: see 1.1 (Policy issues in foreign domiciliary taxation). A non-resident non-domiciled individual will not mind (for tax) whether he purchases a UK or a foreign AUT or OEIC. However, a UK resident foreign domiciled individual will prefer a foreign investment fund to a UK one, so that income and gains from the fund will be taxed on the remittance basis.

26.5 Individual domiciled in Channel Islands or Isle of Man

Section 6(3) IHTA provides a fourth category of excluded property:

Where the person beneficially entitled to the rights conferred by any of the following, namely—

- (a) war savings certificates;
- (b) national savings certificates (including Ulster savings certificates);
- (c) premium savings bonds;
- (d) deposits with the National Savings Bank or with a trustee savings bank;
- (e) a certified SAYE savings arrangement within the meaning of section 703(1) ITTOIA [the Save As You Earn Scheme];

is domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, the rights are excluded property.

The deemed domicile rule does not apply for the purposes of this section: see s.267(2) IHTA.

The IHT Manual correctly states:

IHTM 27270 Other relevant points

Other points to note are:

- the exclusion applies not only to securities etc owned by a domiciled Islander absolutely but also to any settled securities in which he has a beneficial interest in possession¹¹
- the exclusion does not extend to settled securities in which there is no interest in possession, i.e. which are held on discretionary trusts
- the relevant domicile is that of the transferor (and not the transferee) of the securities, at the time of the transfer

11 See 26.9 (Excluded property and the IP settlement).

- the deemed domicile provisions of IHTA, s 267(2) do not apply. Accordingly the transferor's domicile has to be determined under general law.

The author is unable to offer any reason for this exemption. It could be particularly useful for an individual who is:

- (1) domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and
- (2) deemed UK domiciled (so in principle within the UK IHT net), and
- (3) ordinarily resident in the UK (so the ordinary exempt gilts exemption is not available).

26.6 Visiting forces

A fifth category of excluded property is also only mentioned for completeness. This concerns emoluments and tangible movable property of members of visiting forces (other than British citizens, British Dependent Territories citizens or British Overseas citizens) and certain staff of allied headquarters. For details see s.155 IHTA.

26.7 Settled property: general excluded property rule

Section 48(3) IHTA provides:

- Where property comprised in a settlement is situated outside the UK—
- (a) the property (but not a reversionary interest in the property) is excluded property unless the settlor was domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made, and
 - (b) section 6(1) above applies to a reversionary interest in the property but does not otherwise apply in relation to the property.

This is the main category of settled excluded property, roughly corresponding to the main category of non-settled excluded property. Four important consequences arise from the definition.

First, the resident and domicile status of the beneficiaries is completely irrelevant for this purpose. Secondly, the residence of the trustees is equally irrelevant.

Thirdly, excluded property status depends on the domicile of the settlor

at the time the settlement was made. A later change of domicile is ignored.¹² Contrast the IT and CGT position. The identity of the settlor is therefore crucial: see 37.2.1 (IHT definition of “settlor”).

Fourthly, the location of the assets comprised in the settlement only matters at the moment a charge arises; provided the assets are then situated abroad, it is irrelevant that they may previously have been situated in the UK. So trustees could transfer the settled property out of the UK the moment before the death of a life tenant, or the occasion of a ten year charge, and obtain the full benefit of excluded property status: see *Kwok Chi Leung Karl v Commissioner of Estate Duty* [1988] STC 728.

26.8 Settled property: exempt gilts

Exempt gilts held by trustees may also be excluded property. Section 48(4) provides:

Where securities issued by the Treasury subject to a condition of the kind mentioned in subsection (2) of section 6 above are comprised in a settlement, that subsection shall not apply to them; but the securities are excluded property if—

- (a) a person of a description specified in the condition in question is entitled to a qualifying interest in possession in them, or
- (b) no qualifying interest in possession subsists in them but it is shown that all known persons for whose benefit the settled property or income from it has been or might be applied, or who are or might become beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in it, are persons of a description specified in the condition in question.

This exemption corresponds to the exempt gilts exemption for non-settled property.¹³ Under this exemption the domicile of the settlor is irrelevant; one must look at the ordinary residence of the beneficiary and, if appropriate, his domicile.

The IHT Manual correctly states:

IHTM27247 - Discretionary trusts and exempt securities: introduction

12 See 26.10 (Initial interest of settlor or spouse) for an exception where the settlor or his spouse has an initial interest in possession in the settled property.

13 See 26.3 (Non-settled property: exempt gilts).

Section 48(4)(b) IHTA. Where, immediately before the transfer concerned, exempt securities are settled property held on discretionary trusts (i.e. no qualifying interest in possession subsists in them) the securities will be excluded from the IHT charge on the transfer if it is shown that all known (IHTM27248) persons for whose benefit any of the settled property (or income from it) has been, or might be applied satisfy the conditions specified by the securities (IHTM27241). The same conditions must also be satisfied in regard to any person who is, or might become, entitled to an interest in possession in any of the settled property.

IHTM27248 - Discretionary trusts and exempt securities: unknown persons

The legislation refers to “known persons”. Accordingly, when considering the question of domicile and ordinary residence you should disregard the possibility that some (currently) unknown person (e.g. an unborn child or future spouse of an existing beneficiary) might become a beneficiary in the future.

IHTM27249 - Discretionary trusts and exempt securities: UK charities

In the case of *Von Ernst and Cie S.A. v IRC* [1980] 1 WLR 468 the Court ruled **that any payment or potential payment** from the settled property to an incorporated UK charity – to be used by the charity for its charitable purposes – would not be an application for the “benefit” of the charity. Accordingly you should not deny the exclusion for exempt securities merely because a UK charity (whether incorporated or not) has received or might receive any of the settled property or income from it.

26.9 Excluded property and the interest in possession settlement

As we have seen, there are two definitions of excluded property:

- (1) “the s.6 definition” defines excluded property for non-settled property.
- (2) “the s.48 definition” defines the term for settled property.

Property is either settled or not, so the definitions appear to be mutually exclusive. However, a settlement under which a beneficiary has an interest in possession raises a doubt. Property held in an IP settlement is certainly settled property (so *prima facie* the s.48 definition should apply).

However, s.49(1) IHTA provides:

A person beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in settled property shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as beneficially entitled to the property in which the interest subsists.

So should the property be treated as non-settled property and the s.6 definition be applied?

The answer is provided in part by s.48:

(3) Where property comprised in a settlement is situated outside the UK—

...

(b) section 6(1) above applies to a reversionary interest in the property but does not otherwise apply in relation to the property.

(4) Where securities issued by the Treasury subject to a condition of the kind mentioned in subsection (2) of section 6 above are comprised in a settlement, that subsection shall not apply to them; ...

Thus the s.48 definition overrides the s.6 definition. The operation of these rules can be illustrated by two examples:

(1) Suppose a foreign domiciled beneficiary has an interest in possession in a settlement made by a UK domiciled settlor. The trust property is situated outside the UK.

The trust property is not excluded property as s.48(3) excludes the operation of s.6(1).

(2) Suppose the reverse situation – a UK domiciled beneficiary of a settlement created by a foreign domiciled settlor. The trust property is again situated outside the UK.

The tax position is now reversed. The trust property would not be excluded property under s.6(1) but it does qualify under s.48(3). Section 48(3) excludes s.6(1) so the trust property is excluded property.

An individual domiciled in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man enjoys a third category of excluded property: see 26.5 (Channel Islands and Isle

of Man domicile) above. If such an individual was entitled to an interest in possession in qualifying certificates, the certificates would not be excluded property under s.48(4). But the property does qualify as excluded property under s.6(3) since the individual is to be treated as if he were beneficially entitled. In this case there is no express provision that s.48 must override s.6. Section 48 and s.6 do not contradict each other; rather they offer two alternative routes to attain excluded property status. Such settled property is therefore excluded property.

26.10 Initial interest of settlor or spouse

Special rules apply where the settlor or spouse have an interest in possession in a trust when it is made. The basic rule is set out in s.80(1) IHTA:

Where a settlor or his spouse is beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in property immediately after it becomes comprised in the settlement,

- [a] the property shall for the purposes of this Chapter be treated as not having become comprised in the settlement on that occasion;
- [b] but when the property or any part of it becomes held on trusts under which neither of those persons is beneficially entitled to an interest in possession, the property or part shall for those purposes be treated as becoming comprised in a separate settlement made by that one of them who ceased (or last ceased) to be beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in it.

(Paragraphing added)

Thus where the settlor or spouse has an initial interest in possession, s.80 imposes three fictions (“the s.80 fictions”):

- (1) It provides an artificial time at which trust property is treated as becoming settled (different from the actual time).
- (2) It may provide an artificial person who is treated as the settlor (different from the real settlor).
- (3) It may provide that a single settlement is treated as two (or more) separate settlements.

26.10.1 *Initial interest of settlor or spouse: excluded property rule*

Suppose:

- (1) In Year 1, H settled property on W for life.
- (2) In Year 2, W dies.
- (3) The property is then held on discretionary trusts.
- (4) There is subsequently a 10 year or exit charge.

In this example H is the actual settlor and Year 1 is the actual date of commencement. However, applying the s.80 fictions, the settlement is treated as made in Year 2 and W is treated as the settlor.

If that were all, it would follow that the trust property could be treated as excluded property if W was foreign domiciled at the time of her death in Year 2. The domicile of H would be irrelevant. This would benefit the taxpayer if (for instance) H was UK domiciled and W was not, and could be used for tax avoidance. Therefore where s.80 applies, s.82 imposes a further condition relating to excluded property. This provides:

Excluded property

(1) For the purposes of this Chapter ... property to which section 80 ... applies shall not be taken to be excluded property by virtue of section 48(3)(a) above unless the condition in subsection (3) below is satisfied (in addition to the conditions in section 48(3) that the property is situated outside the UK and that the settlor was not domiciled there when the settlement was made).

...

(3) The condition referred to in subsection (1) ... is—

(a) in the case of property to which section 80 above applies, that the person who is the settlor in relation to the settlement first mentioned in that section ...

was not domiciled in the UK when that settlement was made.

The “settlement first mentioned” in s.80 is the settlement actually made by H. (The separate settlement deemed to have been made by W must be the second settlement mentioned in s.80.)

In relation to excluded property, s.82 prevents the “artificial settlor” fiction from benefiting the taxpayer. It may however benefit HMRC. Where:

- (1) the settlor or his spouse has an initial interest in possession, and subsequently
- (2) the settled property is held on trusts where neither of them has an interest in possession,

it is necessary to look at the domicile of the settlor at the time when the settlement was originally made *and* at the domicile of the life tenant at the time his or her interest in possession came to an end in order to determine whether the trust property is excluded property. Both must be domiciled out of the UK in order to qualify for excluded property status.

26.10.2 *Living with s.80*

The s.80 rules apply only for the purposes of “this Chapter”: the discretionary trust regime. They have no wider application.

If s.80 applies, then, in the circumstances of the example above one may have a settlement whose property:

- (1) is excluded property for general IHT purposes; but
- (2) is not excluded property for the purposes of the discretionary trust regime.

Such a trust should remain “interest in possession” in form.

26.10.3 *Avoiding s.80*

A simple solution is to arrange that the settlement is discretionary at the outset, i.e. the settlor and spouse do not have an initial interest in possession. This is easy if the property to be given to the settlement is not UK situate. If the trust property is UK situate, it may be easier to live with s.80 than to take complex steps to avoid it.

26.10.4 Section 80 transitional rules

Section 80(3) provides:

This section shall not apply if the occasion first referred to in subsection (1) above occurred before 27 March 1974.

“The occasion first referred to above” is the occasion when the property becomes comprised in the settlement. So section 80 does not apply to property settled before 27 March 1974.

26.10.5 Commentary

What is the purpose of the three s.80 fictions? Dymond explains:

The [discretionary trust regime] would not work well where the settlor or his spouse has the first interest in possession under a settlement commencing after 26 March 1974. In such a case there will be no chargeable transfer when the settlement was made and so no occasion to value the settled property for CGT or IHT at that time. If a charge arose nearly 10 years later, it might be difficult to ascertain the value at the commencement of the settlement, as required by section 68(5)(a) IHTA, because important evidence might have been lost or destroyed. It might also not be easy to ascertain the settlor’s cumulative total at that time as required by section 68(4)(b) IHTA. The same difficulty with the settlor’s cumulative total might occur at the time of the 10 year charge, because of section 66(5)(a).

(Dymond’s Capital Taxes, para.19.700)

Section 80 solves this valuation problem but the reader may agree with the author that the cure is worse than the disease. This does explain why the section 80 fictions only apply for the purposes of the discretionary trust regime.

26.11 Same settlor adds property to trust after change of domicile

Suppose:

(1) a settlor creates a trust while not UK domiciled; and

(2) the same settlor adds funds to the trust later when UK domiciled.

Is the added property (if situate outside the UK) “excluded property”? IHT Manual states at 27220:

The legislation refers to the settlor’s domicile “at the time the settlement was made”. You must proceed on the basis that, for any given item of property held in a settlement, the settlement was made when that property was put in the settlement. Consult TG or your Team Leader (Scotland) if this view is challenged.

Example 1

S, when domiciled abroad, creates a settlement of Spanish realty. Later he acquires a UK domicile and then adds some Australian property to the settlement.

The Spanish property is excluded property because of S’s overseas domicile when he settled that property. However, the Australian property is not excluded property as S had a UK domicile when he added that property to the settlement.¹⁴

The relevant time in s.48(3) is not “the time when the property was settled”; it is “the time the settlement was made”. HMRC seek to treat the transfer of an asset to an existing settlement as the making of a new settlement. It would follow that a person adding property to an existing settlement would be creating a second settlement or as many settlements as there are additions.

There is nothing conceptually impossible in HMRC’s view that where a person adds property to an existing settlement made by him two separate settlements are deemed to exist.¹⁵ But since two separate settlements do not exist, one needs something express or implied in the legislation to deem what is in fact one settlement to be treated as two. When new property is added to an existing settlement, the new property *becomes comprised* in the settlement at that time, but that is not the same as saying the settlement (or a new settlement) was made at that time. HMRC view leads to a more sensible result. But the legislation is so clearly inconsistent with the HMRC view that even a purposive construction

¹⁴ This view is repeated in RI 166.

¹⁵ See para. 27.4 (The separate settlements fiction). If this fiction is applied when there are two settlors, the same fiction could in principle apply when the settlor adds property to his own existing settlement.

cannot assist.¹⁶

Section 43 IHTA provides:

(1) The following provisions of this section apply for determining what is to be taken for the purposes of this Act to be a settlement, and what property is, accordingly, referred to as property comprised in a settlement or as settled property.

(2) “Settlement” means any *disposition or dispositions* of property, whether effected by instrument, by parol or by operation of law, or partly in one way and partly in another, whereby the property is for the time being—

(a) held in trust for persons in succession or for any person subject to a contingency, or

(b) held by trustees on trust to accumulate the whole or part of any income of the property or with power to make payments out of that income at the discretion of the trustees or some other person, with or without power to accumulate surplus income, or

(c) charged or burdened (otherwise than for full consideration in money or money’s worth paid for his own use or benefit to the person making the disposition) with the payment of any annuity or other periodical payment payable for a life or any other limited or terminable period. ...

(Emphasis added)

Perhaps the HMRC argument is that because “a settlement” means any disposition of property, each disposition represents a new and separate settlement. However, the words “any disposition or dispositions of property” indicate that more than one disposition can create a single settlement, not separate settlements. This is now confirmed by *Rysaffe v IRC* [2003] STC 536. Further, the HMRC view is incompatible with many provisions of the IHTA. If each addition to an existing trust is a new settlement it makes nonsense of the added property provisions in s.67

16 “It may be perfectly proper to adopt even a strained construction to enable the object and purpose of legislation to be fulfilled. But it cannot be taken to the length of applying unnatural meanings to familiar words or of so stretching the language that its former shape is transformed into something which is not only significantly different but has a name of its own. This must particularly be so where the language has no evident ambiguity or uncertainty about it.” *Clarke v Kato* [1998] WLR 1467 at 1655

IHTA and the many references to added property in the surrounding sections.

The HMRC view is not consistent with s.49(5) FA 1977. This section clearly distinguished between:

- (1) “the time when a settlement was made”, and
- (2) “the time when [added] property was settled”.

It did so in the context of excluded property. The section is now repealed but the fact that the drafter took this view in 1977 remains relevant.

Dymond (I think) rejects HMRC’s view:

When a settlor adds property to a settlement previously made by him it may be necessary to consider whether the addition counts as a new settlement. It if does, the settlor’s domicile has to be determined as at the time of the addition; but if not, his domicile at the date of the original settlement remains in point and any subsequent change of domicile is irrelevant.¹⁷

However, it may take litigation before they will amend their published stance on this issue. Until the point is clear, trustees should follow this advice in RI 166:

Trust records

The trustees of a settlement should keep adequate records to enable any necessary attribution of the settled property to be made if ...the settlor has added further assets to the settlement after it was made...

Suppose a settlor creates a trust when UK domiciled and adds property to it when foreign domiciled. On my view, none of the property is excluded property. However, HMRC must abide by their statement (at least until it is officially and publically withdrawn with appropriate transitional relief) and accept the added property may be excluded property! Thus, the consequence of their statement (if my view is right) is that HMRC have the worst of both worlds. Of course, a well advised settlor will not find himself in this situation, but it does arise from time to time by accident.

17 *Dymond’s Capital Taxes*, para. 30.202. The authors are former officers of the Board of Inland Revenue, though the book has no official authority.

26.12 Adding property to settlement after acquiring UK domicile: tax planning

It may be possible to avoid this problem if a foreign domiciled person contracts to assign future acquired property to a trust; provided that the contract is made while non-UK domiciled, domicile at the time of the transfer may not matter.

26.12.1 *Same settlor adds property to company held by trust after acquisition of UK domicile*

If:

- (1) A settlor creates a trust while domiciled outside the UK;
- (2) The settlor becomes UK domiciled; and
- (3) The settlor gives property to a company owned by the trust,

then HMRC's argument does not run at all. The shares in the company (if not UK situate) must be and remain excluded property. But watch out that the gift may be a gift with reservation and/or a chargeable transfer for IHT.

26.13 Occasions where excluded property is relevant for IHT

RI 166 states:

However, an "excluded" asset is not always completely irrelevant for the purposes of IHT. So—

- [1] an "excluded" asset in a person's estate may still affect the valuation of another asset in the estate, for example, an "excluded" holding of shares in an unquoted company may affect the value of a similar holding in the estate which is not "excluded";
- [2] the value of an "excluded" asset at the time the asset becomes comprised in a settlement may be relevant in determining the rate of any tax charge arising in respect of the settlement under the IHT rules concerning trusts without interests in possession—ss 68(5), 66(4) and 69(3).

This is correct, but point [1] does not arise in practice and point [2] will

only rarely be significant.

26.14 Works of art

There is an Extra-Statutory Concession for works of art:

F7 Foreign owned works of art

Where a work of art normally kept overseas becomes liable to inheritance tax on the owner's death solely because it is physically situated in the UK at the relevant date, the liability will—by concession—be waived if the work was brought into the UK solely for public exhibition, cleaning or restoration. If the work of art is held by a discretionary trust (or is otherwise comprised in settled property in which there is no interest in possession), the charge to tax arising under IHTA s64 will, similarly, be waived.

26.15 Transfer of value by close company

Section 94 IHTA provides:

Charge on participators

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part of this Act, where a close company makes a transfer of value, tax shall be charged as if each individual to whom an amount is apportioned under this section had made a transfer of value of such amount as after deduction of tax (if any) would be equal to the amount so apportioned, less the amount (if any) by which the value of his estate is more than it would be but for the company's transfer ...

Section 94(2) explains how the apportionment is made. It contains an exemption for foreign domiciliaries:

if any amount which would otherwise be apportioned to an individual who is domiciled outside the UK is attributable to the value of any property outside the UK, that amount shall not be apportioned.

The IHT Manual extends this exemption to exempt gilts:

IHTM14854 - Transfers by close companies: foreign aspects Foreign person

Section 94(2)(b) IHTA excludes from the amount apportionable to a

participator domiciled outside the UK. (IHTM13002)

- so much of the company's transfer as is attributable to the value of property outside the UK.

Notify Shares Valuation (IHTM01110) if an outside UK domicile is claimed and ask them to report the relevant figures.

Foreign company

A transfer of value by

- a company incorporated abroad (hence domiciled abroad - *Gasque v IRC* [1940] 2 KB 80)

of

- property situate abroad

is **not** excluded property since s.6(1) IHTA only applies to individuals.

Nevertheless, if such a company

- is resident abroad

and

- makes a transfer of exempt Government securities within s.6(2) IHTA,

they **do** qualify as excluded property.

26.16 Equitable interests in excluded property settlements

26.16.1 Reversionary interest

Section 48(3) IHTA¹⁸ makes it clear that the non-settled property rules apply. An equitable interest which is a reversionary interest may be excluded property if it meets the conditions of s.48(1) or if it is not UK situate and owned by a foreign domiciliary.

26.16.2 Interest in possession

An equitable interest which is an interest in possession is excluded properly only if it is owned by a foreign domiciliary and is not UK situate. However, the disposal of the interest is not a transfer of value; s.51 IHTA. Tax is charged under s.52 if the settled property is not excluded property.

18 Set out at 26.7 (Settled property: general excluded property rule)

CHAPTER TWENTY SEVEN

IHT CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN TRUSTS

27.1 Introduction

This chapter considers the IHT consequences¹ of transfers between trusts and adding property to trusts. There are three tiers of rules:

- (1) General principles of trust law and tax law which apply in the absence of specific IHT provisions.
- (2) A specific IHT provision which applies for most purposes of IHT trust taxation: s.44(2) IHTA.
- (3) Specific IHT provisions which apply for IHT discretionary trust (“DT”) taxation: sections 81–82 IHTA.

The main significance of these rules relates to excluded property status, especially if there has been a change of domicile of the settlor. The rules can affect other matters such as the date and computation of a ten year charge.

27.2 Trust law background

There are two distinct ways by which property can move between settlements (without a person becoming beneficially entitled to the

¹ CGT and s.740 ICTA may need consideration. Another issue (straightforward and not dealt with here) is that the transfer may be a transfer of value under s.52 IHTA or may give rise to an exit charge under s.65 IHTA.

property in the meantime):

- (1) Trustees may exercise a power to transfer trust property to another trust.² (Assume for the purpose of discussion that trustees have such a power; in any particular case the terms of the trust would need to be reviewed.)
- (2) (a) A beneficiary who is entitled to a contingent or reversionary interest in the trust fund of trust A may assign that interest to trust B; and
 - (b) the trustees of trust B in due course become absolutely entitled to the trust fund of trust A.

27.3 General tax principles

The general tax principles are set out in 37.5 (Appointment from old trust to B followed by gift to new trust by B) and 37.6 (Transfer from trust A to trust B by exercise of trustees' power). The conclusions are as follows:

- (1) If trustees exercise a power to transfer property from trust A to trust B, then, at least to the extent of the transferred property, the settlor of trust A is a settlor of trust B.³
- (2) If a beneficiary with a valuable reversionary interest under trust A transfers this interest to trust B, then, at least to the extent of the interest transferred, he is a settlor of trust B.

27.4 The separate settlements fiction

Section 44(2) IHTA provides:

-
- 2 This needs to be distinguished from the situation where trustees exercise a power to vary the terms on which they hold trust property without a transfer to another trust. The distinction is a trust law concept. A discussion is beyond the scope of this book: see *Dymond's Capital Taxes*, 16.230.
 - 3 That is:
 - (1) If all the property of trust B is derived from A, directly or indirectly, then A is the only settlor of trust B.
 - (2) If some of the property of trust B is derived from A and some from B, then A and B become joint settlors.

Where more than one person is a settlor in relation to a settlement and the circumstances so require, this Part of this Act (except s.48(4) to (6)) shall have effect in relation to it as if the settled property were comprised in separate settlements.

I refer to this as “the separate settlements fiction”. The fiction is needed because IHT generally assumes that every settlement has one settlor; instead of making provisions for a trust with multiple settlors, the scheme is to regard such trusts as multiple trusts.

The exception for the purposes of s.48(4) to (6) concerns exempt gilts and is not discussed here; see 26.8 (Settled property: exempt gilts).

The separate settlements fiction is expressed to apply for the purposes of Part III of the IHTA (not generally), but all the important provisions which govern trust tax are in Part III.⁴

The words “and the circumstances so require” show that the drafter was aware that the separate settlements fiction would not always be appropriate. It is unfortunate that he did not formulate the circumstances in which this would be the case.

When the separate settlements fiction applies, the settled property is treated as being in separate trusts (which I call “notional trusts”). Unfortunately the statute does not tell us:

- (1) what is to be regarded as the trust property of the notional trust;
- (2) when the notional trust is to be regarded as made;
- (3) who is to be regarded as the settlor of the notional trust.

Context and common sense must fill that gap.

27.5 B adds property to A’s trust

Suppose:

- (1) an individual (“A”) creates a trust (“the real trust”), and

⁴ The separate settlements fiction has to be repeated in s.201(4) IHTA in order to apply it to s.201 (because that is not in Part III).

(2) another individual (“B”) adds property to it.

The separate settlements fiction applies, and one imagines that there are two notional trusts. Common sense suggests:

(1) Notional trust A is regarded as if:

- (a) it holds the property given by A;
- (b) it was made at the time A made the real trust; and
- (c) A is its sole settlor.

(2) Notional trust B is regarded as if:

- (a) it holds the property given by B;
- (b) it was made at the time B added property to the real trust; and
- (c) B is its sole settlor.

It is suggested that the same applies if B adds value indirectly to the real trust (e.g. by a gift to a company held by the trust). B is a “settlor” in the general tax sense; see 37.10 (Provision of property for company owned by trust). The “circumstances” require the real trust to be regarded as two separate notional trusts. A division of the trust property of the real trust into two parts representing the value given by A and the value given by B is just about possible though not easy.

27.6 Direct settlor and indirect settlor

Suppose there is an arrangement under which:

- (1) A gives property to B, and
- (2) B gives the property to a trust (“the real trust”).

This issue usually arises in the context of failed tax planning of the kind discussed at 37.22 (Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor).

There are then two settlors: an indirect settlor (A) and a direct settlor (B). See 37.3 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B). Both have provided the *same* property.

The IHT analysis is not clear. On one view the separate settlements fiction applies so that the settled property in the real trust is treated as being comprised in separate trusts. On this view the consequence is said to be that:

(1) Notional trust A:

- (a) holds *all* the trust property of the real trust;
- (b) A is its sole settlor;
- (c) I do not know when proponents of this view would say that notional trust A was made. It would either be at the time A gave the property to B or the time that B settled it, and this poses perhaps another difficulty with this view.

(2) Notional trust B:

- (a) also holds *all* the trust property of the real trust;
- (b) B is its sole settlor;
- (c) was made at the time B created the real trust.

The main difficulty with this analysis is that it leads to double taxation and the separate settlements fiction which only applies “if the circumstances so require” should not be used to give that result. I therefore prefer the view that the circumstances do not “so require” and the separate settlements fiction does not apply. We have therefore one real settlement with two settlors. What is the position for excluded property if A is foreign domiciled and B is not? It will be recalled that settled property is excluded property “unless *the settlor* was domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made”. A technical argument would be that one cannot say that “the settlor” was domiciled in the UK unless both settlors were domiciled here. No modern court is likely to accept that (least of all in a tax avoidance context). The solution here must surely be to read the word “the settlor” in this context as meaning “the settlor or one of the settlors”.⁵ In that case the trust property is only excluded property if A and B are both foreign domiciled.

⁵ Applying (perhaps extending) the rule of construction that the singular includes the plural.

Another possible view is that one should identify A as the “real” settlor and infer that B should not be regarded as a settlor. See 37.3.2 (If A is indirect settlor does B cease to be the settlor?).

27.6.1 *The HMRC view*

RI 166 provides:

Several persons contribute to a single settlement

...

[Section 44(2)] is similar in terms to FA 1975 Sch 5 para 1(8), which was considered by Chadwick J in *Hatton v IRC* [1992] STC 140. In the light of the decision in that case [HMRC] take the view

- [1] that the determination of the extent to which overseas assets in a settlement are excluded property by reason of the settlor’s domicile is a relevant “required circumstance”; and that
- [2] [a] where a clear, or reasonably sensible, attribution of settled property between the contributions made by several settlors is possible, there will be a separate settlement, with its own attributed assets, for each contributor for IHT purposes;
- [b] if such an attribution is not feasible, each separate settlement will comprise all the assets of the single, actual settlement.

Trust records

It follows from the comments above that the trustees of a settlement should keep adequate records to enable any necessary attribution of the settled property to be made if ... two or more persons have contributed funds for the purposes of the settlement.

(Paragraphing added)

In practice it is perhaps better to avoid joint settlors (or for one person to add property to a settlement made by another) especially if one settlor is, and the other is not, UK domiciled: this avoids the complication of the separate settlements fiction. But in a straightforward case there should not be any difficulty as long as record keeping is adequate.

27.7 Transfer from trust made by A to trust made by B

Suppose:

- (1) A gives property (“A’s fund”) to trust A (“real trust A”).

- (2) B gives property (“B’s fund”) to trust B (“real trust B”).
- (3) The trustees of real trust A transfer A’s fund to real trust B.

Real trust B then has two settlors (in the general tax sense), A and B. It is suggested that the separate settlements fiction applies and one imagines that there are two notional trusts. Notional trust A is regarded as if:

- (1) it holds the property provided by A;
- (2) A is its sole settlor;
- (3) The important question is: at what time is notional trust A regarded as being made? The choice is:
 - (a) at the time that real trust A was made;
 - (b) at the time of the transfer to real trust B.

Let us see which view makes more sense. The possibilities are as follows:

A is UK domiciled when he made real trust A and dead at the time of the transfer to real trust B. It has been suggested that in these circumstances A’s fund can be excluded property after the transfer. The argument is:

- (1) Notional trust A is regarded as made at the time of the transfer to real trust B.
- (2) A is regarded as not “domiciled in the UK” at that time (because a dead person has no domicile).

Both these propositions are doubtful. The view that notional trust A is regarded as made at the time real trust A was made avoids obvious anomalies and is to be preferred.⁶

6 This view is also consistent with the principle in *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468. If (contrary to my view) notional trust A is regarded as made at the time of the transfer to real trust B, after the death of A, it is possible to carry through the fiction and regard A as having at that time the domicile he had:

A is UK domiciled when he made real trust A and foreign domiciled at the time of the transfer to real trust B. If I am right that notional trust A is regarded as made at the time that real trust A was made, A's fund cannot become excluded property after the transfer.

A is foreign domiciled when he made real trust A and UK domiciled at the time of the transfer to real trust B. Likewise, if I am right, A's fund need not cease to be excluded property after the transfer.

So it is suggested that wherever A is domiciled at the time he made real trust A, there is in principle no IHT advantage or disadvantage from a transfer to another trust made by B after the death or change of domicile of A.

27.8 Transfer from trust made by A to another trust made by A

Now suppose:

- (1) A gives property to trust A1.
- (2) A gives property to trust A2 (a separate trust).
- (3) The trustees of trust A1 transfer property ("the transferred property") to trust A2.

Trust A2 has only one settlor, A, and the separate settlements fiction does not apply to it. The possibilities are as follows:

A is UK domiciled when he made trust A1 but not when he made trust A2. It is suggested that the transferred property in trust A2 may qualify as excluded property. Trust A2 *does* satisfy the condition that the settlor was foreign domiciled at the time that *this* settlement was made.

A is foreign domiciled when he made trust A1 and UK domiciled when he

(1) at the time of his death; or

(2) at the time he made real trust A.

Another view is that s.44(2) only applies if the circumstances so require, and they do not so require; but adopting my approach, s.44(2) gives a sensible result.

made trust A2. The result is reversed.

Thus there is a distinction between:

- (1) transfer from trust made by A to a trust made by B (change of A's domicile irrelevant); and
- (2) transfer from trust made by A to another trust made by A (change of A's domicile significant).

This is anomalous but the anomaly naturally follows from the fact that the separate settlements fiction applies in case (1) and not in case (2).

27.8.1 *Transfer from trust made by A to empty trust*

It is tentatively suggested that the same applies where trustees of trust A1 transfer the trust fund to new trustees who hold on the terms of a new declaration of trust which is an "empty trust", there being no trust property before the transfer ("trust A2"). In this case too the separate settlements fiction does not apply. The view that trust A2 is regarded as made at the time trust A1 was made, applying the principle of *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468, gives a sensible result but is hard to reconcile with s.60 IHTA. The transferred property may be excluded property if A is living and foreign domiciled at the time of the transfer, even though A was UK domiciled when he made trust A1.

What if A is dead at the time of the transfer? On a literal reading, one might argue that (regardless of the domicile of A during his life) the settlor A was not UK domiciled when trust A2 was made, since a deceased person has no domicile. The scope for tax avoidance would make that result unacceptable to a court in a case where A was UK domiciled at the time he made trust A1 and at the time of his death. A court is likely to regard A as retaining after his death the domicile he had during his life. This is not as much of a stretch of the law as first appears. If a company can be regarded as having a domicile (by analogy to the domicile rules of a living individual) why not a deceased person? However, it is suggested that the trust property in trust A2 may be excluded property if A was not UK domiciled at the time of his death.

27.9 The same settlement fiction: section 81

Section 81(1) IHTA provides:

Property moving between settlements

Where property which ceases to be comprised in one settlement becomes comprised in another then, unless in the meantime any person becomes beneficially entitled to the property (and not merely to an interest in possession in the property), it shall for the purposes of this Chapter be treated as remaining comprised in the first settlement.

I call this “the same settlement fiction”.

What is the purpose of the same settlement fiction? It must be intended to counter tax avoidance based on moving property between settlements. A simple example arises where a trust is approaching its 10 year anniversary. The trustees might transfer the trust property to another discretionary trust, whose 10 year anniversary is many years ahead. Alternatively they might appoint an interest to a beneficiary who transfers that interest to a new trust. This might avoid the 10 year charge on the first trust. Section 81 neatly counteracts both these by deeming the property to remain in the first trust. This explains why the same settlement fiction applies only for the purpose of IHT discretionary trust taxation (“this Chapter” is Chapter III Part III IHTA).

27.9.1 *Section 81: excluded property rule*

Where s.81 applies, s.82 IHTA imposes an additional condition for trust property to qualify as excluded property. This provides:

Excluded property

(1) For the purposes of this Chapter ... property to which section ... 81 above applies shall not be taken to be excluded property by virtue of section 48(3)(a) above unless the condition in subsection (3) below is satisfied (in addition to the conditions in section 48(3) that the property is situated outside the UK and that the settlor was not domiciled there when the settlement was made).

...

(3) The condition referred to in subsection (1) ... above is ...

(b) in the case of property to which subsection (1) or (2) of section 81 above applies, that the person who is the settlor in relation to

the second of the settlements mentioned in the subsection concerned,
was not domiciled in the UK when that settlement was made.

Since this only applies for the purposes of discretionary trust taxation, one must distinguish:

- (1) excluded property for ordinary IHT purposes; and
- (2) excluded property for the purposes of discretionary trust tax (“DT excluded property”).

The consequences of s.82(3)(b) depend on the circumstances of the transfer.

27.9.2 *Transfer from trust made by A to another trust made by A*

Suppose:

- (1) A gives property to trust A1.
- (2) A gives property to trust A2 (a separate trust).
- (3) The trustees of trust A1 transfer property (“the transferred property”) to trust A2.

The possibilities are as follows:

A is not UK domiciled when he made trust A1 but UK domiciled when he made trust A2. The transferred property in trust A2 is not excluded property under general IHT principles. See above.

A is UK domiciled when he made trust A1 but not UK domiciled when he made trust A2. The transferred property may be excluded property under general IHT principles. However, section 82 prevents the transferred property in trust A2 from qualifying as DT excluded property. (This is probably an accidental consequence of the wording, because if the drafter had had the point in mind he would have made s.82 IHTA apply for all IHT purposes and not only for the purposes of discretionary trust

taxation.)

In short, for the transferred property to qualify as DT excluded property, A must be domiciled outside the UK at the time he made trust A1 and trust A2.

27.9.3 *Transfer from trust made by A to trust made by B*

Suppose:

- (1) A gives property (“A’s fund”) to a settlement (“real trust A”).
- (2) B gives property (“B’s fund”) to a separate settlement (“trust B”).
- (3) The trustees of real trust A transfer A’s fund to trust B.

For general IHT purposes, A’s fund is regarded as in a notional trust and may be excluded property if A was not UK domiciled when real trust A was made. See 27.7 (Transfer from trust made by A to trust made by B). At first sight the position for the purposes of DT tax seems to be different:

- (1) A’s fund is treated as remaining comprised in real trust A (applying the same settlement fiction); and
- (2) A’s fund can only be excluded property if:
 - (a) A is foreign domiciled at the time real trust A was made; and
 - (b) B is foreign domiciled at the time trust B was made
 (applying the s.82 rule).

There is a better view. On these facts the separate settlements fiction of s.44(2) applies. A’s fund is treated for IHT as if it were transferred to a separate notional trust. The same settlement fiction applies as if there is a transfer from real trust A to the separate notional trust deemed to be made by A at the time (I think) of real trust A. So, for DT tax purposes, A’s fund may be excluded property if A is not UK domiciled at the time he made trust A. That is, the s.82 rule does not add anything to the

general excluded property rule. The domicile of B is irrelevant. That gives a fair result and is consistent with what I take to be the purpose of s.82; see below.

A similar result applies if the transfer is to a company held by trust B.

27.9.4 *B transfers equitable interest to another settlement*

The position is different if:

- (1) A gives property (“A’s fund”) to a settlement (“trust A”).
- (2) B has an equitable interest under trust A (perhaps a reversionary or contingent right to trust capital).
- (3) B assigns his equitable interest to a separate settlement (“trust B”).
- (4) Trust B becomes entitled to A’s fund (perhaps because the reversionary interest falls into possession or the contingency is satisfied).

B is in principle the settlor of trust B for general tax purposes. The position for the purposes of DT taxation is that:

- (1) A’s fund is treated as remaining in trust A (applying the same settlement fiction); and
- (2) A’s fund can only be DT excluded property if:
 - (a) A is foreign domiciled at the time that trust A was made and
 - (b) B is foreign domiciled at the time trust B was made(applying the s.82 rule).

It would be possible to avoid these consequences if the trustees of trust B sell the equitable interest before it falls into possession, or if they transfer it to a company.

27.9.5 *Purpose of section 82(3)(b)*

What is the purpose of s.82(3)(b)? The s.81 fiction would benefit the taxpayer in a situation where the facts are as in 27.9.4 (B transfers equitable interest to another settlement) and:

- (1) A is not UK domiciled; and
- (2) B is UK domiciled.

Under the general law, B would in principle be the settlor of trust B, but applying the s.81 fiction A would be the settlor! Section 82 counteracts this tax advantage. If my analysis is right at 27.9.3 (Transfer from trust made by A to trust made by B), then s.82 works fairly neatly.

An incidental result is to restrict (but not wholly prevent) tax advantages on a transfer from trust A1 to A2 where A was UK domiciled when he made trust A1 but foreign domiciled at the time he made trust A2; see 27.9.2 (Transfer from trust made by A to another trust made by A).

27.9.6 *Section 81 transitional rules*

Section 81(2),(3) sets out three transitional rules:

- (2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply where the property ceased to be comprised in the first settlement before 10 December 1981; but where property ceased to be comprised in one settlement before 10 December 1981 and after 26 March 1974 and, by the same disposition, became comprised in another settlement, it shall for the purposes of this Chapter be treated as remaining comprised in the first settlement.
- (3) Subsection (1) above shall not apply where a reversionary interest in the property expectant on the termination of a qualifying interest in possession subsisting under the first settlement was settled on the trusts of the other settlement before 10 December 1981.

27.10 **Same settlor adds property to trust after change of domicile**

On this topic see 26.11 (Same settlor adds property after change of domicile).

CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT

RESERVATION OF BENEFIT

28.1 Introduction

Here is a rendezvous of questions and question marks! A full discussion needs a book to itself. This chapter concentrates on difficult but important issues which commonly arise in relation to the foreign domiciliary. The IHT Manual contains much fascinating material which cannot be set out here for reasons of space. I refer to the provisions as the GWR provisions (Gift with Reservation).

28.2 The statute

Section 102(1) FA 1986 provides:

... this section applies where, on or after 18 March 1986, an individual disposes of any property by way of gift and either—

- (a) possession and enjoyment of the property is not bona fide assumed by the donee at or before the beginning of the relevant period; or
- (b) at any time in the relevant period the property is not enjoyed to the entire exclusion, or virtually to the entire exclusion, of the donor and of any benefit to him by contract or otherwise;

and in this section “the relevant period” means a period ending on the date of the donor’s death and beginning seven years before that date or, if it is later, on the date of the gift.

There are two sets of conditions:

- (1) There has to be a disposal of property by way of gift. There are three separate elements here; a *disposal*, of *property*, which must be *by way of gift*.

(2) Condition (a) or (b) above must be satisfied.

28.3 “Property subject to a reservation”

Section 102(2) provides:

If and so long as—

- (a) possession and enjoyment of any property is not bona fide assumed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above, or
- (b) any property is not enjoyed as mentioned in subsection (1)(b) above, the property is referred to (in relation to the gift and the donor) as property subject to a reservation.

I refer to property subject to a reservation as “GWR property”.

28.4 Disposals before 18 March 1986

If one is dealing with disposals made before 18 March 1986 there is no need to consider the GWR rules; they only apply to disposals after that date. The IHT Manual states correctly at 14311:

A pre-18 March 1986 settlement which would have been caught by the GWR provisions had it been made after 17 March 1986 will therefore escape the GWR charge unless further gifts into settlement are made after that date. The GWR provisions will apply to the property settled by those further gifts. ...

Example

On 1 January 1985 the donor settled £100,000 on discretionary trusts under which he was a potential beneficiary. On 1 January 1989 he added a further £50,000 to the settlement. The donor dies 1 April 1992 having remained a potential beneficiary throughout.

The GWR provisions apply to the 1989 addition but not to the property originally settled. The GWR claim extends to the assets in the settled fund at 1 April 1992 representing that £50,000. The Double Charges Regulations (IHTM 14711) will be in point.

28.5 When is there a “disposal by way of gift”?

There are some general issues on the meaning of a “disposal by way of

gift". Is the surrender of a lease or life interest a "disposal"? Or the giving of consent to an exercise of a power of advancement or appointment? Is a sale at an undervalue "by way of gift"? Or a transfer to a settlement in which the settlor has an interest in possession? But such questions only occasionally arise in relation to foreign domiciliaries and are not considered here. Generally one is dealing with gifts where the position should be clear.

It is considered that a sale at market value, where the purchase price is left outstanding as an interest-free loan, repayable on demand, is not a disposal "by way of gift".

28.6 When is there a reservation of benefit?

The words used in the statute are remarkably obscure. While in most cases the matter will be clear enough there are significant areas of uncertainty. Some of these doubtful areas have been resolved for practical purposes by HMRC statements.

28.6.1 *Gift to discretionary trust, settlor a beneficiary*

One point is of particular importance to a foreign domiciliary. Suppose an individual makes a gift into a discretionary trust of which he is one of the beneficiaries. Is there a reservation of benefit? I argued in the first edition of this book that there is, and this is confirmed in *Eversden v IRC* 75 TC 340 (no appeal was made on this point).

It is considered that the same applies where an individual makes a gift to a discretionary trust under which:

- (1) the settlor is not included in the class of beneficiaries; but
- (2) the trustees have power to add the settlor to the class of beneficiaries.¹

¹ The HMRC view is, however, equivocal. The IHT Manual provides at IHTM14393: "The question of whether the possibility that A's name might be added to the class is a reservation is one which you can only determine on the particular facts. Refer any case where the point is material to the litigation section (IHTM01083)".

28.6.2 *Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B*

The position is different where:

- (1) A makes a gift to B.
- (2) Later, by an independent transaction, B creates a discretionary trust under which A is a beneficiary (or where A can be added as a beneficiary).

In these circumstances A is *not* the settlor. It is considered that there is no reservation of benefit merely because A is a discretionary beneficiary. There will be a reservation of benefit if A actually receives a benefit.

28.7 Interaction of GWR and IHT spouse exemption/BPR/APR

See 33.6 (GWR on inter-spouse gift) and 33.7 (Inter-spouse gift of 100% BPR or APR property).

28.8 IHT on the disposal by way of gift

A gift which is a chargeable transfer will give rise to a charge to IHT (assuming it exceeds the nil rate threshold) whether or not it is a gift with a reservation. The reservation of benefit does not affect this charge; just on the death of the donor there may be a further charge to tax. The Inheritance Tax (Double Charges Relief) Regulations 1987 mitigate a double charge. This chapter gives no consideration to the IHT which might arise on a gift; it only considers the GWR aspects.

28.9 Gift of excluded property

Section 102 FA 1986 applies when an individual disposes of any property by way of gift. A foreign domiciliary is certainly “an individual”. A gift of UK situate property by a foreign domiciliary is certainly within the GWR rule.

What is the position where a foreign domiciliary disposes of excluded property by way of gift? There is nothing which expressly takes the gift out of the scope of the GWR rules. However, it is considered that section 3(2) IHTA does so obliquely. Section 3 provides:

Transfers of value

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part of this Act, a transfer of value is a disposition made by a person (the transferor) as a result of which the value of his estate immediately after the disposition is less than it would be but for the disposition; and the amount by which it is less is the value transferred by the transfer.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above no account shall be taken of the value of excluded property which ceases to form part of a person's estate as a result of a disposition.

On a literal approach to construction this makes no difference. The fact that no account is taken of the value of excluded property for the purposes of section 3(1) does not mean that the disposition is not a "disposal by way of gift". However, a purposive construction suggests otherwise. It is absurd that there should be a charge to tax in circumstances where:

- (1) a foreign domiciliary with no UK connection makes a gift of excluded property to another person with no UK connection, and enjoys some benefit; and
- (2) the foreign domiciliary dies many years later at a time when property representing the property given is situated in the UK.

Nobody would expect the foreign domiciliary (or his executors) to comply or to be able to comply with an obligation to pay IHT in such circumstances. The purpose of section 3(2) IHTA is to take excluded property out of the scope of inheritance tax and a disposal of excluded property is by implication ignored. Since it is ignored it is not a disposal "by way of gift". This conclusion is also supported by the use of the term "excluded property" – the property is regarded as excluded from IHT.

On a literal construction, an inter-spouse gift of excluded property made by a foreign domiciled individual may fall within the GWR rules. A gift of excluded property is not a transfer of value, so outside the scope of s.18 IHTA! But that is absurd and cannot be the correct construction, even if words must be strained to reach this result. This consideration supports the view taken here that gifts of excluded property generally, and gifts

within s.11 IHTA, are deemed not to be by way of gift.²

Such property is nevertheless “subject to a reservation” and so qualifies for the GWR exemption to the pre-owned asset rules.

28.10 GWR continuing until donor’s death: the charge

Section 102(3) FA 1986 provides:

If, immediately before the death of the donor, there is any property which, in relation to him, is property subject to a reservation then... that property shall be treated for the purposes of the [IHTA] as property to which he was beneficially entitled immediately before his death.

Section 102(3) is a deeming provision; the donor is not in fact beneficially entitled to the property subject to the reservation but the property is treated as if he were so entitled. To understand the significance of this, it is necessary to set out the short series of sections that normally impose an inheritance tax charge on property to which a person is beneficially entitled at death.

By s.4(1) IHTA:

On the death of any person tax shall be charged as if, immediately before his death, he had made a transfer of value and the value transferred by it had been equal to the value of his estate immediately before his death.

But by s.5(1):

.... a person’s estate is the aggregate of all the property to which he is beneficially entitled, except that the estate of a person immediately before his death does not include excluded property.

Since the donor is treated as beneficially entitled to the property subject to the reservation, that property is treated as part of his estate unless it is excluded property at the time of the death. Even when the GWR rule

2 If my view were wrong the further anomaly would arise that gifts of qualifying investments to charity would fall within the scope of GWR because such gifts fall within s.12 IHTA and not s.102(5)(d) FA 1986; but it is not necessary to pursue that here.

applies, therefore, the effect on the donor's estate depends upon the application of the excluded property rules.

28.11 GWR property subject to debt

In this context the reference to “property” means property without reduction for any liability. It might be said that this is inconsistent with *Green v IRC*: see 30.2 (Deduction for liability of individual). The answer is that references to “property” in the IHT legislation may mean property ignoring the debt or net property depending on the context. Para. 11(6) Sch 15 FA 2004 shows that the reference to property in para. 11(1) means property ignoring a debt. The context here, likewise, shows that there should be no deduction for the debt.

28.12 Absolute gift subject to GWR: operation of excluded property rules on death of donor

Suppose:

- (1) A gives property to B, an individual, outright.
- (2) There is a reservation of benefit: A enjoys benefits at the time of his death.
- (3) The property is not UK situate at the time of A's death.

A is treated as if he were beneficially entitled to the property at the time of his death. It forms part of his estate unless it is excluded property at that time. How do the excluded property rules work in these circumstances?

Here we are concerned with non-settled property. The relevant rule is that:

Property situated outside the UK is excluded property if the person beneficially entitled to it is an individual domiciled outside the UK.

(Section 6(1) IHTA)

The puzzle here is caused by the deeming provision. In the example

above, B is *in fact* beneficially entitled to the property. A is *treated* as beneficially entitled. Who is “beneficially entitled” for the purpose of applying the excluded property rule; is it A or is it B? This does not matter if A and B are both foreign domiciled, but it does if one is and the other is not. One common case is in a gift from a UK domiciled spouse to a foreign domiciled spouse: see 33.6 (Reservation of benefit on inter-spouse gift).

The answer is to be found by applying the general rule of construction which applies to deeming provisions:

If you are bidden to treat an imaginary state of affairs as real, you must surely, unless prohibited from doing so, also imagine as real the consequences and incidents which, if the putative state of affairs had in fact existed, must inevitably have flowed from or accompanied it.

(Lord Asquith, *East End Dwellings Co Ltd v Finsbury Borough Council* [1952] AC 109 at 132)

... because one must treat as real that which is only deemed to be so, one must treat as real the consequences and incidents inevitably flowing from or accompanying that deemed state of affairs....

(*Marshall v Kerr* 67 TC 56 at 79)

Applying this principle it is submitted that the domicile of A is what matters for excluded property status. Thus if A has a foreign domicile, the property (if not UK situated) is excluded property. The domicile of B is irrelevant. This conclusion is confirmed by the context. It would be absurd if the taxation of A depended on the domicile of B. The taxation of A should depend on his own domicile position.

28.12.1 *Outright gift: conclusion*

In the case of an outright gift subject to a reservation at the time of the donor’s death, the gifted property is excluded property if:

- (1) the donor is domiciled outside the UK at the date of death; and
- (2) the property is not UK situate at that time.

For the purposes of the excluded property rule, therefore:

- (1) The domicile of the donor at the time of gift is irrelevant (contrast the position where the gift is made in trust: see 28.13 (GWR to discretionary trust) below.
- (2) The situs of the property at the time of the gift is irrelevant to the operation of the excluded property rules on the death of the donor.

HMRC accept this. IHT Manual 14318 provides:

Example

The donor, an Australian, gives Australian shares to his Australian son but continues to enjoy the dividends until his death ten years later. He dies domiciled in Australia.

The property is property subject to a reservation and is therefore deemed to be part of the donor's death estate. However, the property is situate outside the UK and the donor, who is treated as beneficially entitled to it, was domiciled outside the UK at his death. The property is therefore excluded property within IHTA. s 6(1) and escapes the GWR charge.

The same applies to gifts to companies, including companies held by trusts.

28.13 Discretionary trust: GWR and excluded property rules

Suppose:

- (1) S (not UK domiciled) gives property to a discretionary settlement.
- (2) There is a reservation of benefit – perhaps because S is a beneficiary.
- (3) The property is not UK situate at the time of the death of S.

S is treated as if he were beneficially entitled to the property at the time of his death. It forms part of his estate unless it is excluded property at that time. How do the excluded property rules work in these circumstances?

28.13.1 *The rival solutions*

There are two sets of excluded property rules, relating to settled and non-settled property. Which does one apply?

(1) *The settled property solution*

The first view is simple. The property subject to a reservation is in fact settled property, so apply the settled property rules set out in s.48(3) IHTA:

Where property comprised in a settlement is situated outside the UK—

- (a) The property... is excluded property unless the settlor was domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made.

So on this view, where an individual makes a gift to a settlement with reservation of benefit, and dies, the property is excluded property for the GWR rules if:

- (1) the donor is domiciled outside the UK at the time the settlement was made. (The domicile of the donor at the time of death is irrelevant); and
- (2) the property is not situated in the UK at the time of death.

I call this “the Settled Property Solution”.

(2) *The non-settled property solution*

The second view is more subtle. The property subject to a reservation is to be treated as property to which the donor is “beneficially entitled”. Apply the deeming provision to its logical conclusion: if a person is beneficially entitled to property, it is not settled property. So on this view, where an individual makes a gift to a settlement with reservation of benefit, and dies, the property is excluded property for the GWR rules if:

- (1) the donor was domiciled outside the UK at the time of his death. (The domicile of the donor at the time the settlement was made is irrelevant for GWR, though it is relevant for other purposes); and

(2) the property is not situated in the UK at the time of death.

I call this “the Non-settled Property Solution”.

28.13.2 *The correct solution*

The Non-settled Property Solution seems persuasive at first glance, and has support from no less an authority than Robert VENABLE QC.³ Nevertheless it was until recently almost universally regarded as wrong.

What about the deeming provision that the property is to be treated as if the donor were beneficially entitled to it? The answer is that the property must still be regarded as “settled property” for the application of the excluded property rules. One does not carry the implications of the deeming provisions as far as the Non-settled Property Solution suggests. The Asquith dictum cited above is merely a general canon of construction from which “only limited assistance can be derived in choosing between alternative interpretations of the Act”.⁴

One way to reach this conclusion is to note that the deeming provision does not deem the donor to be beneficially and *absolutely* entitled to the settled property. One can be beneficially entitled to property which is settled property. (Bear in mind that “settlement” has a wide definition for IHT. It includes property held subject to a contingency, property charged with the payment of an annuity, and a lease for life. A person entitled to such property may nevertheless be said to be “beneficially” entitled.)

That this is the correct construction is confirmed by section 49(1) which provides that:

A person beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in settled property shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as *beneficially entitled* to the property in which the interest subsists.

No-one suggests that property to which section 49(1) applies is not to be treated as settled property for the purposes of the GWR rules. The wording of the deeming provision in s.102(3) is materially the same.

³ *Inheritance Tax Planning*, 3rd edition, para. D.15.3 (Immigrant settlors); and “Excluded Property Trusts and GROBs” [2003] OITR Vol 11 p.75. Barrie Akin agrees: *GITC Review*, Vol 1 Issue 2, p.1, accessible www.taxbar.com.

⁴ *Russell v IRC* [1988] STC 195 at p.205.

The correctness of this is also confirmed if one considers a trust under which the settlor has an interest in possession. See 28.14 (Settlement in which donor has an interest in possession).

It has been said that a purposive construction favours the Non-settled Property Solution: the purpose of the GWR rules is to put the donor in the same position as if he had not made the gift. This is the general purpose in the case of gifts by UK domiciliaries. However, arguments on purposive construction only run when one knows the general purpose and is confident that the general purpose applies in the particular circumstances of the case. This argument *assumes* that that purpose necessarily extends to the foreign domiciliary – which begs the question. Perhaps Parliament intended there to be a difference between the two cases. One cannot apply a purposive construction unless the application of the purpose is clear.⁵

Until 2001 HMRC agreed with the Settled Property Solution. *Law Society's Gazette* 1986 page 3728 provided:

Question:

‘G’ a non-domiciliary gifts excluded property into a discretionary settlement under which he is in the class of beneficiaries. ‘G’ dies domiciled in the UK. Are the “excluded property” assets in the settlement treated as part of ‘G’s estate?

Answer from The Controller, Capital Taxes Office:

Here it seems to me that the settled property would be “property subject to a reservation” in relation to the settlor. Accordingly it would fall within S102(3) of the Finance Act 1986 to be treated as property to which he was beneficially entitled immediately before his death. The effect would be to lock the property into the settlor’s estate within the meaning of S5(1) of the IHTA which is subject to the exception for “excluded property”. It would follow that in the case of settled property, relief for foreign assets could continue to be available under section 48(3).

5 In the battle of the anomalies HMRC might instance the case where a foreign domiciliary made a settlement shortly before becoming UK domiciled, and say that it is absurd that a settlement made in such circumstances should avoid IHT on the death of the settlor. But (1) this is certainly the case where the foreign domiciliary enjoys no benefit from the settlement; and (2) this was the case under estate duty; and (3) this was the case under HMRC practice in the first 15 years or so of IHT; in the circumstances it is wrong (if not absurd) to describe that result as absurd.

The same point was made in the CTO Advanced Instruction Manual D.8:

Example 2

The donor, who is domiciled in Australia, puts foreign property into a discretionary trust under which he is a potential beneficiary. He dies five years later domiciled in England and without having released the reservation.

The property is property subject to a reservation and is therefore deemed to be part of the donor's death estate. *However, as he was domiciled outside the UK at the time the settlement was made, the property will be excluded property, under IHTA, s 48(3), if still situate outside the UK at the date of death.*

Astonishingly, the text was changed (without public announcement) about October 2001.⁶ The 2001 wording suggested HMRC had reversed their view and adopted the Non-settled Property Solution. HMRC said informally that they were merely reconsidering their position on this point and had not reached a final view. However, the paragraph is now in the IHT Manual 14396 and is more definite still:

IHTM14396 - Settled property: domicile of the settlor

...

Change of domicile

Foreign property settled by a settlor with foreign domicile remains excluded property if the reservation continues **up to the settlor's death**, even though the domicile may have changed between those dates.

Example

The donor, who is domiciled in Australia, puts foreign property into a discretionary trust under which he is a potential beneficiary. He dies five years later domiciled in the UK and without having released the reservation (IHTM14393).

The property is subject to a reservation and is therefore deemed to be part of the donor's death estate.

Refer any cases where this is the situation to Litigation (IHTM01083).

6 The last sentence was changed to read:

"Any cases where this is the situation must be referred to the Litigation Team."

It is understood that if HMRC change their former view, no tax would be sought where taxpayers have relied on the previous view but the exact details of this transitional relief have not been decided. It is considered that if HMRC do change their mind, they will eventually be defeated in the Courts so the issue of transitional relief will not arise.

Now the text of the Manual has changed, taxpayers can no longer continue to rely on the earlier “official” statements of the HMRC view. The “old” view was restated in the 2003 Background Paper on domicile at 2.8 but this should not be relied upon. The authors were probably not aware of the current HMRC position, and their statement does not bind HMRC.

Trustees should bear in mind that even adopting the Settled Property Solution, there will arguably⁷ be a charge to IHT on the death of a settlor who enjoys a benefit over trust property if at the time of his death:

- (1) There is UK situated trust property; and
- (2) Property was given to the trust after 18 March 1986.

If the settlor is a beneficiary it is safer not to invest directly in UK situate property during his life.

28.14 Settlement in which donor has an interest in possession

Suppose:

- (1) S (not UK domiciled) creates a settlement;
- (2) S has an interest in possession in his settlement at the time of his death;
- (3) the settled property is (accordingly) subject to a reservation;
- (4) the property is not UK situate at the time of the death.

Section 102(3) FA 1986 provides:

⁷ See 28.9 (Gift of excluded property).

If, immediately before the death of the donor, there is any property which, in relation to him, is property subject to a reservation then, *to the extent that the property would not, apart from this section, form part of the donor's estate immediately before his death*, that property shall be treated for the purposes of the [IHTA] as property to which he was beneficially entitled immediately before his death.

(Emphasis added)

The words in italics are here called the “donor’s estate exemption” to the GWR rule.

Adopting the Settled Property Solution, the position is easy to understand:

- (1) the settled property is excluded property under s.43(3), ignoring s.102(3);
- (2) accordingly, apart from s.102(3), it does not form part of the estate of S immediately before his death; see s.5(1);
- (3) accordingly, the donor’s estate exemption to the GWR rule does not apply and the deeming provision in s.102(3) does apply; but
- (4) this does not matter as the property is excluded property for GWR purposes and treated as outside the estate of S at the time of this death.

Adopting the Non-settled Property Solution, the position is as follows:

- (1) the settled property is excluded property under s.43(3), ignoring s.102(3);
- (2) accordingly, as before, apart from s.102(3), it does not form part of the estate of S immediately before his death;
- (3) however, applying s.102(3) and the Non-settled Property Solution, it is not excluded property so it *does* form part of the estate of S immediately before his death.

Thus the property is simultaneously excluded for one purpose and not

excluded for another. This is possible but complex and clumsy and suggests that something is wrong with the Non-settled Property Solution.

28.15 Gift to foreign domiciled donee who creates a settlement

Suppose:

- (1) A makes an outright gift to B.
- (2) B makes a gift of that property to a settlement.
- (3) A is a beneficiary of that settlement and enjoys benefits so that there is a reservation of a benefit in relation to A's gift.
- (4) B (and not A) is the settlor of the settlement; see 37.3 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B).

Now which set of excluded property rules are applied? It is suggested that one must apply the rules applicable to settled property for the reasons given in 28.13 (GWR to discretionary trust). FA 1986 Sch. 20 para 5 needs to be considered but, properly understood, nothing there deems A to be the settlor of the settlement. If that is right, there is no reservation of benefit problem if:

- (a) B (the settlor) was not domiciled in the UK when the settlement is made; and
- (b) The property is not situated in the UK at the time of the death of A.

Conversely, on this view, there is a GWR problem if B (the settlor) is UK domiciled (regardless of the domicile of A).

28.16 Cesser of benefit during donor's lifetime: the charge

So far we have considered the position where the benefit continues until the death of the donor. Section 102(4) provides that when property ceases to be subject to a reservation:

the donor shall be treated for the purposes of the [IHTA] as having at

that time made a disposition of the property by a disposition which is a potentially exempt transfer.

This subsection has been misunderstood. Suppose property ceases to be subject to a reservation; e.g. a donor ceases to be a beneficiary of a trust he has created, and becomes excluded from all benefit. The donor is treated as having made a potentially exempt transfer. This would seem to be a serious matter for the foreign domiciliary until one asks: What is the value transferred by this potentially exempt transfer? If the property is excluded property then the value transferred is nil: see s.3 IHTA. It does not matter that a disposition is deemed to be a potentially exempt transfer if no value is thereby transferred. No charge to IHT can arise.

The HMRC view is tentative. IHT Manual 14396 provides:

Example

The donor, who is domiciled in Australia, puts foreign property into a discretionary trust under which he is a potential beneficiary. He dies five years later domiciled in the UK and without having released the reservation (IHTM14393).

The property is subject to a reservation and is therefore deemed to be part of the donor's death estate.

...

Reservation ceasing during lifetime

However, had the donor in the above example attained UK domicile after the gift and then released the reservation during his lifetime, it is *arguable* that the release would have been a PET (IHTM04057), chargeable on the death within seven years. In effect, the property ceased to be excluded property at the time the reservation was released. The release would thus have triggered a charge which would not have arisen had the release not been made.

Refer any case where you consider that there is such a charge, or any enquiries about the possibility of a charge, to Litigation.

[Emphasis added]

The point is “arguable” but the argument is considered to be wrong.

If, however, the property is UK situate (and so not excluded property) then would in principle be a potentially exempt transfer under s.102(4) FA 1986. If so, should the donor die within seven years the PET matures into a chargeable transfer and a charge to tax will arise.

CHAPTER TWENTY NINE

IHT PLANNING BY CREATING EXCLUDED PROPERTY

29.1 Basic principles

A foreign domiciliary should endeavour to secure, as far as possible, that his assets are situated outside the UK so that they qualify as excluded property and fall outside the inheritance tax net. The foreign domiciliary's property becomes excluded property the moment that it becomes non-UK situate; there is no qualifying period such as is required for other inheritance tax reliefs. In this way an imminent tax charge may vanish almost miraculously. The same applies to trustees of a settlement made by a foreign domiciliary. The question is: how is the individual's property to be transferred abroad?

The transfer abroad of £ Sterling from a UK bank account poses no problem. The transfer of bearer instruments abroad raises no problem. The transfer abroad of foreign currency in a UK bank account abroad needs careful consideration as to CGT. Chattels could be physically moved abroad but that may not be practical.

Any UK asset could be sold and the proceeds remitted abroad. This is simple and satisfactory for inheritance tax; however, a sale may be ruled out by CGT or commercial reasons.

If the foreign domiciliary does not wish assets to be sold, he might give them to a company owned wholly by him. The shares in the company should not be UK situate; see 38.4 (Situs of registered shares) and 38.6 (Bearer documents). The company should normally be non-resident. The gift would not be a transfer of value for IHT because the donor's estate would not be reduced in value. It is considered that it is not a disposal by way of gift, as there is no gratuitous intent. In *Shiu Wing Ltd v*

*Commissioner of Estate Duty*¹ the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal refused to apply the *Ramsay* doctrine to arrangements made by the taxpayer to create property situated abroad (in this case situated outside Hong Kong). The gift would, of course, be a disposal for CGT purposes and hold-over relief would not normally be available. Accordingly, this option will only be a satisfactory solution either if no capital gain arises or if hold-over relief is available.²

29.2 UK situate shares and securities

It is possible to turn UK situate shares and securities into non-UK situate assets for IHT; see 38.6 (Bearer documents).

29.3 Discretionary trusts

A discretionary trust is subject to IHT on its ten year anniversaries. If the settlor is not UK domiciled when he made the trust, all that matters for IHT is the situs of the trust fund on that date.³ The trustees may safely invest in the UK for a number of years, provided that, by the deadline, they hold foreign situate assets.

In principle this short term planning may be extended indefinitely:

- (1) As each ten year anniversary approaches the trustees could sell the UK trust property (or even mortgage it) and invest in excluded property.
- (2) Immediately after the anniversary they might sell and revert to UK investments.

1 Accessible from www.info.gov.hk/jud/guide2cs/html/cfa/judmt/index.htm.

2 A gift to the company by way of *donatio mortis causa* solves the CGT problem: section 62(5) TCGA. But such a gift is not effective for inheritance tax purposes. The donor retains the right of revocation which would not be excluded property on his death.

3 Note also the possible tax charge on the death of the settlor, under the gift with reservation rules, if the property is UK situate: see 28.13 (Discretionary trust: GWR and excluded property rules) and following.

In practice such a course would invite a *Ramsay* attack by HMRC.⁴ Ideally the trustees should look for a different strategy such as holding the UK assets in a foreign registered company.

29.4 Interest in possession trusts

Trustees of an interest in possession trust made by a foreign domiciliary may invest in UK property. The property will not be excluded property but there would be no tax charge until the beneficiary's death.⁵ If the beneficiary's health begins to fail the trustees could invest in excluded property. Providing they do so before the moment of death – even on the day or hour before death – then there would be no inheritance tax on the death: see 26.7 (Settled property) above.

To convert trust property to excluded property should not be difficult. The trustees may sell it but there is no need to do so. It will be sufficient if they transfer it to a foreign registered company whose shares are held by the trustees. If the trustees are not resident in the UK no CGT arises on the disposal; if the trustees are resident in the UK this will only be a satisfactory solution if the assets qualify for hold-over relief or they are not pregnant with gain.

The only inheritance tax risk in this strategy is that the life tenant might die so suddenly that no steps to save tax can be taken. This risk is reduced (but not eliminated) if the spouse exemption is available. It might be possible to take out insurance. In principle it is clearly undesirable to allow a beneficiary in poor health to retain an interest in possession in non-excluded property. When the property does not produce income (such as a dwelling house) the trustees may appoint an interest in possession to another person, perhaps an adult child of the beneficiary. The beneficiary may then continue to live in the property with the consent of the child. The child need only be given a revocable interest in the property. The trust law aspects of this proposal would need careful consideration.

4 A similar point has often been litigated in the US: see *Holly Springs Savings & Insurance Co v Board of Sup'rs of Marshall County* 52 Miss. 281, 24 Am. Rep. 668 (1876); *Jones v Steward County*, 10 Neb. 154, 4 N.W. 946 (1880); *Mitchell v Leavenworth County* 91 US. 206, 23 L. Ed. 302 (1875) (US Supreme Court); *Re People's Bank of Vermont, Ill.*, 203 Ill 300, 67 N.E. 777 (1903).

5 Or until the death of the beneficiary and spouse, if the spouse exemption applies.

29.5 IHT planning for trustees of settlement with UK domiciled settlor

When the settlor is UK domiciled, trust property is not normally excluded property even if the beneficiary is foreign domiciled.

29.5.1 Beneficiaries not ordinarily resident

If the life tenant is ordinarily resident out of the UK, the trustees might choose to invest in exempt gilts. The trust property would then be excluded property. See 26.8 (Settled exempt gilts).

Likewise if all the known beneficiaries of a discretionary trust are ordinarily resident abroad. This option is not available if any of the beneficiaries are domiciled or ordinarily resident in the UK. A deed of appointment might be needed to satisfy these conditions. This would give rise to an exit charge unless the settlor is foreign domiciled when the settlement was made: see s.65(8) IHTA. However, the amount of the charge may be moderate or small.

29.5.2 UK settlor: foreign domiciled beneficiary

The best option – if practical circumstances allow – is to bring the present settlement to an end by appointment to the foreign domiciled beneficiary absolutely. Watch CGT. The tax taint of a UK settlor may then be laid to rest.

29.5.3 Life tenant domiciled in Channel Islands or Isle of Man but deemed UK domiciled

For this rare case, see 26.5 (Individual domiciled in Channel Islands or Isle of Man).

CHAPTER THIRTY

IHT PLANNING THROUGH DEBTS DEDUCTIBLE FOR IHT

30.1 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with IHT deductions for debts.¹ One could write a short book on this important and misunderstood topic. This chapter sets out basic principles and their application to foreign domiciliaries. There is some fascinating material in the IHT Manual which is not discussed here.

30.2 Deduction for liability of individual

Section 5(3) IHTA provides the authority for deducting an individual's liabilities (or so one might think):

In determining the value of a person's estate at any time his liabilities at that time shall be taken into account, except as otherwise provided by this Act.

In *Green v IRC* [2005] STC 288 the judge said:

1 When dealing with debts it may also be necessary to consider other issues:

- (1) whether the debt is a UK situate asset, relevant for CGT and IHT position of the owner of the debt; see 38.1 (Situs);
- (2) whether interest on the debt has a UK source, relevant for:
 - (a) the recipient of the interest who may suffer UK income tax; and
 - (b) the payor, who may be required to deduct tax;see 6.16 (Situs of source of interest) and 24.1 (Withholding tax on interest).

Consistent with the patchwork nature of UK tax law, different (though overlapping) considerations apply in these contexts.

... the property of the deceased ... is his personal estate net of his liabilities. In other words, it is at that stage that the liabilities are dealt with. It is not necessary for section 5(3) to provide for a second time that the debts are to be deducted in arriving at the value of the deceased's property (or estate) and in my view it is not really doing that. It is in part confirmatory, but in the main it is intended to provide a qualification or qualifications to the principle that debts are deductible - the meat of the subsection is in the closing words "except as otherwise provided by this Act". One finds provisions in the Act which qualify that right in sections 5(4), 5(5) and 162. Its confirmatory nature is supported by the use of the phrase "taken into account", which is more general than "shall be deducted". I accept that the nature of section 5(3) would be clearer without the comma, but nevertheless it seems to me to be clear enough.

This is a contorted (and unnecessary) construction. However, it makes no difference whether s.5(3) is regarded as authorising or merely confirming a deduction, so it does not ultimately matter.²

The general rule has four exceptions. The first is in s.5(5) which provides:

Except in the case of a liability imposed by law, a liability incurred by a transferor shall be taken into account only to the extent that it was incurred for a consideration in money or money's worth.

This does not often apply, because a liability is normally incurred for full consideration.³ For instance, if an individual borrows money, the liability to repay the lender is in principle outside the scope of s.5(5), because it is a debt incurred for full consideration. By contrast, if an individual gratuitously covenants to pay money to a person, his liability to pay under that covenant is not taken into account for IHT.

Section 162(1) provides a second, self-explanatory exception:

-
- 2 The judge construed the section this way in order to justify his (sensible) conclusion that an individual's debt is not allowable against trust funds. However, there were other ways to reach that result.
 - 3 For a discussion of the meaning of "consideration" in tax legislation, see *Venables and Kessler on the Taxation of Charities* (Key Haven, 5th ed., 2005) para 20.5 (Meaning of 'consideration').

A liability in respect of which there is a right to reimbursement shall be taken into account only to the extent (if any) that reimbursement cannot reasonably be expected to be obtained.

The third exception, mentioned only for completeness, relates to “any liability arising under or in connection with a policy of life insurance”; see s.103(7) FA 1986.

A liability is in principle deductible even though it is owed to a connected person. But in this case s.103 FA 1986 will sometimes apply.

30.3 Section 103 FA 1986

The last and most important restriction on deducting debts for IHT is the anti-avoidance provision in s.103 FA 1986. This applies (in short) where an individual owes a debt to a person to whom he has previously made a gift.

The section was described in *McDougal v IRC* 31 ATC 153 as “intricate and involved in expression”. But if one works patiently through it the meaning becomes clear; contrast the less convoluted but more obscure wording of s.102. So s.103 must be split up into separate parts in order to distil the sense:

Treatment of certain debts and incumbrances

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, if, in determining the value of a person’s estate immediately before his death, account would be taken, apart from this subsection, of a liability consisting of
- [i] a debt incurred by him or
 - [ii] an incumbrance created by a disposition made by him,
- that liability shall be subject to abatement to an extent ...

Thus, subject to certain defences, s.103(1) disallows the deduction for the liability to a certain extent. The section then goes on to explain the extent of the disallowance:

... to an extent proportionate to the value of any of the consideration given for the debt or incumbrance which consisted of—

- (a) property derived from the deceased; or
- (b) consideration (not being property derived from the deceased) given by any person who was at any time entitled to, or amongst whose resources there was at any time included, any

property derived from the deceased.

Thus s.103(1) works like this:

- (1) One needs to identify the consideration given for the liability.
- (2) One asks to what extent the consideration consists of the type of consideration described in section 103(1)(a) and (b).
- (3) To that extent the consideration is in principle disallowed. (There are two defences to the s.103 disallowance. I will come to those later.)

30.3.1 *Section 103(1)(a) disallowance*

One needs first of all to ascertain whether the consideration was “property derived from the deceased”. If so, it is disallowed under s.103(1)(a). The expression “property derived from the deceased” is defined in section 103(3):

In subsections (1) and (2) above “property derived from the deceased” means, subject to subsection (4) below,

- [a] any property which was the subject matter of a disposition made by the deceased, either by himself alone or in concert or by arrangement with any other person or
- [b] which represented any of the subject matter of such a disposition, whether directly or indirectly, and whether by virtue of one or more intermediate dispositions.

(Paragraphing added)

The IHT Manual gives this example at IHTM28365:

Example 1

On 19 March 1987 A gives his brother B £25,000.

On 25 April 1987 A borrows back from B £25,000.⁴

On 7 April 1994 A dies.

Without the legislation A’s estate contains the original £25,000. But if

4 [Author’s Note] It is assumed that this £25,000 is, or represents, the £25,000 given to B.

the money were still owing when A died the debt might be claimed as a deduction against his estate. And the PET in 1987 is exempt as more than seven years have elapsed.

The legislation disallows the deduction for IHT purposes.

See too paragraph IHTM28367:

In practice, income from property given absolutely by the deceased is treated as falling outside the definition [contained in s.103(3)]. But where the deceased settled the property, the definition includes income payable under the disposition.

You should treat money raised by the sale or mortgage of property derived from the deceased as though it was property derived from the deceased.

30.3.2 *Section 103(1)(b) disallowance*

Assuming one passes unscathed past the s.103(1)(a) disallowance, the journey takes us to s.103(1)(b). One must identify the person who gave the consideration. One then asks whether this is a person:

who was at any time entitled to, or amongst whose resources there was at any time included, any property derived from the deceased.

If so, the liability is disallowed under s.103(1)(b). The IHT Manual gives this example at IHTM28366:

On 19 March 1987 A gives his brother B a parcel of land worth £25,000.

On 25 April 1987 A borrows £25,000 from B.⁵

On 7 April 1994 A dies, at which time B retains the land which is non-income producing.

The PET has dropped out of cumulation so that no claim arises on the death.

As the consideration for the debt was not derived from the deceased s.103(1)(a) FA 1986 would be ineffective. But this arrangement is caught by s.103(1)(b) FA 1986 and the liability is not an allowable

5 [Author's Note] It is assumed that the £25,000 which B lends to A does not represent the land.

deduction for IHT purposes.

30.3.3 *The section 103(2) defence to section 103(1)(b)*

Section 103(2) offers a defence to the section 103(1)(b) disallowance.⁶ This provides:

If, in a case where the whole or a part of the consideration given for a debt or incumbrance consisted of such consideration as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) above, it is shown that

[a] the value of the consideration given, or of that part thereof, as the case may be, exceeded

[b] that which could have been rendered available by application of all the property derived from the deceased, other than such (if any) of that property—

(a) as is included in the consideration given, or

(b) as to which it is shown that the disposition of which it, or the property which it represented, was the subject matter was not made with reference to, or with a view to enabling or facilitating, the giving of the consideration or the recoupment in any manner of the cost thereof,

no abatement shall be made under subsection (1) above in respect of the excess.

The IHT Manual explains:

IHTM28369 - Investigating form D16: allowing part of a debt under s.103(2) FA 1986

Even if an arrangement (IHTM28366) is caught by s.103(1) FA 1986, a deduction may be allowed for part of the debt. The debt will not be reduced to the extent that the value of the consideration given by the deceased exceeded what would have been made possible had the lender applied all the property derived from the deceased.

Example

A gives his son B shares worth £20,000.

B lends A, out of his separate resources, £25,000 at a time when the shares were worth £17,000.

A dies and a deduction of £25,000 is claimed.

The value in point is the realisable value at the time the debt was

⁶ Section 103(2) does not override the section 103(1)(a) disallowance.

created. So the liability is reduced by £17,000 leaving £8,000 as a valid deduction.

For this purpose the following property derived from the deceased is disregarded

- property included in the consideration given (that is property falling within s.103(1)(a) FA 1986, s.103(2)(a) FA 1986
- property shown by the taxpayers to be derived from the deceased under a disposition which was not made with reference to, or with a view to enabling or facilitating, the giving of consideration or the recoupment of its cost, s.103(2)(b) FA 1986.

Example

A gives shares worth £15,000 to B

18 months later B sells half the shares back to A for £7,500 - which is not paid but left as a debt repayable on demand.

B lends A £12,000 entirely from his own resources.

A dies owing B £19,500.

The debt of £7,500 is clearly referable to the earlier gift of shares - and falls within s.103(1)(a) FA 1986. This liability is not deductible. Were it not for the provisions of s.103(2)(a) FA 1986 it would be possible to take into account that £7,500 in considering the debt of £12,000. The result would be that the entire debt of £12,000 would be non-deductible, meaning that the whole of the claimed £19,500 would be disallowed. But because under s.103(1)(b) FA 1986 half the value of the shares is included in the consideration given for the debt there remains an excess of £4,500. This figure of £4,500 for the allowable debt is arrived at by calculating the resources available to B against the second loan of £12,000 as £7,500, being the original gift of shares less the £7,500 disallowed. So the balance of £4,500 is deductible without restriction because under s.103(2)(a) FA 1986⁷ this amount is the excess consideration.

30.3.4 *The section 103(4) defence to section 103(1)(a) and (b)*

Section 103(4) provides a defence to the s.103(1)(a) and (b) disallowance:

If the disposition first-mentioned in subsection (3) above⁸ was not a transfer of value and it is shown that the disposition was not part of associated operations which included—

⁷ The Manual erroneously refers to s.103(a)(a) IHTA 1984.

⁸ See 30.3.1 (s.103(1)(a) disallowance).

- (a) a disposition by the deceased, either alone or in concert or by arrangement with any other person, otherwise than for full consideration in money or money's worth paid to the deceased for his own use or benefit; or
 - (b) a disposition by any other person operating to reduce the value of the property of the deceased,
- that first-mentioned disposition shall be left out of account for the purposes of subsections (1) to (3) above.

30.3.5 *Section 103(5) deemed PET*

Section 103(5) provides:

If, before a person's death but on or after 18 March 1986, money or money's worth, is paid or applied by him—

- (a) in or towards the satisfaction or discharge of a debt or incumbrance in the case of which subsection (1) above would have effect on his death if the debt or incumbrance had not been satisfied or discharged, or
 - (b) in reduction of a debt or incumbrance in the case of which that subsection has effect on his death,
- the [IHTA] shall have effect as if, at the time of the payment or application, the person concerned had made a transfer of value equal to the money or money's worth and that transfer were a potentially exempt transfer.

There is no express exemption for a foreign domiciled person. However, the principle of territorial limitation requires that some exception is implied. The best solution is that the deemed potentially exempt transfer should be regarded as not only "equal to the money or money's worth" but made out of the money or money's worth. Thus, if the individual is not UK domiciled at the time he repays the debt, *and* the debt is repaid out of non-UK situate property, then no tax charge arises. This would be broadly consistent with the similar provision in section 102(4) FA 1986.⁹

30.3.6 *Section 103 transitional rules*

Section 103(6) provides:

⁹ See 28.16 (Cesser of benefit during donor's lifetime).

Any reference in this section to a debt incurred is a reference to a debt incurred on or after 18 March 1986 and any reference to an incumbrance created by a disposition is a reference to an incumbrance created by a disposition made on or after that date...

30.4 The amount of deduction for a debt

Section 162(2) IHTA provides :

Subject to subsection (3) below, where a liability falls to be discharged after the time at which it is to be taken into account it shall be valued as at the time at which it is to be taken into account.

This only states expressly what one would have expected in any event.

30.5 Deduction for debt of foreign domiciled individual

A UK domiciled individual will not usually mind whether a deduction for his liabilities is set against UK or foreign property as it is usually all subject to IHT.

Suppose a foreign domiciled person with a liability that is deductible for IHT has:

- (1) UK situate property; and
- (2) excluded property.

From which property is the deduction for the debt made? If it is made from the excluded property the deduction is wasted.

30.5.1 *Debt is incumbrance*

Section 162(4) IHTA provides:

A liability which is an incumbrance on any property shall, so far as possible, be taken to reduce the value of that property.

If a liability is an incumbrance on both UK and non-UK assets there must be an apportionment. If the incumbrance on the UK assets has priority,

then the deduction should be against that property first.

If it is desired to secure a liability on non-UK property (but to keep the IHT deduction against UK property), a back to back guarantee may be a solution. That is:

- (1) T borrows from a third party (“the primary liability”).
- (2) T’s primary liability is guaranteed by a bank.
- (3) Under the terms of the guarantee T is required to reimburse the bank if the guarantee is called upon (“the second liability”). This second liability is secured on foreign assets.

Section 162(4) will not apply to the primary liability, which can in principle be deducted from UK property. But watch *Furniss v Dawson*.

Note the need to comply with the Bills of Sale Acts if securing loans on chattels.

30.5.2 *Debt not an incumbrance*

Section 162(5) IHTA provides:

Where a liability taken into account is a liability to a person resident outside the UK which neither—

- (a) falls to be discharged in the UK,¹⁰ nor
 - (b) is an incumbrance on property in the UK,
- it shall, so far as possible, be taken to reduce the value of property outside the UK.

This identifies three connecting factors. Where a debt is not an incumbrance on any property, there are two connecting factors and four possibilities:

10 For the place where a liability falls to be discharged, see *Chitty on Contracts*, 18th ed, 1999 para 22-054 (place of payment). In outline, the place is that specified in the contract, or (if not specified) the residence of the creditor. Further consideration is needed for a contract governed by foreign law.

Case No.	1	2	3	4
Liability to UK resident	No	No	Yes	Yes
Discharge out of the UK	No	Yes	No	Yes

Section 162(5) tells us the answer to Case 1: the debt is set against non-UK property. There is nothing about Cases 2 to 4. However, the implication is that in Cases 2 to 4 the debt reduces the value of the property in the UK.

What is the priority between ss.162(4) and (5)? It is considered that (4) is applied first. A liability which is an incumbrance on any property is so far as possible to be taken to reduce the value of that property. Only if it is not an incumbrance on any property, or if the amount of the liability exceeds the value of the property, does one apply the principles of s.162(5). The IHT Manual shows that HMRC accept this:

IHTM28395 - Law relating to debts: deducting liabilities where there is excluded property

You will see cases where there is excluded property in the estate and deductions may be properly payable out of both excluded and other property. In this situation, provided the debts are to UK creditors, you may allow a deduction in full against the non-excluded property.

But, in view of s.162(4) IHTA 1984 this does not apply to debts that are charged on excluded property.

IHTM28396 - Law relating to debts: deducting UK debts when there is both UK and foreign property in the estate

If the deceased's estate includes both UK and foreign assets you should first deduct any UK debts against the UK assets and the deficiency, if any, against the foreign assets. Debts are UK debts if one of the following applies

- they are owed to creditors resident solely in the UK
- they are charged on property in the UK, or
- they are contracted to be paid in the UK. ...

A debt which is set against UK property (but which is not charged on specific property) will be set against UK property rateably. Some of the debt may be wasted if the individual owns property qualifying for APR, BPR or exempt gilts.

30.5.3 *Conclusion*

It should be possible to arrange that a debt of a foreign domiciliary is in principle fully deductible against non-excluded property. This can be done without making the debt UK situate but it may give interest on the debt a UK source for income tax.

30.6 Planning: borrowing by individual¹¹ and acquisition of excluded property

Suppose F is not UK domiciled and owns UK situate property worth £1 million. He faces an IHT charge on that amount on his death.

F borrows £1 million charged on the UK property and deposits that sum outside the UK (“the offshore deposit”).

The value of his UK situate property is reduced by £1m and the value of his excluded property is increased by £1m. No IHT liability arises on the death of F.¹²

This may be useful “deathbed” planning since it avoids liability to IHT even if F dies immediately after it has been carried out. It also avoids the need for a CGT disposal (and the opportunity for a CGT free uplift on death is preserved).

Of course, the debt must not be charged on the offshore deposit. There could in principle be a back-to-back loan to minimise interest charges.

Technically the proposal cannot be faulted. Will the *Ramsay* principle apply? The risk varies depending on exactly how the arrangement is set up.

30.7 Debt from life tenant to interest in possession trust

30.7.1 *Debt owed by non-settlor life tenant to trust*

Suppose trustees have lent money to the life tenant (not the settlor). At first glance, the position seems to be:

- (1) The life tenant can claim a deduction for the debt on his death.

11 See also 30.10 (Borrowing by trustees and acquisition of excluded property).

12 Except so far as property prices rise.

- (2) The benefit of the debt is an asset of the trust fund, and therefore usually part of the estate of the life tenant.

These two factors, the deduction and the asset, normally cancel each other out and the position ends up at neutral. Where, however, the benefit of the debt is excluded property (i.e. foreign domiciled settlor at the time the settlement was made and the debt not UK situate) then one would appear at first sight to have the happy position of:

- (1) a deduction for the burden of the debt in the estate of the life tenant; and
- (2) no IHT on the benefit of the debt, being excluded property.

Robert Venables QC disagrees. He cites section 49(1) IHTA and Lord Asquith's familiar dictum in *East End Dwellings Co. Ltd v Finsbury Borough Council* [1952] AC 109¹³ and continues:

If one applies Lord Asquith's dictum, what is deemed to happen when the settlor¹⁴ in fact borrows money from the trustees? As he is deemed to own the money before it is borrowed, he cannot borrow it from himself. The transfer of the money to himself is a non-event for inheritance tax purposes. His estate is subject to no debt, as a man cannot owe a debt to himself. The question of any such debt being treated as non-deductible in computing the value of his estate for inheritance tax purposes therefore does not arise. Conversely, however, the settled property does not include the right to sue the settlor for the money borrowed, as a man cannot have a right against himself.¹⁵

I respectfully agree. A practical solution may be to arrange that the debt is not due to the trustees, but to a company owned by the trustees.

13 These are set out in 26.9 and 28.12 respectively.

14 Venables is considering the position of a settlor life tenant but the same applies to a non-settlor life tenant.

15 "An IHT Trap for Settlers of Non-UK Resident Trusts", Robert Venables QC, OTPR, vol 4, issue 3, p.165.

30.7.2 *Debt owed by settlor to trust or trust subsidiary*

A debt owed by the settlor to a trust is in principle non-deductible by virtue of s.103 FA 1986. Likewise a debt due to a trust subsidiary (i.e. a company wholly owned by trustees which holds beneficially what might in substance be regarded as trust assets).

30.7.3 *Debt owed by life tenant settlor to interest in possession trust*

Suppose the debt is owed by the life tenant settlor to the trustees. At first glance the unhappy result is that the debt is disallowed under section 103, and the trustees nevertheless hold an asset which (unless excluded property) would fall to be part of the settlor's estate. HMRC do not appear to take this point. They probably accept the Venable's view set out in paragraph 30.7.1 above that the debt and the asset of the trust cancel each other out and both are ignored.

30.8 Debts to and from trusts

Do not confuse two situations:

- (1) The situation where an individual owes a debt to trustees (e.g. the trustees have lent money to the individual). Here:
 - (a) the individual may seek to claim an IHT deduction for the burden of the debt in his estate;
 - (b) the trustees have an asset, the benefit of the debt (which may or may not be excluded property).
- (2) The reverse situation where trustees owe a debt to a person (e.g. an individual has lent to the trustees). Here:
 - (a) the individual owns an asset in his estate, the benefit of the debt, which may or may not be excluded property;
 - (b) the trustees or beneficiaries may seek to claim an IHT deduction for the burden of the debt on the trust property.

The issue of deduction for debts of trustees raises entirely different questions to which we now turn.

30.9 Deduction for debts of trustees

Where a trustee has incurred a liability as trustee, he may in principle¹⁶ reimburse himself out of the trust fund. No beneficiary can prevent this. For this purpose the trustee has a lien over the trust fund. See Underhill and Hayton, *Law Relating to Trusts and Trustees*, 16th edition 2003, Chapter 18. This is the background one must bear in mind in construing the IHT legislation.

Let us consider first the position where the trustees have borrowed funds and an interest in possession terminates during the lifetime of the life tenant. There is of course a transfer of value and the value transferred is:

equal to the value of the property *in which his interest subsisted*.

(Section 52(1) IHTA, emphasis added)

What is “the property in which his interest subsists”? In my view it is not the settled property; it is the property subject to the trustees’ lien. For the trustees’ lien takes priority over the interest of the life tenant. The trustees’ lien is a lien over both income and capital of the trust fund. The value of property is its market value. Market value of property subject to a lien will be the gross value, less the value of the lien. In this valuation exercise we are not strictly claiming a “deduction” for the lien. We are simply ascertaining what the market will pay for the property.

Similar considerations apply where an interest in possession terminates on the death of the life tenant.

This is the correct reason why trustee liabilities are allowable.¹⁷ Unfortunately this was not put to the Court in *Green v IRC* [2005] STC para.12 where the judge took a short cut to reach the same destination:

16 One exception is where the trustee has committed a breach of trust. In the discussion here, it is assumed that is not the case.

17 The point is explored in detail in the 3rd ed of this book para. 27.9 but it is not necessary to set this out now that *Green v IRC* has confirmed the principle that trustees’ debts are deductible for IHT.

... s.49 IHTA [deems] the deceased to be beneficially entitled to “the property” in which his life interest subsists. It does not say “net property” (ie the value of the property net of trust liabilities) but that is what it must mean, and the parties to this appeal both agree that in practice that is the effect the Revenue gives¹⁸ to the section.

It was not necessary to misconstrue “property” to mean “net property” to reach the sensible result. But this does not ultimately matter.

Section 103(1) FA 1986 provides:

... if, in determining the value of a person’s estate immediately before his death, account would be taken, apart from this subsection, of a liability consisting of a debt *incurred by him* or an incumbrance created by a disposition *made by him*, that liability shall be subject to abatement.

This does not apply as we are not concerned with a debt or disposition made by the individual.

30.9.1 *Against which property is deduction set?*

Where a trust has a UK domiciled settlor one may not usually mind whether a deduction for a trust debt is set against UK or foreign property as it is all subject to IHT. Where it does matter (e.g. where a trust with a foreign domiciled settlor has UK and excluded property) the principles are as follows:

- (1) If the liability is charged on specific trust property, the deduction is set against that property: s.162(4) IHTA.
- (2) If the liability is not charged on specific trust property, it is an incumbrance on the trust fund as a whole and deducted from the trust assets *pro rata*. The place of payment and residence of creditor are not relevant, and s.162(5) does not apply.

18 [Author’s note: See for instance IHT Manual IHTM10541 (deduction for trustees’ costs).]

30.10 Planning: borrowing by trustees¹⁹ and acquisition of excluded property

Foreign domiciled settlor; trust owns non-excluded property

Suppose T is the life tenant under a trust made by a foreign domiciliary. The trust owns UK situate property worth £1 million. The trustees face an IHT charge on that amount on his death.

The trustees borrow £1 million charged on the UK property and deposit that sum outside the UK.

In principle, the value of the UK situate property is reduced by £1m. The value of excluded property is increased. No IHT liability arises on the death of T.²⁰

UK domiciled settlor but foreign domiciled beneficiary

Suppose T is the life tenant under a trust made by a UK domiciliary. Trust property is not excluded property. T is not UK domiciled.

The trustees could solve this problem by transferring the trust property to T absolutely, but this may be impractical, and if the trust is UK resident, this may have an unacceptable CGT cost.

The trustees borrow £1 million and advance that sum to the beneficiary, who deposits it outside the UK. Alternatively, if T is not ordinarily resident, the trustees may borrow and invest in exempt gilts.

In principle, the value of the trust property is reduced by £1 million. T's property is excluded property, and no IHT liability arises on that on the death of T.

These examples may be useful “deathbed” planning since it avoids liability to IHT even if T dies immediately after it has been carried out. Will the *Ramsay* principle apply? It depends how the arrangement is carried out. More care is needed than for equivalent planning by an individual.

19 See also 30.6 (Borrowing by individual and acquisition of excluded property).

20 Except so far as property prices increase.

30.11 Deduction for funeral expenses

Section 172 IHTA provides:

In determining the value of a person's estate immediately before his death, allowance shall be made for reasonable funeral expenses.

Reference should be made for completeness to the IHT Manual:

IHTM10376 - Funeral expenses: overseas funerals of non-domiciled deceased

You should allow overseas funeral expenses as a deduction against the UK estate, even if the deceased was not domiciled in the UK for IHT purposes.

Although s.162(5) IHTA 1984 might seem to justify the deduction of such expenses from the non-UK estate, that sub-section cannot apply as funeral expenses are not a liability for the purposes of s.5 IHTA 1984 or s.162 IHTA 1984.

CHAPTER THIRTY ONE

IHT PLANNING BEFORE AND AFTER A CHANGE OF DOMICILE

31.1 IHT planning in anticipation of acquiring UK domicile

The basic strategy for the foreign domiciliary is to transfer his assets to a trust. If he has a foreign domicile when he makes the settlement, trust property situated outside the UK will be excluded property and will retain that status indefinitely, even if the settlor himself later becomes domiciled here. This has been common practice since 1975, and HMRC accept it.

31.1.1 *The time limit*

The foreign domiciliary who creates his trust before acquiring a UK domicile will find that neither he nor his descendants need be troubled by IHT on the trust property. The opportunity, once missed, cannot be regained so it is desirable to ascertain the exact moment when a UK domicile is acquired. There are three possibilities:

- (1) The individual who has decided to make his permanent home in the UK will acquire a UK domicile as soon as he arrives here. Such an individual must carry out his tax planning before setting foot in this country.
- (2) The individual who arrives here to take up residence without such an intention will acquire a UK domicile when he later forms the intention to live here permanently. He must carry out his tax planning before his mind is made up. In practice, he should do so as soon as possible and preferably while his long term intentions remain unclear.

- (3) The individual who arrives and remains residing in the UK without deciding to live here permanently will acquire a deemed UK domicile after fifteen to seventeen years' residence here: see 25.3 (Deemed UK domicile). This is the long-stop deadline for this basic IHT planning, although limited planning opportunities remain available for the deemed domiciliary; see 25.9 (Tax planning for the deemed domiciliary).

31.1.2 *Form of trust*

A suitable trust will take the following form:

- (1) Income to be accumulated or paid to someone other than the settlor or his spouse for three months;¹
- (2) Subject thereto income is to be paid to the settlor for his life;
- (3) Subject thereto the trust fund is to be held on discretionary trusts for the benefit of the family of the settlor.

Trust income will belong to the life tenant but (if not UK domiciled) he may mandate the trustees to retain the income and add it to capital. This may be useful to avoid "relevant income"; see 14.13 (Is income of life tenant "relevant income"?).

A simple discretionary settlement is also a possible form. For a full discussion of the drafting issues, see *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, 7th ed., 2004 (James Kessler QC).

31.2 General strategy for trustees of trust with foreign domiciled settlor

There are two general points. The first is to avoid UK situate property, at least when it matters: see 29.1 (IHT planning creating excluded property).

Trust property in a settlement created by a true foreign domiciliary can remain effectively out of the inheritance tax net so long as the trust continues to exist. The trustees should be reluctant to appoint trust capital

¹ Provision (1) is necessary to prevent the settlor having an initial interest in possession which could have inconvenient results if the settlor were to become domiciled in the UK: see 26.10 (Initial interest of settlor or spouse).

to a beneficiary who is or may become UK domiciled; that property may cease to be excluded property. On the contrary, all possible steps should be taken to maintain the life and value of the trust. If necessary, steps should be taken to extend its life by exercising powers of appointment or advancement.

If a UK domiciled beneficiary has substantial assets in his own estate then it may be worth adopting a policy of gradually realising his own assets while allowing his trust fund to accumulate or invest for capital growth. The beneficiary might gradually realise his free capital, or perhaps use it to purchase an income tax efficient annuity.

31.3 IHT planning: trusts made by UK domiciled settlor who later acquires foreign domicile

What is the best form of tax planning where a settlor has made a settlement while UK domiciled and later acquires a foreign domicile? If nothing is done the trust property cannot be excluded property.

A good solution is to transfer the trust property back to the settlor. That may be impractical if:

- (1) the settlor is not a beneficiary, or
- (2) commercial or foreign tax or UK CGT considerations make this course unattractive.

In such a case, a second best but workable solution may be:

- (1) the settlor creates a new trust; and
- (2) the trustees of the old trust transfer the trust property to the new trust.

See 27.8 (Transfer from trust made by A to another trust made by A).

A third best solution involves loans: see 30.10 (Borrowing by trustees and acquisition of excluded property).

CHAPTER THIRTY TWO

IHT ON DEATH: WILLS AND IOVs

32.1 Will drafting: general strategy

There has always been considerable scope for tax saving through a carefully drafted Will.

32.1.1 *Foreign domiciled testator: UK domiciled beneficiaries*

The Will should in principle provide that the estate is held on trust for the beneficiaries so that the trust property situated outside the UK will remain excluded property.

32.1.2 *UK domiciled testator: foreign domiciled beneficiaries*

Here, conversely, the testator should in principle give his estate to beneficiaries absolutely so that the property may qualify as excluded property in their hands.

32.2 IHT spouse exemption

Section 18 IHTA provides:

- (1) A transfer of value is an exempt transfer to the extent that the value transferred is
 - [a] attributable to property which becomes comprised in the estate of the transferor's spouse or,
 - [b] so far as the value transferred is not so attributable, to the extent that that estate is increased.
- (2) If, immediately before the transfer, the transferor but not the transferor's spouse is domiciled in the UK the value in respect of which

the transfer is exempt ... shall not exceed £55,000 less any amount previously taken into account for the purposes of the exemption conferred by this section.¹

(Paragraphing added)

I refer to this as the IHT spouse exemption.

32.2.1 *Meaning of “spouse”*

The word “spouse” is used frequently in tax legislation so its meaning is an important issue.

Under regulations not issued at the time of going to print, the word is likely to include civil partners: s.103 FA 2005.

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM11032 - Spouse exemption: definition of ‘spouse’

The IHT legislation does not define ‘spouse’ so the general law applies. Consequently, the exemption applies to transfers between persons who are lawfully married to each other at the time of the transfer.

Spouses include

- persons who are validly married but separated
- parties to a valid polygamous marriage. The marriage confers the IHTA84/S18 exemption on all the spouses’ benefits which qualify under IHTA84/S18. Where the IHTA84/S18 (2) limit applies because of the spouses’ foreign domicile (IHTM11033), the total exemption (including any similar lifetime exemptions) may not exceed the IHTA84/S18 (2) limit.

The following are not spouses

- persons who are living together but not lawfully married, however long the relationship may have lasted (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- In Scotland the only form of irregular marriage now recognised by Scots law is that by cohabitation with habit and repute. Basically this arises where a man and woman cohabit together at bed and board as husband and wife and behave towards each other as such for a

1 I add for completeness that ss.18(3) and 56 contain anti-avoidance provisions rarely in point and not discussed here. There is a full discussion on the (almost) identical charity provisions in *Venables and Kessler on the Taxation of Charities* (5th ed., 2005).

considerable length of time so as to produce a general belief in the society and neighbourhood in which they live, and among their friends and relatives that they are married. They are then presumed to be so in fact although it is impossible to state with any precision a place and a time when they exchanged the consent which is essential for marriage. If it is claimed that this common law style of marriage entitles the parties to the exemption under IHTA84/S.18(1) in either a death or lifetime situation you should refer the file to TG (IHTM01081).

(This text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)

- parties to a bigamous marriage
- persons who were formerly lawfully married but divorced before the date of death/transfer

Holland v IRC [2003] STC (SCD) 43 is a startling case in which a cohabitee contends that she should be entitled to the IHT spouse exemption under Human Rights principles, discrimination between married and unmarried couples being in breach of article 14 ECHR (Prohibition of discrimination). If ultimately successful – and the prospects of success seem greater than before² – the consequences for the tax system will be of volcanic proportions.³ It will need several further cases to determine the various human rights issues. What about a same sex couple who have not entered into a civil partnership? What about a married man separated from his wife and living with another “as man and wife”? If spouse is construed widely in provisions conferring tax relief, should it also be construed in the same way in provisions which usually impose additional tax, such as the settlement provisions?

32.3 IHT spouse exemption on death of a foreign domiciliary

Suppose:

(1) H (not UK domiciled) dies leaving:

-
- 2 See the comments of the Joint Committee on Human Rights discussed at 35.1 (Pre-owned assets).
 - 3 Canada has had to face up to this issue: see e.g. the Ontario Act to Amend Certain Statutes because of the Supreme Court Decision in *M v H* (1990) and *Drafting Trusts & Will Trusts in Canada*, Kessler & Hunter, 1st ed para. 4.4.

- (a) UK property (not excluded property), and
- (b) foreign situate property (which is excluded property).

(2) Part of H's estate passes⁴ to his widow W.

This raises the interesting question of the interaction of the excluded property rules and the IHT spouse exemption. The relevant statutory provisions of the IHTA provide:

4 Transfers on death

(1) On the death of any person tax shall be charged as if, immediately before his death, he had made a transfer of value and the value transferred by it had been equal to the value of his estate immediately before his death.

5 Meaning of estate

(1) For the purposes of this Act a person's estate is the aggregate of all the property to which he is beneficially entitled, except that the estate of a person immediately before his death does not include excluded property.

The following propositions are clear:

- (1) IHT is charged as if H made a transfer of value ("the deemed transfer of value").
- (2) The estate of H immediately before his death did not include his excluded property.
- (3) The value transferred by the deemed transfer of value is equal to the value of H's estate (which is the value of the UK situate property).

Suppose, first, that on the death of H only his foreign situate (excluded) property passes to his spouse. Does the spouse exemption apply? Section 18(1) IHTA provides:

A transfer of value is an exempt transfer to the extent that the value transferred is

4 By will, by survivorship or by the relevant succession law; this makes no difference.

- [a] attributable to property which becomes comprised in the estate of the transferor's spouse or,
- [b] so far as the value transferred is not so attributable, to the extent that that estate is increased.⁵

(Paragraphing added)

The deemed transfer of value is not exempt under s.18(1)[a]. There is "property which becomes comprised in the estate of the spouse". However, the value transferred is not attributable to that property. That leaves the exemption in s.18(1)[b]. A transfer of value is an exempt transfer to the extent that the estate of the spouse is increased. The estate of the spouse is increased on the death of H.⁶ It is therefore considered that the spouse exemption does apply on a plain reading of the words.⁷ Is this result so absurd that the Courts should not adopt a plain reading? I do not see why it should be regarded as absurd. If W is UK domiciled the application of the spouse exemption on the death of H is reasonable, because W's estate is increased and the property W receives will be subject to tax on the death of W. It might be said to be anomalous because a lifetime gift of excluded property by H to his spouse would not qualify for the spouse exemption. But of course in such a case the spouse exemption is not needed.⁸ If the contrary view were adopted, then the practical consequence should not be to raise more funds for HMRC, but only to pose a trap for taxpayers and their advisers.

Now suppose H leaves W a pecuniary legacy. The IHT Manual provides at IHTM11013:

Where the will of a person domiciled (IHTM13000) abroad disposes of his UK estate and some or all of his world estate, exemption for pecuniary legacies (IHTM12082) should be given against the UK estate in the proportion which that bears to the world estate, and not wholly

-
- 5 In the case considered here the restriction in section 18(2) does not apply since H (the transferor) is not domiciled in the UK.
 - 6 This is the case even if the property is excluded property in the estate of W (which will be the case if W was not UK domiciled). Excluded property is "property" for IHT and (except immediately before death) a person's estate includes his excluded property.
 - 7 Exemption is given to the extent of the value of the property given to W.
 - 8 The end result is consistent with the exemption for funeral expenses; see 30.11 (Deduction for funeral expenses).

against the UK estate. Where you have difficulty in obtaining details of the world estate, or where the official practice meets resistance, you should refer the case to TG (IHTM01081).

This is correct in relation to charities. The IHT charity exemption is more narrowly worded. But for spouses, it is not consistent with the words of s.18(1)[b]. It is suggested that the spouse exemption applies to the full extent of the pecuniary legacy. It makes no difference whether the pecuniary legacy is subsequently paid out of UK or foreign situate property.

Chapter III Part II IHTA (Allocation of Exemptions) does not shed much light on the issue. Section 36 provides that these rules apply where (*inter alia*) s.18 IHTA applies:

in relation to a transfer of value but the transfer is not wholly exempt ...

In the circumstances we are envisaging, the transfer will be “wholly exempt” if the value given to the spouse equals the value of the UK situate property. What happens if the value given to the spouse is less than the value of the UK situate property so the transfer is not wholly exempt? Let us assume that what the spouse receives is a “specific gift” as defined in s.42(1). Section 38(1) provides that:

Such part of the value transferred shall be attributable to specific gifts as corresponds to the value of the gifts ...

This confirms the view taken above.

32.4 Implications for drafting will of foreign domiciliary

32.4.1 *Gift to spouse by will*

Where a foreign domiciled testator has non-excluded property and excluded property, and is married so the IHT spouse exemption is available, the safe strategy will be:

- (1) to give the non-excluded property to:
 - (a) the spouse; or
 - (b) a trust where the spouse has an interest in possession (better

where the spouse is UK domiciled).

(2) to give excluded property to other persons.

A pecuniary legacy to the spouse should be charged on non-excluded property. Watch the drafting.

This course should avoid a dispute with HMRC. However, it is not necessary.

32.4.2 *Charitable gifts by will*

Where a foreign domiciled testator has non-excluded property and excluded property, the correct strategy will be:

(1) to give the non-excluded property to UK charities;

(2) to give excluded property to other persons.

A pecuniary legacy to the charity should be charged on non-excluded property.

32.5 Instruments of variation (“IOVs”)

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM35094 - Property redirected to the spouse: redirection of excluded property

Another scheme (see also IHTM35093) where the taxpayers seek to take advantage of the provisions of IHTA84/S142 without there being a bona fide variation is where the estate contains excluded property (IHTM04251) such as government securities.

The deceased, domiciled (IHTM13000) outside the UK, may leave property in this country to chargeable beneficiaries and excluded property to the spouse. An IoV may then be used for the spouse’s entitlement to be switched from excluded property to the ordinary UK estate without any change in the amount the spouse receives.

You should refer cases of this type immediately above to TG (IHTM01081) without making any preliminary enquiries provided the basic facts are clear.

I do not understand in what sense it could be said that this is not a “bona fide variation”.⁹ Section 142(5) IHTA expressly envisages an IOV relating to excluded property.

A variation of this kind cannot sensibly be challenged if properly carried out. If the author’s view of the spouse exemption is right, however, an IOV would not be necessary. (It may nevertheless be desirable as a useful precaution where a will has not been drafted in the manner recommended above.)

32.6 IHT account on death of foreign domiciliary

See 40.2 (Reporting requirements on death of foreign domiciled individual).

9 It would be different if there was an arrangement under which the spouse later swapped the UK property for the excluded property.

CHAPTER THIRTY THREE

UK DOMICILIARY MARRIED TO FOREIGN DOMICILIARY

33.1 Introduction

This chapter considers the position of a UK domiciled individual who is married to foreign domiciled spouse. It is necessary to consider the various taxes separately.

33.2 Restriction on IHT spouse exemption for foreign domiciled spouse

Section 18(1) IHTA normally provides complete exemption for transfers between husbands and wives; see 32.2 (IHT spouse exemption). Section 18(2) imposes an important exception:

If, immediately before the transfer, the transferor but not the transferor's spouse is domiciled in the UK the value in respect of which the transfer is exempt (calculated as a value on which no tax is chargeable) shall not exceed £55,000 less any amount previously taken into account for the purposes of the exemption conferred by this section.

So where:

- (1) the transferor is UK domiciled (or deemed UK domiciled), and
- (2) the transferee (the spouse of the transferor) is foreign domiciled

the exemption is restricted to £55,000 only.¹ While it is generally true that a foreign domicile is a passport to tax saving, this is one circumstance in which a foreign domicile does represent a serious drawback.

This restriction does not apply the other way round, where the foreign domiciled individual makes a transfer to his UK domiciled spouse. (Nor should it apply in those circumstances because such a transfer brings assets which would have been outside the realm of IHT within its scope.)

The restriction does not apply where both spouses are not domiciled in the UK. The restriction may be modified by double tax treaties if a spouse is domiciled in an appropriate treaty country.

Transfers which do not qualify for the spouse exemption will be PETs unless some other exemption is in point.

One solution to this problem is to wait until the foreign domiciled spouse becomes deemed UK domiciled under s.267 IHTA: see 25.3 (Deemed UK domicile).

It is arguable that the restriction is contrary to the Human Rights Act 1998. We will know a little more when *Holland v IRC* has become final. It is also arguable that the restriction is in breach of EU law, where the spouse is domiciled in another EU state.

33.2.1 *Interaction of £55,000 spouse exemption and other exemptions*

An inter-spouse gift within the £55,000 limit will *not* be a PET. Section 3A(1)(b) IHTA provides that a PET is a transfer of value “which, apart from this section, would be a chargeable transfer”. So if one spouse makes a gift to the other, that gift uses up the £55,000 limit even though

1 The IHT Manual states at IHTM11033:

“The £55,000 limit applies to

- the value before grossing (IHTM26121)
- the cumulative total of all transfers to a spouse, or spouses, domiciled outside the UK. So you should take into account the amounts allowed under earlier transfers in which the IHTA84/S18 (2) limitation applied in considering whether the £55,000 is exceeded
- transfers on or after 9 March 1982. For transfers before that date the limit was lower, and you should refer to the Taxes Acts 1982 Edition held in the library

Where the £55,000 limit is exceeded, you should allocate the exemption in the manner which is most favourable to the spouse. Factors you should bear in mind include the incidence of tax and the availability of business relief (IHTM225130), agricultural relief (IHTM24001) or other reliefs.”

the gift is made more than seven years from the death and would otherwise qualify as an exempt transfer, as a PET.

The position is different for a gift within section 11 IHTA (dispositions for maintenance of family). Such a gift is not a transfer of value at all and therefore it is not a transfer which qualifies for the spouse exemption and does not use up the £55,000 limit. Likewise a gift of excluded property.

The position is less clear for a transfer (outside section 11) which qualifies for the annual or normal expenditure exemptions. Such a transfer is an exempt transfer under those exemptions: does it also use up the £55,000 limit for inter-spouse gifts? There is no clear answer in the legislation but it is suggested that these transfers do not use up the £55,000 limit. That would seem to better fit the scheme of the legislation.

33.3 Application of IHT spouse exemption on death

On this topic see 32.3 (IHT spouse exemption on death of a foreign domiciliary).

33.4 Exemption when spouse or widow of settlor becomes entitled to settled property

The termination of an interest in possession (during the life of the life tenant) is a transfer of value under s.52 IHTA. Section 53(4) IHTA provides:

Tax shall not be chargeable under section 52 above if on the occasion when the interest comes to an end—

- (a) the settlor's spouse, or
- (b) where the settlor has died less than two years earlier, the settlor's widow or widower,

becomes beneficially entitled to the settled property and is domiciled in the UK.²

This relief only applies if the spouse is UK domiciled. The restriction on s.53(4) relief is broadly consistent with the restriction to the spouse exemption considered above (and indeed this or something similar is necessary to prevent avoidance of the restriction on s.18 relief).

2 Section 53 goes on to set out some exceptions not discussed here.

Section 54(2) IHTA sets out similar rules for the termination of an interest in possession on the death of the life tenant.

33.5 Disposition for maintenance of spouse

Where the spouse exemption does not apply, another exemption may sometimes fill the gap. An inter-spouse gift may qualify for relief under s.11(1) IHTA:

A disposition is not a transfer of value if it is made by one party to a marriage in favour of the other party ... and is—
(a) for the maintenance of the other party ...³

This would normally apply, in particular, to the common case where an individual gives a half share in the family home to his spouse. The most basic requirement of “maintenance” is to have a secure roof over one’s head.⁴

A gift which is within s.11 IHTA (Disposition for family maintenance) is outside the scope of the reservation of benefit rules. For such a disposition is not a transfer of value; so it is deemed not to reduce the transferor’s estate: s.3 IHTA. So by implication it must be treated as not being a “disposal by way of gift”. (Any other conclusion would lead to absurd results. For a disposition between spouses within s.11 is not a transfer of value, and so not within s.18, and so would come within the reservation of benefit rules even if both spouses were UK domiciled.)⁵

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- 3 I mention for completeness the further relief in s.11(3) which overlaps with s.11(1). In practice an inter-spouse gift which qualifies under s.11(3) will also qualify under s.11(1).
 - 4 Lump sum payments can constitute “maintenance”. Contrast section 2(1) (b) Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 (formerly section 1(4) (Inheritance (Family Provision) Act 1938) which states that lump sum payments may constitute “maintenance” for the purpose of the Act. This is also assumed in Sch 15 para 10(1)(d) FA 2004.
 - 5 If my view were wrong the further anomaly would arise that gifts of qualifying investments to charity would fall within the scope of GWR, because such gifts fall within s.12 IHTA and not s.102(5)(d) FA 1986; but it is not necessary to pursue that here.

33.6 Reservation of benefit on inter-spouse gift

33.6.1 Application of spouse exemption on GWR property

The GWR rules⁶ do not generally apply on gifts from one spouse to another. Section 102(5) FA 1986 provides relief:

This section does not apply if or, as the case may be, to the extent that the disposal of property by way of gift is an exempt transfer by virtue of any of the following provisions of Part II of the [IHTA],—

(a) section 18 (transfers between spouses) ... ;

Where a UK domiciled individual makes a gift to a foreign domiciled spouse, the spouse exemption is restricted to £55,000 and a gift over that limit will be within the scope of GWR, unless some other exemption is in point.⁷

One solution to this problem is to sell assets at market value, so there is no disposal by way of gift. Watch the SDRT/SDLT implications.

When a foreign domiciled individual makes a gift of excluded property to his spouse, s.18 and s.102(5)(a) do not apply; but such gifts are outside the scope of GWR; see 28.9 (Gift of excluded property).

33.6.2 Spouse exemption defence to GWR charge on death

Suppose H (UK domiciled) makes a gift to W (foreign domiciled at the time of the gift).⁸ The gift does not qualify for the IHT spouse (or any other) exemption and H continues to enjoy benefits from the property until his death. Accordingly the gifted property is subject to a reservation and hereafter called “GWR property”. On the death of H the position is governed by s.102(3) FA 1986:

that property shall be treated for the purposes of the [IHTA] as property to which [H] was beneficially entitled immediately before his death.

⁶ See 28.1 (Reservation of benefit).

⁷ Such as the family maintenance exemption: see 33.5 (Disposition for maintenance of spouse).

⁸ The gift is a PET (but assume H survives seven years so no tax charge arises on the PET).

The GWR property is not excluded property (even if W is foreign domiciled at the time of the death of H).⁹ So H will in principle be subject to inheritance tax on the property on his death.

The interesting question is whether the spouse exemption is available on the death of H to avoid the GWR charge. It is considered that the spouse exemption would apply if the facts are as set out above, and, in addition:

- (3) W retains the GWR property at the time of her death, and
- (4) W has become UK domiciled (or deemed domiciled) at the time of the death of H.

At first glance it might seem that the spouse exemption does not apply. The IHT spouse exemption provides that the transfer of value deemed to be made on the death of H:

- ... is an exempt transfer to the extent that the value transferred is
 - [a] attributable to property which becomes comprised in the estate of the transferor's spouse or,
 - [b] so far as the value transferred is not so attributable, to the extent that that estate is increased.

On the facts of this example the conditions of the relief are not in reality satisfied. The GWR property subject to the reservation does not “become” comprised in the estate of the spouse; and on the occasion of the death of H, the estate of the spouse has not “increased”. However, one must remember that s.102(3) FA 1986 is a deeming provision. It is the old question of how far one carries the deeming.¹⁰ If one deems, as s.102(3) requires, the GWR property to be property to which H was beneficially entitled, it would follow that one must deem the estate of W to be increased by reason of the death of H. The conclusion is supported by considering the object of the GWR rules. The object is to put the donor in the same position as if he had not made the gift. If H had not made his gift then (on the facts of the above example) he would qualify for the

9 See 28.12 (Absolute gift subject to GWR: operation of excluded property rules on death of donor).

10 See 28.12 (Absolute gift subject to GWR).

spouse exemption.

The spouse exemption would also apply to defeat a GWR charge if H made a gift to a trust under which his spouse acquired an interest in possession on his death.

33.6.3 *Remedial tax planning where there has been a GWR*

Where H has made a gift to W, and a reservation of benefit problem arises, the following solutions may be considered:

- (1) H ceases to enjoy any benefit.
- (2) W gives the property back to H.
- (3) Arrange that the spouse exemption applies on the death of H. (Not possible if H is UK domiciled and W is not UK domiciled at the time of the death of H.)
- (4) W settles the property: see 33.12.2 (Gift to foreign domiciled spouse, followed by settlement by spouse).

33.7 **Inter-spouse gift of 100% BPR or APR property**

This section considers a gift of property qualifying for 100% business or agricultural property relief from a UK domiciled spouse to a non-UK domiciled spouse. It is necessary to consider IHT on the gift and the gift with reservation rules. For convenience I refer to “business property” but similar rules govern agricultural property.

33.7.1 *IHT on the gift*

In the normal case of a gift of property qualifying for 100% BPR, the value transferred by the gift is nil. However, s.113A IHTA provides:

Transfers within seven years before death of transferor

- (1) Where any part of the value transferred by a potentially exempt transfer which proves to be a chargeable transfer would (apart from this section) be reduced in accordance with the preceding provisions of this Chapter, it shall not be so reduced unless the conditions in subsection

(3) are satisfied.

The conditions which must be satisfied are set out in subsection (3):

The conditions referred to in subsections (1) and (2) above are—

- (a) that the original property was owned by the transferee throughout the period beginning with the date of the chargeable transfer and ending with the death of the transferor; and
- (b) except to the extent that the original property consists of shares or securities to which subsection (3A) below applies that, in relation to a notional transfer of value made by the transferee immediately before the death, the original property would (apart from section 106 above) be relevant business property.

In brief, BPR is lost unless the property is retained by the donee for seven years. (There is an exception for replacement property which is not discussed here.)

33.7.2 *GWR on the gift if the donor survives seven years.*

What about GWR? The position varies according to whether or not the donor survives seven years from the gift.

If the donor does survive seven years then s.113A has no application. By subsection (1) it applies to a PET *which proves to be a chargeable transfer*. If the donor survives seven years then the PET does not “prove to be a chargeable transfer”. Accordingly the value transferred by the gift remains at nil. The gift therefore normally qualifies as an exempt transfer under:

- (1) s.20 IHTA (small gifts); or
- (2) s.18 IHTA (IHT spouse exemption).

The gift therefore falls outside the scope of the GWR rules by virtue of s.102(5) FA 1986.

The principle applies to:

- (1) outright gifts of 100% BPR property whether or not to spouses;
- (2) gifts to trusts under which the spouse has an interest in possession even if such gifts are not “outright gifts” (but consider s.102(5A)).

It does not matter that the property is sold or disposed of by the donee within the seven years as long as the donor has survived seven years. Section 113A(7A) IHTA provides:

The provisions of this Chapter for the reduction of value transferred shall be disregarded in any determination for the purposes of this section of whether there is a potentially exempt or chargeable transfer in any case.

This is irrelevant because the disregard is only for the purposes of s.113A, not for the purposes of ss.18, 20 IHTA and s.102 FA 1986.

33.7.3 *GWR if donor dies within seven years*

The position is different if the donor dies within seven years. Suppose:

- (1) H (UK domiciled) gives 100% BPR property to W (foreign domiciled);
- (2) H dies within seven years;
- (3) the conditions in s.113A(3) are not satisfied (for instance the property has been sold¹¹ or disposed of by the donee).

In that case the value transferred is *not* reduced: s.113A(1). It is considered that the disallowance of BPR applies for all purposes of IHT. So the gift falls outside the protection of ss.18 and 20 IHTA (assuming the value transferred exceeds the limits of £55,000 and £250 respectively) and the GWR provisions can in principle apply.

It is impossible to believe anybody actually thought through these rules at the time the legislation was enacted. But these are the consequences of the words used and the result, if a little complicated, is relatively sensible.

33.8 Other relevant exemptions

The normal expenditure exemption (s.21 IHTA) may also be in point. Gifts which qualify for this exemption are still within the reservation of

¹¹ Though there is a possibility of reinvestment relief in this case: see s.113B IHTA.

benefit rule.

33.9 Divorce settlement between foreign domiciled and UK domiciled spouse

Suppose:

- (1) H transfers assets to W in order to settle a divorce claim, and
- (2) The transfer is outside the IHT spouse exemption.¹²

Section 10 IHTA provides:

Dispositions not intended to confer gratuitous benefit

(1) A disposition is not a transfer of value if it is shown that it was not intended, and was not made in a transaction intended, to confer any gratuitous benefit on any person and either—

- (a) that it was made in a transaction at arm's length between persons not connected with each other, or
- (b) that it was such as might be expected to be made in a transaction at arm's length between persons not connected with each other.

H does not normally intend to confer any “gratuitous benefit” on W. (Assume the divorce settlement is negotiated at arm's length.) Accordingly the transfer of value from H to W falls within section 10 IHTA and is not a transfer of value for IHT purposes.

There is a theoretical HMRC argument that the condition in section 10(1)(b) IHTA is not satisfied. The argument would be that a divorce settlement cannot be “such as might be expected to made in a transaction at arm's length between persons not connected with each other” since persons not connected with each other would not be in a divorce situation. In my view this argument is not correct. It is the old question of how far one carries the fiction of a deeming provision. The argument carries it too far because it reaches a conclusion which does not

12 This may be because H is UK domiciled and W is not; or because the transfer is made after the marriage is dissolved.

fit in with the scheme of the Inheritance Tax Act. IHT Manual¹³ (while not explicit) suggests that HMRC do not take the point.

33.10 Payments into and out of a joint account

33.10.1 Introduction

This section considers a joint bank or building society account held by spouses of whom one is, and one is not, UK domiciled. One could write a thesis on this fascinating topic. The problems do not arise if both spouses are (or both are not) UK domiciled because transfers between them qualify for the spouse exemption. Similar problems arise for joint accounts of cohabitants. Related problems arise for joint accounts held by parent and child, but the circumstances in which these joint accounts arise are different so the rights of the parties may be materially different.

There is an important distinction between:

- (1) an account on which either husband or wife can draw a cheque;
- (2) an account on which both husband and wife must sign a cheque.

This book only considers the first type of account.

33.10.2 The banking law background

First of all one must ascertain the rights of the joint holders of the bank account. It would need a chapter to analyse the relevant case law,¹⁴ but the starting point is *Re Bishop* [1965] Ch 450 at p.456:

Where a husband and wife open a joint account at a bank on terms that cheques may be drawn on the account by either of them, then, in my judgment, in the absence of facts or circumstances which indicate that

13 IHTM 04165: "Dispositions made on divorce for the benefit of a former spouse, whether under a Court Order or as a result of arm's length negotiations, are normally within IHTA/s 10."

14 For a summary see *Dymond's Capital Taxes*, para. 10.400. Further consideration is needed for an account not governed by English law (but an English court will assume English law principles apply in the absence of evidence to the contrary). English law principles apply in Ireland: *Lynch v Burke* ITR Vol 5 p.271.

the account was intended, or was kept, for some specific or limited purpose, each spouse can draw upon it not only for the benefit of both spouses but for his or her own benefit. Each spouse, in drawing money out of the account, is to be treated as doing so with the authority of the other and, in my judgment, if one of the spouses purchases a chattel for his own benefit or an investment in his or her own name, that chattel or investment belongs to the person in whose name it is purchased or invested: for in such a case there is, in my judgment, no equity in the other spouse to displace the legal ownership of the one in whose name the investment is purchased. What is purchased is not to be regarded as purchased out of a fund belonging to the spouses in the proportions in which they contribute to the account or in equal proportions, but out of a pool or fund of which they were, at law and in equity, joint tenants. It also follows that if one of the spouses draws on the account to make a purchase in the joint names of the spouses, the property purchased, since it is purchased in joint names, is, *prima facie*, joint property and there is no equity to displace the joint legal ownership. There is, in my judgment, no room for any presumption which would constitute the joint holders as trustees for the parties in equal or some other shares.

I refer to this as a *Bishop* account. This may be displaced by a contrary intention of the spouses. The possibilities include the following:

- (1) The funds in the account may belong beneficially to only one of the account holders, e.g. H and W may hold as nominees for H. Such an account may be held on terms that:
 - (a) on the death of H, the funds pass to W by survivorship;¹⁵ or
 - (b) the funds may pass under the Will of H.Either way, the IHT position is straightforward.
- (2) The funds in the account may belong to the account holders on terms that:
 - (a) each holder may make a withdrawal from his or her share (and the amount of his or her share is altered accordingly); and
 - (b) the beneficial ownership of the funds pass under the Will of each account holder.

In practice the Court will assume this is not the case unless there is good evidence, such as careful accounts being kept by the account

15 The apparent breach of the Wills Act 1837 is tacitly ignored.

holders. Where this is the case the IHT position is again straightforward.¹⁶

(3) The terms of the account may be that:

(a) One account holder (“P”) may withdraw up to the whole amount of his benefit and the others may make no withdrawal at all during P’s lifetime.

(b) The balance may pass to the survivors by survivorship.

In this case the fund is in the estate of P for IHT purposes: s.5(2) IHTA.¹⁷ The funds are not in the estate of the other holders during the life of P: their rights have no substantial value.

This enumeration is by no means comprehensive. The possibilities are almost endless. Note that joint tenancy/tenancy in common is not a comprehensive categorisation since it ignores the important question of rights over the fund during the lifetime of the account holders.

In practice spouses generally operate joint accounts without giving any consideration to the ownership of the money, a search for intention is unrealistic, and the *Bishop* analysis applies.

33.10.3 *HMRC practice*

HMRC practice (or some of it) is set out in the IHT Manual:

IHTM15042 - The extent of the claim (England, Wales and Northern Ireland): Joint money accounts

Application of the inheritance tax provisions (IHTM 150 12) to joint accounts can be particularly difficult. In practice

- you should normally regard each account holder as beneficially entitled (IHTM15011) to the proportion of the account which is attributable to his contributions. Thus, if the deceased provided the whole of the money, the whole of the account at death should be included in the IHT 200 (IHTM10021)
- in calculating this proportion you should assume that the drawings out by each should be set as far as possible against his own contributions,

16 John Avery Jones gives cogent reasons for rejecting this analysis to the parent/child account in *Sillars v IRC* [2004] STC (SCD) 180, para. 11.

17 This was found to be the case on the facts in *Sillars v IRC* (above) in which however the taxpayer was not represented by Counsel. The last part of the decision, that the GWR rule applies, is obiter and doubtful.

notwithstanding the rule in *Clayton's Case* [1816] 1 Mer 572

- it may be appropriate to enquire about any withdrawals made at the deceased's expense by the other joint owner(s) as these are likely to be lifetime transfers (IHTM15043). Look particularly critically at joint accounts opened shortly before death.
- it is common for each joint owner to have an unrestricted right to withdraw any part of the amount standing to the credit of the account and retain the withdrawal for his or her own use (for example, see *Re Bishop* [1965] Ch 450). You should not use this right of withdrawal to claim tax (for example, by reference to the definition of 'property' in IHTA84/S272 or the 'general power' provision in IHTA84/S52)) on a share of the account greater than that which results from the practice outlined above.

When raising a claim based on the deceased's contributions you should note that the true legal position is far from clear and, accordingly, it is vital to establish the facts and any relevant documents, e.g. application forms, withdrawal mandates, passbooks, terms and conditions of account etc. before considering the legal and equitable rules. Where the account holder has a joint account governed by Scots Law see IHTM15051 and IHTM15054. Refer to TG (IHTM01081) any case in which the parties dispute the claim. However, there is no need to refer if the deceased's interest passes to an exempt beneficiary, such as a surviving spouse. You should also avoid questions and arguments on this subject unless the amount of tax at stake is substantial. You should modify this approach where this is necessary to give effect to the realities of the situation.

Example

A, B and C share a joint account. They all contribute to it. A dies and his proportion of the account accrues by survivorship to B and C. After A's death, the entitlement of B and C should take into account A's contributions.

(This text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)

IHTM15043 - The extent of the claim (England, Wales and Northern Ireland): lifetime gifts arising out of a transfer of an account into joint names

Where A places money in a joint account (IHTM15042) in the names of A and B as joint tenants (IHTM15082) and retains the right to withdraw the whole of it, as a general rule there will not be a lifetime transfer (IHTM15060) at the time the money is paid into the account. But if any part is subsequently withdrawn for the benefit of B, the other joint owner, there may be a transfer at that time.

Refer to TG (IHTM01081) any case where

- there is such a withdrawal
- it is claimed that there was an immediate gift when the money was paid into the joint account
- there is evidence that an immediate gift was intended, or
- the position is more complicated, for example where withdrawals need both signatures

(This text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)

33.10.4 *What is the official secret?*

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Government can withhold information whose disclosure would be likely to prejudice the assessment or collection of tax.¹⁸ It is amazing that something as innocuous as the operation of a joint account should fall within this category.

What is it that HMRC do not want us to know? The author guesses that the withheld text makes the following points. In strictness both holders of a *Bishop* account are taxed on the basis that the whole of the joint account is in the estate of both.¹⁹ However, that result is so absurd HMRC cannot enforce it (and the Courts would strive to reach a different result if they tried, difficult though this would be). In consequence HMRC operate an unpublished concession, the boundaries of which are not defined, giving them a wide discretion to attack joint account arrangements which differ in any respect from *Bishop* accounts or where there has been an element of IHT avoidance.²⁰

Payment into a *Bishop* account is not a disposal by way of gift so the GWR rule does not apply.

33.10.5 *Planning implications*

Joint accounts should not be used for IHT planning. Ideally substantial sums should not be put in joint accounts at all (except where the account holders are married and qualify for the full IHT exemption). An alternative would be to use a joint account but to specify carefully the terms on which the account is held, but in practice it would be easier to use separate accounts.

33.11 Associated operations on inter-spouse gift

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM14833 - Associated operations: gifts between spouses

Where property

18 s. 31 Freedom of Information Act 2000.

19 This was accepted without discussion in *IRC v Melville* 74 TC 372.

20 See e.g. *O'Neill v IRC* [1998] STC (SCD) 110 and *Sillars (supra)*.

- given unconditionally by one spouse to the other
- is
- subsequently transferred by the latter to a third party,
- you cannot use the associated operations provisions to attribute the transfer to the first spouse.
- The Chief Secretary to the Treasury assured Parliament that this would be the Revenue's practice, and it was publicised in a Press Release dated 8 April 1975.

33.12 IHT planning for mixed marriage

33.12.1 Simple gift to foreign domiciled spouse

A simple and obvious short and medium term strategy is:

- (1) the UK domiciled spouse should give assets to his foreign domiciled spouse absolutely;
- (2) the foreign domiciled spouse keeps the assets in a form where they are not UK situate, so they remain excluded property.

The gift may be a PET but that may not in practice be a serious concern. If the reservation of benefits rule applies, however, this effectively neutralises any tax saving. Indeed it may make the position worse. See 33.6.2 (Spouse exemption defence to GWR charge on death). This often makes simple gifts impractical.

33.12.2 Gift to foreign domiciled spouse, followed by settlement by spouse

A more sophisticated IHT strategy is:

- (1) the UK domiciled spouse gives assets to his foreign domiciled spouse;
and
- (2) the foreign domiciled spouse subsequently gives the assets to a settlement.

In principle the property in the settlement may be excluded property. One advantage of this is if the donee spouse later becomes UK domiciled: see

31.1 (IHT planning in anticipation of acquiring UK domicile). Another advantage is CGT planning: see 18.14 (CGT planning before acquisition of asset or trade). A third advantage is that this should avoid the gifts with reservation rule.²¹ Of course this strategy only works if the UK domiciled spouse is not a settlor: see 37.22 (Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor).

33.13 CGT spouse exemption

Section 58(1) TCGA provides:

Husband and wife

If, in any year of assessment, and in the case of a woman who in that year of assessment is a married woman living with her husband, the man disposes of an asset to the wife, or the wife disposes of an asset to the man, both shall be treated as if the asset was acquired from the one making the disposal for a consideration of such amount as would secure that on the disposal neither a gain nor a loss would accrue to the one making the disposal.

I refer to this as the CGT spouse exemption. This exemption applies regardless of the domicile of the spouses. It applies to sales at market value as well as gifts.

The relief does not apply to (1) unmarried couples or (2) married couples living apart. Whether this is consistent with the Human Rights Act may become clearer after *Holland v IRC* [2003] STC (SCD) 43. Section 58(2) contains (usually) immaterial exceptions which are not discussed here.

The transfer has quirky consequences for CGT taper relief: see TCGA Schedule A1 para.15.

33.14 CGT planning for mixed marriage

33.14.1 *Asset yielding a gain*

Suppose the UK domiciled spouse owns an asset which will give rise to

21 See 28.15 (Gift to foreign domiciled donee who creates a settlement). It may also be possible to avoid this by giving the spouse an interest in possession; see 28.14 (Settlement in which donor has IP).

a gain on a disposal. A simple and obvious CGT strategy is:

- (1) The UK domiciled spouse transfers²² the asset to his foreign domiciled spouse.
- (2) The foreign domiciled spouse may be in a position to sell the asset without CGT: see 18.1 (CGT on individuals).

Watch *Furniss v Dawson*!

33.14.2 *Gift to foreign domiciled spouse followed by company or settlement by spouse*

A more sophisticated CGT strategy is:

- (1) The UK domiciled spouse transfers²³ the asset to his foreign domiciled spouse.
- (2) The foreign domiciled spouse then gives the asset to a trust.

This offers the CGT advantages discussed in 18.13 (CGT planning before disposal of foreign situate asset). The problems discussed in 33.12 (IHT planning for mixed marriage) arise. If the object is CGT planning and not long term IHT planning, a better planning strategy here may be:

- (1) The UK domiciled spouse transfers the asset to his foreign domiciled spouse.
- (2) The foreign domiciled spouse acquires a non-resident company.
- (3) The foreign domiciled spouse gives the asset to that company.

22 The transfer may be a gift or a sale at market value. The latter avoids the IHT problems discussed at 33.2 (Restriction on IHT spouse exemption for foreign domiciled spouse) and 33.6 (Reservation of benefit on inter-spouse gift) but take care on implementation especially s.58(2) TCGA. In the case of a sale the spouse will need independent legal advice.

23 See above footnote.

There is no trust, so no issue of “who is a settlor” arises. Take great care that the company can be proven to be non-resident!

33.14.3 *Asset yielding a loss*

The opposite point arises if the foreign domiciled spouse owns a foreign situate asset which will give rise to a loss. The loss on the disposal will not be allowable. See 18.18.2 (Loss on disposal by foreign domiciliary). Accordingly:

- (1) The foreign domiciled spouse transfers the asset to his UK domiciled spouse.
- (2) The UK domiciled spouse disposes of the asset.

The UK domiciled spouse should be in a position to realise an allowable loss.

33.15 **Income tax planning for mixed marriage**

A simple and obvious strategy is:

- (1) the UK domiciled spouse should give assets to his foreign domiciled spouse absolutely; and
- (2) the foreign domiciled spouse invests in property giving rise to foreign investment income which is not remitted.

The inter-spouse gift, strictly, satisfies the transfer of asset conditions. The transferor would then fall within s.739 ICTA since he has “power to enjoy” his wife’s income. This is because s.742(9) provides:

For the purposes of section 739 to 741—

- (a) a reference to an individual shall be deemed to include the wife or husband of the individual;

However, RI 201 provides relief:²⁴

Unless transactions are part of a wider arrangement, Revenue practice is not to seek to assess a UK domiciled individual on the income of a non-UK domiciled spouse, where that income arises from a transfer of assets by that spouse and would be outside the charge to tax under s 739 by virtue of the provisions of s 743(3).

The gift would also be a “settlement” for the purposes of s.624 ITTOIA. However, s.626 ITTOIA normally provides relief:

626 Exception for outright gifts between spouses

- (1) The rule in section 624(1) does not apply in respect of an outright gift—
 - (a) of property from which income arises,
 - (b) made by one spouse to the other, and
 - (c) meeting conditions A and B.
- (2) Condition A is that the gift carries a right to the whole of the income.
- (3) Condition B is that the property is not wholly or substantially a right to income.
- (4) A gift is not an outright gift for the purposes of this section if—
 - (a) it is subject to conditions, or
 - (b) there are any circumstances in which the property, or any related property—
 - (i) is payable to the giver,
 - (ii) is applicable for the benefit of the giver, or
 - (iii) will, or may become, so payable or applicable.
- (5) “Related property” has the same meaning in this section as in section 625.

24 This is perhaps a concession but the better view is that the inter-spouse transfer is tax mitigation not tax avoidance so the motive defence applies. Budget Press Release Rev 28 (16 March 2005) para.20 states that the same practice will apply to civil partners.

CHAPTER THIRTY FOUR

THE FAMILY HOME AND ITS CHATTELS

34.1 Ownership by foreign domiciliary

There are many ways to arrange the ownership of a UK family home of a foreign domiciled individual. The first possibility is that the individual should own the property directly. This has the attraction of simplicity. Also, some UK banks are said to be unwilling to lend to offshore companies. This may also be necessary, or at least desirable, in order to secure that the owner of a long lease acquires the right to enfranchisement.

The main disadvantage is that the property is in the individual's estate and in principle within the scope of IHT on his death. One possible method to mitigate this problem is to provide by will that the property should pass to the individual's surviving spouse, or to a trust under which she has an interest in possession. That normally postpones IHT until the occasion of the death of the survivor of the individual and his spouse: see 32.2 (IHT spouse exemption).

The risk of IHT may quite simply be covered by insurance. Watch that the insurance policy is not subject to IHT on the death of the individual. Perhaps arrange that the policy is not UK situate¹ (so the policy is excluded property) or transfer the policy to a trust (under which the individual is excluded). The amount to be insured will need to be reviewed from time to time in line with house inflation and possible changes in the rate of IHT.

It should be possible to transfer the property to a company so as to acquire excluded property status, even at very short notice, if the death of the owner became imminent. Watch SDLT. So in practice the IHT risk is limited to the risk of the sudden death of the individual (or the sudden

¹ See 38.17 (Insurance policies).

joint deaths of individual and spouse).

There will be no CGT on the sale of property if main private residence relief applies. If the individual has another residence inside or outside the UK, it may be appropriate to make an election under s.222 TCGA.

Take care to avoid a taxable remittance, if the purchase price is paid out of foreign income or chargeable gains within the scope of the remittance basis.

Similar points apply to chattels in the home except there is no CGT exemption, apart from the exemption for chattels under £6,000: s.262 TCGA.

34.2 Direct ownership by non-resident interest in possession trust

This avoids a CGT charge on a disposal, if the private residence exemption is not fully available, for instance if:

- (1) the grounds exceed the “permitted area”; or
- (2) there is another private residence which qualifies for the relief; or
- (3) in relation to chattels which do not qualify for exemption.

This also avoids the need for an English grant of probate after the death of the individual. The IHT position is broadly the same as absolute ownership by the foreign domiciled individual. This is only practical, however, where:

- (1) the life tenant is the settlor; or
- (2) the settlor is dead; or
- (3) the settlor has no interest in the settlement; or
- (4) the settlor can be excluded from a sub-fund (which will hold the UK home); or
- (5) the settlement was made before 18 March 1986.

Otherwise HMRC may argue that there is a charge on the death of the

settlor under the GWR rules; see 28.9 (Gift of excluded property).

34.3 Direct ownership by discretionary trust

In principle a discretionary trust could hold the UK home between ten year anniversaries. This might be a convenient short or medium term way to hold a family home. This is only practical, however, where:

- (1) the settlor is dead; or
- (2) the settlor has no interest in the settlement; or
- (3) the settlor can be excluded from a sub-fund (which will hold the UK home); or
- (4) the settlement was made before 18 March 1986.

Otherwise HMRC may argue that there is a charge on the death of the settlor under the GWR rules; see 28.9 (Gift of excluded property).

Care would be needed to ensure that the occupier did not acquire an interest in possession in the “discretionary” trust by virtue of his residence in the property. For HMRC views, see SP 10/79. The practical solution may be to arrange a lease of the property to the beneficiary at a nominal rent.

34.4 Loan secured on property

It clearly makes IHT sense for any existing loans to be secured on the UK property. It is also possible to borrow in order to mitigate IHT: see 30.1 (IHT planning through debts deductible for IHT). Commercial borrowing is likely to be an expensive solution to the IHT problem but borrowing from a friendly trust may be practical.

34.5 Ownership by non-resident company: property law aspects and IHT advantages

For inheritance tax, the obvious strategy is for the UK home of a foreign domiciliary to be owned beneficially by a foreign company. The shares in the company are not UK situate, and qualify as excluded property for

IHT. The company would usually be held by an offshore trust.

An argument that an arrangement of this kind was a sham was rejected in *Skylarks v Shah* [2001] WTLR 607. But sham is a question of fact in each case. In some badly created structures the taxpayer may wish to argue that the company is a sham (or at least that it holds its assets as nominee) to avoid a benefit in kind charge.

34.6 Ownership by non-resident company: CGT

The company will not be subject to CGT or corporation tax on chargeable gains provided it is not resident.

If the company is owned by an individual, the gains will be treated as accruing to the individual under s.13 TCGA. This does not apply if the individual is not UK domiciled. (In the case of a UK domiciled individual, it is an interesting question whether private residence relief could apply to give exemption to the s.13 charge.)

If the company is held by a trust, the gains would be “trust gains”. Again, this is not a problem so far as capital payments from the trust are received only by foreign domiciled or non-resident beneficiaries.

34.7 Family home held by company: benefit in kind charge²

The charge on living accommodation is to be found in ss.97 and 102 ITEPA:

97 Living accommodation to which this Chapter applies

(1) This Chapter applies to living accommodation provided for—

- (a) an employee, or
- (b) a member of an employee’s family or household, by reason of the employment.

...

102 Benefit of living accommodation treated as earnings

(1) If living accommodation to which this Chapter applies is provided in any period—

- (a) which consists of the whole or part of a tax year, and
- (b) throughout which the employee holds the employment,

2 The EI Manual contains much interesting material on these provisions which cannot be set out here for lack of space.

the cash equivalent of the benefit of the accommodation is to be treated as earnings from the employment for that year.

(2) In this Chapter that period is referred to as “the taxable period”.

34.8 Some defined terms

The provisions swarm with defined terms. Several of the terms are misleading in that they do not carry anything like their natural meaning, so the effective tax charge is different from what it might appear to be.

34.8.1 “*By reason of the employment*”

The expression “by reason of the employment” is extended by s.97(2) so it does not mean “by reason of the employment” at all:

Living accommodation provided for any of those persons by the employer is to be regarded as provided by reason of the employment ...³

34.8.2 “*Family*” and “*household*”

The definitions are in s.721 ITEPA:

- (4) For the purposes of this Act the following are members of a person’s family—
- (a) the person’s spouse,
 - (b) the person’s children and their spouses,
 - (c) the person’s parents, and
 - (d) the person’s dependants.

Illegitimate children do not count as “children”; see s.721(6). This is anomalous by contemporary standards but it will not often be relevant and the parent of illegitimate children is not likely to complain. Stepchildren are also excluded, as are parents-in-law. They will however still qualify

3 The subsection continues:

“unless—

- (a) the employer is an individual, and
- (b) the provision is made in the normal course of the employer’s domestic, family or personal relationships.”

The exception is not relevant here.

as family if they are dependants. Section 721 provides:

- (5) For the purposes of this Act the following are members of a person's family or household—
 - (a) members of the person's family,
 - (b) the person's domestic staff, and
 - (c) the person's guests.

34.8.3 “Employer”, “employee” and “employment”

Section 5 ITEPA extends the concept of “employment” to include officers (e.g. directors who may not as a matter of employment law be employees). This provides:

Application to offices and office-holders

- (1) The provisions of the employment income Parts that are expressed to apply to employments apply equally to offices, unless otherwise indicated.
- (2) In those provisions as they apply to an office—
 - (a) references to being employed are to being the holder of the office;
 - (b) “employee” means the office-holder;
 - (c) “employer” means the person under whom the office-holder holds office.

34.9 Shadow directors

The House of Lords decided in *R v Dimsey & Allen* 74 TC 263 that the benefit in kind provisions apply to shadow directors.⁴ The reasoning continues to apply to the ITEPA. The unfairness of this to a shadow director who does no work for the company did not unduly concern the House of Lords because of the countering unfairness to HMRC of the case where the services of a shadow director were as valuable as a full-time employee. It appears that two equal wrongs make a right to tax.

Employment Income Manual 11413 states:

4 This reversed an unreported Special Commissioners' decision which held that the provisions did not apply to shadow directors (or even properly appointed directors) unless they were actually employees. That decision remains relevant to penalty and negligence issues relating to periods before the decision in *Dimsey & Allen*.

11413. Living accommodation: Avoidance area: Shadow directors

A person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of a company are accustomed to act is deemed to be a director of that company by Section 67(1) ITEPA. Where such a person (known as a shadow director) is provided with living accommodation by the company the individual will be within Part 3 Chapter 5 ITEPA in the same way as if the individual had held a formal appointment as a director. ...

Many shadow directors are individuals who, although not domiciled in the UK, have come to work and reside here. In order to avoid a possible charge to inheritance tax, which could be imposed if such an individual died whilst working in the UK, an arrangement is made to set up an offshore company that owns the UK property in which the individual lives. Where the individual is a shadow director of that offshore company Section 97(2) ITEPA deems the UK property to be provided to the shadow director by reason of the deemed employment.

Until now HMRC have only taken the point in a relatively small number of cases. This is probably because taxpayers (if they have considered the matter at all) have taken the view on their facts that they are not shadow directors. HMRC have themselves had to identify the cases suitable for investigation.

34.10 The cash equivalent: ss.105 and 106 computations

The charge is on the “cash equivalent”. Section 103 ITEPA explains:

Method of calculating cash equivalent

(1) The cash equivalent is calculated—

- (a) under section 105 if the cost of providing the living accommodation does not exceed £75,000; and
- (b) under section 106 if the cost of providing the living accommodation exceeds £75,000.

Thus there are two methods of calculating the cash equivalent, here called a section 105 computation and a section 106 computation. This is for historical reasons, the section 106 computation having been introduced by the FA 1983 to supplement the ancestor of s.105. This structure makes the law twice as complicated as it need be.

34.11 Cost of providing accommodation

One needs to know the “cost of providing living accommodation”:

- (1) in order to decide between the s.105 and s.106 computation;
- (2) in order to make the s.106 computation (if applicable, as it usually is).

This expression is defined in s.104:

General⁵ rule for calculating cost of providing accommodation

For any tax year the cost of providing living accommodation is given by the formula $A + I - P$

In short, A is Acquisition cost, I is Improvement cost, and P is Payments received in return. In full detail:

A is any expenditure incurred in acquiring the estate or interest in the property held by a person involved in providing the accommodation,⁶

I is any expenditure incurred on improvements to the property which has been incurred before the tax year in question by a person involved in providing the accommodation, and

P is so much of any payment or payments made by the employee to a person involved in providing the accommodation as represents—

- (a) reimbursement of A or I, or
- (b) consideration for the grant to the employee of a tenancy or sub-tenancy of the property.

34.12 Accommodation costing £75,000 or less: section 105 computation

Section 105 applies where the cost of providing accommodation does not exceed £75,000. This was a meaningful figure when the legislation was introduced in 1983 but inflation, the Chancellor’s friend, has whittled away the real value of this limit so it must be exceptional now to find a purchase of less than £75,000. One might think the s.105 computation was a dead letter and one can turn directly to s.106. But s.106 refers back

⁵ For the exception see 34.14 (Revaluation).

⁶ The expression “person involved in providing the accommodation” is defined in s.112 ITEPA.

to s.105 so one needs to make the s.105 computation even in a s.106 case. Section 105 ITEPA provides:

Cash equivalent: cost of accommodation not over £75,000

- (1) The cash equivalent is to be calculated under this section if the cost of providing the living accommodation does not exceed £75,000.
- (2) The cash equivalent is the difference between—
 - (a) the rental value of the accommodation for the taxable period, and
 - (b) any sum made good by the employee to the person at whose cost the accommodation is provided that is properly attributable to its provision.

The key concepts are “rental value of the accommodation” and “making good” and I deal with these in turn.

34.12.1 “*Rental value of the accommodation*”

Section 105 provides:

- (3) The “rental value of the accommodation” for the taxable period is the rent which would have been payable for that period if the property had been let to the employee at an annual rent equal to the annual value.
- (4) But if the person at whose cost the accommodation is provided pays rent for the whole or part of the taxable period at an annual rate greater than the annual value—
 - (a) subsection (3) does not apply to that period or (as the case may be) that part of it; and
 - (b) instead the “rental value of the accommodation” for that period or part is the rent payable for it by that person.
- (5) If the rental value of the accommodation for the taxable period does not exceed any sum made good by the employee as mentioned in subsection (2)(b), the cash equivalent is nil.

The key expression is “annual value”. This is defined in s.110 ITEPA but it is not usually necessary to refer to that for UK property. ITEPA Explanatory Note states:

404. [Section 110] does not affect the Inland Revenue practice of using the gross rateable value as a proxy for “annual value”. That

practice will continue. The main use of this section is to provide guidance on how to arrive at the annual value of properties for which rent is not paid and in practice is only needed in cases where no gross rateable value can be found.⁷

The EI Manual provides at para 11434:

The amount of annual value for UK properties is set out in the table below.

Country	When first valued	Annual value to take
England & Wales	All cases	The 1973 gross rating value
Northern Ireland	All cases	The 1976 gross rating value
Scotland	(For years before 1987/8 see the SE Manual)	$100/270 \times$ the 1985 gross rating value
Anywhere in the United Kingdom	No gross rating value set	Ask the appropriate District Valuer to confirm any estimated figure provided by the employer that you want to check. ⁸

For the formula to convert a net rating value figure to a gross rating value figure see EI Manual 11438.

7 Likewise the EN at Change 23:

“These provisions [ss.110 and 207 ITEPA] will clarify how to find annual values in respect of those properties for which the practice of using gross rateable values or a proxy for them is inapplicable – for example overseas properties. In the case of both these and other properties, all the current practices used in quantifying the cash equivalent of the benefit of living accommodation will continue.”

8 The Manual continues:

“If no such estimate is provided or the estimate is not acceptable the District Valuer will provide a (not negotiated) figure. If the taxpayer does not accept that figure the District Valuer will try to agree a figure with the taxpayer. For the procedure for referring to the District Valuer see EI Manual 11437.”

Thus for most purposes the s.105 computation is rateable value less sums “made good” to the employer. That is usually a tiny amount which has no relation to the value of the benefit of the living accommodation. It is a substantial amount in two cases:

- (1) where the company “employer” pays a market rent for the property;
- (2) where the property is not UK situate (and so there is no rateable value).

This practice (which is concession not law) exists for historical reasons. It is not surprising the Re-write did not think it appropriate to express all this in the statute. That would expose the rules as incoherent.

34.12.2 “*Making good*”

The EI Manual provides:

21120. The benefits code: What is meant by “making good”

“Making good” simply means giving something in return for the benefit. What is being made good is the expense incurred by the employer or other person providing the benefit. It follows that in order to make good that expense the employee will give money, or something that can be measured in money. Usually the employee will “make good”:

- by a direct payment or
- by deduction from salary or
- by a suitable debit to the employee’s current account in the employer’s books and records.

Any of these methods is acceptable.

The giving of services by the employee, or anything that is not measured in money terms is not “making good”, see *Stones v Hall* (60 TC 737). In any case where the taxpayer argues that an interest-free loan has been made to his employer specifically to make good the cost or value of a benefit, make a submission to Personal Tax (Technical), Solihull.

As regards “making good” by waiver of remuneration see EI Manual 21122.

21121. The benefits code: When must making good take place?

The legislation does not set a time limit on the “making good”. This will

usually happen shortly after the expense is incurred by the person providing the benefit. But you need not object to a belated “making good” if it is done within a reasonable time of the employee becoming aware that the chargeable benefit can be reduced, in whole or in part, by reimbursing the expense incurred by the provider.

What constitutes a “reasonable time” will depend on the facts of the case. Do not allow a deduction for “making good” which takes place after a charge to tax on the benefit concerned has become final and conclusive.

This is as generous a position as the law allows.

It is clearly “making good” if:

- (1) the company pays the costs of maintenance and insurance; and
- (2) the individual reimburses the company by a cash payment.

Does the employee make good the cost if he pays the cost of maintenance and insurance directly? Section 110 ITEPA envisages that this expenditure will be paid by the employer. In addition, the maintenance of the building is probably not a “sum” made good. HMRC Manual is equivocal:

11439. Living accommodation: annual value of UK property: Employee responsible for repairs or insurance.

...

An employee may be responsible for the cost of repairs or insurance under the terms of his or her lease or employment. If an employee claims an adjustment to the annual value (derived from the table in EI Manual 11434) because the facts of an employee’s case are not those envisaged by Section 110 ITEPA, make a full report to Personal Tax (Technical), Solihull.

34.13 Accommodation over £75,000: section 106 computation

Section 106 ITEPA provides:

Cash equivalent: cost of accommodation over £75,000

- (1) The cash equivalent is calculated under this section if the cost of providing the living accommodation exceeds £75,000.
- (2) To calculate the cash equivalent—

Step 1 Calculate the amount that would be the cash equivalent if section 105 applied (cash equivalent: cost of accommodation not over £75,000).

See para 34.12 (Section 105 computation).

Step 2 Calculate the following amount (“the additional yearly rent”)—

$$\text{ORI} \times (\text{C} - £75,000)$$

where—

ORI is the official rate of interest in force for the purposes of Chapter 7 of this Part (taxable benefits: loans) on 6 April in the tax year, and

C is the cost of providing the accommodation calculated—

- (a) in accordance with section 104 (general rule for calculating cost of accommodation), or
- (b) in a case where section 107 applies (special rule for calculating cost of providing accommodation), in accordance with that section instead.

The label “additional yearly rent” is misleading: the “additional yearly rent” calculated in this way will not bear a close relationship with any actual market rent.

Step 3 Calculate the rent which would have been payable for the taxable period if the property had been let to the employee at the additional yearly rent calculated under step 2.

This step reduces the “additional yearly rent” to that for the “taxable period” (defined in s.102(2)).

Step 4 Calculate the cash equivalent by—

- (a) adding together the amounts calculated under steps 1 and 3, and
- (b) (if allowed by subsection (3)) subtracting from that total the excess rent paid by the employee.

(3) In step 4—

- (a) paragraph (b) only applies if, in respect of the taxable period, the rent paid by the employee in respect of the accommodation to the person providing it exceeds the rental

value of the accommodation for that period as set out in section 105(3) or (4)(b), as applicable, and

- (b) “the excess rent” means the total amount of that excess.

In short, the charge is (1) the s.105 computation (rateable value less sums made good) and (2) (what I call) the s.106 computation (official rate of interest on purchase price less £75,000) less rent.

This works (more or less) where the s.105 computation is based on the nominal amount of rateable value. It gives double taxation where the s.105 computation is based on actual market rental value. ESC A91 gives relief here:

Living accommodation provided by reason of employment

This concession applies to living accommodation treated as earnings under ITEPA 2003 Part 3, Chapter 5. Where ITEPA 2003 s.106 applies and the cash equivalent of the benefit of the accommodation is calculated by reference to the annual rent the property might fetch on the open market, the Inland Revenue will disregard “the additional yearly rent”. If “the additional yearly rent” is disregarded then the amount of “the excess rent” is deemed to be nil.

34.14 Revaluation in cases of delayed occupation

Normally the s.106 computation is based on the employer’s acquisition cost (i.e. historic cost). Market value of the property later is not relevant. This rule could favour the taxpayer or HMRC, but as time passes it is likely to favour the taxpayer. In one case only there is an adjustment to market value. Section 107 ITEPA provides:

Special rule for calculating cost of providing accommodation

- (1) This section contains a special rule for calculating the cost of providing living accommodation which—
 - (a) operates for the purposes of step 2 of section 106(2) (calculating the additional yearly rent), and
 - (b) accordingly only operates where the cost of provision for the purposes of section 106(1) (as calculated under section 104) exceeds £75,000.

In practice condition (b) will almost always be satisfied (except perhaps for property purchased many years ago).

- (2) This section applies if, throughout the period of 6 years ending with the date when the employee first occupied the accommodation (“the initial date”), an estate or interest in the property was held by a person involved in providing the accommodation.

It does not matter whether it was the same estate, interest or person throughout.

In short, this condition is that the property has been owned by the company for six years before the employee moves in.

- (3) For any tax year the cost of providing the living accommodation for the purposes mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is given by the formula—

$$MV + I - P$$

In short, MV is **Market Value**; I is **Improvement cost**; P is **Payments in return**. In full detail:

MV is the price which the property might reasonably be expected to have fetched on a sale in the open market with vacant possession as at the initial date,

I is any expenditure incurred on improvements to the property which has been incurred during the period—

- (a) beginning with the initial date, and
- (b) ending with the day before the beginning of the tax year, by a person involved in providing the accommodation, and

P is so much of any payment or payments made by the employee to a person involved in providing the accommodation as represents—

- (a) reimbursement (up to an amount not exceeding MV) of any expenditure incurred in acquiring the estate or interest in the property held on the initial date,
- (b) reimbursement of I, or
- (c) consideration for the grant to the employee of a tenancy or sub-tenancy of the property.

This may arise where:

- (1) a foreign domiciliary (or trust) purchases a company holding a

property acquired more than six years previously;

- (2) an individual then occupies the property and becomes a shadow director.

Next is an anti-avoidance provision to block an obvious scheme to devalue MV:

- (4) In estimating MV no reduction is to be made for an option in respect of the property held by—
 - (a) the employee,
 - (b) a person connected with the employee, or
 - (c) a person involved in providing the accommodation.

Lastly, for completeness, there is transitional relief where the employee first occupied the property before 31 March 1983: para.21 Sch.7 ITEPA.

34.15 Accommodation provided for more than one employee

Section 108 ITEPA provides:

Cash equivalent: accommodation provided for more than one employee

- (1) If, for the whole or part of a tax year, the same living accommodation is provided for more than one employee at the same time, the total of the cash equivalents for all of the employees is to be limited to the amount that would be the cash equivalent if the accommodation was provided for one employee.
- (2) The cash equivalent for each of the employees is to be such part of that amount as is just and reasonable.

34.16 Ways to avoid benefit in kind

Ways to avoid the entire benefit in kind charge are:

- (1) to ensure that the occupier is
 - (a) not an officer (i.e. not a director or company secretary, which is straightforward);
 - (b) not an employee (which should be straightforward); and

(c) not a “shadow director”; or

(2) not to use a company.

A way to avoid the s.106 charge is to reimburse the company for its expenditure.

I will consider these in turn.

34.17 Who is a shadow director?

Section 67(1) ITEPA provides:

In the benefits code “director” ... includes any person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the company (as defined above) are accustomed to act.

Such a person is referred to as a “shadow director”.⁹

This has been explained in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Deverell* [2001] Ch 340 at p.354:

(1) The definition of a shadow director is to be construed in the normal way to give effect to the parliamentary intention ascertainable from the mischief to be dealt with and the words used. In particular, as the purpose of the Act is the protection of the public and as the definition is used in other legislative contexts, it should not be strictly construed because it also has quasi-penal consequences in the context of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986.

This suggests that the comments in *Deverell* will apply in all contexts where the standard definition of “shadow director” is used, including tax contexts. It is difficult to argue that the “shadow director” concept should have a different meaning in a tax context than in the director disqualification context of *Deverell*. But the point can fairly be made that *Deverell* is considering “shadow directorship” in the context of a commercial trading company. The position of a relatively quiescent

9 A note on terminology. This useful and now familiar label was first used in the Companies Act 1980. The wording of the concept behind the label goes back to the Companies (Particulars as to Directors) Act 1917.

property holding company is different.

... (2) The purpose of the legislation is to identify those, other than professional advisers, with real influence in the corporate affairs of the company.

This paraphrase does not take us very far because it only raises the question as to what is meant by “real¹⁰ influence”.

But it is not necessary that such influence should be exercised over the whole field of its corporate activities. ...

This is uncontentious. The income tax charge could apply where a trust held a company holding both a home and investments; even though the “shadow director” did not give “instructions” relating to the investments but only to the home.

(3) Whether any particular communication from the alleged shadow director, whether by words or conduct, is to be classified as a direction or instruction must be objectively ascertained by the court in the light of all the evidence.

Obviously.

In that connection I do not accept that it is necessary to prove the understanding or expectation of either giver or receiver. In many, if not most, cases it will suffice to prove the communication and its consequence. Evidence of such understanding or expectation may be relevant but it cannot be conclusive.

This is extraordinary. “Directions or instructions” are a subset of “communications” and the feature that distinguishes them is that a person giving instructions expects them to be followed and the person receiving them understands this.

Certainly the label attached by either or both parties then or thereafter cannot be more than a factor in considering whether the

10 The dangerous and beguiling word “real” is normally an indicator of vague if not sloppy legal analysis.

communication came within the statutory description of direction or instruction.

This at least is correct.¹¹

(4) Non-professional advice may come within that statutory description. The proviso excepting advice given in a professional capacity¹² appears to assume that advice generally is or may be included.

This is equally extraordinary, for the concept of “directions or instructions” is the antithesis of the concept of “advice”. The distinguishing feature is that the former is mandatory and the other is not. Of course, one may slide into the other. For instance, if a solicitor “advises” a company that a particular act is required by law, that failure so to act would be a criminal offence, and that if the company broke the law the solicitor would refuse to act, such advice may arguably be characterised as a direction or an instruction. Since the proviso excepting advice given in a professional capacity can be taken to refer only to this situation it does not shed any light on the general meaning of “shadow director”. The inference from the proviso excepting advice is invalidly drawn.¹³

11 For other examples of the “label” doctrine, see *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, Sweet & Maxwell, 7th ed., para.18.3.

12 See s.67(2) ITEPA:

“... a person is not to be regarded as a person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the company are accustomed to act merely because the directors act on advice given by that person in a professional capacity.”

13 The Court of Appeal overlooked the explanation in *Gore & Browne on Companies* para.25.4.2:

The saving for professional advice might appear, at first sight, to support a wider interpretation of the definition, for the saving would be unnecessary unless a wider meaning were given to that definition. There are two possible explanations. The first, and probably correct, explanation is that the saving appears as a result of pressure from the relevant professions to ensure that no attempt can be made even to argue that their activities are, as such, within the scope of shadow director provisions in company legislation. The second is that it is intended to deal with the case where professional advice is obtained from a person who happens to be a member of the company and, as an ‘insider’, potentially a shadow director.

Moreover the concepts of “direction” and “instruction” do not exclude the concept of “advice” for all three share the common feature of “guidance”.

The less said about this line of reasoning the better.

(5) It will, no doubt, be sufficient to show that in the face of “directions or instructions” from the alleged shadow director the properly appointed directors or some of them cast themselves in a subservient role or surrendered their respective discretions. But I do not consider that it is necessary to do so in all cases. Such a requirement would be to put a gloss on the statutory requirement that the board are “accustomed to act” “in accordance with” such directions or instructions. It appears to me that Judge Cooke, in looking for the additional ingredient of a subservient role or the surrender of discretion by the board, imposed a qualification beyond that justified by the statutory language.

If the statutory language were: “in accordance with whose *wishes* the directors were accustomed to act” this would be a fair comment. But the expression “directions or instructions” shows that the position must be one where the shadow director commands and the properly appointed directors obey.

The tone of the passage is wholly negative. In determining the issue of “shadow directorship”:

- (1) The understanding or expectation of the parties is *not* conclusive.
- (2) The label attached by the parties is *not* conclusive.
- (3) The fact that the communication is “advice” is *not* conclusive (except in the case of professional advice).
- (4) The fact that the properly appointed directors surrender their discretions or act in a “subservient” role is *not* essential.

This does not answer the question: how *does* one identify a shadow director? The mere fact that there is a stream of communications from the individual to the company, which is acted on by the company, is not conclusive. The author regularly sends “communications” to the internet

bookshop Amazon, and Amazon act on those communications without fail. Yet the author is not a shadow director of Amazon.

It is considered, therefore, that one can expect some back-tracking, refinement or qualification from the Courts in cases they regard as more meritorious than that of Mr. Deverell.

Suppose a person treats the property owned by the company as his own and has no dealings with the directors: he just ignores them. They do nothing (except perhaps charge their fees). In such a case the company may be a sham (or nominee ship). Whether or not that is so, the individual is not a shadow director. He gives no instructions.

A non-resident person may be a “shadow director”.

34.17.1 *When is an agent of a company a shadow director?*

HMRC accept that the activities of an agent appointed by trustees to manage the day to day affairs of a trust are not normally relevant in determining the place of general administration (for the purposes of CGT trust residence). See 4.5.2 (Delegation to UK agent). It is suggested that a similar principle applies in the context of shadow directorship. An agency agreement under which the occupier of a property was responsible for routine maintenance matters on behalf of the company would not make the individual a “shadow director” as long as the decision to enter into contract was properly made by the directors and the directors properly supervise the work of the individual. This should not be difficult if the directors understand their duties are to all beneficiaries of the trust (not just to the settlor) and if the individual occupier of the property also understands this. It would be different if the agency agreement covered matters not usually delegated by an investment company to an agent.

34.17.2 *Arranging that an occupier is not a shadow director*

Suppose an existing company purchases a home on the open market for a UK resident foreign domiciliary. The choice of a home is a personal one and the individual would normally have to give a “communication” to the company which the court may classify as “directions or instructions”. So it would normally be difficult to arrange that the individual was not a shadow director (at least applying *Deverell* at face value). The position is different if:

- (1) trustees purchase property directly, and
- (2) the trustees transfer the property to a foreign company on their own initiative and without reference to the occupier.

The trustees may reason that if the life tenant dies, the UK property would not be excluded property and a charge to inheritance tax would arise – the liability for which would fall on the trust fund. In discharge of their fiduciary duty they could transfer the property to a foreign company to create excluded property and protect the trust from the liability. The point is that the occupier has *not* instructed or even requested the company to purchase the property for him.¹⁴ SDLT makes this impractical but the variant idea of assigning a contract entered into by the trustees may be considered practical.

It would be best if the directors and trustees were separate persons. All communications should be through the trustees and not the directors of the company. If the foreign domiciliary desires to sell and, perhaps, purchase another property, he should communicate his wishes to the trustees. Then:

- (1) The trustees could put the company into liquidation. The liquidator would sell the property.
- (2) Alternatively, the trustees may prefer to sell the company. That has stamp duty advantages, and would be attractive for a purchaser who is a foreign domiciled individual or non-resident trust.

The procedure may then be repeated for a new purchase. In these circumstances it would continue to be difficult for HMRC to argue that the occupier was a shadow director.

34.18 Reimbursement as solution to IT charge

Reimbursement of “A” and “I” will solve the s.106 charge if it reduces the “cost of providing the accommodation” to nil (or at least to below £75,000). It does not avoid the s.105 charge (but that may be trivial or avoided by payment of rent or arranging that the individual is not a

14 I am grateful to Peter Vaines for this suggestion.

shadow director).

34.18.1 *Who makes the reimbursement*

Note that only reimbursement made by the employee is deductible. For example, if

- (1) a company purchases property;
- (2) an individual (F) reimburses the cost;
- (3) another individual (G) comes to occupy the property (and is a shadow director);

then F's reimbursement will not reduce the s.106 computation for G. Again, if a member of the family or household of the shadow director occupies the property, and that member of the family or household reimburses the company, that reimbursement will not reduce the s.106 computation for the shadow director. In practice this is not likely to happen often.

34.19 Property purchase financed by the foreign domiciliary

Sometimes a company structure is set up specifically for the purpose of purchasing the home. That is, under a pre-organised arrangement:

- (1) The individual agrees in principle to purchase a property.
- (2) The individual:
 - (a) lends the purchase price to a company, or
 - (b) transfers the purchase price to a trust which lends the purchase price to a wholly owned company.
- (3) The company makes the purchase.

This section considers whether a background of this kind offers a defence to the income tax charge.

34.19.1 “Making good” and s.105 computation

The section 105 computation allows a deduction for:

any sum made good by the employee to the person at whose cost the accommodation is provided that is properly attributable to its provision.

The taxpayer would have to show that the interest foregone on the interest-free loan from the individual (directly or indirectly to the company) is:

- (1) a “sum”, and
- (2) “makes good” the provision of the accommodation.¹⁵

Whether the interest foregone “makes good” the provision of accommodation is a question of fact. Assuming the reason the interest is foregone is to enable the company to provide the accommodation, this condition should be satisfied.

Whether the interest foregone is a “sum” is a question of law; it is suggested that the word should not be construed strictly or technically, and an amount of interest foregone may be a “sum”.¹⁶

In the course of some general and uncontroversial comments on “making good”.¹⁷ The EI Manual provides at 21120:

In any case where the taxpayer argues that an interest-free loan has been made to his employer specifically to make good the cost or value of a benefit, make a submission to Personal Tax (Technical), Solihull.

34.19.2 *Loan to company as defence to section 106 computation*

Sums “made good” are not deductible as such in the section 106 computation. Rent is deductible in a section 106 computation but the interest foregone on an interest-free loan is not rent. No-one suggests that the company would be taxable under Schedule A!

15 It is assumed that the interest foregone exceeds the annual or rateable value of the accommodation, which will normally be the case.

16 See the discussion on “sum” in 7.25 (Chattels brought to the UK).

17 See 34.12.2 (“Making good”).

It has been suggested that a company financed by an interest-free loan has not incurred expenditure. If this is so then it is a complete answer to the section 106 charge because the figure A in the formula for the cost of providing accommodation is reduced to zero. The suggestion is raised in Stephen Brandon's *Taxation of Non-UK Resident Companies and their Shareholders*, Key Haven Publications, paragraphs 5.3.3.8 to 5.3.3.15 citing *Wicks v Firth* [1983] STC 25 at 31:

The scholarships were provided at the cost of ICI and not at the cost of the Trustees because the Trustees with moneys supplied by ICI were only performing fiduciary duties ...

However (as Stephen Brandon QC recognises), it is a step from this to argue that a company which is not performing fiduciary duties does not incur expenditure. If the house is in the accounts of the company as an asset, how could it have acquired that asset without "incurring expenditure"? Suppose the boot were on the other foot: a company lent money interest-free to a shadow director to finance his own purchase. Would anyone accept that the company had provided the accommodation purchased by the individual? This is an argument to take *in extremis*.

34.19.3 *Reimbursement by the individual*

In computing the "cost" of providing the accommodation one may deduct payments representing reimbursement. This deduction would reduce the s.106 computation.¹⁸ However, the interest foregone on the loan is not "reimbursement". In addition, it is also not a "payment".

34.19.4 *Release of loan*

A possible solution would be for the individual to release the debt which is due to him from the company.

Statute requires a "payment" representing a reimbursement. It is a moot point whether the release of the debt would be a "payment". One should take the cautious view that it may not be. The matter should be dealt with as follows:

¹⁸ See 34.18 (Reimbursement as solution to IT charge).

- (1) The individual transfers the funds to the company. They should be received in the company's bank account. This should be accompanied by a letter to the company saying: "I have today procured the payment of £X to your account. This is reimbursement for the expenditure you have incurred in acquiring [the property]. However, I require repayment of the debt due to me of £X."
- (2) The company may then use its funds to repay its debt due to the individual.

Although this is a circular transaction (the payment being matched by immediate repayment) that does not nullify it for tax purposes: compare *MacNiven v Westmoreland* [2001] STC 237.

If the company incurs additional improvement expenditure in the future, this should be matched by further reimbursements so the total cost of providing the living accommodation (A+I-P) remains less than £75,000.

The reimbursement of the company is not a transfer of value for IHT purposes if the individual is (or is treated as) the beneficial owner of the company. For the same reason the reimbursement is not a disposal by way of gift and so is outside the scope of section 102 FA 1986 (gifts with reservation).

The effect of the gift (the reimbursement) is to increase the value of the shares of the company without any corresponding rise in the CGT base cost. So the gift increases the chargeable gain on the disposal. This should not matter so long as the law remains in its current form.

34.20 Co-ownership defence to living accommodation charge

The proposal here is that the individual owns a share in the property jointly with the company. It is argued that he occupies the property as co-owner and the company does not "provide" accommodation. Co-ownership raises similar but not identical issues for other provisions which charge tax on benefits, such as s.87 TCGA, s.740 ICTA, s.203 ITEPA, and IHT gifts with reservation rules. The discussion here is limited to the case where an individual and a company are co-owners. Similar but not identical issues arise with the other taxes where an individual and a trust are co-owners.

34.20.1 *The land law position*

The starting point is to ascertain the rights of the co-owners as a matter of land law. Co-owned land in England and Wales is held on trust, and the position is governed by the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996.¹⁹ Section 12(1) TLATA provides:

A beneficiary who is beneficially entitled to an interest in possession in land subject to a trust of land is entitled by reason of his interest to occupy the land at any time if at that time—

- (a) the purposes of the trust include making the land available for his occupation (or for the occupation of beneficiaries of a class of which he is a member or of beneficiaries in general), or
- (b) the land is held by the trustees so as to be so available.

I refer to a person who is so entitled as having a “statutory occupation right”.

The individual will obviously have a statutory occupation right under s.12.²⁰

Whether the company will also have a statutory occupation right is important. I am inclined to think (normally) not. The company will not meet the conditions of s.12.

The trustees²¹ have various powers, but they do not have power to override the individual’s occupation right or to require the individual to pay an occupation rent. This is fundamental so I set out the provisions in detail.

Section 13(1) provides:

Where two or more beneficiaries are (or apart from this subsection

19 Further consideration is needed for (1) land outside England and Wales (2) periods before the TLATA took effect and (3) jointly owned chattels.

20 Section 12(2) provides “Subsection (1) does not confer on a beneficiary a right to occupy land if it is either unavailable or unsuitable for occupation by him.” This will not apply here.

21 The trustees are those who have the legal title to the land. This may be or include the company; it makes little practical difference for tax purposes. (If the company is not a trustee it can apply to Court to require the trustees to exercise their powers.) The shares in the company may also be held on trust but that trust is not relevant here.

would be) entitled under section 12 to occupy land, the trustees of land may exclude or restrict the entitlement of any one or more (but not all) of them.

The trustees cannot under s.13(1) override the individual's statutory occupation right if (as I suggest is normally the case) the individual has a statutory occupation right and the company does not.²²

Section 13(6) provides:

Where the entitlement of any beneficiary to occupy land under section 12 has been excluded or restricted, the conditions which may be imposed on any other beneficiary under subsection (3) include, in particular, conditions requiring him to—

- (a) make payments by way of compensation to the beneficiary whose entitlement has been excluded or restricted, or
- (b) forgo any payment or other benefit to which he would otherwise be entitled under the trust so as to benefit that beneficiary.

The trustees cannot require the individual to pay compensation (an occupation rent) to the company under s.13(6) because the company has no statutory occupation right: s.13(6) assumes that compensation can only be required in a case where a co-owner has such rights and they are overridden by s.13(1).

Section 13(3) provides another power:

- (3) The trustees of land may from time to time impose reasonable conditions on any beneficiary in relation to his occupation of land by reason of his entitlement under section 12.

...

- (5) The conditions which may be imposed on a beneficiary under subsection (3) include, in particular, conditions requiring him—
 - (a) to pay any outgoings or expenses in respect of the land, or
 - (b) to assume any other obligation in relation to the land or to any

22 It is a reasonably plain inference that co-ownership gives no right of occupation unless the conditions of s.12 are met. But Barnsley, "Co-Owner Rights to Occupy Land" [1998] CLJ 123 takes the opposite view. Megarry & Wade, *Law of Real Property*, 6th edition, suggests a co-owner has a right of occupation where he is also a legal owner, but that ignores the fact that the rights of the legal owner are held as trustees. It makes no difference for present purposes whether this is so or not, as what matters is whether the company has a right of occupation under s.12.

activity which is or is proposed to be conducted there.

The trustees can do little under s.13(3) except to require the individual to pay outgoings.²³

It is reasonably clear that ss.12–14 are a comprehensive code and there is no common law right to an exclusion rent except in a case of ouster.²⁴

The trustees also have power to sell the land but the Court has discretion to prevent a sale.²⁵ The important question here is whether a Court would allow or require a sale. It is considered that a Court would not do so so long as the individual remains in occupation, unless the company had a good reason for a sale, e.g.

- (1) if the company is insolvent; or
- (2) if the individual has only a tiny interest in the land (say, less than 10%), though even that is questionable.²⁶

In short, the company as co-owner is normally in a miserable position: it can do almost nothing while the individual remains in occupation, except require the individual to pay the outgoings.

34.20.2 *Benefit of providing living accommodation*

If that is the case then the company co-owner which does nothing and leaves the individual in occupation does not “provide accommodation” in any year by its inaction because the individual has the right of occupation

23 In particular the trustees cannot use this power to require an exclusion rent, as that must be done under s.13(6) or not at all. There is a further restriction in s.13(7) but that is not so important here.

24 The implications of the TLATA were wholly overlooked in *Re Byford* [2003] EWHC 1267. This case concerned periods before and after TLATA but was decided on the basis of pre-TLATA law only. The analysis of the pre-TLATA law is also doubtful: [2003] *The Conveyancer* 533.

25 Ss.6, 14 TLATA 1996.

26 This is perhaps supported by the approach of s.13(7), though that only applies to powers conferred on the trustees by s.13, whereas the power of sale is conferred by s.6. The individual’s position is stronger if he has more than a 50% share as then s.11 TLATA 1996 gives him further support, but it is not likely that anything will turn on that.

independently of anything the company does or can do. Accordingly there is no living accommodation charge.

The matter is made more complicated by *Christensen v Vasili* [2004] 76 TC 116. This concerned a co-owned car. The question was whether there was a tax charge under (what is now) s.144 ITEPA which applies where a car is “made available” to an employee. The Special Commissioner held that the car was not made available:

As co-owners the employer and employee each have the right to use the car, but they each have that right because they are each owners, not because one has “made available” the car to the other.

Unfortunately this conclusion, which was with respect plainly right, was flatly if unconvincingly rejected in the High Court:

In their ordinary sense, the question “who made the car available to Mr. Vasili?” must be answered in the sense that his employer did so, and has not been paid for it.

It is suggested that *Vasili* can be distinguished from the normal co-ownership situation because:

- (1) in *Vasili* both employer and employee were entitled to possession of the car: in the co-ownership situation considered here the company is not entitled to occupation;
- (2) in *Vasili* the car belonged to the employer before he sold a 5% share to the employee. In that sense the employer made the car available. The position would have been different if the car had been purchased in those shares from the outset.

It is unfortunate that *Eversden* was not cited in *Vasili* since the two cases are difficult to reconcile.

34.20.3 *Employment related benefit*

It might be argued that the company co-owner provides a benefit other than living accommodation:

- (1) If the company is the trustee, by not exercising its powers of sale (or to require the individual co-owner to pay an occupation rent); or
- (2) If the company is not sole trustee, by consenting to the trustees not exercising those powers.

There is normally no benefit here because the trustees have no such powers. If there were a benefit, the value of the benefit is “the expense incurred in or in connection with the provision of the benefit”. The company incurs no expense, so the value of the benefit for tax purposes is nil.²⁷

If the company incurs costs of maintenance, that is an employment related benefit.

34.20.4 *Benefit provided by company entering into co-ownership arrangement*

It follows that the company provides a significant benefit to the individual when and if it uses its funds to acquire a share as co-owner. Could this benefit be taxable? ²⁸

In *IRC v Eversden* 75 TC 340 the settlor gave a trustee co-owner a 95% share in a house, the settlor retaining 5%. The settlor continued to occupy. It was held that the trustee had not provided a benefit as the settlor was entitled to occupy. This took place before the TLATA 1996 but the position would be the same now.

Subsequently the property originally given was sold and a new (smaller) property purchased in the same proportions. This also took place before the TLATA 1996, but the settlor continued to live there after the 1996 Act took effect, dying in 1998. The judge said:

Under the agreement with the trustees (providing as it did for the settlor to pay 5% of the purchase price of Meadows [the second house] and acquire in consequence a right of occupation) *the trustees conferred on the settlor the right to occupy Meadows for an indefinite period rent*

27 It is considered that this particular benefit does not “consist of an asset being placed at the disposal of the employee” so the valuation is not in accordance with s.205 ITEPA.

28 This issue does not arise where the company receives its share of the land gratuitously.

*free.*²⁹

(Emphasis added)

In a case where the company provides its funds towards a joint purchase of a new property, and the individual holds as co-owner, the company has provided a benefit of indefinite rent free occupation; more accurately the benefit is giving the individual the opportunity to acquire a right to indefinite rent free occupation at a “knockdown price”. The benefit is provided at the time the company completes the contract to purchase the land as co-owner.

The benefit would in principle be chargeable in co-ownership cases under s.87 TCGA or s.740 ICTA. Where there are no express valuation rules the charge would be on the market value, which would have to be ascertained as best as one can in the light of the circumstances.

For employment income purposes the position is different. I suggest that:

- (1) The benefit is not the provision of living accommodation.
- (2) The value of the benefit for IT purposes is nil because:
 - (a) The company incurs no expense in connection with its provision. (The purchase price is not such an expense, since it is a capital expense reflected in the company’s ownership of its share.)
 - (b) The special valuation rules of ss.205, 206 ITEPA do not apply.

34.20.5 *The HMRC view*

The EI Manual provides at 11414:

Living accommodation: Avoidance area: Co-ownership cases

In these cases the employer and employee co-own the living

29 [2002] STC at p.1129. The point was rightly not appealed. The position would be different if the sale of the first property had been conditional on the purchase of the new one, that is, if the individual only agreed to join in the sale of the first if the trustee agreed to join in the purchase of the second.

accommodation. The usual arrangement is that the employer and employee own the property as tenants in common through a trust.

A tenant in common has a legal right to use 100% of the property 100% of the time even though a tenant in common may only own a much smaller interest in the property (say 30%). It is argued against us in such a case that the employee's rights to use the living accommodation come from the employee's legal rights as a tenant-in-common. So it is argued that no living accommodation has been provided by reason of the employment.

There are arguments to support a benefit charge within Part 3 Chapter 5 ITEPA in these cases and the strength of those arguments will depend on the facts of the case.

It is interesting to note that HMRC accept that there is not always a charge in co-ownership cases: "it depends on the facts of the case". That is consistent with the view taken here.

34.21 Some other defences

34.21.1 The caretaker's defence

Section 99 ITEPA provides:

Accommodation provided for performance of duties

- (1) This Chapter does not apply to living accommodation provided for an employee if it is necessary for the proper performance of the employee's duties that the employee should reside in it.
- (2) This Chapter does not apply to living accommodation provided for an employee if—
 - (a) it is provided for the better performance of the duties of the employment, and
 - (b) the employment is one of the kinds of employment in the case of which it is customary for employers to provide living accommodation for employees.

It has been suggested that one can use this to avoid the charge. The idea is to enter into a contract whereby the individual who is to occupy the property does so as caretaker for the company. This does not work. While it may normally be necessary for a caretaker to reside in accommodation, a person does not become a "caretaker" just by being labelled as such. If the individual is occupying an extremely valuable property with only

nominal caretaking duties, this is not the same “type of employment” as a normal caretaker. The EI Manual rightly provides:

11342. Living accommodation exemption: Necessary for proper performance of the duties: Types of employee

Part 3 Chapter 5 ITEPA does not apply to living accommodation provided for an employee if it is necessary for the proper performance of the duties that the employee live in the accommodation provided (see EI Manual 11341).

The following types of employee may be accepted as being within the exemption:

...

Caretakers living on the premises. This only covers those with a genuine full time caretaking job. ...

34.21.2 *Payment of rent*

The payment of rent will count as “making good” for the s.105 computation and reduce the s.106 computation. However, this proposal raises the problems of IT on the rent. Also, to reduce the s.106 computation to zero, the rent may have to exceed the market rent, especially for very valuable properties.³⁰

34.21.3 *Lease premium scheme*

HMRC Manual provides:

11415. Living accommodation: Avoidance area: Lease premium cases

In these cases the employer takes a short lease on living accommodation from a third party. Instead of just paying the market rent for the property the employer pays a large premium and a small annual rent. It is argued that none of the premium can be treated as rent for the purpose of measuring the cash equivalent of this benefit.

An example will illustrate the point. A London flat owned by a third party has a market rental value of £25,000 per annum and gross rateable value under the old rating system of £800. An employer enters into a 3

30 By contrast a market rent for the use of chattels will prevent there being a “benefit” for the purposes of the benefit in kind charge on chattels.

year lease with the third party paying a premium of £75,000 and a rent of £100 per annum. The employer then provides the flat rent free to an employee. The cash equivalent of the benefit is the higher of:

- the gross rateable value and
- the actual rent payable.

It is argued that the cash equivalent of the living accommodation benefit is £800 gross rateable value because none of the £75,000 can be treated as rent.

In some circumstances we might wish to argue that the premium should be treated as rent. Please submit your papers to Personal Tax, (Technical), Solihull in any case on which you wish to argue the point.

In *Toronto-Dominion Bank v Obeiroi* [2004] STC 1197, the employee intended to take advantage of this idea. Unfortunately the spectacularly misdrafted lease referred to “rent” and not to a premium!³¹ Fortunately the Judge ordered rectification of the lease. The case contains an interesting discussion on the distinction between rent and premium; in the light of this the argument put forward in the Manual (that the premium is in fact rent) will be hard to maintain if the documentation is carefully drawn. But now that the case has given publicity to the scheme, amending legislation seems likely.

34.22 Non-UK situate accommodation

Some practitioners argued that the old legislation did not apply to property outside the UK. The argument does not arise (or at least has been weakened) under ITEPA.

34.23 Benefit in kind remittance basis

This section deals with the position of a UK resident and ordinarily resident but foreign domiciled individual who is an employee, director or shadow director and receives the benefit in kind of living accommodation.

A specified amount (the cash equivalent) “is treated as earnings from the employment”. I refer to this as “BIK earnings”.

31 The obvious lesson is that tax sensitive documentation drafted by property lawyers must be reviewed by tax lawyers. But it seems that every generation must learn this the hard way. For another example see *Hurlingham Estates v Wilde* [1997] STC 627.

34.23.1 *Are BIK earnings “chargeable overseas earnings”?*

BIK earnings qualify as “chargeable overseas earnings” if (in short) the duties of the employment are performed wholly outside the UK.³² Thus one has to ascertain:

- (1) what are the duties;
- (2) where they are performed.

To ascertain the duties of an employee or properly appointed director is straightforward. To ascertain the duties of a shadow director is problematic. A shadow director has no positive “duties” in the normal sense of the word.

It might be argued that a shadow director has no “duties” within the meaning of s.23 ITEPA. The consequence would be anomalous.³³ I think a Court is not likely to accept this. If a shadow director is deemed to have an employment, it follows that he can be deemed to have some “duties”.

The harder question is, exactly what are the (deemed) “duties” of the “employment” of a shadow director? The duties may be regarded as the instructions or directions which he gives to the properly appointed directors.

Another possible view is that everything that the shadow director does for the company (or its assets) is regarded as part of his (deemed) “duties”; or alternatively everything he does if:

- (1) he acts with the consent of the properly appointed directors; or
- (2) his actions concern matters which would (apart from him) be the responsibility of the actual directors.

32 See 8.3 (Chargeable overseas earnings) and 8.5 (Meaning of “duties performed wholly outside the UK”).

33 (1) Benefits in kind of a UK resident foreign domiciled shadow director would never qualify as chargeable overseas earnings.

(2) The benefits in kind of a non-resident shadow director would never be subject to tax.

Whichever of these is correct, where a company holds a UK dwelling house, it would be difficult in practice for a UK resident foreign domiciled individual to ensure that all his “duties” are performed outside the UK. However, it should be possible in other cases, e.g. where a company only holds non-UK situate accommodation or chattels. It may help to have a contract of employment which sets out the duties (all of which are to be performed abroad).

34.23.2 *Are BIK earnings remitted to the UK?*

If BIK earnings are “chargeable overseas earnings”, they are taxable only if remitted to the UK. The meaning of “remitted to the UK” is discussed in 8.12 (Meaning of “remitted to the UK”). They are treated as remitted if they are:

- (a) paid, used, or enjoyed in the UK, or
- (b) transmitted or brought to the UK in any manner or form.

If the accommodation is not in the UK then the BIK earnings are not on any view remitted here.

If the accommodation is in the UK, common sense suggests that there ought to be a charge. But there is a sound technical argument that the earnings which do not exist cannot be remitted. The tax charge arises only if the earnings are remitted. The property (or the benefit of its use) is not the same as the earnings. HMRC do not agree. The EI Manual provides:

20508 The benefits code: Expense payments to and benefits provided for a director or employee whose earnings are taxable on remittance

The earnings of a director or employee, except in an excluded employment (EI Manual 20007), who is chargeable on remittances to the UK under either Section 22 or Section 26 ITEPA include

- expenses payments remitted to the UK
- expenses paid in the UK
- *benefits provided or enjoyed in the UK (for example, a motorbike available for use in the UK).*

40303 Meaning of “remitted to the UK”: Benefits in kind and UK-linked debts

Benefits in kind

The definition of “remitted to the UK” in Section 33 (see EI Manual 40302) includes general earnings used, enjoyed or brought to the UK in a form other than money. *The benefits code as defined by Section 63(1) ITEPA provides a number of examples of earnings that are capable of satisfying the definition including taxable benefits arising from the provision of:*

- *living accommodation*
- *loans*
- *cars available for private use.*

34.23.3 *UK situate accommodation*

If the property is in the UK, the remittance basis offers no relief from the charge.

34.24 **Benefits in kind: non-resident individual**

This section deals with the position of a non-resident individual who is an employee, director or shadow director and receives benefits in kind. Earnings are taxable only in respect of duties performed in the UK. See para.8.8 (Non-resident employee). Thus one must ascertain:

- (1) what are the duties;
- (2) whether the earnings are in respect of the duties;
- (3) where the duties are performed.

The question of what (if any) are the “duties” of a shadow director is discussed in the above paragraph. I conclude there are no real duties but there are deemed duties. Are the earnings “in respect of” the deemed duties? It is tentatively suggested that the answer is, no. Certainly if there were no duties there would be no earnings, but that is not enough. The benefit of living accommodation (which the earnings represent) would arise independently of the duties. There is no income tax avoidance possibility here, because in the sort of case where substantial services were provided by a shadow director (as valuable as an actual director) then the

earnings could be in respect of the duties.³⁴

If I am wrong on “in respect of”, but all the “duties” are performed outside the UK, the non-resident shadow director is not subject to tax under the benefit in kind provisions. If some of them are performed here, there is an apportionment. The difficulty of apportionment is immense, which suggests that my interpretation of “in respect of” is the correct one. This conclusion is also consistent with the non-residence exemption to the POA charges (though consistency between different tax codes does not count for much).

In practice, so far as the author is aware, HMRC do not pursue this tax charge on non-resident individuals. Of course, in many cases, collection of tax would be problematic. But it is significant that EI Manual para 11413 refers only to UK residents.

34.25 Other planning possibilities using companies

More complex possibilities involve:

- (1) acquiring a property,
- (2) granting (say) a ten year lease to trustees, and
- (3) transferring the freehold reversion to a company. Watch SDLT.

The living accommodation charge would not apply, because the company would not be providing living accommodation. Similar arrangements can be carried out with options. In practice, arrangements of this complexity would not often be needed.

34.26 Dealing with company structures at risk of IT charge

Many company structures have been set up in the past. The risk of a living accommodation charge depends on the facts of every case, but in practice it is often a serious concern. What can be done?

34 See *R v Dimsey & Allen* [2002] 1 AC para. 19.

34.26.1 *Planning involving winding up of the company structure*

If practical, the safest course is to extract the property from the company so as to put an end to the charge (or risk of a charge) under the benefit in kind rules. One way to do this would be:

- (1) to procure that the trust has an interest in possession for the occupier;
and
- (2) to liquidate the company.

The liquidation may give rise to a capital gain but this should not be a problem for a non-UK domiciled beneficiary. The property will be in the estate of the life tenant for IHT purposes but in practice that may not be too much of a problem: see 34.1 (Ownership by foreign domiciliary). Another company structure may be entered into later, as set out above.

Another possibility might be for a company to sell the property to the trust, the purchase price remaining outstanding as a loan. In principle the loan is deductible from the value of the property, thus substantially reducing any IHT exposure. See paragraph 30.9 (Deduction for debts of trustees). Watch SDLT.

Another possibility may be to reimburse the company for the cost of providing the accommodation. Watch the CGT implications.

34.26.2 *Planning not involving winding up the structure*

If the individual is UK domiciled then CGT may make it impractical to wind up the structure. In that case take stringent steps to ensure that the individual is not a shadow director.

34.27 **Dealing with living accommodation enquiries in practice**

In practice, as *Fayed v Advocate General* frankly reports,³⁵ shadow directorship arguments before the decision in *R v Dimsey & Allen* were “settled by horse trading as opposed to on any strict statutory basis”. It is likely that this will continue to be the case. Except for companies which

35 [2002] STC 910 para. 44.

were very carefully set up and run, HMRC will at least be able to exact a sum equal to the cost of litigating the issue before the Special Commissioners or beyond.

34.28 Living accommodation charge: commentary

Anyone who has followed the text to this point will agree that the law in this area is seriously defective. It is unnecessarily complicated, rests to a large part on formal and informal concessions, and is sometimes very unfair. The following reforms would solve these problems:

- (1) Abolish the s.105 charge and extend s.106 to cover the first £75,000 of acquisition cost. All the concessions would then drop away.
- (2) It would be fair to charge a little less than ORI rates, since residential market rents are less than the official rate of interest.
- (3) The application of the charge to shadow directors who do no real work for the company is a nonsense. Given the widespread use of holding companies to hold wealth, *Dimsey v Allen* is arguably one of the worst tax decisions made by the House of Lords in recent times. Simply to abolish the charge (reversing *R v Dimsey & Allen*) would go too far the other way, since it is fair that a shadow director who receives what is in reality remuneration from a company should be charged. The solution is to restrict the rule that any benefit from an employer is deemed to be “by reason of employment”. The deeming should not apply to a shadow director (whose connection with the company may be tenuous). That would strike the right balance.

The present IT rules are being used by HMRC as a raid on ill-advised taxpayers or as a weapon to discourage IHT planning (placing homes in companies for IHT reasons). The latter is not the purpose for which the IT rules were designed, and it is not surprising that they do not do this job well.

34.29 Section 740 charge

One should arrange, if possible, that any trust or company holding the home and chattels has no relevant income within s.740 ICTA. Otherwise

the use of the property would be a benefit giving rise to an income tax charge on the occupier; see 14.4.3 (Enjoyment of assets in kind). This only applies if the benefit is not otherwise chargeable to income tax. If there is a shadow director charge, there is no charge under s.740. One possibility is to arrange that the amount of the shadow director charge is a small one (e.g. by a reimbursement of the company's expenditure). Whatever the charge is, it will avoid a taxable benefit under s.740.

34.30 Transfer pricing and non-resident company holding family home

The transfer pricing provisions of Schedule 28AA ICTA (in short) deem transactions between persons under common control to be at arm's length prices. HMRC accept that transfer pricing applies only to transactions between two 'enterprises'.³⁶ Where a non-resident company controlled by foreign trustees provides accommodation in the UK for the use of a beneficiary rent free, no charge to tax arises since the individual is not an enterprise. Tax Bulletin 46 (April 2000) provides:

Will a charge be imputed on a non-resident landlord providing rent-free residential accommodation within the UK to a UK individual who is a participant?

It will not be Inland Revenue practice to impute a charge under Sch 28AA in these circumstances.

International Manual INTM432090 provides:

If a company provides residential accommodation rent free to a participant who just makes personal use of it as their home, transfer pricing rules would not generally apply (though other tax rules, eg relating to employee benefit or distributions, might well be relevant).

I do not understand why the text inserts the word "generally". The provisions could apply in the theoretical case where the individual is using the accommodation in an enterprise, but that is not "just personal use".

36 Accepting the argument of Robert Venables QC in 8 OTR 165.

34.31 SDLT on living accommodation charge

FA 2003 Sch. 4 para.12 provides:

- (1) Where a land transaction is entered into by reason of the purchaser's employment, or that of a person connected with him, then—
 - (a) if the transaction gives rise to a charge to tax under Chapter 5 of Part 3 of the ITEPA (taxable benefits: living accommodation) and—
 - (i) no rent is payable by the purchaser, or
 - (ii) the rent payable by the purchaser is less than the cash equivalent of the benefit calculated under section 105 or 106 of that Act,
there shall be taken to be payable by the purchaser as rent an amount equal to the cash equivalent chargeable under those sections;
 - (b) if the transaction would give rise to a charge under that Chapter but for section 99 of that Act (accommodation provided for performance of duties), the consideration for the transaction is the actual consideration (if any);
 - (c) if neither paragraph (a) nor paragraph (b) applies, the consideration for the transaction shall be taken to be not less than the market value of the subject-matter of the transaction as at the effective date of the transaction.

This charge may be very considerable. A licence (as opposed to a lease) is not within the charge to SDLT but the distinction between lease and licence is very fraught.

34.32 Chattels held by companies

Chattels situate in the UK may be placed in a company for the same reasons as the family home: to make them excluded property. This raises IT problems similar but not identical to the living accommodation charge.

34.32.1 The charge

The charge is in s.203(1) ITEPA:

The cash equivalent of an employment-related benefit is to be treated

as earnings from the employment for the tax year in which it is provided.

The key expressions are “employment-related benefit” and “cash equivalent”.

34.32.2 *Employment-related benefit*

This is defined in s.201(2) ITEPA:

In this Chapter—

“benefit” means a benefit³⁷ or facility of any kind;

There is no benefit – and so no charge – if full consideration is paid for the use of chattels. (This is so even if the amount paid is less than the “cash equivalent” as it usually will be; contrast the living accommodation charge.³⁸) HMRC accept this. EI Manual 21002 provides:

However, something (other than a loan where special provisions apply, see EIM26101 and EIM26111) which is a “fair bargain” (EIM21004) between the employer and the employee is not a “benefit”.

Section 201(2) continues:

“employment-related benefit” means a benefit, other than an excluded benefit,³⁹ which is provided in a tax year—

- (a) for an employee, or
- (b) for a member of an employee’s family or household, by reason of the employment.⁴⁰

37 For the meaning of “benefit” see 14.4 (Benefit).

38 HMRC do not argue that the word ‘facility’ applies to a facility which is not a benefit in the ordinary sense. Thus s.201(2) is a non-definition of benefit (it only says that ‘benefit’ means benefit); but non-definitions are quite common in tax legislation.

39 “Excluded benefit” is defined in s.202.

40 For the definitions of expressions used here see 34.8 (Defined terms).

34.32.3 “Cash equivalent” etc

This is defined in s.203(2) ITEPA:

The cash equivalent of an employment-related benefit is the cost of the benefit less any part of that cost made good⁴¹ by the employee to the persons providing the benefit.

This takes us to the elaborate definition of “cost of the benefit”. The starting point is s.204:

Cost of the benefit: basic rule

The cost of an employment-related benefit is the expense incurred in or in connection with provision of the benefit (including a proper proportion of any expense relating partly to provision of the benefit and partly to other matters).

There are two exceptions to this basic rule:

- (1) asset made available without transfer;
- (2) transfer of used or depreciated asset.

Point (2) is not discussed here. The rule in (1) is in s.205 ITEPA:

Cost of the benefit: asset made available without transfer

(1) The cost of an employment-related benefit (“the taxable benefit”) is determined in accordance with this section if—

- (a) the benefit consists in—
 - (i) an asset being placed at the disposal of the employee, or at the disposal of a member of the employee’s family or household, for the employee’s or member’s use, or
 - (ii) an asset being used wholly or partly for the purposes of the employee or a member of the employee’s family or household, and
 - (b) there is no transfer of the property in the asset.
- (2) The cost of the taxable benefit is the higher of—
- (a) the annual value of the use of the asset, and

41 “Make good” is discussed at 34.12.2 (Making good).

- (b) the annual amount of the sums, if any, paid by those providing the benefit by way of rent or hire charge for the asset, together with the amount of any additional expense.

This takes us to the definition of “annual value”.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the annual value of the use of an asset is—
 - (a) in the case of land, its annual rental value;⁴²
 - (b) in any other case, 20% of the market value⁴³ of the asset at the time when those providing the taxable benefit first applied the asset in the provision of an employment-related benefit (whether or not the person provided with that benefit is also the person provided with the taxable benefit).⁴⁴
- (4) In this section “additional expense” means the expense incurred in or in connection with provision of the taxable benefit (including a proper proportion of any expense relating partly to provision of the benefit and partly to other matters), other than—
 - (a) the expense of acquiring or producing the asset incurred by the person to whom the asset belongs, and
 - (b) any rent or hire charge payable for the asset by those providing the asset.⁴⁵

EI Manual provides at 21631:

Note that a tax charge arises if the asset is available for the use of the director or employee. Whether or not it is used is immaterial. This is because the legislation refers to the benefit as being an asset “placed at the disposal of” the employee. Assets commonly placed at the disposal of directors and employees to which the rule applies are yachts, aircraft, paintings, furniture, TV sets and video machines.

42 Annual Rental Value is defined in s.207 ITEPA. This change only applies to land other than living accommodation, so in practice it is not important.

43 Market Value is defined in a commonsense way in s.208 ITEPA.

44 There is transitional relief where those providing the taxable benefit first applied the asset in the provision of an employment-related benefit before 6 April 1980.

45 EIM states at 21631:

This will include expenditure on running costs and could include expenditure on alterations or improvements, repairs, maintenance, etc depending on whether it was incurred for the purpose of providing the benefit. It would not include interest paid on a loan to acquire the asset.

This is correct. The EI Manual gives examples:

**Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee:
Example**

The following example shows how the chargeable benefit relating to a yacht is calculated. It would apply to all other assets except cars, vans, land and buildings.

Facts

On 6 April a company buys a yacht on the open market for £25,000.

It immediately makes this available for the sole use of a director and his family throughout the tax year.

In the same year the company spends £2,400 on insurance, fuel, maintenance, servicing and mooring charges for the yacht. It also pays £4,500 interest on a loan obtained to purchase the yacht.

The company requires the director to pay £1,500 a year for the use of the yacht.

Calculation of the benefit

The amount chargeable on the director for the benefit from the yacht being made available for his and his family's use is:

	£
"Annual value of the use of" the yacht: 20% of its market value of £25,000	5,000
Running costs borne by the employer	2,400
	7,400
Less "made good" by the director	1,500
Amount of the benefit	5,900

Notes on the example

Note that in the example the "market value" of the yacht is taken as £25,000 as this was the open market price paid by the company immediately before it was first applied as a benefit.⁴⁶

If the company had leased the yacht for £6,000 a year from 6 April, £6,000 would have been substituted for the "annual value of the use of the yacht" of £5,000 shown above (see EIM21630 and EIM21632).

If, exceptionally, the company had leased the yacht for less than the "annual value" of £5,000, the lease rent would have been disregarded. The calculation would have remained as shown in the example above, based on the annual value of £5,000.

The interest paid on the loan to buy the yacht does not enter into the benefit calculation.

21634.

**Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee:
Asset unavailable for part of a year**

Where an asset is not available for part of a year the annual value of its use has

46 [Author's Note] This would not be correct if the yacht was purchased new, as Market Value would be the secondhand value, which is lower.

to be apportioned (Section 204 ITEPA 2003).

For instance, if in the example at EIM21633 the yacht is only made available to the director from 6 October, the chargeable benefit is:

- one half (6/12 months) of the annual value of its use plus
- expenditure on the asset by the person providing it from 6 October to the following 5 April less
- any amount made good by the director (see EIM21120).

21635.

Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee: Asset also used in the business or by other employees

An apportionment of the full amount of a benefit is required if an asset is made available to two or more directors and employees or is provided partly to the employee as a benefit and is also used partly by the employer in its business (see EIM21200).

For example, if a yacht is made available to two directors and they agree that its availability is shared equally by them, apportion one half of the benefit to each of them. Similarly if the yacht is used partly for business purposes, such as hiring to customers, a proper proportion of the full annual value of its use would not be chargeable.

21636.

Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee: Asset used by the employee partly for private purposes and partly for work purposes

When an asset is available for the private use of a director or employee but it also has to be used in the performance of his duties, the director or employee may be able to get relief for the work use. This is accomplished by treating the value of the benefit as if it were expenditure so that the business proportion can qualify for deduction under Section 336 to 338 ITEPA 2003 (see EIM31620 onwards).

Note that a deduction will not be due if the private and business use of the asset is concurrent, such as a suit of ordinary clothes worn at work (see EIM31660). Only if the use of the asset is at some times exclusively for business, such as a fax machine provided to the employee at home partly for work use, will a part deduction be due (see EIM31661). See example EIM31617.

21637.

Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee: Assets used partly for private purposes and partly for work purposes: Background to example in EIM21638

See EIM21638 for an example of the interaction between:

- the calculation of the cash equivalent of a benefit where an asset is placed at the disposal of a director or employee (Section 205(1)(a)(i) ITEPA 2003) and
- making an apportionment of that benefit where it is available to a director and for "other matters" (Section 204 ITEPA 2003).

Where a benefit is provided partly for the use of a director or employee and partly for "other matters" the cost of the benefit must be apportioned (see EIM21200) between the different uses.

Note that an asset placed at the disposal of a director or employee represents a benefit (Section 205(1)(a)(i)) regardless of the use, if any, to which the director or employee puts the asset.

If the asset is used wholly for business purposes, this does not prevent the provision of the asset representing a benefit. If the business use satisfies the terms of Section 365(1) ITEPA 2003, the director or employee will be entitled to a deduction equivalent to the full amount of the benefit, leaving no amount chargeable to tax. **But this is not the same as there being no benefit.** A benefit has been provided but because of the deduction for business use, the chargeable amount has been reduced to nil.

If the benefit is used by a director or employee for private purposes and for business purposes, the business use is not an "other matter" which can be included in the amount of the benefit to be apportioned under Section 204 ITEPA 2003. The full amount of the benefit is chargeable to tax, subject to a deduction under Section 365(1) ITEPA 2003 for any business use that meets the conditions of Section 336 to 338 ITEPA 2003 (see EIM21210).

On the other hand, use of the asset by other employees, or by the employer company (for example, for transporting goods or customers), or hire to third parties, are "other matters" to be taken into account in an apportionment.

There are no hard and fast rules for calculating the proportion of cost attributable to different uses but the end result should produce an apportionment that is reasonable in the light of the facts of the case and the statutory context in Section 204 (see EIM21200).

See the example at EIM21638.

21638.

Particular benefits: Assets placed at the disposal of a director or employee: Assets used partly for private purposes and partly for work: Example

For some background information relevant to this example see EIM21637.

Facts

- On 6 June a company purchases a 10 seater aircraft for £800,000,
- the principal shareholder of the company and managing director (MD) holds a pilot's licence,
- the plane is kept at an airfield near to both the company premises and the MD's home. It is available to the MD to use at all times – sometimes, at weekends, he decides on the spur of the moment to take a flight on the plane. The plane is not available to any other director or employee unless given specific permission,
- the company incurs costs on the plane of £20,000 for the 9 months from 6 June to 5 April for landing fees, fuel, insurance, etc.,
- when he uses the plane for private purposes the MD reimburses the company £100 per day as a contribution towards the employer's costs.
- Inspection of the logbook for the period 6 June to 5 April (274 days) shows use as follows:
 1. 10 days – by the MD for travel to business meetings
 2. 20 days – by the company (using an outside pilot hired by the day) to deliver sensitive documents to customers in remote locations
 3. 10 days – commercial hire to third parties at £2,000 per day

4. 10 days – another director of the company wishes to learn to fly and uses the plane for flying lessons with an instructor

5. 60 days – private use by the MD.

What is the amount of the benefit chargeable on the MD?

Section 205(2)(a) ITEPA 2003 determines that when an asset is placed at the disposal of a director or employee (see EIM21631), the amount of the cash equivalent of the benefit is the annual value (Section 205(3)(b)) plus additional expenses.

Annual value of plane ($\pounds 800,000 \times 9/12 \times 20\%$)	£120,000
Additional expenses	£20,000
Total amount of the benefit	£140,000

As the plane is made available for several different purposes, if any of those purposes amounts to an "other matter" (Section 204), an apportionment of the benefit may be due. Use by the MD, whether for business or private purposes, is not an other matter. But use by other employees, or use by the company, are other matters – 2, 3 and 4 above which amount to 40 days in total.

The amount of the benefit must be:

· apportioned to take account of these other matters and	
· reduced by any amount made good by the MD to the employer.	
Total amount of the benefit	£140,000
Less proportion for "other matters" ($40/274$)	£20,438
Benefit after apportionment	£119,562
Less made good by MD ($\pounds 100 \times 60$)	£6,000
Amount of the benefit chargeable	£113,562

Finally, if the director's use of the plane satisfies the terms of Section 336 ITEPA 2003 he will be due a deduction under Section 365(1) for the amount of expenses on business purposes that could have been deducted if incurred by him. This figure may be quantified based on the facts of the case. In this instance the MD used the plane for a total of 70 days in the year, 10 days for business and 60 days for private purposes. A reasonable basis for calculating the deduction due under Section 365(1) may be $10/70$ of the chargeable benefit – $10/70 \times 113,562 = 16,223$.

Less deduction for business use ($10/70$ days)	£16,223
Amount chargeable on MD	£97,339

Note it is necessary to use judgement and common sense when determining the amount that would have been deductible for expenses under Section 365(1).

In this case a deduction of approximately £1,600 per day has been allowed for the MD's travel to business meetings. This may seem a large amount but if the alternative is for the company to hire a similar plane for the day at the commercial rate of £2,000, for which the MD paid himself and was later reimbursed by the company, he would be entitled to a deduction for this amount. Apart from extreme cases, it is better not to become involved in a debate concerning what form of transport (and at what cost) is suitable for the director to use to attend meetings.

The other director who uses the plane for flying lessons will also be chargeable on a benefit based on his 10 days private use of the plane.

34.33 Employment-related loans

Section 175(1) ITEPA provides:

The cash equivalent of the benefit of an employment-related loan is to be treated as earnings from the employee's employment for a tax year if the loan is a taxable cheap loan in relation to that year.

This may of course apply to a foreign domiciled employee (including a shadow director). A full discussion is outside the scope of this book. The BIK earnings of an employment-related loan may be chargeable overseas earnings. If so, it is considered that they cannot be remitted. See 34.23 (BIK remittance basis). If that is wrong, imponderable questions arise as to what happens if the funds lent are remitted here and spent. Contrast 14.31.1 (Interest-free loan and s.740 foreign domicile defence).

34.34 “Person providing benefit”

This is defined in s.209:

Meaning of “persons providing benefit”

For the purposes of this Chapter the persons providing a benefit are the person or persons at whose cost the benefit is provided.

PRE-OWNED ASSETS

35.1 Introduction

This chapter considers the provisions in Schedule 15 FA 2004 (“POA rules”). References in this chapter to “paragraphs” are to paragraphs of that Schedule. The supplementary regulations (whose title is so long it cannot sensibly be used)¹ are referred to as “the POA Regulations”. HMRC have issued 25 pages of “Technical Guidance” but this document is not very technical and does not contain much guidance. It does not address any of the harder questions considered here. The label “pre-owned assets” is convenient but inaccurate since the charge may apply to property not previously owned by the taxpayer.

The provisions impose three charges to income tax which I shall call:

- (1) The POA land charge.
- (2) The POA chattel charge.
- (3) The POA intangible property charge.

Land, chattel and intangible property are given commonsense definitions.²

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights considered that the provisions are compatible with the ECHR except (intriguingly) in relation to the spouse exemptions (which fail to give relief to unmarried partners).³

1 The Charge to Income Tax by Reference to Enjoyment of Property Previously Owned Regulations 2005.

2 Paragraph 1.

3 www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200304/jtselect/jtrights/93/9305.htm.

This may not be the last word on the subject but (with that exception) the prospect of a successful appeal on human rights grounds seems slender.

35.2 The POA land charge

Paragraph 3(1) provides:

This paragraph applies where—

- (a) an individual (“the chargeable person”) occupies any land (“the relevant land”), whether alone or together with other persons, and
- (b) the disposal condition or the contribution condition is met as respects the land.

In the discussion below the “chargeable person” is called “T” and the land he occupies is called “land occupied by T” (rather than “the relevant land”).

“Occupation” is a legal concept extensively discussed in rating cases. Technical Guidance makes some general observations on the meaning of occupation at 4.6.

35.3 The disposal conditions

Paragraph 3(2) provides:

The disposal condition is that—

- (a) at any time after 17 March 1986 the chargeable person owned an interest—
 - (i) in the relevant land, or
 - (ii) in other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of an interest in the relevant land, and
- (b) the chargeable person has disposed⁴ of all, or part of, his interest in the relevant land or the other property, otherwise than by an excluded transaction.

This is best regarded as two conditions depending on whether (a) (i) or (ii) applies. I call them disposal conditions (i) and (ii). Only one of them needs to be satisfied for the “disposal condition” to be met.

4 “Disposal” is defined in paragraph 3(4).

35.3.1 *Disposal condition (i)*

The essence of disposal condition (i) is that:

- (a) T owned an interest in the land occupied by him.... and
- (b) T has disposed of all, or part of, his interest in the land ...

Disposal condition (i) is directed at IHT avoidance arrangements (*Eversden, Ingram* and double trust schemes) which would not normally be carried out by foreign domiciled individuals. It might of course apply in many other situations, e.g. if a foreign domiciliary transferred his house to a trust or company.

What if T enters into a contract to purchase land and then assigns that contract to a trust or company? The contract is an interest in land. However on completion the contract ceases to exist. That will normally be before the valuation date. Since the asset cannot be valued on the valuation date, it is tentatively suggested that the POA provisions do not apply in this situation.

The disposal condition is satisfied by a disposal of land for full consideration. However, in such case the exclusion for arm's length transactions may apply.

35.3.2 *Disposal condition (ii)*

The essence of disposal condition (ii) is that:

- (a) T owned ... other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of an interest in the land occupied by T, and
- (b) T has disposed of all, or part of, his interest in the ... other property ...

Disposal condition (ii) is probably intended to deal with the situation where:

- (1) T disposes of land to A.
- (2) A sells the land and uses the proceeds to purchase other land occupied by T.

However, it may apply where:

- (1) T disposes of property (not land or cash) to A; and
- (2) A disposes of that property and uses the proceeds to purchase land occupied by T.

This overlaps with the contribution condition. The overlap matters because the excluded transaction defences to the contribution and disposal conditions are not the same.

35.4 The contribution conditions

Paragraph 3(3) provides:

The contribution condition is that at any time after 17 March 1986 the chargeable person has directly or indirectly provided, otherwise than by an excluded transaction, any of the consideration given by another person for the acquisition of—

- (a) an interest in the relevant land, or
- (b) an interest in any other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of an interest in the relevant land.

This is best regarded as two conditions, depending on whether (a) or (b) applies. I call them contribution condition (a) and (b). Only one of them need be satisfied for the “contribution condition” to be met.

35.4.1 *Contribution condition (a)*

The essence of contribution condition (a) is that:

T has directly or indirectly provided...any of the consideration given by another person for the acquisition of ... the land occupied by T ...

This envisages that:

- (1) “another person” (which may be a company or trustee) acquires for consideration land occupied by T; and

- (2) T has provided that consideration directly or indirectly.

35.4.2 *Contribution condition (b)*

The essence of contribution condition (b) is that:

T has directly or indirectly provided... any of the consideration given by another person for the acquisition of ... any other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of ... the land occupied by T.

This applies where:

- (1) “Another person” (“A”) acquires “other property” for consideration.
- (2) T has provided that consideration directly or indirectly.
- (3) A disposes of the other property.
- (4) The proceeds are (directly or indirectly) applied by “another person” (presumably either A himself or another person, “B”) towards the acquisition of the land occupied by T.

The drafter may be considering a situation where:

- (a) T transfers funds to A who purchases a property; and
- (b) A sells that property and uses the proceeds to buy another property occupied by T.

or

- (a) T transfers funds to A (e.g. trustees);
- (b) A transfers the funds to B (e.g. a company held by A);
- (c) B uses the funds to purchase a property occupied by T.

In both those cases I would have said that T had indirectly provided

consideration given for the land and contribution condition (a) was already satisfied. I cannot think of a situation which falls within condition (b) and which does not fall within condition (a). But it does not much matter.

35.5 “Provide”

“Providing” is the fundamental concept in the contribution conditions and it is not an easy one. Some guidance can be found in cases on the meaning of “settlor” where the statutory language is similar.⁵

So if T gives funds to A, an individual, and A later uses those funds to buy a property, T has not provided the funds unless the two steps form a single arrangement: see 37.3.1 (When is A an indirect settlor?). Likewise if T provides funds to A, who gives them to B, who purchases the property: it is suggested that T has not provided the consideration if the “clean break” test is satisfied.

It is suggested that “provide” implies an element of bounty. So if T lends money on arm’s length terms to A, who uses the money lent to buy the property, T has not “provided” the consideration and the contribution condition is not satisfied.

What if T lends interest-free to A, who uses the money lent to buy the property? Probably T has provided the consideration if the two steps form a single arrangement. But it might be argued that A provides the consideration himself (by his promise to repay T) and all that T has provided is the interest foregone.

What if T gives funds to A and A borrows from a third party on the security of those funds, and uses the borrowed funds to buy the property? It is considered that T has not provided the consideration. If T provides fund A to a company or trust, which borrows fund B from a third party, and the company or trust uses both funds to acquire the property, then T has provided fund A but not fund B.

What if T subscribes for shares on arm’s length terms? Probably T has “provided” funds to the company.

Traditional IHT planning (where an offshore company is used to hold a foreign domiciliary’s residence) will satisfy the contribution condition. It will apply where, under a single arrangement:

5 Some guidance ought to be found from comparable wording in Stamp Duty and SDLT group relief. Unfortunately the SD/SDLT position is even more obscure than the POA: s.27 FA 1967; SP 3/98; para. 2(2) Sch 7 FA 2003; Tax Bulletin 70.

- (1) a foreign domiciliary lends funds interest-free to a company which acquires the home; or
- (2) a foreign domiciliary gifts funds to a trust which lends interest-free to the company which acquires the home.⁶

It is probably not necessary that T provides funds for the purpose of the acquisition of the land. Suppose:

- (1) In 1987 T created a trust. At the time he had no plans to move to the UK.
- (2) In 2005 the trustees finance by interest-free loan a company which purchases a property which T occupies.

The foreign domiciled individual has directly provided the property for the purposes of the trust. He is probably to be regarded as having indirectly provided the consideration given for the acquisition of the land.⁷ So contribution condition (a) is satisfied.

35.5.1 *Guarantees*

Paragraph 17 provides:

Guarantees

Where a person (“A”) acts as guarantor in respect of a loan made to another person (“B”) by a third party in connection with B’s acquisition of any property, the mere giving of the guarantee is not to be regarded as the provision by A of consideration for B’s acquisition of the property.

It is suggested that this applies even if A provides security for his guarantee or deposits funds with a bank as a back-to-back loan.

What if:

-
- 6 It would also apply if the trust purchases the home (without a company) but in this situation the estate or GWR exemption is likely to apply.
 - 7 This is consistent with paragraph 10(2)(c) which envisages a seven year gap between the provisions of funds and the occupation of the land. But the contrary view is arguable.

- (1) B borrows to purchase property (perhaps with a guarantee by T); and
- (2) T later gives funds to B who repays?

If the steps are independent, it is considered that T has not provided the consideration. If however, the steps form part of a single arrangement, it is suggested that T can be said to have provided the consideration indirectly.

35.5.2 *Secondhand company*

The contribution condition will not be satisfied where:

- (1) One individual has provided funds to a company to purchase a house.
- (2) He sold the company to a second individual who occupies the house.

The second individual has not provided the funds for the purchase (unless the two steps form a single arrangement): see 12.8.1 (Purchase of secondhand company).

35.5.3 *Purpose of contribution conditions*

It is hard to see the purpose of the contribution conditions. *Ingram, Eversden* and double trust schemes would be caught by the disposal conditions. Perhaps it was meant to catch schemes set up on the occasion of purchase of a new property where the settlor would provide cash to a trust. But this was never done in the past; it would have been better to frame more targeted anti-avoidance provisions than this blunderbuss approach.

35.6 The POA chattel charge

Paragraph 6 provides:

- (1) This paragraph applies where—
 - (a) an individual (“the chargeable person”) is in possession of, or has the use of, a chattel, whether alone or together with other persons, and

- (b) the disposal condition or the contribution condition is met as respects the chattel.
- (2) The disposal condition is that—
 - (a) at any time after 17 March 1986 the chargeable person had (whether alone or jointly with others) owned—
 - (i) the chattel, or
 - (ii) any other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of the chattel, and
 - (b) the chargeable person disposed⁸ of all or part of his interest in the chattel or other property otherwise than by an excluded transaction.
- (3) The contribution condition is that at any time after 17 March 1986 the chargeable person had directly or indirectly provided, otherwise than by an excluded transaction, any of the consideration given by another person for the acquisition of—
 - (a) the chattel, or
 - (b) any other property the proceeds of the disposal of which were (directly or indirectly) applied by another person towards the acquisition of the chattel

This follows the form of the POA land charge.

35.7 The POA intangible property charge

Paragraph 8 provides:

- (1) This paragraph applies where—
 - (a) the terms of a settlement,⁹ as they affect any property comprised in the settlement, are such that any income arising from the property would be treated by virtue of section 624 of ITTOIA (income arising under settlement where settlor retains an interest) as income of a person (“the chargeable person”) who is for the purposes of Chapter 5 of Part 5 of that Act the settlor,
 - (b) any such income would be so treated even if section 625(1) of ITTOIA (settlor’s retained interest) did not include any reference to the spouse of the settlor, and

⁸ “Disposal” is further defined in paragraph 6(4).

⁹ “Settlement” here has the IHT meaning, not the income tax meaning: paragraph 1.

- (c) that property includes any property as respects which the condition in sub-paragraph (2) is met (“the relevant property”).
- (2) The condition mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(c) is that the property is intangible property which is or represents property which the chargeable person settled, or added to the settlement, after 17 March 1986.

In practice the GWR or estate exemptions will usually be available here, so the POA intangible property charge will not usually affect foreign domiciliaries. An important question is whether paragraph 12(3) disappplies these exemptions in the case of a former foreign domiciliary. See 35.23 (Former foreign domiciliary).

The charge does not apply to intangible property held by a company held by a trust, since that is not property comprised in a settlement, and not caught by s.624, but the shares in the company will be intangible property (except perhaps bearer shares?). The charge is intended to catch *Eversden* schemes marketed by life insurance companies (which will not normally have been carried out by foreign domiciliaries) but for those schemes its effect may be avoidable.

35.8 Excluded transactions

A disposal of property by an excluded transaction is ignored for the disposal conditions; and the provision of property by an excluded transaction is ignored for the contribution conditions. Paragraph 10(1) defines “excluded transaction” for the disposal conditions and paragraph 10(2) defines the phrase for the contribution conditions. Each sub-paragraph contains five categories of excluded transaction, making 10 in all. Simplicity was evidently not an important consideration to the drafter of the POA rules.

Excluded transactions are not a defence to the POA intangible property charge.

35.9 Excluded transactions: disposal conditions

35.9.1 *Arm’s length exclusions*

Paragraph 10(1) provides:

For the purposes of ... the disposal condition, the disposal of any property is an “excluded transaction” in relation to any person (“the chargeable person”) if—

- (a) it was a disposal of his whole interest in the property, except for any right expressly reserved by him over the property, either—
 - (i) by a transaction made at arm’s length with a person not connected with him, or
 - (ii) by a transaction such as might be expected to be made at arm’s length between persons not connected with each other.

There is no equivalent of this category of excluded transaction for the purposes of the contribution conditions. The reason is that a disposal at arm’s length is not likely to amount to “providing” consideration.

This is extended by reg. 5(1) of the POA Regulations for part disposals:

Paragraph 3 (land) and paragraph 6 (chattels) do not apply to a person in relation to a disposal of part of an interest in any property if—

- (a) the disposal was by a transaction made at arm’s length with a person not connected with him;
- (b) the disposal was by a transaction such as might be expected to be made at arm’s length between persons not connected with each other, and
 - (i) the disposal was for a consideration not in money or in the form of readily convertible assets¹⁰, or
 - (ii) the disposal was made before 7 March 2005.

One might think the word ‘not’ is included accidentally in 5(1)(b)(i) but it was deliberate. A written ministerial statement of 7 March 2005 provides:

We do not in general think it is appropriate to provide exemption for sales of a part interest which are made otherwise than at arm’s length. If one member of a family needs to raise cash, and another member of the family is willing and able to provide it, there are other and more straightforward ways of structuring this than adopting the form of an equity release transaction.

Very few readers will find that satisfactory. But there it is. The Press Release continues:

The point was however made in consultation that some intra-family part disposals can arise from patterns of behaviour adopted for good family or business reasons, for example where a child moves in to care for an aged parent and acquires an equitable interest in their shared home as a corollary of that, or where younger members of a family take over the active role in a family partnership, and in doing so acquire an interest from the partners who preceded them.

What is notable is that the drafter seems to have assumed that these are “transactions such as might be expected to be made at arm’s length between persons not connected with each other”.

The Technical Guidance states (Appendix 1):

If Miss B acquires her interest in the property by way of an equitable arrangement rather than for cash – for example, she had given up work to care for Mr A on the understanding that she would receive a share of the property in return – the income tax charge will not apply. The onus will be on the taxpayer to show that Miss B’s claim to a share of the property would meet with the approval of the Court.

It is straining credulity to describe this as a transaction that may have been expected to have been made at arm’s length. But the legislation was not intended to catch this, and it seems that HMRC do not really care about it. The Technical Guidance continues:

C, an existing partner, brings his son D into the partnership. In return for D’s agreement to take on most of the day-to-day running of the partnership C gives him a share in the partnership. In the circumstances of this case, it is accepted that D’s agreement constitutes consideration in other than money or realisable assets and that the transaction is one that might be expected to be made at arm’s length. The Regulations provide that such a disposal is exempt from the income tax charge for the purposes of this Schedule.

This really is worrying, if HMRC take the point seriously, but foreign domiciliaries as such are not likely to be affected.

35.9.2 *Spouse exclusions*

The second and third categories of excluded transaction are in paragraph 10(1)(b) and (c):

- (b) the property was transferred to his spouse (or where the transfer has been ordered by a court, to his former spouse),
- (c) it was a disposal by way of gift (or, where the transfer is for the benefit of his former spouse, in accordance with a court order), by virtue of which the property became settled property in which his spouse or former spouse is beneficially entitled to an interest in possession.¹¹

This applies whether or not the IHT spouse exemption applies on the transfer. The transfer to the spouse need not be by way of gift; but a disposal to a trust under which a spouse has an interest in possession must be by way of gift if the disposal is to be an excluded transaction. Perhaps the reason is to stop variants of the double trust scheme (which involves a sale of a house to an interest in possession trust for consideration).

35.9.3 *Disposition for maintenance of family*

The fourth category of excluded transaction is in para 10(1)(d):

the disposal was a disposition falling within section 11 of IHTA (dispositions for maintenance of family).

35.9.4 *Annual exemption and small gifts*

The fifth category of excluded transaction is in para 10(1)(e):

the disposal is an outright gift¹² to an individual and is for the purposes of IHTA a transfer of value that is wholly exempt by virtue of section 19 (annual exemption) or section 20 (small gifts).

This will include substantial gifts which qualify for 100% BPR or APR.

11 This is restricted by paragraph 10(3):

“A disposal is not an excluded transaction by virtue of sub-paragraph (1)(c) or (2)(b), if the interest in possession of the spouse or former spouse has come to an end otherwise than on the death of the spouse or former spouse.”

12 See 35.11 (Meaning of “outright gift”).

35.10 Excluded transactions: contribution conditions

35.10.1 Four exclusions

Para 10(2) provides:

For the purposes of ... the contribution condition the provision by a person (“the chargeable person”) of consideration for another's acquisition of any property is an “excluded transaction” in relation to the chargeable person if—

- (a) the other person was his spouse (or, where the transfer has been ordered by the court, his former spouse),
- (b) on its acquisition the property became settled property in which his spouse or former spouse is beneficially entitled to an interest in possession.

These are the equivalent of 35.9.2 (Spouse exclusions). The spouse trust exclusion here is wider than the spouse trust exclusion for the disposal condition, as the words “by way of gift” do not appear. The last two exclusions in para 10(2) are:

- (d) the provision of the consideration is a disposition falling within section 11 of IHTA (dispositions for maintenance of family), or
- (e) the provision of the consideration is an outright gift to an individual and is for the purposes of IHTA a transfer of value that is wholly exempt by virtue of section 19 (annual exemption) or section 20 (small gifts).

These are the equivalent of 35.9.3 and 35.9.4 (family maintenance, annual exemption and small gifts).

35.10.2 Outright gift of money

The remaining exclusion is in para.10(2)(c) where:

- (c) the provision of the consideration constituted an outright gift¹³ of money (in sterling or any other currency) by the chargeable person to the other person and was made at least seven years before the

13 See 35.11 (Meaning of “outright gift”).

earliest date on which the chargeable person met the condition in paragraph 3(1)(a)¹⁴ or, as the case may be, 6(1)(a).¹⁵

Para (c) applies only to the contribution conditions.

The exemption only applies to gifts of money. I am unable to see any reason for that.

35.11 Meaning of “outright gift”

The expression “outright gift” is used in three of the ten categories of excluded transaction:

- (1) Outright gifts to individuals within s.19 (annual exemption) or s.20 (small gifts) are excluded transactions for the disposal and contribution conditions.¹⁶
- (2) Outright gifts of money (whether or not to an individual) are excluded for the disposal condition.¹⁷

“Outright gift” is not defined. Clearly a loan and a subscription for shares is not an outright gift. It is suggested that a gift to a trust from which the settlor is excluded is in principle an outright gift.

The term “outright gift” is partially defined in s.626 ITTOIA; see 33.15 (IT planning for mixed marriage), but that definition does not apply here. It is tentatively suggested that a gift to an irrevocable discretionary trust of which the donor is merely a discretionary beneficiary is an “outright gift”. It must be envisaged that the donor occupies the land given or the exclusion will not apply.

35.12 Exemptions from charge

Paragraph 11 provides a set of exemptions from the POA charges which (in my terminology) are as follows:

14 i.e. occupies the relevant land.

15 i.e. has possession of the chattels.

16 See 35.9.4 (Annual exemption and small gifts); 35.10.1 (Four exclusions).

17 See 35.10.2 (Outright gift of money).

- (1) Estate exemptions
- (2) GWR exemptions
- (3) Para 11(5)(b) exemptions (charities and other specialist areas) not discussed here
- (4) Para 11(5)(c) exemption (jointly occupied property) not discussed here
- (5) Full consideration exemption.

35.13 “Relevant property”

Paragraph 11 uses the concept “relevant property” defined in para 11(9). The expression has three possible meanings. In relation to the POA land and chattel charges, “relevant property” means:

- (i) where the disposal condition ... is met, the property disposed of,
- (ii) where the contribution condition ... is met, the property representing the consideration directly or indirectly provided.

In a contribution condition case, the relevant property is the property representing the consideration directly or indirectly provided. Since “provided” is a difficult concept,¹⁸ this is also difficult.

If T gives money to A, who uses it to buy a house, the house represents the consideration provided.

What if T lends money to A interest-free, who purchases a house? Is it the house or the benefit of the loan which represents the consideration provided? What if T subscribes for shares in A Ltd which purchases the house. Is it the shares or the house which represent the property provided? It is suggested that in each case the relevant property is the house, but the benefit of the loan, or the shares, may be derived property: see below.

In relation to the POA intangible property charge, “relevant property” has the meaning given in paragraph 8 (roughly, the settled property).

35.14 Estate exemptions

35.14.1 *Full estate exemption*

Paragraph 11(1) provides that the POA charges:

¹⁸ See 35.5 (“Provide”).

do not apply to a person at a time when his estate for the purposes of IHTA includes—

- (a) the relevant property, or
- (b) other property—
 - (i) which derives its value from the relevant property, and
 - (ii) whose value, so far as attributable to the relevant property, is not substantially less than the value of the relevant property.

I refer to this as the estate exemption.

For the purposes of discussion I shall assume the “relevant property” is a house. If T transfers his house to a trust under which he has an interest in possession, the estate exemption will apply.

35.14.2 *Partial estate exemption*

Paragraph 11(2) provides:

Where the estate for the purposes of IHTA of a person to whom paragraph 3, 6 or 8 applies includes property—

- (a) which derives its value from the relevant property, and
- (b) whose value, so far as attributable to the relevant property, is substantially less than the value of the relevant property,

the appropriate rental value in paragraph 4, the appropriate amount in paragraph 7 or the chargeable amount in paragraph 9 (as the case may be) is to be reduced by such proportion as is reasonable to take account of the inclusion of the property in his estate.

I refer to this as the partial estate exemption.

I find the concluding words “such proportion as is reasonable to take into account of the inclusion of the property in his estate” somewhat incoherent. Presumably it means: “such proportion as is reasonable to take into account having regard to the inclusion of the property in his estate”.

35.15 **Derived property**¹⁹

In the following discussion:

¹⁹ I adopt the label from the comparable term in s.77 TCGA.

- (1) “Fully derived property” is property falling within paragraph 11(1)(b).
- (2) “Partly derived property” is property falling within paragraph 11(2).

Thus there are three steps to decide whether property is “derived property”:

- (1) Is its value derived from the relevant property (the house)? If so:
- (2) Ascertain how far its value is attributable to the house.
- (3) Is that value (the value attributable to the house) “substantially²⁰ less” than the value of the house?

35.15.1 *Derived property: shares*

Suppose T subscribes for shares in a company which buys a house and has no other assets. The shares are fully derived property since:

- (1) the shares derive their value from the house (the relevant property);
and
- (2) the value of the shares is attributable to the house; and
- (3) that value is not substantially less than the value of the house.

Suppose the company owns a house and other assets. The context shows that the shares are still to be regarded as fully derived property since:

- (1) they derive their value from the house;

20 “Substantially” is, obviously, not a precise word. The Technical Guidance states at 4.7:

“The term “substantially less” is not defined by the legalisation but by analogy with the Capital Gains Tax taper relief rules we would regard a reduction of value of less than 20% as not substantially less for the purposes of this Schedule. [Author’s Note: see RI 228.] If the circumstances of a particular case suggest that the “substantially less” provision should be triggered by a reduction of more or less than 20%, it will be judged on its individual merits.”

- (2) their value is to some extent attributable to the house;
- (3) their value to that extent is not substantially less than the value of the house.

One might question whether it is the case that the shares derive their value from the house. They derive their value in part from the house and in part from other assets. However, the context shows that that satisfies the condition of 11(1)(b)(i). Otherwise the condition in 11(1)(b)(ii) is never satisfied.

Suppose the company owns only the house and is subject to a substantial debt. The shares are not fully derived property as their value is substantially less than the house. The shares are partly derived property.

Suppose the company owns the house and other assets, and is subject to a debt. It is suggested that the shares are fully derived property so long as the amount of the debt is less than the value of the other assets.

The estate exemption applies so long as T retains the shares in his estate. If T gifts half the shares to his wife the estate exemption ceases to apply and POA land charge is due (but with some relief under the partial estate exemption).

35.15.2 *Derived property: benefit of loan*

Suppose T lends interest-free to a company which purchases the house and has no other assets. Initially the loan is fully derived property as the shares have no value. The loan derives its value from the house as if the loan is called in, it could only be paid by the company:

- (1) selling the house and using the proceeds of sale, or
- (2) borrowing on the strength of the house (in the sense that no lender would lend if the company did not hold the house) and repaying out of that loan.

It cannot be said that the loan derives its value not from the underlying property (the house) but from the contractual undertaking that obliges the company to repay. It is the existence of the house which gives value to the contractual obligation to repay. If the value of the house increases substantially, the shares and loan (taken together) are fully derived

property and taken separately they are partly-derived property.

The position is more complicated if T lends to a company which purchases the house and has other assets. Suppose, for example, the company's assets and liabilities consist of a house worth £1m, investments of £1m, and a debt to the trust of £1m. It is still plainly the case that the benefit of the debt and the shares taken together are fully derived property. It is suggested that if the debt is charged on the house it derives its value from the house, and if it is not charged then it does not do so (but the shares do derive their value from the house).

If T lends to a trust on a non-recourse basis²¹ the same applies. It is suggested that the same applies even if the trustees are personally liable for the loan, though this is a purposive and non-literal interpretation.

35.16 Excluded liability rule

Paragraph 11(6) provides a restriction on the estate exemptions:

Where at any time the value of a person's estate for the purposes of IHTA is reduced by an excluded liability affecting any property...

I call this “the excluded liability rule”. The effect of the rule if it applies is:

that property is not to be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) or (2) as comprised in his estate except to the extent that the value of the property exceeds the amount of the excluded liability.

The excluded liability rule only applies for the purposes of the estate and partial estate exemptions. The question of to what extent debts may limit the GWR exemption is discussed at 28.11 (GWR property subject to debt).

35.16.1 “*Excluded liability*”

The term “excluded liability” is defined in paragraph 11(7):

For the purposes of sub-paragraph (6) a liability is an excluded liability

21 i.e. the trustees' liability to repay is restricted to the trust assets or their value.

if—

(a) the creation of the liability, and

(b) any transaction

[i] by virtue of which the person's estate came to include

[A] the relevant property or

[B] property which derives its value from the relevant property
or

[ii] by virtue of which the value of property in his estate came to be
derived from the relevant property,

were associated operations, as defined by section 268 of IHTA.

I am unable to think of any liability affecting property which is not associated with the transaction within (b). The definition of associated operations is extremely wide. On a number of occasions where anti-avoidance provisions use the concept of “associated operations” restrictions have been read in by implication. The most recent is *Reynaud v IRC* [1999] STC (SCD) 185. This concerned a gift of shares followed by a sale of those shares, two associated associations. The case considered the definition of “transfer of value”. That term includes “a disposition effected by associated operations” which reduces the value of an estate. The Special Commissioners held that associated operations were only relevant if they were part of a scheme contributing to the reduction of the estate. See the decision at paragraph 17. However, the decision was not based on the definition of associated operations. On the contrary, it was accepted that operations which do not form part of a scheme could nevertheless be associated. It was the concept of “*disposition effected by associated operations*” which was held to refer only to operations which formed part of a scheme. That is, the restriction was implied by the context of s.3(3) IHTA, not by the words of s.268.

One could argue that the context of para.11(7) implies a restriction that only associated operations forming part of a scheme are relevant for the definition of excluded liability. This would have to be a purposive construction since the words are not in fact there in para.11(7). But we know that the purpose of para. 11(7) is to *catch* double trust plans. The effect of this construction would be to *defeat* the intention of the legislation. The argument would mean asking the Courts to frustrate the actual intention of the legislation. So the argument is unlikely to succeed.

35.17 “Affecting property”

The rule only applies to a liability which “affects” property. It is suggested that a liability of an individual or company does not affect property of the individual or company unless secured on that property. A liability of a company does not affect the shares of the company (even if it may reduce their value). A liability of a trust does affect the trust property since the trustees have a lien over the trust fund to meet the liability.

35.18 Value of estate “reduced” by liability

The excluded liability rule only applies if the value of a person’s estate is “reduced” by a liability. In what circumstances does a liability reduce the value of an estate? Plainly it does not do so if it is disallowed for IHT.²² What if trustees owe a debt to the life tenant settlor? The liability does not reduce the value of his estate for the same reason as when the debt is owed to the trustees: see 30.7.1 (Debt owed by non-settlor life tenant to trust). What if trustees owe a debt to a company held by the trust? It is considered that the debt does not reduce the life tenant’s estate since the benefit of the debt increases the value of the company’s shares: the two cancel each other out.

What if T borrows money from a bank or third party? It is considered that his estate is not “reduced” by the liability, since his estate is not reduced by the transaction: the liability is matched by the receipt of the borrowed money. Otherwise the excluded liability rule would apply whenever anyone borrows on the security of his house, which would be absurd.²³

The excluded liability rule was intended to catch double trust schemes. Suppose:

- (1) T sells his home to a trust under which he has an interest in possession in return for a debt.

At this point the excluded liability rule does not apply. The liability is an

22 See 30.2 (Deduction for liability of individual).

23 Admittedly s.162(5) IHTA applies and uses the word “reduced” in connection with the same liability. But the question is not whether the value of an *asset* is reduced, but whether the value of the *estate* is reduced.

excluded liability as defined.²⁴ However, the benefit of the debt is in T's estate. It is considered that the value of his estate is not "reduced" by the liability.

- (2) T gives the benefit of the debt to his children or to a trust for their benefit.

Is the value of T's estate is now reduced by the liability? One can argue that it is reduced by the gift of the debt, not by the liability. But a purposive construction suggests that this cannot be right.

The provision works as intended.

Suppose trustees borrow from a third party to purchase a property occupied by the life-tenant settlor. The excluded liability rule applies. However, the contribution condition does not apply if the trustees borrow 100% of the purchase price.

35.18.1 *Company debts*

Suppose T lends to a company which purchases the property. The liability is an excluded liability as defined, but so long as T retains the benefit of the debt the excluded liability rule does not apply. What if T gives away the debt? The excluded liability rule does not apply unless the debt is secured.

35.18.2 *Company/trust structure*

Suppose T transfers asset to a trust under which he has an interest in possession which lends to a company which purchases the house. The debt reduces or removes the estate exemption. However, it is suggested that the GWR exemption will still apply.

35.19 GWR exemptions

35.19.1 *Full GWR exemption*

Paragraph 11(3) and (5)(a) provide that the POA charges do not apply to

24 The transaction by which the person's estate included the house was its purchase not the sale to the trust. The creation of the liability is an associated operation because it affects the same property even if the purchase was many years earlier.

a person at a time when the relevant property or derived property—

would fall to be treated by virtue of any provision of Part 5 [FA 1986] as property which in relation to him is property subject to a reservation.

I refer to this as the full GWR exemption.

The question of whether property is subject to a reservation is considered at 28.3 (Property subject to a reservation).²⁵

Note that property may be subject to a reservation even though it is excluded property. Suppose:

- (1) T transfers funds to a discretionary trust.
- (2) The trustees lend the funds to a company which purchases a house occupied by T.

The shares and the benefit of the loan are derived property, and are subject to a reservation. This is so even if they are excluded property. So the GWR exemption applies.

A complication arises if T becomes UK domiciled: see 35.23 (Former foreign domiciliary).

35.19.2 *Partial GWR exemption*

Paragraph 11(4) provides:

Where any property which falls within sub-paragraph (5) in relation to a person includes property—

- (a) which derives its value from the relevant property, and
 - (b) whose value, so far as attributable to the relevant property, is substantially less than the value of the relevant property,
- the appropriate rental value in paragraph 4, the appropriate amount in paragraph 7 or the chargeable amount in paragraph 9 (as the case may

25 For this purpose para 11(8) tinkers with the GWR tracing rules:

“In determining whether any property falls within sub-paragraph (5)(b), (c) or (d) in a case where the contribution condition in paragraph 3(3) or 6(3) is met, paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 20 [FA 1986] (exclusion of gifts of money) is to be disregarded.”

The Technical Guidance gives an example at 4.2.

be) is to be reduced by such proportion as is reasonable to take account of that fact.

I refer to this as the partial GWR exemption. It is the equivalent of the partial estate exemption discussed above (except that the words at the end of the subsection are grammatical).

35.20 Full consideration exemption

The full consideration exemption in paragraph 11(5)(d) applies where the relevant property or derived property:

would fall to be treated as property subject to a reservation but for s.102C(3) and Schedule 20 paragraph 6 FA 1986.

There are two exemptions here:²⁶

- (1) where the GWR rule would apply but for s.102C(3); and
- (2) where the GWR rule would apply but for Sch. 20 para.6.

Section 102C is not discussed here. Para.6(1) Schedule 20 FA 1986 provides two exemptions to the GWR rule. The first is:

In determining whether any property which is disposed of by way of gift is enjoyed to the entire exclusion, or virtually to the entire exclusion, of the donor and of any benefit to him by contract or otherwise—

- (a) in the case of property which is an interest in land or a chattel, retention or assumption by the donor of actual occupation of the land or actual enjoyment of an incorporeal right over the land, or actual possession of the chattel shall be disregarded if it is for full consideration in money or money's worth ...

I call this the full consideration exemption. This is particularly important

26 Another possible reading is that the exemption only applies if s.102C(3) and Schedule 20 para 6 both apply, i.e. it is not enough that Schedule 20 para 6 applies if s.102C(3) does not. But a close reading of s.102C shows that s.102C(3) and para. 6 are alternatives. They cannot both apply. *Hansard* confirms this (if it were necessary): HC 7 July 2004 col.881, 900. The Technical Guidance agrees.

in relation to chattels because full consideration would be much less than the deemed income charge. As to the meaning of “full consideration” see RI 55 and the published IR letter of 18 May 1987. At present the Government like to argue that the industry standard 1% guideline as the market rent for chattels is too low.

The full consideration exemption only applies if there would otherwise be a GWR. If an individual has carried out an *Eversden* scheme, he will not qualify for the full consideration exemption even if he pays full consideration for use of the land (though the rent paid will reduce the quantum of the POA charge).

The second exemption in para.6(1)(b) Schedule 20 is less likely to be important in practice.

35.21 Non-resident taxpayer

Paragraph 12(1) provides:

This Schedule does not apply in relation to any person for any year of assessment during which he is not resident in the UK.

This is straightforward.

35.22 UK resident foreign domiciliary

Paragraph 12(2) provides:

Where in any year of assessment a person is resident in the UK but is domiciled²⁷ outside the UK, this Schedule does not apply to him unless the property falling within paragraph 3(1)(a), 6(1)(a) or 8(1)(c) is situated in the UK.

This provides an exemption where:

- (1) T occupies non-UK situate land;
- (2) T uses non-UK situate chattels; or

27 “Domiciled” is defined in paragraph 12(4):

“For the purposes of this paragraph, a person is to be treated as domiciled in the UK at any time only if he would be so treated for the purposes of IHTA.”

(3) intangible property is not UK situate.

It does not provide exemption where T transfers assets to a non-UK company which holds UK land occupied by T. But the GWR or estate exemption will usually apply.

35.23 Former foreign domiciliary

Paragraph 12(3) provides:

In the application of this Schedule to a person who was at any time domiciled²⁸ outside the UK, no regard is to be had to any property which is for the purposes of IHTA excluded property in relation to him²⁹ by virtue of section 48(3)(a) of that Act.

The words “was at any time domiciled outside the UK” refer only to a person who was formerly foreign domiciled but who has become UK domiciled. The words do not refer to a person who has at all times been foreign domiciled. (The words in isolation could, taken literally, apply in such a case, but the word *was* in para. 12(3) is to be contrasted with *is* in para. 12(2).)

Suppose:

- (1) T (not UK domiciled) creates a discretionary trust of which he is a beneficiary;
- (2) The trust holds:
 - (a) Non-UK investments.
 - (b) A company holding UK property occupied by T.

At this point, the conditions for the POA intangible property charge and the POA land charge are satisfied but the GWR exemption provides relief in both cases.

28 See above footnote.

29 The words “in relation to him” are misconceived. Settled property is excluded property or not excluded; but it cannot be excluded property “in relation to” any particular beneficiary. It is considered that these words should simply be disregarded.

(3) Suppose T becomes UK deemed domiciled (or actually domiciled).

At first sight T ceases to enjoy the benefit of the GWR and estate exemptions as the trust property is excluded property, so “no regard” is to be had to it.

(1) In relation to the investments, there is still no POA intangible property charge, since the investments are excluded property, so no regard is to be had to them either.

(2) However, the land is not excluded property, so the POA land charge seems to apply.³⁰ This was certainly not foreseen at the time the legislation was passed. It is suggested that paragraph 12(3) is, like a deeming provision, to be construed to have effect so far as intended but it was not intended to disapply the GWR and estate exemptions. The modern purposive approach to construction of tax statutes may on this occasion assist the taxpayer. The 17 March 1986 POA start date supports this view. That date shows that the object of the rules is to prevent GWR avoidance, not other kinds of IHT mitigation.

35.24 Quantum of charge: land

We find the usual cascade of definitions. Paragraph 3(5) provides:

Where this paragraph applies to a person in respect of the whole or part of a year of assessment, an amount equal to the chargeable amount determined under paragraph 4 is to be treated as income of his chargeable to income tax.

35.24.1 The chargeable amount and deductible expenses

One therefore turns to paragraph 4 to find the quantum of the charge. Para. 4(1) provides:

For any taxable period³¹ the chargeable amount in relation to the

30 A further tax charge would arise if (as some have argued) T is also caught by the GWR rules on his death; see 28.13 (GWR and excluded property rules).

31 “Taxable period” is defined in a commonsense way in paragraph 4(6):

“In this paragraph—

“the taxable period” means the year of assessment, or part of a year of assessment, during which paragraph 3 applies to the chargeable person.”

relevant land is

[a] the appropriate rental value ... less

[b] the amount of any payments which, in pursuance of any legal obligation, are made by the chargeable person during the period to the owner of the relevant land in respect of the occupation of the land by the chargeable person.

To obtain a deduction requires good paperwork:

(1) a legal obligation; and

(2) payment to the owner of the relevant land.

This is straightforward in an *Eversden* scheme, but who is the “owner” of the land in an *Ingram* scheme (where there is a lease owned by T and a reversion owned by others)? Who is owner of the land in a double trust scheme (where the land is held by trustees)?

35.24.2 “*The appropriate rental value*”

This is defined in paragraph 4(2). This provides:

The appropriate rental value is $R \times (DV \div V)$

In short, R is the **R**ental value; V is the capital **V**alue. $DV \div V$ is (in a sense) the chargeable part of that value. **DV** stands, perhaps, for Disposal Value.

35.24.3 “*Rental value*”

R is the rental value of the relevant land for the taxable period. “Rental value” is defined in the same manner as the income tax benefit in kind rule: it means the “annual value”. The “annual value” is in turn defined in paragraph 5. That is copied from s.110 ITEPA, except that s.110(3), (4) are omitted. “Rental Value” is defined as the rent which will be payable *on the assumption that landlord (rather than the tenant) pays for all repairs and insurance*. The normal open market rent be lower than the Rental Value, because market practice is that the *tenant* pays the cost of repairs and insurance. The difference between POA rental value and normal open market rent will vary from one property to another. The

difference would be greater with large properties which are expensive to maintain and insure. In relation to other benefits in kind provisions, such as s.87 TCGA and s.740 ICTA, beneficiaries have sometimes been given the benefit of living accommodation on terms that they are responsible for maintenance and insurance. If the maintenance and insurance cost is substantial, they argue that the value of the benefit is small or sometimes even nil. It was perhaps to avoid these arguments that the legislation was framed in this way. It seems extraordinary if one thinks that the legislation is intended to charge income tax on a benefit in kind. However, the object of the legislation is really to penalise taxpayers who have carried out some inheritance tax planning schemes and so it does make sense.

The wording is derived from rating legislation. There is a substantial case law, and to research this the reader should refer to rating law textbooks.

The reader will recall that the annual value for benefit in kind purposes is by concession taken to be the rateable value.³² There is no reason to think that this concession will be applied to the POA land charge. “Rental value” is (in short) slightly above market rental value.

35.24.4 *The proportion ($DV \div V$)*

The key expression is DV:

DV is—

(a) in a case falling within paragraph 3(2)(a)(i),³³

[i] the value as at the valuation date of the interest in the relevant land that was disposed of as mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(b) by the chargeable person or,

[ii] where the disposal was a non-exempt sale, the appropriate proportion of that value,

(b) in a case falling within paragraph 3(2)(a)(ii),³⁴

[i] such part of the value of the relevant land at the valuation date as can reasonably be attributed to the property originally disposed of by the chargeable person or,

[ii] where the original disposal was a non-exempt sale, to the

32 See 34.12.1 (Rental value of the accommodation).

33 i.e. disposal condition (i); see, 35.3.1 (Disposal condition (i)).

34 i.e. disposal condition (ii), see 35.3.2 (Disposal condition (ii)).

- appropriate proportion of that property, and
- (c) in a case falling within paragraph 3(3),³⁵ such part of the value of the relevant land at the valuation date as can reasonably be attributed to the consideration provided by the chargeable person, and
- V is the value of the relevant land at the valuation date.

The drafter does not deal with a case falling within the disposal and the contribution condition, eg, if the individual disposes of an interest in a contract to purchase land to another person and also provides the purchase price.

35.24.5 *(DV÷V) and the valuation date*

The valuation date is determined by the POA regulations. The Consultation Document “Taxation of Pre-Owned Assets: Further Consultation” 16 August 2004 explains:

5. In the case of land, the “cash equivalent” of enjoyment in a particular tax year is derived from market rental that would be paid for use of the land over the “taxable period” (that is, the tax year or any shorter period for which the asset is “caught” by Schedule 15). This figure is then scaled down, in cases where the taxpayer’s “stake” in the caught asset is less than 100 per cent, in the proportion DV/V , where V is the value of the whole asset on the “valuation date” for the year, and DV is the value reasonably attributable to the taxpayer on that date. In many cases, however, we would expect that taxpayers and their advisors will be able to establish the ratio DV/V from the surrounding circumstances without necessarily establishing the absolute amount of V or DV.

35.24.6 *Non-exempt sale*

Paragraph 4(4) provides a relief for a “non-exempt” sale. Para 4(4) begins with the definition of this term::

The disposal by the chargeable person of an interest in land is a “non-exempt sale” if (although not an excluded transaction) it was a sale of his whole interest in the property for a consideration paid in money

35 i.e. the contribution condition; see 35.4 (The contribution condition).

in sterling or any other currency;

The label (“non-exempt sale”) is chosen, presumably, because the sale is not an excluded transaction. (Perhaps “non-excluded sale” would have been clearer.)

The relief is given by the method of re-defining “the appropriate proportion” to a smaller amount. Para. 4(4) continues:

and, in relation to a non-exempt sale, “the appropriate proportion” is $(MV - P) \div MV$

where—

MV is the value of the interest in land at the time of the sale;

P is the amount paid.

This will not often apply as a sale for full value will usually be an excluded transaction and a sale at an undervalue will probably qualify for the GWR exemption.

35.25 Quantum of charge: chattels

Paragraph 6(5) provides:

Where this paragraph applies to a person in respect of the whole or part of a year of assessment, an amount equal to the chargeable amount determined under paragraph 7 is to be treated as income of his chargeable to income tax.

35.25.1 *The chargeable amount*

Paragraph 7(1) provides:

For any taxable period the chargeable amount in relation to any chattel is

- [a] the appropriate amount (as determined under sub-paragraph (2)),
- [b] less the amount of any payments which, in pursuance of any legal obligation, are made by the chargeable person during the period to the owner of the chattel in respect of the possession or use of the chattel by the chargeable person.

This follows the format of the POA land charge.

35.25.2 *The appropriate amount*

Paragraph 7(2) provides:

The appropriate amount is $N \times (DV \div V)$

In short, N is Notional interest. DV and V are similar to the POA land charge. In detail:

N is the amount of the interest that would be payable for the taxable period³⁶ if interest were payable at the prescribed rate on an amount equal to the value of the chattel [at]³⁷ the valuation date, DV is—

- (a) in a case falling within paragraph 6(2)(a)(i),
 - [i] the value as at the valuation date of the interest in the chattel that was disposed of as mentioned in paragraph 6(2)(b) by the chargeable person or,
 - [ii] where the disposal was a non-exempt sale,³⁸ the appropriate proportion of that value,
 - (b) in a case falling within paragraph 6(2)(a)(ii),
 - [i] such part of the value of the chattel at the valuation date as can reasonably be attributed to the property originally disposed of by the chargeable person or,
 - [ii] where the original disposal was a non-exempt sale, to the appropriate proportion of that property, and
 - (c) in a case falling within paragraph 6(3), such part of the value of the chattel at the valuation date as can reasonably be attributed to the consideration provided by the chargeable person, and
- V is the value of the chattel at the valuation date.

35.26 Quantum of charge: intangible property

Paragraph 8(3) provides:

36 Paragraph 7(5) provides that “the taxable period” means the year of assessment, or part of a year of assessment, during which paragraph 6 applies to the chargeable person.

37 The statute erroneously reads “as”.

38 Non-exempt sale is defined in para. 7(3) following the form of the POA land charge: see 35.24.6 (Non-exempt sale).

Where this paragraph applies in respect of the whole or part of a year of assessment, an amount equal to the chargeable amount determined under paragraph 9 is to be treated as income of the chargeable person chargeable to income tax.

35.26.1 *The chargeable amount*

Paragraph 9(1) provides:

For any taxable period the chargeable amount in relation to the relevant property is N minus T

In short, N is Notional income; T is Tax payable. In more detail:

N is the amount of the interest that would be payable for the taxable period³⁹ if interest were payable at the prescribed rate on an amount equal to the value of the relevant property at the valuation date, and

T is the amount of any income tax or capital gains tax payable by the chargeable person in respect of the taxable period by virtue of any of the following provisions-

- (a) section 461 [ITTOIA]
- (b) section 624 [ITTOIA]
- (c) section 739 [ICTA]
- (d) section 77 [TCGA], and
- (e) section 86 [TCGA],

so far as the tax is attributable to the relevant property.

Setting notional income against tax is penal and bizarre, but then, the POA charge is penal and bizarre.

There is no provision for carry forward or back if T exceeds N (but that will be rare).

If foreign income is unremitted and no tax is paid because of the s.624 foreign domicile defence, it is considered that the amount of T is nil.

39 Paragraph 9(3) provides:

“‘the taxable period’ means the year of assessment, or part of a year of assessment, during which paragraph 8 applies to the chargeable person”.

35.26.2 *The valuation date*

Paragraph 9 continues:

(2) Regulations may, in relation to any valuation date, provide for a valuation of the relevant property by reference to an earlier valuation date to apply subject to any prescribed adjustments.

(3) In this paragraph—

...

“the valuation date”, in relation to a year of assessment, means such date as may be prescribed.

The date is prescribed in the POA Regulations.

35.27 **Overlap of land and intangible property charges**

Paragraph 18 provides:

Persons chargeable under different provisions by reference to same property

18—

(1) Where, in any year of assessment, a person ("the chargeable person") is (apart from this paragraph) chargeable to income tax both—

- (a) under paragraph 3 (land) or paragraph 6 (chattels) by reason of his occupation of any land or his possession or use of any chattel, and
- (b) under paragraph 8 (intangible property) by reference to any intangible property which derives its value (whether in whole or part) from the land or the chattel,

he is to be charged to income tax under whichever provision produces the higher chargeable amount in relation to him.

(2) Where sub-paragraph (1) applies, only the amount under the paragraph under which he is chargeable is to be taken into account in relation to the chargeable person for the purposes of paragraph 13(2).

35.28 **Interaction with benefit in kind charge**

Paragraph 19 provides:

Where, in any year of assessment, a person is (apart from this paragraph) chargeable, in respect of his occupation of any land or his possession or use of any chattel, to income tax both—

- (a) under this Schedule, and
 - (b) under Part 3 of ITEPA,
- the provisions of that Part shall have priority and he shall not be chargeable to income tax under this Schedule, except to the extent that the amount chargeable under this Schedule exceeds the amount to be treated as earnings under that Part.

35.29 *De minimis* exemption

The Press Release announcing the POA regime promised “a substantial *de minimis* exemption” (*sic*). This turns out to be £5,000 per annum. Paragraph 13 provides:

- (1) This paragraph applies where, in relation to any person who would (apart from this paragraph) be chargeable under this Schedule for any year of assessment, the aggregate of the amounts specified in sub-paragraph (2) in respect of that year does not exceed £5,000.
- (2) Those amounts are—
 - (a) in relation to any land to which paragraph 3 applies in respect of him, the appropriate rental value as determined under paragraph 4(2),
 - (b) in relation to any chattel to which paragraph 6 applies in respect of him, the appropriate amount as determined under paragraph 7(2), and
 - (c) in relation to any intangible property to which paragraph 8 applies in respect of him, the chargeable amount determined under paragraph 9.
- (3) Where this paragraph applies, the person is not chargeable for that year of assessment under any of the following provisions—
 - (a) paragraph 3(5) (land),
 - (b) paragraph 6(5) (chattels), or
 - (c) paragraph 8(3) (intangible property).

This is significant if annual value is (contrary to my expectation) construed by concession to mean rateable value. It could also be significant where husband and wife entered into IHT planning arrangements jointly since each have their own separate allowance. The exception applies to the “appropriate rental value” so deductible expenses are not relevant. Another problem here is that the £5,000 limit must be satisfied every year. It is not likely that the “substantial” £5,000 figure will be raised in line with inflation. The *de minimis* limit is not time

apportioned so the full £5,000 can be set against a much shorter period of deemed income.

It is therefore necessary to ascertain “the appropriate rental value”. That takes us to paragraph 4(2):

The appropriate rental value is $R \times (DV/V)$ where

R is the rental value of the relevant land *for the taxable period*

The “taxable period” is defined in paragraph 4(6):

the taxable period" means the year of assessment, or part of a year of assessment, during which paragraph 3 applies to the chargeable person.

Thus it seems clear that if para. 3 only applies for part of the year, the taxable period is reduced, so R is reduced, so the “appropriate rental value” is reduced and so (carrying the chain to the end) the *de minimis* exemption may apply. Note that the estate exemption in para. 11(1) disapplies para. 3: see para. 11(1).

35.30 Election out of POA regime

One can elect out of the POA charges at an IHT cost. Paragraph 21 deals with the POA land and chattels charges. Paragraph 22 deals with intangible property. They are not quite the same but for reasons of space I shall only cover the former.

35.30.1 *Conditions for election*

Paragraph 21(1) provides

This paragraph applies where—

- (a) a person (“the chargeable person”) would (apart from this paragraph) be chargeable under paragraph 3 (land) or paragraph 6 (chattels) for any year of assessment (“the initial year”) by reference to his enjoyment⁴⁰ of any property (“the relevant property”), and

40 “Enjoyment” is defined in paragraph 21(4):

“For the purposes of this paragraph a person “enjoys” property if—

- (a) in the case of an interest in land, he occupies the land, and
- (b) in the case of an interest in a chattel, he is in possession of, or has the use of,

- (b) he has not been chargeable under the paragraph in question in respect of any previous year of assessment by reference to his enjoyment of the relevant property, or of any other property for which the relevant property has been substituted.

If an election is made by mistake (because the POA charge does not in fact apply) it has no effect.

35.30.2 *Effect of election*

Paragraph 21(2) provides:

The chargeable person may elect in accordance with paragraph 23 that—

- (a) the preceding provisions of this Schedule shall not apply to him during the initial year and subsequent years of assessment by reference to his enjoyment of the relevant property or of any property which may be substituted for the relevant property ...

This disapplies Schedule 15. The price is in sub-paragraph (b):

..., but

- (b) so long as the chargeable person continues to enjoy the relevant property or any property which is substituted for the relevant property—
 - (i) the chargeable proportion of the property is to be treated for the purposes of Part 5 of the 1986 Act (in relation to the chargeable person) as property subject to a reservation, and
 - (ii) section 102(3) and (4) of that Act shall apply.

Suppose a former foreign domiciliary makes an election in relation to a discretionary trust of which he is a beneficiary and the property is excluded property. How does s.102(3) apply? See 28.13 (GWR and excluded property).

35.30.3 *The chargeable proportion*

This takes us to the definition of “chargeable proportion” in para. 21(3):

the chattel.”

In this paragraph, “the chargeable proportion”, in relation to any property, means $DV \div V$

where DV and V are to be read in accordance with paragraph 4(2) or 7(2), as the case requires, but as if—

- (a) any reference in paragraph 4(2) or 7(2) to the valuation date were a reference-
 - (i) in the case of property falling within subsection (3) of section 102 of the Finance Act 1986, to the date of the death of the chargeable person, and
 - (ii) in the case of property falling within subsection (4) of that section, to the date on which the property ceases to be treated as property subject to a reservation, and
- (b) the transactions to be taken into account in calculating DV included transactions after the time when the election takes effect as well as transactions before that time.

I do not see the purpose or effect of paragraph 21(3)(b).

How does this work in the case of an *Ingram* scheme?

35.30.4 *Time limit for election*

Paragraph 23(3) provides:

The election must be made on or before the relevant filing date, unless the chargeable person can show a reasonable excuse for the failure to make the election by that date.

The key expression is “relevant filing date” which is defined in paragraph 23(1):

“the relevant filing date” means 31 January in the year of assessment that immediately follows the initial year within the meaning of paragraph 21 or (as the case requires) paragraph 22.

Time runs from when the Schedule begins to apply. Normally that will be 6 April 2005, because in the future no-one will deliberately enter into arrangements caught by the Schedule. But where a person is non-resident or domiciled, the Schedule may not begin to apply until a later time when he becomes UK resident or domiciled, and in such a case time for the election starts at that later time; a sensible rule. The Technical Guidance discusses when a late election is accepted at 3.4.

35.30.5 *Revocation of election*

Paragraph 23(5) provides:

The election may be withdrawn or amended, during the life of the chargeable person, at any time on or before the relevant filing date.

This will only be useful in very exceptional circumstances.

35.30.6 *Retrospective effect of election*

Paragraph 23(6) provides:

Subject to sub-paragraph (5), the election takes effect for the purposes of inheritance tax from the beginning of the initial year within the meaning of paragraph 21 or (as the case requires) paragraph 22 or, if later, the date on which the chargeable person would (but for the election) have first become chargeable under this Schedule by reference to the property to which the election relates.

35.31 **Unwinding existing structures**

What is to be done when an existing structure falls within the POA land charge?

Do nothing and pay the tax? A suitable option where the client has a short life expectancy. Mitigate the charge by arranging that maintenance costs are deductible: see 35.24.1 (The chargeable amount and deductible expenses).

Elect out of the POA regime? Generally unattractive: you have the IHT charge on death usually without CGT uplift or spouse exemption on death.⁴¹ Consider it if IHT is a long term problem (middle-aged clients). Perhaps a future Conservative government will scrap these rules in a decade or so's time?

It may be sensible to elect and retain the structure where:

(1) IHT is not a problem (e.g. insurance is inexpensive);

41 See 33.6.2 (Spouse exemption defence to GWR charge on death).

- (2) Shadow directorship is not a problem (expect an investigation to follow the election); and
- (3) A sale of the company is envisaged in the short or medium term. See paragraph 35.5.2 (Secondhand company).

In most cases shadow directorship may be a problem; it will usually be better to liquidate the company if IHT, CGT and SDLT issues permit.

Best solution usually unwinding, or reorganising so as to fall within the estate exemption.

35.32 Is existing scheme validly created?

In *Wolff v Wolff* [2004] STC 1633, a husband and wife entered into a reversionary lease of the property in favour of their daughters for 125 years starting from 2017. Subsequently, the claimants became aware that from 2017, they had no right to stay in the property and were at the mercy of the owners of the lease! The lease was set aside for mistake.

35.33 Commentary

Of course the POA provisions are shot through with anomalies, but not markedly more so than much anti-avoidance legislation. (If it seems worse, it is because new unfairnesses rank more sorely than those to which we have become enured by the passage of time.) But what is the nature of the POA charges?

Although the tax charge is imposed under the Income Tax Acts, it is not an income tax (in the sense that it is not a tax on income or in any way relating to income). To put it another way, the provisions impose an income tax charge on income which does not exist. Once it is accepted that income tax should not be charged on an individual who occupies his own property⁴² then it is anomalous to charge income tax on the benefit of occupation through a trust or company. And since the POA intangible property charge applies even if the property also produces taxed income, it is obviously not income which the Schedule is seeking to tax.

The POA charge might be seen as an erratic *ersatz* annual IHT charge on property which has slipped through the IHT net. However, the quantum

42 See Kay and King, *The British Tax System*, 5th ed., 1990, p.80.

of the charge is penal (compared to IHT rates).

The true nature of the POA charge is that it is a penalty for carrying out IHT planning (and not unwinding it). Hardly anyone is seriously expected to pay it. The object is to force taxpayers (by electing or unwinding) to bring themselves back into the IHT net.⁴³ The POA rules take the clothes or label of a tax, but – looking beyond the label to the contents – they are not a tax as that word is normally understood. It is well established that a fee, levy or toll may in fact be a tax by another name.⁴⁴ Likewise provisions wearing the clothes or label of a tax do not necessarily constitute a tax charge. This point may be relevant to construction because the principle of construction that penalty provisions are to be strictly construed may have more force than the principle that clear words are required to impose a tax.

The controversial aspect of the new provisions is that they are retrospective in effect. (One should avoid semantic – indeed Orwellian – debate about the meaning of “retrospective” and look at the effect.) Only a politician would deny that. The POA rules are unashamedly targeted at taxpayers who have made the following arrangements since 1986:

- (1) *Eversden*⁴⁵ schemes;
- (2) *Ingram*⁴⁶ and similar shearing schemes;
- (3) “double trust” schemes.

This is unprecedented in the UK tax system, which has traditionally allowed taxpayers to plan their affairs more securely on the basis of the law of the day. One may approve of this as an attack on tax avoidance, or disapprove as contrary to the rule of law. Views may divide on party political lines. What should not be controversial is that those who have done *Ingram* schemes have been particularly unfairly treated. They entered into a package with an IHT advantage at a significant CGT cost. Parliament has removed the benefit and left them with the cost.

Foreign domiciliary IHT planning using companies to avoid IHT on UK

43 And to stop similar arrangements being made in the future.

44 *Re a By-law of the Auckland City Council* [1924] NZLR 907 at 911.

45 *Eversden v IRC* 75 TC 340.

46 *Ingram v IRC* [1999] STC 37.

land or chattels were not a target of the POA rules; my guess is that any effect on former foreign domiciliaries is entirely accidental; no-one at all had worked it out as the provisions were amended and re-amended.

Of course, the POA rules will bring some revenue for the Government, though how much is a matter of speculation. Set against the tax raised (whatever it is) and the blow against tax avoidance (however one values or regards that) there are some entries to make on the debit side: the POA rules will impose significant costs of compliance and tax planning (for they require taxpayers to incur professional fees in order to rearrange their affairs). They will impose the unquantifiable burden of complexity and uncertainty which (combined with unfairness) will lead to an equally unquantifiable loss of taxpayer goodwill. One cannot put a value on that asset, but it is essential to successful tax administration.

All in all, it is difficult for anyone who cares about the UK tax system to speak with moderation about the conception, enactment process or administration of the provisions. The professional bodies do not seriously try.⁴⁷

47 “We are disturbed that the anti-avoidance Pre-Owned Assets regime ... is:

- retrospective in its effect
- disproportionate to the mischief at which it is purportedly aimed
- contrary to taxpayers’ legitimate expectations
- arbitrary as based on unquantifiable concepts.”

CIOT and ICAEW Tax Faculty (October 2004).

ESTATES OF DECEASED PERSONS¹

36.1 Introduction

On the death of a person domiciled in England and Wales,² all his property passes to his personal representatives (“PRs”) who are under a duty to pay the debts of the estate, including taxes. Provided that there are sufficient assets available, they pay pecuniary legacies and transfer property which the deceased has specifically gifted. Finally, they transfer the residue of the estate to the residuary legatees. These transfers are normally done by means of an “assent”.

Special taxation rules apply during this period of administration. The interplay of the rules produces some curious results where a foreign domiciliary is a beneficiary or testator. There can sometimes be considerable scope for tax planning. I shall discuss the position where a foreign domiciliary is:

- (1) a testator,
- (2) a pecuniary legatee (entitled to a cash legacy),
- (3) a specific legatee (entitled to specific assets), and
- (4) a residuary legatee.

1 Many of the problems discussed here arise in a similar way where charities are beneficiaries of estates, as to which see *Venables and Kessler on the Taxation of Charities* (Key Haven, 5th ed., 2005).

2 Further consideration is needed on the death of a person domiciled outside England and Wales.

I first consider CGT and then income tax.

36.2 Residence and domicile of PRs for CGT

Section 62(3) TCGA provides:

- In relation to property forming part of the estate of a deceased person
- [a] the PRs shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as being a single and continuing body of persons (distinct from the persons who may from time to time be the PRs), and
 - [b] that body shall be treated as having the deceased's residence, ordinary residence, and domicile at the date of death.

(Paragraphing added)

The residence and domicile of the PRs in their private capacity is irrelevant.

36.3 Deceased not UK resident

If the deceased was not UK resident at the time of his death (regardless of domicile) the PRs are in principle outside the scope of CGT.

36.3.1 *Section 87 TCGA and estates*

Could gains accruing to the PRs be “trust gains” within the scope of s.87 TCGA; see 19.6 (The s.87 charge)? That could only be the case if the deceased's estate was a “settlement” for the purposes of s.87. Section 97(7) provides:

In sections 86A to 96 and Schedule 4C and in the preceding provisions of this section—
“settlement” and “settlor” have the meaning given by s.620 of ITTOIA and “settlor” includes, in the case of a settlement arising under a will or intestacy, the testator or intestate...

It is considered that a deceased's estate is not itself a “settlement” within s.87, and this is supported by the reference to “settlement arising under a will or intestacy”. Section 87(9) also assumes that this is correct. Moreover it is hard to see how PRs can make capital payments.

36.4 Deceased UK resident and domiciled

If the deceased was UK resident and domiciled, the PRs are liable to CGT on all chargeable gains (less losses). They pay CGT at the same rate as trusts. In the case of assets which were owned by the deceased, the PRs' acquisition cost is normally the market value at the date of the death.³ If PRs sell assets in the course of administration, then any gain will be subject to CGT, even though the net proceeds of sale will in due course pass to a foreign domiciliary. If, by contrast, PRs transfer an asset *in specie* to a legatee to whom it has been bequeathed, whether specifically or as part of residue, then the PRs will not realise any chargeable gain but the base cost of the recipient beneficiary will be that of the PRs.⁴ Where the legatee is a foreign domiciliary (or a non-UK resident, or a charity), he will often be able to dispose of the asset in due course free of CGT.

It is thus a fundamental principle of CGT planning that PRs should generally avoid, wherever possible, making disposals of assets which are devised or bequeathed to foreign domiciliaries, non-residents or charities.

36.5 Deceased UK resident not UK domiciled

Suppose at the time of his death the deceased was UK resident but foreign domiciled. The PRs are treated as UK resident but not UK domiciled. CG Manual para. 30660 provides:

Remittance basis not in administration period

Published 7/94

If the deceased was resident and/or ordinarily resident but not domiciled in the UK before his or her death, then on disposing of assets outside the UK he or she would have benefited from the application of the remittance basis in Section 12 TCGA Although the personal representatives have the same residence and domicile status as the deceased had, if they realise chargeable gains from disposals of assets situated outside the UK but do not remit those gains to the UK immediately they cannot benefit from this treatment. This is because the remittance basis applies only to individuals but Section 65(2) says that the body of personal representatives is not to be treated as an individual.

3 s.62(1) TCGA.

4 s.62(4) TCGA.

At first sight this seems surprising, but on reflection, it is not absurd to draw a distinction between:

- (1) a UK resident foreign domiciled individual, taxed on the remittance basis, and
- (2) the PRs of that individual, taxed on an arising basis.

A remittance basis makes less sense for PRs whose role is generally short term.

It has been argued that the HMRC view is wrong. This would, however, require the word “individual” in s.12(1) TCGA to be construed so as to include PRs, which is quite contrary to general statutory usage. It has been suggested that the reference to domicile in s.62(3)[b] is otiose on the HMRC view, because (if the remittance basis is inapplicable) the domicile of the PRs is irrelevant for CGT. However, domicile of PRs could be relevant for the purposes of s.87 TCGA if PRs receive a capital payment from an offshore trust. Where the PRs are not UK domiciled, they will not pay CGT on capital payments from a non-resident settlement (because those charges only arise on a payment to a UK domiciled person).

It seems plain on (almost) any view that gains of non-resident companies may be attribute to PRs who are resident but not UK domiciled; see s.13 TCGA. This is consistent with the HMRC view that the remittance basis does not apply in these cases.

For these reasons it is considered that the HMRC view is correct. Of course, if the PRs are actually outside the UK, especially if they are outside the EU, HMRC may not, in practice, be able to recover the tax.

In what follows it is assumed that the PRs are UK resident for CGT.

36.6 Gift of pecuniary legacy to foreign domiciliary: CGT planning

Suppose that a foreign domiciliary is entitled to a pecuniary legacy of £1,000,000 under a will. The estate holds a foreign situate asset which had a value of £600,000 at the date of the death of the deceased and which is now worth £1,000,000. If the PRs sell the asset in order to pay the legacy, they will be liable to CGT. Can this liability be avoided by the PRs agreeing to transfer the property to the foreign domiciliary in satisfaction of his pecuniary legacy?

The strategy is viable provided the foreign domiciliary acquired the asset “as legatee”, so that s.62(4) TCGA would prevent the PRs realising any chargeable gain. This provides:

On a person acquiring any asset as legatee (as defined in section 64)—
(a) no chargeable gain shall accrue to the personal representatives, and
(b) the legatee shall be treated as if the personal representatives’ acquisition of the asset had been his acquisition of it.

“Legatee” is defined by s.64(2) to include “any person taking under a testamentary disposition...”. Section 64(3) provides:

For the purposes of the definition of “legatee” above, and of any reference in this Act to a person acquiring an asset “as legatee”, property taken under a testamentary disposition or on an intestacy or partial intestacy includes any asset appropriated by the personal representatives in or towards satisfaction of a pecuniary legacy or any other interest or share in the property devolving under the disposition or intestacy.

Thus, provided that the PRs had the power of appropriating the asset in satisfaction of the legacy, then the foreign domiciliary could properly be said to take as legatee.

Suppose, however, the PRs had such power only with the consent of the foreign domiciliary? The wording of s.64(3) is in the author’s view wide enough to cover this case too.⁵

5 Although, for stamp duty purposes, it was held that the transfer of the asset to a legatee amounts to a conveyance on sale where the consent of the legatee is required: *Jopling v IRC* [1940] 2 KB 282. HMRC Practice CCAB Statement of June 1967 provided:

“The Revenue stated that in their view [TCGA s 62(4)] does not apply in all cases where assets are transferred to beneficiaries in specie. Where assets are appointed by personal representatives to satisfy a legacy in circumstances where such appropriation requires the legatee’s consent, ie where the personal representatives do not have (whether by the terms of the will or under the Administration of Estates Act 1925 s 41) powers of appropriation without consent, the Revenue are advised that the acquisition of the asset has a contractual basis and is not strictly an acquisition qua legatee. In practice, however, the disposal of appropriated assets by the personal representatives to a legatee in these circumstances is not treated as an occasion of charge on the personal representatives provided that both they and the legatee agree that the legatee should be treated as acquiring the assets concerned as legatee for the

If, however, the PRs had no power of appropriation, then the “appropriation” could be authorised only on the basis that it was in fact a sale of the asset to the foreign domiciliary for £1,000,000 coupled with a payment of the pecuniary legacy of £1,000,000 by way of set-off. In that case, the foreign domiciliary would acquire as purchaser and not as legatee. Fortunately, PRs will generally have this power: see s.41 Administration of Estates Act 1925.

36.7 Gift of specific legacy to foreign domiciliary: CGT planning

36.7.1 Succession law background

This section considers the position where a testator by his will gives assets specifically to a foreign domiciliary. In the first instance, the PRs will acquire the assets and in due course they will receive the income arising from them. If they do not need to use the assets or income for the purpose of paying debts, taxes, etc., they will in due course assent to the vesting of the assets and income in the foreign domiciliary.

36.7.2 Capital gains tax

In the first instance the PRs are deemed to own the asset and, if they dispose of it, are liable to CGT. If, however, they do not dispose of the asset to a third party but assent to it vesting in a legatee, then the PRs, as it were, retrospectively pass out of the picture and the legatee is deemed to have acquired the asset at the same time as the PRs acquired it. This would normally be at the time of the death of the deceased.

Suppose the PRs inherit an asset belonging to the deceased which is the subject matter of a specific gift in his will; that they then sell the asset, the sale giving rise to a charge to CGT, and that they subsequently transfer the whole or part of the proceeds of sale to the specific legatee. Does the doctrine of relation back have any scope? In my opinion, it does not. In the first instance, the common law doctrine would appear to operate only where an asset owned by the deceased is subsequently vested in the

purposes of [TCGA s 62(4)].”

This was written, however, before the enactment of what is now s.64(3) TCGA (by the FA 1969). This has brought the law into line with what was formerly HMRC’s practice.

legatee. Even if this difficulty could be overcome, however, the express provisions of the statutory code deal so comprehensively with the situation that any application of the doctrine of relation back to CGT is by necessary implication excluded. So if there is such a sale, the PRs bear the CGT and transferring the proceeds of sale to the foreign domiciliary does not confer any exemption.

36.8 Gift of residue to foreign domiciliary: CGT planning

36.8.1 *Succession law background*

This section considers the position where a testator gives the whole or part of his residuary estate to a foreign domiciliary absolutely. During the period of administration, the PRs alone are said to be entitled to the assets which are comprised in the residue of the estate. While it is true that the residuary legatees have legal rights to compel due performance of the administration of the estate, it has been repeatedly held by courts of the highest authority that the PRs do not stand in the same relationship to their residuary legatees as do trustees to their beneficiaries. See *Lord Sudeley v Attorney-General*.⁶ Upon completion of the administration, the residuary legatee becomes entitled to the assets which at that time form part of the estate, and any net income which the PRs have not expended in the course of administration. It is possible for PRs to assent specific assets before completion of administration.

36.8.2 *When is administration of estate completed?*

How long does the administration period last? This question has arisen in a number of contexts, including income tax, CGT, estate duty and general succession law, and has given rise to a voluminous case law. In all these contexts the test is the same. In *IRC v Aubrey Smith* 15 TC 661 Lord Hanworth MR said at p.672:

In Lord Sudeley's case, [1897] AC at page 15, Lord Halsbury, then Lord Chancellor, says this:

The thing that the legatee was entitled to was one-fourth share of a

⁶ [1897] AC 11; this (rather odd) principle was re-affirmed in *CSD v Livingston* [1965] AC 694.

residuary estate, consisting, it may be, of many things; and I think it was fallacious on the part of Mr. Channel to say that the residue was very nearly ascertained, because the question is not only of amount – although I think that of itself would not be sufficient if it were only of amount – but it is a question of substance as well as a question of amount. It is uncertain until the residuary estate has been ascertained of what it will consist:

–and on a further page he says this:

Until the thing has been ascertained, until the trust fund has been constituted, the thing of which the trustees are the trustees has not been ascertained. Whether you treat them, therefore, as trustees or executors, the same consideration arises. Now, if the only thing that the legatee is entitled to is the fourth share of an ascertained residuary estate, I say that to my mind it is impossible to maintain that the character of any part of that estate can be ascertained so as to make it possess a specific locality until that has happened; it is a condition precedent to know what the residuary estate is, and until that has been ascertained you cannot tell of what it will “consist.”

.... I read all those passages because they appear quite clearly to lay down that until the fact is ascertained, or can or ought to be inferred, that the residue has become defined so that the aliquot portion passing to the beneficiary can also be defined, the beneficiary has not, until that time, a definite interest in the sum which will ultimately fall to him. Whatever be the contentions of the Respondent, it appears to me as Lord Haldane said in the case I first cited that it is largely a question of fact.... What has to be determined here ... is: Is it clear that the portion of each of the sons is ascertained, or has been ascertained, or is capable of ascertainment, and that ascertainment has been assented to by the executor-trustees?

The important points which emerge from the case law are that PRs continue to hold an asset as PRs until:

- (1) they “assent” an asset to a beneficiary; or
- (2) the administration of the estate is complete (at which point there is an implied assent). For this purpose:
 - (a) The estate must be completely ascertained and remain in the course of administration even though this work is nearly done.

- (b) The fact that debts of the deceased remain unascertained or unpaid is a relevant factor but not decisive.
- (c) The fact that the PRs regard themselves as still administering the estate (producing “estate accounts” and not trust accounts) is a relevant factor but not decisive.
- (d) In a marginal case the issue is said to be one of fact and there seems to be a fairly broad “grey area” in which the courts will not interfere with a decision of the Commissioners.

36.8.3 *The HMRC view*

The HMRC view is set out in the CG Manual and the relevant passage (published 7/94) is here set out in full:

30700. Period of administration

The period during which the PRs are settling the estate is called a period of administration. The period starts with the death of the deceased person. The date on which it ends is a question of fact which is often difficult to resolve. During this period the liability for Capital Gains Tax on sales of assets from the estate falls on the personal representatives unless they have taken specific steps to vest the ownership of the assets involved in legatees in advance of the sale, see CG30910.

30701. Attitude of the courts

On questions of when administration is complete the Courts look for a construction of the law that leads to an early conclusion of administration. The leading case in this respect is *CIR v Sir Aubrey Smith* 15 TC 661.

30702.

In his judgement Lord Hanworth MR set out a principle of general application when he said, at the bottom of page 675, top of page 676

‘The question is, in all cases: has the administration of the Estate reached a point of ripeness at which you can infer an assent, at which you can infer that the residuary estate has been ascertained and that it is outstanding and not handed over merely for some other reason’.

30703.

On this basis we would normally argue that the period of administration ends when residue has been ascertained, see CG30780+.

30710. Extended period of administration

There are some exceptional cases where all the figures are apparently available

to enable residue to be ascertained but it has to be accepted that the period of administration is continuing.

30711. Difficulty in distributing assets

One example is where distributing shares in accordance with legatees' fractional entitlements to residue would result in one legatee receiving a majority shareholding whilst the other legatees would only receive minority holdings. Because of the disparity in values between majority and minority holdings it may be necessary for the personal representatives to apply the rule from *Lloyd's Bank v Duker* [1987] 3 All ER 193. This would require them to sell these shares rather than distributing them in specie.

The period of administration would continue in such a case until the shares were sold and the Capital Gains Tax liability arising to the personal representatives was quantified.

The rule referred to above is of fairly limited application. The fact that a majority shareholding would be broken into minority holdings on distribution should not be accepted as preventing distribution of shares and thus the ending of the period of administration. Nor should minor valuation differences between minority shareholdings passing to the legatees be accepted as covered by the rule in the *Duker* case.

30712. Litigation

The period of administration may also be extended where the distribution of the estate is being challenged. The personal representatives may be unable to distribute the estate pending the outcome of litigation.

30720. Confusion over terminology

Even where ascertainment of residue marks the end of the administration period for Capital Gains Tax purposes, assets may remain in the hands of the personal representatives after that date. They may have to carry out administrative acts regarding transfer of assets to legatees. In some cases they may sell assets. If so they will be doing this as bare trustees for the legatees. Personal representatives and their agents sometimes regard these acts as forming part of the period of administration. This may lead to confusion when references are made to the period of administration.

30721.

Because of the possible confusion it is important to establish precisely what is meant when a reference is made to a period of administration. From the Inland Revenue's side we can try to avoid this confusion for the majority of cases by referring to events as falling before or after residue has been ascertained rather than simply referring to the period of administration.

36.9 CGT planning

The general aim must be to avoid realising assets in respect of which the

PRs would be obliged to pay CGT.

It may be necessary to sell some assets to pay liabilities of the PRs, and it may be that the assets available for sale will give rise to a chargeable gain.

One solution is as follows:

- (1) The PRs assent the asset to the foreign domiciliary subject to a charge for their liabilities under s.36(10) Administration of Estates Act 1925.
- (2) The foreign domiciliary sells the asset: any gain on the sale accrues to the foreign domiciliary: s.26(2) TCGA.
- (3) Under the charge the proceeds are used to pay the PRs' liability.

36.9.1 *Importance of assents*

PRs transfer assets to beneficiaries by means of an “assent”. The assent is fundamental, since a sale after an assent to a foreign domiciliary may in broad terms be free of CGT and a sale before assent will not.

An assent of land in England and Wales must be in writing. An assent of other property may be oral or implied by conduct. No formal written assent is required if (say) shares are simply transferred to the name of a beneficiary by stock transfer form. If a portfolio of shares is registered in the names of PRs (or their nominees), and the foreign domiciliary wants them to be sold, it may be administratively convenient if an assent is made under which the PRs (or their nominees) become nominees for the foreign domiciliary. Then the shares can be sold without CGT and without the formality of a transfer of legal title to the foreign domiciliary.

36.10 Appointment to beneficiary by executors under overriding powers

Section 62(4) TCGA provides:

On a person acquiring any asset as legatee (as defined in section 64)—

- (a) no chargeable gain shall accrue to the personal representatives, and
- (b) the legatee shall be treated as if the personal representatives' acquisition of the asset had been his acquisition of it.

Where executors exercise a power to appoint trust property to a beneficiary, that beneficiary takes under the appointment “as legatee” and s.62(4) will apply.

The starting point is the rule of trust law that, for the purposes of the rules relating to perpetuities, where trustees exercise a power of appointment, the deed of appointment is read back into the original trust instrument. It is treated as coming into operation at the date of the instrument that creates the power. See *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468; *Pilkington v IRC* 40 TC 416 at 441. This rule has been applied for tax purposes, in a different context, in *Chinn v Collins* 54 TC 311: the exercise of a power of appointment merely “fills in a blank in the original settlement which left blank how the final distribution of a trust asset was to be made”; see page 357.

Quite apart from that, the beneficiary would take as “legatee” in the general sense of the expression. The definition in s.64(2) is inclusive and not a comprehensive definition. The reason that the beneficiaries take as legatee is that they acquire under an assent. They also acquire from the PRs acting in their capacity as PRs.

This conclusion is consistent with the general scheme of the TCGA. A person who acquires under an appropriation acquires “as legatee”: see s.64(3). It would be anomalous if a person who acquired under an appointment would not. (A power of appropriation is sometimes regarded as a dispositive power: *Re Freeston* [1978] Ch 741, though I would not regard that as an essential point.)

In CG Manual 31432–3 (although one might quibble with the language used) it seems clear that HMRC accept that an appointee acquires as legatee.

36.11 CGT planning by instrument of variation

Where there is more than one residuary legatee and some are foreign domiciliaries, non-residents or charities, it would often make sense for assets pregnant with capital gain to be transferred to them rather than to UK resident and domiciled individuals. This can often be done by means of an appropriation under s.41 Administration of Estates Act 1925, but (depending on the terms of the will) an instrument of variation may be necessary. The variation must be made within two years of the death of the deceased.

The basic strategy should be to redirect foreign assets of the estate

pregnant with capital gain to the foreign domiciliary. UK resident and domiciled beneficiaries would instead receive cash or assets not pregnant with capital gain. The foreign domiciliary might in due course realise the gains free of tax. There would be an overall tax saving, which could be shared between the foreign domiciliary and the other beneficiaries by negotiation, or which could be allowed to accrue entirely to the foreign domiciliary if the other beneficiaries were so minded.

36.12 Residence of PRs for income tax

PRs are UK resident for income tax if they are all UK resident in their personal capacity. They are non-resident if they are all non-resident in their personal capacity. The position where an estate has both resident and non-resident PRs is governed by s.111 FA 1989:

(1) Where the personal representatives of a deceased person include at least one who is not resident in the UK as well as at least one who is, then for all the purposes of the Income Tax Acts—

(a) if the condition in subsection (2) below is satisfied, the personal representative or representatives not resident in the UK shall be treated as resident there, and

(b) otherwise, the personal representative or representatives resident in the UK shall be treated as not resident there (but as resident outside the UK).

(2) The condition referred to in subsection (1) above is that the deceased person is at his death—

(a) resident in the UK,

(b) ordinarily resident there, or

(c) domiciled there.

Thus it is possible to arrange that PRs are not UK resident for income tax purposes. All of the PRs must be non-resident in their private capacities, except in the case of a non-resident, non-ordinarily resident, non-domiciled testator (where only one PR need be non-resident). The rules are identical to income tax residence of trustees except there is no equivalent of adding property to a trust (tainting).

36.13 Income taxation of PRs

In the first instance, the PRs pay tax at the ordinary rate (i.e. basic or lower

or dividend ordinary rate) on the income of the estate if:

- (1) the PRs are UK resident, or
- (2) the income has a UK source.

36.14 Specific legacy to foreign domiciliary: income tax

If the PRs assent to the asset and its income vesting in the beneficiary, something rather peculiar happens. Under the common law doctrine of relation back, the beneficiary is deemed to have been the owner of the asset since the death. The doctrine of relation back operates for income tax purposes: see *IRC v Hawley* 13 TC 327. Thus, the beneficiary will, retrospectively, be treated as having received the income year by year as it arose. The PRs may have paid UK tax. This will retrospectively be treated as being paid by the PRs in a representative capacity on behalf of the beneficiary. Thus, a foreign domiciled beneficiary should be able to reclaim tax paid by UK resident PRs on unremitted foreign income.

36.15 Gift of residue to foreign domiciliary: income tax

It is not possible to appreciate the existing income tax law without understanding the history. In *R v Special Commissioners for Income Tax Purposes, ex p. Dr Barnado's Homes* 7 TC 646, the residuary legatee was a charity. Income arose to the PRs during the period of administration on which the PRs paid income tax. The residuary legatee was not entitled to the income of the residuary estate as it arose during the period of administration, so it could not at that time reclaim income tax paid. Instead it sought to recover on completion of administration. The House of Lords held that the completion of administration did not confer any retrospective title on the residuary legatee to such income as income. In effect, the residuary legatee took accumulated income of the estate as capital. So on completion of administration, income tax paid by the PRs still could not be recovered by the charity. The doctrine of relation back was not extended to gifts of residue.

That was a victory for HMRC, with the immorality of which they did not seem at all concerned. It was only when, predictably, individual residuary

legatees successfully contended⁷ that they were not liable to super-tax (which became surtax in 1927 and is now higher rate tax) on the income of the residuary estate arising during the course of administration that HMRC realised they had made a rod for their own backs. Legislation was therefore brought in which is now to be found in Chapter 6 Part 5 ITTOIA.

36.16 Absolute/limited/discretionary interests in residue

The legislation distinguishes between:

- (1) an absolute interest in residue,
- (2) limited interest in residue, and
- (3) discretionary interest in residue.

Section 650 ITTOIA provides the definitions:

- (1) A person has an absolute interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate for the purposes of this Chapter if—
 - (a) the capital of the residue or that part is properly payable to the person, or
 - (b) it would be so payable, if the residue had been ascertained.
- (2) A person has a limited interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate during any period for the purposes of this Chapter if—
 - (a) the person does not have an absolute interest in it, and
 - (b) the income from it would be properly payable to the person if the residue had been ascertained at the beginning of that period.
- (3) A person has a discretionary interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate for the purposes of this Chapter if—
 - (a) a discretion may be exercised in the person's favour, and
 - (b) on its exercise in the person's favour any of the income of the residue during the whole or part of the administration period (see section 653) would be properly payable to the person if the residue had been ascertained at the beginning of that

⁷ e.g. *Corbett v IRC* 21 TC 449. There are several income tax cases on the issue of whether administration was completed.

period.

Section 650(4)(6) ITTOIA defines “properly payable” and s. 650(5) deals with the situation where PRs have an interest in another estate.

36.17 “UK estate” and “foreign estate”

The legislation also draws a distinction between a “UK estate” and a “foreign estate”. These terms are defined in s.651(1) ITTOIA:

“UK estate”, in relation to a tax year, means an estate which meets conditions A and B, or condition C, for that year, and
 “foreign estate”, in relation to a tax year, means an estate which is not a UK estate in relation to that year.

36.17.1 Conditions A and B

Section 651(2) ITTOIA provides:

- Condition A is that all the income of the estate either—
- (a) has borne UK income tax by deduction, or
 - (b) is income in respect of which the personal representatives are directly assessable to UK income tax for the tax year.
- (3) Condition B is that none of the income of the estate is income for which the personal representatives are not liable to UK income tax for the tax year because they are not UK resident or not ordinarily UK resident.
- (4) For the purposes of conditions A and B sums within section 680(3) or (4) (sums treated as bearing tax) are ignored.

I find it hard to see what condition B adds to condition A.

36.17.2 Condition C

Section 651(5) ITTOIA provides:

Condition C is that the aggregate income of the estate for the tax year consists only of sums within section 680(3) or (4).

Section 680(3)(4) apply (in short) to UK dividend income and gains from life policies.

It is easy to procure that an estate with non-resident PRs qualifies as a “foreign estate” by arranging that there is some foreign income which does not satisfy conditions A or B.

36.18 Charge on income of UK estate

Section 656 ITTOIA provides:

656 Income charged: UK estates

- (1) In the case of a UK estate, tax is charged under section 649 on the amount of estate income treated as arising in the tax year.
- (2) That amount is the basic amount of that income for the tax year (see subsection (4)) grossed up by reference to the applicable rate for that year (see section 663).
- (3) The gross amount is treated as having borne income tax at that rate.
- (4) In this Chapter “the basic amount”, in relation to estate income, has the meaning given by—
 - (a) section 660 (basic amount of estate income: absolute interests),
 - (b) section 661 (basic amount of estate income: limited interests),
 - (c) section 662 (basic amount of estate income: discretionary interests), and
 - (d) section 675 (basic amount of estate income: successive limited interests).

36.19 Charge on income of foreign estate

Section 657 ITTOIA provides:

- (1) In the case of a foreign estate, tax is charged under section 649 on the full amount of estate income treated as arising in the tax year.
- (2) That amount depends on whether the estate income arising in the tax year is paid from sums within section 680(3) or (4) (sums treated as bearing income tax).
- (3) So far as the estate income is paid from such sums, that amount is the basic amount of that income for the tax year grossed up by reference to the applicable rate for that year (see section 663).
- (4) That gross amount is treated as having borne income tax at that rate.
- (5) So far as the estate income is not paid from sums within section 680(3) or (4), the amount of estate income treated as arising in the tax year is the basic amount of that income for that year.

Section 658 brings in the remittance basis:

658 Special rules for foreign income

- (1) The charge to tax under section 649 on the amount of income arising in a tax year is subject to Part 8 (foreign income: special rules).
- (2) For the purposes of section 830(1) (meaning of “relevant foreign income”) amounts charged to tax under section 649—
 - (a) are treated as arising from a source outside the UK if the estate is a foreign estate, and
 - (b) are treated as not arising from such a source if the estate is a UK estate.

It is very important to ensure that the estate is a “foreign estate” and not a “UK estate” because the remittance basis only applies to a foreign estate.

36.20 “Basic amount of estate income”

There are three definitions of “basic amount of estate income” for absolute, limited and discretionary interests.

36.20.1 *Basic amount of estate income: absolute interests*

Section 660 ITTOIA provides:

660 Basic amount of estate income: absolute interests

- (1) The basic amount of estate income relating to a person’s absolute interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate for a tax year before the final tax year is the lower of—
 - (a) the total of all sums paid in the tax year in respect of that interest, and
 - (b) the amount of the person’s assumed income entitlement for the tax year in respect of it.
- (2) The basic amount for the final tax year is equal to the amount of the person’s assumed income entitlement for that year in respect of that interest.

The “assumed income entitlement” is (in brief) calculated as follows. First one calculates the “aggregate income of the estate”. This has a complex but broadly commonsense definition in s.664 ITTOIA. Then one deducts “allowable estate deductions” to obtain the “residuary income of the estate”: s.666 ITTOIA. The assumed income entitlement is the

person's share of the residuary income, less tax paid by the PRs: s.665 ITTOIA.

36.20.2 *Basic amount of estate income: limited interests*

Section 661(1) ITTOIA provides:

661 Basic amount of estate income: limited interests

(1) The basic amount of estate income relating to a person's limited interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate for a tax year is the total of the sums within section 654(2)(b), (3)(c) and (4)(c) for that year.

36.20.3 *Basic amount of estate income: discretionary interests*

Section 662 ITTOIA provides:

662 Basic amount of estate income: discretionary interests

The basic amount of estate income relating to a person's discretionary interest in the whole or part of the residue of an estate for a tax year is the total of the payments made in the tax year in exercise of the discretion in favour of the person.

CHAPTER THIRTY SEVEN

WHO IS THE SETTLOR?

37.1 Why does it matter who is the settlor?

The identity of the settlor of a settlement is relevant for many tax purposes. It is not practical to compile a full list, but the rules fall into two broad classes:

- (1) Rules taxing a settlor by reference to trust income and gains.¹
- (2) Rules taxing trustees (or beneficiaries) if the settlor is UK domiciled or resident. The tax status of the settlor is an appropriate connecting factor for the taxation of the trustees or the beneficiaries. The most important example is the IHT excluded property rule.²

The question of the identity of the settlor therefore often arises in matters concerning foreign domiciliaries.

The identity of the settlor is also relevant for trust law purposes (e.g. the rule against accumulations may restrict accumulation to life of settlor).

The person who is named as “the settlor” in the trust documentation is not necessarily a settlor, or the only settlor, for tax purposes.

37.2 Definitions of “settlor”

37.2.1 *IHT definition of “settlor”*

Section 44(1) IHTA provides the IHT definition:

1 See 11.1 (Settlor-interested trusts) and 19.3 (The s.86 charge).

2 See 26.1 (Excluded property for IHT). The identity of the settlor is also important for the IHT reverter to settlor exemption; see s.54 IHTA.

In this Act “settlor”, in relation to a settlement, includes³ any person by whom the settlement was made directly or indirectly, and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the preceding words) includes any person who has provided funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of or in connection with the settlement or has made with any other person a reciprocal arrangement for that other person to make the settlement.

37.2.2 *CGT definitions of “settlor”*

CGT has many definitions of settlor. The most important, and the only one considered here, is the definition for purposes of s.86 TCGA (“the s.86 definition”).⁴ TCGA Schedule 5 paras 7, 8 provide the s.86 definition:

Meaning of “settlor”

7 For the purposes of section 86 and this Schedule, a person is a settlor in relation to a settlement if the settled property consists of or includes property originating from him.

Meaning of “originating”

8— (1) References in section 86 and this Schedule to property originating from a person are references to—

- (a) property provided by that person;
- (b) property representing property falling within paragraph (a) above;
- (c) so much of any property representing both property falling within paragraph (a) above and other property as, on a just apportionment, can be taken to represent property so falling.

...

(3) Where a person who is a settlor in relation to a settlement makes reciprocal arrangements with another person for the provision of property or income, for the purposes of this paragraph—

- (a) property or income provided by the other person in pursuance of the arrangements shall be treated as provided by the settlor, but

3 The income tax definition uses the exhaustive term “means” but the IHT definition uses the non-exhaustive “includes”. Perhaps the drafter of the IHT provision had in mind a case where a person was the “settlor” of a settlement in the natural sense of the word but was not otherwise within the IHT definition. I cannot think of such a case.

4 Other very similar definitions apply for the purposes of s.286(3) and Schedule 1 TCGA (incorporating the IT definition); s.77 TCGA; ss.169B and 169C TCGA.

(b) property or income provided by the settlor in pursuance of the arrangements shall be treated as provided by the other person (and not by the settlor).

...

(6) For the purposes of this paragraph references to property representing other property include references to property representing accumulated income from that other property.

(7) For the purposes of this paragraph property or income is provided by a person if it is provided directly or indirectly by the person.

(There are further provisions relating to property provided by a company, not discussed here.) The CGT definition does not have the words “for the purpose of the settlement” but that usually makes no difference. Since what is provided must be the “settled property” what is provided must necessarily be for the purpose of the settlement (or it would not become settled property).

37.2.3 *Income tax definitions of “settlor”*

Section 620 ITTOIA provides the definition for the purposes of the income tax settlement provisions:

(1) In this Chapter— ...

“settlor”, in relation to a settlement, means any person by whom the settlement was made.

(2) A person is treated for the purposes of this Chapter as having made a settlement if the person has made or entered into the settlement directly or indirectly.

(3) A person is, in particular, treated as having made a settlement if the person—

(a) has provided funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of the settlement,

(b) has undertaken to provide funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of the settlement, or

(c) has made a reciprocal arrangement with another person for the other person to make or enter into the settlement.

I call this “the income tax definition”.⁵ One can identify five parts of the definition. A person is a settlor if he has:

⁵ Though there are other IT definitions, e.g. s.110(4) FA 1989.

- (1) made the settlement directly or indirectly;
- (2) “entered into”⁶ the settlement directly or indirectly;
- (3) provided funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of the settlement;
- (4) undertaken to provide funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of the settlement;⁷
- (5) made a reciprocal arrangement with another person to make or enter into the settlement.

37.2.4 *Settlor “in general sense” and other meanings of “settlor”*

In keeping with the patchwork nature of UK tax law, these definitions are based on a common framework but they all have slight differences from each other. The IT definition of “settlor” dates back to 1936 and is the ancestor of the other definitions. In IHT there has been a little tidying up of the verbose IT definition; the CGT s.86 definition is perhaps an attempt to extract its essence. Cases on one statutory provision will generally be relevant to them all. The concept underlying the definitions represents the normal meaning of the word to trust lawyers.⁸ There are circumstances where a person is a settlor for the purposes of one tax definition but not for another, but that is rare.

There are specific IHT provisions which may affect the identity of the settlor for IHT. So sometimes a person who is the settlor in the general sense is not regarded as the settlor for IHT. This chapter considers the

6 The words “entered into” are not found in the other definitions of “settlor”. The reason is that in this context only the word “settlement” has an extended meaning and includes an agreement or arrangement. One is said to “enter into” an agreement or arrangement even though it is perhaps not normal usage to say that one “enters into” a settlement in the narrower trust sense.

7 The reference to “undertaking” to provide funds is not found in the IHT or CGT s.86 definitions. In practice HMRC ignore this. TS&E Manual provides at 4120: “In practice if someone has undertaken to provide funds, but actually does not, we would not seek to apply [s.624 or s.629 ITTOIA].” Undertakings to provide funds are not found in practice so this has no practical relevance. The drafter of the IHT and CGT definitions presumably decided to omit it as unnecessary.

8 Contrast the definition in Article 1 Trusts (Jersey) Law 1984 (“a person who provides trust property or makes a testamentary disposition on trust or to a trust”).

general sense of settlor; for the IHT provisions see 27.1 (Transfers between trusts).

37.2.5 Two settlors

A trust may have two settlors in various circumstances:

- (1) A provides property and B has “made” or “entered into” the settlement without providing property.
- (2) A provides property and B provides other property.
- (3) A provides property directly and B provides the same property indirectly.

The consequences are discussed in 27.4 (The separate settlements fiction); 19.5 (Two settlors for CGT s.86 charge).

37.3 Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B

Suppose:

- (1) A gives⁹ property to B; and
- (2) B gives the same¹⁰ property to a trust.

Two questions arise:

- (1) In what circumstances does one say that the A is the settlor of the trust, having provided the property indirectly? That is, what is the meaning of “providing indirectly”?

9 It is assumed that the gift from A to B is not made on terms which require B to transfer the property to the trust. It is also assumed that *Furniss v Dawson* does not apply. Otherwise, clearly:

- (1) A would be the settlor,
- (2) B would not be a settlor.

10 Similar points arise if B gives other property (not the property given by A) if this is part of the arrangement between A and B.

- (2) If A is the settlor (having provided property indirectly), can one say that B is not a settlor, perhaps on the grounds that A is the “real” settlor?

One might expect to find guidance to these questions in *Hatton v IRC*.¹¹ The facts were as follows:

- (1) Mrs Cole (“the mother”) made a settlement (“the first settlement”) conferring on her daughter Mrs Hatton a valuable equitable interest;
- (2) The daughter transferred her interest to a new settlement (“the second settlement”).

So this was in essence a case of a gift to B followed by gift to trust by B. The Special Commissioners explained the background facts (67 TC at 771):

Once the first settlement had been executed in the evening of 10 August it was a virtual certainty that the second would be made on the following day provided that [the mother] was then still living. ...[The daughter] was content to leave the details to [the mother’s advisors]. There was no real likelihood that she would reject the suggestion that she should make the second settlement when Mr Willcox [her advisor] put it to her.

37.3.1 *When is A an indirect settlor?*

The Special Commissioners found:

[the mother] was a settlor of the second settlement having directly or indirectly provided the only funds which were subjected to it.¹²

Chadwick J held (67 TC at 789):

The Special Commissioners ... held that [the mother] was properly to be treated as a settlor of the second settlement on the ground that, by making the first settlement, [the mother] was a person who had provided funds directly or indirectly for the purpose of or in connection with the

11 67 TC 759. For another aspect of this decision see 37.15 (Agents of settlor).

12 At page 768G.

second settlement; and so, in relation to the second settlement, fell within the definition [of settlor]. In my view, they were entitled to reach that conclusion on the facts.

Hatton represents the clearest possible case of providing funds indirectly. The Special Commissioners, and the court, did not need to enunciate any clear test to decide when funds are provided indirectly, and they did not do so. So this decision is of no assistance on this point.

Ultimately, all paraphrases are suspect and the court must return to the words of the statute. The concept of a “clean break” is a useful one for determining when property is provided indirectly. That is, if there is a clean break between A’s gift and B’s gift, A has not provided property indirectly. But “clean break” is only a metaphor which itself needs elucidation. It is not much more than a label. It is suggested that A is a settlor (having provided property indirectly) if there is an *arrangement* under which:

- (1) A makes a gift of property to B, and
- (2) B gives the property to a trust, and A intends that B should make the gift.

Of course, this formulation will not solve all problems, since the question may arise as to when there is an “arrangement” and what is A’s intention. But this is perhaps the best that can be done. It is consistent with the “conscious association” comments in *Fitzwilliam*.¹³

Note that even if A is a settlor of the discretionary trust, he has not made a chargeable transfer and no IHT is payable by A on the gift to the trust by B.

If A is a beneficiary of the trust, his gift to B may also become a gift with reservation: see 28.6.2 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B).

37.3.2 *If A is indirect settlor, does B cease to be the settlor?*

In *Hatton* the Special Commissioners held that the daughter did not

13 See 37.5 (Appointment to B followed by gift by B).

provide the funds for the second settlement.¹⁴ The reason was, it appears, that the mother had provided the funds and this excluded the possibility that the daughter had provided them.

Chadwick J held on the appeal that it was immaterial (for the purposes of the IHT provisions being considered) whether or not the daughter was also a settlor of the settlement.¹⁵ The general tenor of the judge's comments seems to have been that the daughter was a settlor. The conclusion that the mother was a settlor "did not lead, necessarily, to the further conclusion that [the daughter] was not also a settlor".¹⁶ His comments on this point were ambiguous and, in our system of precedent, it is wrong to carefully weigh up ambiguous *obiter dicta* in order to extract a view.

Approaching the matter as one of principle, untrammelled by authority, it is respectfully suggested that the Special Commissioners' approach is to be preferred. While as a matter of logic it is possible for A to provide the property indirectly, and B to provide it directly, the legislation is framed on the basis that trust property can have only one "provider". If property is being provided indirectly by A, it should not be regarded as provided directly by B. However, there is no authority and a court would have some discretion to develop the law on this point in either way.

37.4 Trust created by B at request of A

Suppose that a man owing a debt of honour or of gratitude to a friend, without any legal obligation proposed to discharge it by paying £1,000 to the friend, and that the latter asks that the sum be paid not to him but to the trustees of a settlement, which is done. The payment of the money to the trustees would obviously be a provision of funds for the settlement. On a purely objective view the payer could be said to have made that provision, but I think that the friend should properly be regarded as the person making this provision. It would be just as if the money had been first paid to him and then paid by him to the trustees. *The payer would have acted at his behest.*

14 Page 768 at H. Confusingly, the Special Commissioners also say that the daughter was a settlor within the IHT definition. The reason, presumably, is that, although she did not provide property, she was a person by whom the second settlement was made. But nothing turns on that.

15 Page 791 at B.

16 Page 791 at B.

Mills v IRC 49 TC at 387 (Buckley LJ)

This *obiter* comment is right if (as Buckley LJ assumes) the payer agrees (albeit without legal obligation) to make the payment at the direction of the friend so that the friend has *de facto* (though not *de jure*) power of disposition of the funds. The situation is different if a father proposed to make a gift to his son, and the son *asks* that the sum be paid to trustees of a settlement for himself and his family. For a father will feel moral obligations to his grandchildren as well as to his son; the father has no (even non-binding) obligation to make a payment to his son; the son has no *de facto* power of disposition over the funds; in such circumstances the father (not the son) is the settlor. The son has not provided funds even indirectly.

If A asks a friend (B) to transfer a nominal sum as an initial trust fund, and B does so not because he wishes to benefit the beneficiaries by the payment, but because A has asked him to, then applying this principle, A is the (indirect) settlor.

37.5 Appointment from old trust to B followed by gift to new trust by B

Fitzwilliam v IRC 67 TC 614 concerned an arrangement under which:

- (1) Trustees of a will trust exercised their power of appointment (“step 3”) to confer a valuable equitable interest on Lady Hastings.
- (2) Lady Hastings transferred this interest to a new trust a few days later (“step 5”).

So this was a relatively simple case of an appointment from the will trust to B followed by a gift to a new trust by B. The question was who was the settlor of the new trust: Lady Hastings or the testator of the will trust (or both). Lord Keith said:

The argument for the Crown is that, by virtue of the appointment contained in step 3, property was provided to Lady Hastings directly or indirectly for the purpose of or in connection with the settlement which Lady Hastings later made under step 5. The person who provided that property is said to be Earl Fitzwilliam [the testator], because the appointment by the trustees falls to be read back into his will, under the

principle of *Muir v Muir* [1943] AC 468 and *Pilkington v IRC* [1964] AC 612. These cases decided that for the purposes of the Scottish rule against successive life-rents and the English rule against perpetuities the exercise of a power of appointment must be written into the instrument creating the power. Earl Fitzwilliam is, therefore, to be treated as the settlor so far as concerns the trust purposes contained in the appointment made by his trustees under step 3, but he cannot reasonably be regarded as having provided property directly or indirectly for the purpose of or in connection with the settlement made by Lady Hastings under step 5.

The words “for the purpose of or in connection with” connote that there must *at least be a conscious association of the provider of the funds* with the settlement in question. It is clearly not sufficient that the settled funds should historically have been derived from the provider of them. If it were otherwise anyone who gave funds unconditionally to another which that other later settled would fall to be treated as the settlor or as a settlor of the funds. It is clear that in the present situation there cannot possibly have been any conscious association of Earl Fitzwilliam with Lady Hastings’ settlement.

(Fitzwilliam v IRC 67 TC at 732, emphasis added)

It seems therefore that if:

- (1) a trust (“trust A”) exists and A is its settlor;
- (2) There is an arrangement under which:
 - (a) the trustees of trust A appoint trust property to B;
 - (b) B gives the property to a separate trust (“trust B”);

B will be the settlor of trust B, and A will not be a settlor, unless the creation of trust B is envisaged by A at the time that trust A is made.

The “conscious association” test is an understandable and generally helpful paraphrase of the statutory words (though of course it does not solve much as the question may arise as to what is a “conscious association”. Further, Lord Keith said there must *at least* be a conscious association, suggesting that it is a necessary, but may not be a sufficient, condition). The application of the conscious association test in the context of an appointment followed by a gift really is surprising, but the House of Lords have spoken. The matter is for most practical purposes ended – at least until the House of Lords speak again. For implications for tax

planning, see 37.22 (Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor).

37.6 Transfer from trust A to trust B by exercise of trustees' power

This section considers the general sense of settlor. Special rules apply for IHT: see 27.1 (Transfers between trusts).

37.6.1 Transfer from trust A to new trust created by trustees

Suppose:

- (1) Trustees of a trust made by A ("Trust A") have power to transfer to a new trust.
- (2) The trustees transfer the trust funds to new trustees to hold on the terms of a newly created trust, Trust B. All the funds of Trust B are derived from Trust A.

Who is the settlor (in the general sense) of Trust B? The trustees of Trust A cannot be the "settlor" as they have merely exercised a fiduciary power. So either A is the settlor or there is no settlor.¹⁷

The answer is that A is the settlor of Trust B. In *Eilbeck v Rawling* 54 TC 101:

- (1) a Gibraltar settlement ("Trust A") made by the taxpayer ("A") held £600,000;
- (2) a Jersey settlement ("Trust B") made by the taxpayer's brother ("B") held £100;
- (3) £315,000 was transferred from Trust A to Trust B by exercise of the trustees' powers.

Buckley LJ said at p.161:

17 If at the time of the creation of Trust A, the transfer to Trust B is already in contemplation, then A is plainly the settlor of Trust B. It is here assumed that the transfer was not in contemplation at the time of the creation of Trust A.

The donee of a special power of appointment is charged with the exercise of a personal discretion which he cannot delegate. When he exercises that discretion in making an appointment, he acts as the delegate of the settlor. What the donee does in exercise of a special power of appointment is done vicariously by the settlor. It is also settled law of long standing that, for the purposes of the rule against perpetuities, when a special power is exercised, the limitations created under it are to be written into the instrument which created the power. This association of the interests arising under an appointment in the exercise of a special power with the settlement conferring that power is not, in my opinion, confined to the rule against perpetuities. If one asks who was the settlor of the £315,000 appointed by the appointment of 27 March 1975, the only possible answer is [A] the settlor of the £600,000 comprised in the Gibraltar settlement [Trust A]. The taxpayer's brother [B] did not settle the £315,000; he settled only £100. The Gibraltar trustee [the trustees of Trust A] did not settle the £315,000; it was not the Gibraltar trustee's to settle, and making the appointment the Gibraltar trustee was only exercising a fiduciary power conferred on him by the Gibraltar settlor, whose delegate he was as donee of the power. The exercise of the power had, in my opinion, precisely the same effect as if the Gibraltar trustee had appointed the £315,000 in favour of the Jersey trustee to be held upon trusts identical with the trusts of the Jersey settlement [Trust B] but set out in extenso in the appointment without reference to the Jersey settlement. If the appointment had taken that form, there could, I think, be no doubt that the trusts so appointed would be trusts taking effect under the Gibraltar settlement.

The House of Lords approved this reasoning on appeal.¹⁸

Where trustees have a power of advancement (that is, a power to apply

18 It may be objected that this is not consistent with *Fitzwilliam*: see 37.5 (Appointment from old trust to B followed by gift to new trust by B). There is no “conscious association” between A and Trust B. However, *Fitzwilliam* was a case where the Court found that an individual beneficiary who assigned an asset to the new trust was the “settlor”. The beneficiary displaced the testator from being a settlor by his independent act. There is no equivalent here. The alternative conclusion that Trust B has no settlor for general tax purposes would have the result, attractive to taxpayers but absurd, that A might escape CGT on trust income and gains under the settlement provisions. The property in Trust B could be excluded property, as one could not say that “the settlor” was domiciled in the UK at the time that the settlement was made! That can hardly be right. If (which is doubtful) further authority is needed, see *Trennary v West* [2005] STC 214 para. 49.

trust property for the benefit of a beneficiary) they may use that power to transfer trust property to a new trust.¹⁹ The consent of that beneficiary is not needed and therefore that beneficiary is not the settlor of the new trusts.

HMRC agree. The CG Manual provides:

33241 Settlor [June 2003]

Where trustees exercise a special power of appointment, or power of advancement, in such a way as to create a new settlement, see CG33800+, the settlor of the new settlement is the person who was the settlor of the old one. See, for example, *Pilkington v CIR*, 40 TC 416, page 442, and *Chinn v Collins*, 54 TC 311, page 351H.

The same point is made again at 34802.

37.6.2 *Transfer from trust A to existing trust made by B*

Suppose:

- (1) A transfers property (“A’s fund”) to a trust (“Trust A”). This confers on the trustees the standard power to transfer property to another settlement.
- (2) B transfers property (“B’s fund”) to a separate trust (“Trust B”).
- (3) The trustees of Trust A transfer A’s fund to Trust B.

Trust B now has two settlors: A has provided A’s fund indirectly, and B has provided B’s fund directly.

37.7 Assignment or surrender of equitable interest

A person who assigns an equitable interest under Trust A to Trust B is the settlor of Trust B but does not of course become the settlor of Trust A. If a person surrenders an equitable interest under Trust A there is no “Trust

¹⁹ See *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, 7th ed., paragraph 10.11 (Power of advancement used to create new trusts).

B”. That person is the settlor for income tax purposes²⁰ so far as he has provided the income, but he is not a settlor of Trust A for the purposes of IHT, nor for CGT, as HMRC accept: CG Manual 33242 provides:

Settlor [February 2005]

Normally the same person is the settlor for both Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax. But this is not the case where a person has assigned a right to income. Such an assignment cannot affect the identity of the settlor for Capital Gains Tax purposes.

37.8 Variation under Variation of Trusts Act 1958

Where a court approves a variation of a trust on behalf of a minor beneficiary, under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958, it is considered that the minor beneficiary does not become a settlor. The reason is that the role of the court in giving its approval is not merely to act on behalf of the person whose consent is needed: the court has a much wider role.²¹ Its position is analogous to trustees exercising a power of advancement.

37.9 Consent to exercise of trustees’ powers

A trust sometimes provides that the trustees can only exercise a power of appointment with the consent of a particular beneficiary (typically the life tenant). If the power of consent is wholly personal (i.e. proprietary),²² this raises some intriguing tax questions. An exposition is made more difficult by the variety of possible circumstances and taxes. In outline the position is as follows:

- (1) A gratuitous consent to an appointment which terminates the consensor’s interest in trust income probably makes the consensor the settlor of a “settlement”, for the purposes of the income tax settlement provisions. The consensor has provided income for the purpose of the “settlement” because he has effectively given up his interest in the

20 *IRC v Buchanan* 37 TC 362.

21 *Re Steed* [1960] 1 Ch 407; *Re Remnant* [1970] Ch 560.

22 On this terminology and powers of consent generally see *Drafting Trusts and Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC (7th ed.) para. 6.33 (Nature of powers of consent).

income by virtue of his consent.²³

- (2) For similar reasons a gratuitous consent to an appointment which terminates the consensor's contingent interest in trust capital probably makes the consensor the "settlor" of a "settlement", for the purposes of IT, CGT and (probably) IHT²⁴ from the time that the contingency is satisfied. The consensor has provided capital for the purposes of the settlement because he has effectively given up his interest in the capital by virtue of his consent.
- (3) By contrast, the giving of the consent to an appointment does not make the consensor a "settlor" (for any purpose) if:
 - (a) the consensor had no interest in the trust immediately before giving the consent; or
 - (b) the appointment leaves the interest of the consensor in the trust

23 The position is analogous to a person who assigns or surrenders his life interest. The analogy is not exact. In one case the "arrangement" consists of the assignment alone. In the other case the "arrangement" consists of the consent and the exercise of the trustees' power of appointment. So in a sense there is an arrangement with two settlors: (i) the consensor and (ii) the (actual) settlor of the settlement (in the strict sense) who conferred the power of appointment on the trustees. But HMRC (or the actual settlor) may plausibly argue that the consensor (not the actual settlor) is taxable under the Settlement Provisions in these circumstances. They may take support from *Braybrooke v Att-Gen* 9 HLC 149 at 165, accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. (A case on the Succession Duty Act 1853 whose provisions are analogous to the settlement provisions. Since Succession Duty was only abolished in 1949, the drafter of the original settlement provisions doubtless had it in mind.) The ground of the decision in *Braybrooke* was:

"that, although the estate of the son arose under a joint power of appointment made by his father and himself, and although therefore the father was in a sense one of the settlors, yet he was not a settlor from whom the interest or any part of the interest of the son, in his character of successor, was derived. And the decision shews that, in order to ascertain who is the settlor 'from whom the interest of the successor is derived,' we must inquire, not who are the parties by whose conveyance the estate has been created, but who is the conveying party out of whose estate the interest in question has been derived." See *Att-Gen. v Charlton* (1877) 2 Ex. D. 398 at p.417.

24 It is arguable that the consensor is not a settlor for IHT because the power of consent is a settlement power and so not property for IHT purposes. It is the old question of how far one carries through the deeming provisions. The better view is that one does not carry the deeming that far.

unaffected.²⁵

In these cases the consenter has not provided any property by his consent.

- (4) The giving of a consent is probably not a disposal for CGT²⁶ of:
- (a) the right to consent (even if it is extinguished); or
 - (b) the consenter's interest in the trust (even if that is extinguished).

The contrary is arguable but it would not normally matter.²⁷

- (5) The giving of the consent is probably not a "disposal" for the purposes of the gift with reservation rule²⁸ and indeed it is likely that the power of consent is a "settlement power" and so not property for IHT: see IHTA s.272.

HMRC do not appear to take any of these points at present; but there is cause for caution. The practical conclusion is that it is in principle better not to make a power of appointment subject to the consent of the life tenant (or any other beneficiary).

25 This is fairly clear from first principles, but some support can be found in two cases. In *Braybrooke* (see the above fn) a tenant in tail exercised his power to dispose of the lands entailed, with the consent of the protector. The protector was not the creator of the disposition: "It cannot be argued that a person whose consent is apparently necessary to a disposition, makes that disposition." In *Mills v IRC* the father's consent was apparently thought to be necessary for Hayley Mills to enter into the arrangements: see 49 TC 367 at 403. This did not prevent Hayley being a settlor.

26 Under general principles or by virtue of s.24 TCGA (extinction of an asset constituting a disposal).

27 It will matter if the usual CGT exemption on the disposal of an equitable interest does not apply (e.g. offshore trusts). It could matter if the conditions of TCGA Sch. 4A are satisfied, but that would be unusual.

28 HMRC agreed. The old CTO Advanced Instruction Manual E.91 provided:

"Nor should you regard the giving of a consent by a limited owner to the exercise of the power of advancement as the making of a disposition."

This passage does not seem to be in the new IHT Manual. This statement makes it less likely that HMRC will argue there is a disposal for CGT.

37.10 Provision of property for company owned by trust

HMRC take the view that provision of property to a company wholly owned by a trust is in principle provision of property for the purposes of the trust, and therefore makes the provider a settlor. SP 5/92 provides:

16 The condition in TCGA Sch 5 para 9(3) may be satisfied where property or income is provided to a company in which the trustees are participators. Where, however, the transaction is carried out with the sole object of leaving funds within the company for the company's purposes and it can be shown that any indirect benefit to the trust is merely incidental to that object, the transaction is disregarded for the purposes of para 9(3).

17 Examples of transactions which may be so disregarded are—

- where another shareholder waives an entitlement to all or part of a dividend; or
- where a director restricts withdrawals of remuneration voted, in order to assist the company's cash flow, and no payments are made, directly or indirectly, to the trustees as a result of this. All relevant factors will be considered in determining whether it is appropriate to apply this practice in a particular case.

This is supported by *obiter dicta* in *Crossland v Hawkins* 39 TC at p 506 followed by Goulding J in *IRC v Mills* 49 TC at p 337. It is clearly correct as far as the income tax definition is concerned.

However, for the CGT s.86 definition, the question is not whether a person has provided property for the purposes of the settlement. The question is whether a person has provided *settled* property. So long as the property provided remains property of the company, not property of the trust, this condition is not satisfied.

37.11 Provision of services²⁹

In two well known cases:

- (1) a third party created a trust which held a company; and
- (2) actors (Jack Hawkins, Hayley Mills) provided services to the company

²⁹ See *Taxation*, 13 March 2003, p.572 (Malcolm Gunn). This section will need review after *Jones v Garnett* [2005] STI 892 is final.

at a substantial undervalue. The company made profits transferred as dividends to the trustees.

In each case it was held that the actor was the settlor.³⁰

Viscount Dilhorne in *IRC v Mills* 49 TC 367 at 408 considered two situations:

- (1) The employees of a company, some shares in which were held by trustees, contribute by their labour to the profits of the company, and so increase the shareholders' dividends and so increase the income of the settlement.
- (2) A stockbroker might, if the advice he gave to the trustees of a settlement proved well founded, be said to be contributing to the settlement.

One might have said that these were not settlors because they provided no bounty. That was not the way that Viscount Dilhorne put it. He said:

The difference between those cases, on the one hand, and *Crossland v Hawkins* and this case [*IRC v Mills*], on the other, is that in *Crossland v Hawkins* and in this case funds which ordinarily would have been received by Mr. Hawkins and by Miss Mills for their acting were diverted to companies which were channels for their transmission to trustees. It is not the provision of services but of funds which comes within the section.

The distinction is not between provision of services and provision of funds, because the actors did provide services; the distinction is between:

- (1) the provision of services which yields funds; and
- (2) the provision of services which does not yield funds.

When does the provision of services yield funds? The test is whether one can identify funds which:

30 More accurately, the actor was one of the settlors but the contribution by the third party who made the trust was ignored as insignificant.

- (1) would ordinarily (in the absence of the settlement) have been received by the individual, but
- (2) were diverted to the trust.

In the case of Viscount Dilhorne's examples of employees and stockbrokers, these conditions are plainly not met.

Suppose:

- (1) an individual has an opportunity of purchasing land, or shares in a private company;
- (2) he allows the trust to take up the offer by advising the trust and not pursuing the opportunity himself;
- (3) had the trust not taken up the offer he would have done so.

In this case the individual is a settlor if one can distinguish the return from the trust's investment from the profit from the advice. A clear case being where the trust only invested a nominal amount in the project. But if the trust provides substantial funds for the development, there is nothing one can identify as coming from the advisor. One should not apportion the profits between the advisor's contribution (advice) and the settlement's contribution (finance). It is impractical to do so as there is no sufficiently clear answer to how the apportionment should be made. If that is right, the *Mills* and *Hawkins* line of cases is effectively restricted to "one-man companies" with no capital base (as was the case in both *Mills* and *Hawkins*). Tax Bulletin 64 Example 9 suggests that HMRC accept this. The example (slightly re-phrased) is as follows:

Mr. J owns 60 of the 100 issued £1 shares in J Limited. Mr. J is a sole company director *and is the person responsible for making all the company's profits because of his knowledge, expertise and hard work.* The remaining 40 shares are held by the children of Mr. J and were originally owned by their grandmother who had subscribed for them at par when the company was set up but shortly afterwards had gifted them to her grandchildren. Dividends are paid.

(Emphasis added.) HMRC say:

[S.629 ITTOIA] applies and attributes the dividends received by the children to Mr J for tax purposes. Since Mr. J is the person

[1] responsible for making the company's profits and

[2] decides on the level of dividends paid,³¹

it is Mr J who is the settlor rather than the children's grandmother.

The legislation could apply in a similar way if the children had subscribed for shares themselves with money received from a third party or even from bank accounts in their own names.

Suppose a stockbroker who is well disposed to the trust (perhaps a beneficiary) gives free investment advice to trustees to invest in quoted (easily obtainable) investments, and the trust profits from acting on his advice. There is an element of "bounty" but the stockbroker has not provided funds and is not the settlor. One cannot identify funds which would ordinarily have been received by the stockbroker. On the contrary, the stockbroker was free (if he had the resources) to make the same investments as those he recommended to the trustees. This is a clear case.

Suppose a property developer who is well disposed to the trust gives free property market advice to trustees, and the trustees invest in land successfully because of the advice. The developer has not provided property and is not the settlor. One cannot identify funds which would ordinarily have been received by him.

In *Mills* in the Court of Appeal, Buckley LJ noted other circumstances why a person who provides services to a trust or company may not be providing property:

- (1) A person does not provide funds for a settlement if:
 - (a) he is entirely ignorant of the settlement (which would in all probability be the case for the employees of a company held by a trust), or
 - (b) he does not have the view of advancing the interests of the trust.
- (2) A person does not provide funds for a settlement if he does so for reward in the ordinary course of his professional business.

These are obvious examples of circumstances in which a person providing services to a trust should not be regarded as a settlor because there is no

31 It is hard to see the relevance of [2].

element of “bounty”.

37.12 Provision of interest-free loan or bank guarantee

A person who lends interest-free is in principle a settlor. The same applies to a back-to-back loan. In *IRC v Wachtel* 46 TC 543 (1) the trustees borrowed from a bank, and (2) an individual guaranteed the trustee loan and deposited funds equal to the trustee borrowing with the bank. The trustees paid only 1% interest on their loan. The individual was rightly held to be a settlor: see 46 TC at p.555.

37.13 Sale of assets at undervalue

A sale at a conscious undervalue is the provision of funds and makes the seller a “settlor”. A sale at market value is not the provision of funds. A sale which is a bargain at arm’s length (at a price regarded by both sides as market value) is not the provision of funds even if the parties have mistaken the value and the property is sold at an undervalue. This is consistent with the general principle that a “settlement” must have an element of “bounty”: see 11.3 (“Settlement”), for in such cases there is no “benefit”: see 14.4.1 (Benefit and arm’s length bargains).

37.14 Minors

In *Mills v IRC* 49 TC 367, the funds of the settlement were derived from acting work of Hayley Mills, then aged 14. She was supposedly³² unaware of the settlement to which at her direction her earnings were paid. The argument was that she had not provided funds for the *purpose* of the

32 The actual evidence recorded that she was “not very interested”, which is not the same. The case should have been decided on the simple factual basis that Hayley Mills *did* intend to provide funds for the purpose of the settlement, even if she did not trouble to think very much about it. The judge said this at p.378. The case was put on a factual assumption that Hayley Mills did not subjectively intend to provide funds. This was factually incorrect, and not even conceivable, because it was completely inconsistent with the view that the contract she signed was valid. If Hayley had not thought about it at all, the contract which she signed would be void under the rule *non est factum*.

settlement.³³ Viscount Dilhorne said in the House of Lords:

- [1] I do not agree with Lord Denning MR that the word “purpose” in this section connotes a mental element or with Buckley LJ that there must be a motivating intention. I do not myself think that it assists to consider whether the question he posed is to be answered objectively or subjectively. I do not consider it incumbent, in order to establish that a person is a settlor as having provided funds for the purpose of a settlement, to show that there was any element of mens rea.
- [2] Where it is shown that funds have been provided for a settlement a very strong inference is to be drawn that they were provided for that purpose,
- [3] an inference which will be rebutted if it is established that they were provided for another purpose.

It is difficult to see what point this sloppy passage is trying to make.³⁴ It is not that purpose is irrelevant: see [3]. That seems to contradict the sentence at [1], but it is obviously right. “Purpose” and “provide” inescapably connote a mental element. The best explanation of this passage is that it is considering the situation like the facts in *Mills* where Hayley Mills *did* intend to provide funds for the purpose of her trust (as shown by her signing a contract which had that effect) but she took very little interest in the matter. That is, the comment is restricted to the facts of that particular case.

37.15 Agents of settlor

It is submitted that in ascertaining purpose one may have regard not only to the mind of the settlor, but also the mind of those acting for him or her. Agency principles may be applied. See *Crossland v Hawkins* 39 TC 439 at p.508:

The mere fact that he did not concern himself with some of the ‘steps’ in the legal machinery involved does not make it any the less his

33 In the IHT definition, the wording is “for the purpose of *or in connection with*” the settlement, but it is suggested that this makes no difference.

34 Dilhorne, who took a third in law, was “not in the highest flight of English lawyers” (DNB).

arrangement within the section. A man does not avoid the incidence of section 397³⁵ by merely being absent from and leaving to his solicitors and accountants certain parts of the legal machinery if he is aware of the proposals for an ‘arrangement’ or a settlement and actively forwards them by personally carrying out and assisting in the vital parts in which his performance and co-operation are necessary. Nor can he avoid liability by merely giving his solicitors carte blanche to effect some scheme for the benefit of his family and refusing to concern himself with its precise form.

On this analysis many apparent difficulties fall away.

In *Mills*, the father acted on behalf of the daughter.³⁶ The purpose of the father was to provide funds for the purpose of the settlement. That suffices to make her the settlor if she had no purpose of her own. Likewise in *Hatton*³⁷ the purposes of Mrs. Cole’s attorney was to provide funds for the settlement, and this purpose should be regarded as the purpose of Mrs. Cole.

37.16 Settlement made by court for person lacking capacity

The court has power to make a settlement for a person lacking capacity “on his behalf”. It is considered that the person lacking capacity is the settlor.³⁸ The Court of Protection agree. A Practice Note provides:

Trusts set up by an order of the Court of Protection will take the form of a settlement, with the patient being the settlor. ... in the case of trusts set up by an order of the Court of Protection, provision can be made for income to be accumulated, if appropriate, for the lifetime of the patient as section 164(1)(a) Law of Property Act 1925 applies.³⁹

37.17 Settlement made by compromise of claim on behalf of minor or person lacking capacity

Parties to litigation may make a settlement under a compromise on behalf

35 Now s.629 ITTOIA (income paid to unmarried minor children of settlor).

36 The father was acting on behalf of the daughter; see at pp.382 and 385.

37 See 37.3 (Gift to B followed by gift to trust by B).

38 Section 16, 18(h) Mental Capacity Act 2005. The tax position is the same for settlements made under the Mental Health Act 1983.

39 Court of Protection Practice Note, 15 November 1996, para 4.

of a claimant who is a minor or person lacking capacity.⁴⁰ The Court of Protection say:

An award of damages can be settled, by consent, in trust for the patient as part of the terms of compromise of the action between the plaintiff and the defendant, with the approval of the High Court, in circumstances where the award never becomes the absolute property of the patient.

Trusts set up following an order of the High Court can only be done in the form of a declaration of trust by the trustees In the former case, the period over which income can be accumulated by the trustees is restricted to 21 years.⁴¹

This assumes that the minor/mental patient is not a settlor for trust law purposes. The first sentence (which is probably the basis for the conclusion) is unsound. While the *award* never becomes the absolute property of the patient, the award represents the claim, which is the property of the claimant.⁴²

37.18 Trust under criminal injuries compensation scheme

An award under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme may be transferred to a trust.⁴³ The applicant under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is not the settlor of such a trust.⁴⁴ That is consistent with the position under the Variation of Trusts Act 1958.

37.19 Trust made by instrument of variation

Suppose:

(1) B inherits property absolutely from the estate of a deceased, D.

40 See *Drafting Trusts & Will Trusts*, James Kessler QC, 7th ed., Chapter 25 (Trusts of damages).

41 Court of Protection Practice Note, 15 November 1996, paras 2 and 4.

42 *Zim Properties v Proctor* 58 TC 371.

43 Paragraph 50 Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2001.

44 The drafter of Part 2 Chapter 4 FA 2005 seems to have assumed this. Settlor-interested trusts are outside the scope of the provisions: see s.25(3) FA 2005.

- (2) B varies the will so as to create a settlement of that property; and s.142 IHTA and s.69 TCGA apply.

B is obviously the settlor in the general sense; see 37.3 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B). For IT purposes, there is nothing more to be said: B is the settlor.

For inheritance tax purposes, the effect of s.142 IHTA is probably to override the general sense; the settlor is D and not B. HMRC accept this view. (The contrary view is arguable but it will not usually be in the taxpayer's interest to argue it.) IHT Manual provides:

IHTM35151 - IHT implications of an Instrument of Variation: effect of coming within s.142

When a variation satisfies the requirements of IHTA84/S142 (1) and there is a valid election or, on or after 1 August 2002, a valid statement of intent

- the variation is not a transfer of value, and
- the IHTA applies as if the deceased had effected the variation

Consequently, for example ...

- [1] if a variation sets up a non-interest in possession trust, the deceased is treated as the settlor, and
- [2] the GWR rules in FA86/S102 cannot apply to a disposition which is accepted as a variation within IHTA84/S142 (1).

This is because the effect of IHTA84/S142(1) is that the deceased is treated as the donor.

Although point [1] states that the deceased is the settlor "if a variation sets up a non-interest in possession trust" the same rule must apply if the variation sets up an interest in possession trust.

The identity of the settlor for CGT is an unresolved question. The issue is whether s.62 TCGA overrides the general sense of settlor. The House of Lords held in *Marshall v Kerr* 67 TC 56 that for CGT the settlor is the beneficiary making the variation, not the testator. However, the reasoning suggests that the position would be different if:

- (1) the instrument of variation was made after administration of the estate had been completed; or
- (2) if the will or intestacy had been governed by the law of a jurisdiction (such as a civil law jurisdiction) which (unlike common law

jurisdictions) does not recognise personal representatives and an administration period; or

- (3) if the disposition varied was a joint tenancy (because, as in (2), there is no administration period).

The position may also have been affected by the enactment of (what is now) TCGA, s.62(9): this subsection was not in force in the tax years relevant to *Marshall v Kerr*.⁴⁵

It appears to be the HMRC view that the beneficiary is the settlor. CG Manual 37888 (June 2003) provides:

The Revenue considered that Section 62(7) was concerned with computational matters only, and had no effect on the question whether a new settlement had come into existence or the identity of the settlor. The majority of the House of Lords, in *Marshall v Kerr*, preferred slightly different reasoning in holding that a residuary legatee, who had executed an instrument of variation so that her 50 per cent share of the estate was settled, was the settlor for the purposes of Section 87 TCGA (charge on beneficiaries of non-resident settlements). This decision should be applied for the purposes of Sections 77 & 86 TCGA (charge on settlors of certain settlements) and Schedule 1 TCGA (annual exempt amount for trustees).

The author has been expecting further litigation on this aspect since 1994 but it has not happened yet and the question may remain forever unresolved.

37.20 Trust with no element of bounty

37.20.1 Is a trust without bounty a “settlement”?

It is possible (albeit unusual) that a trust is made with no element of bounty. An example may be an employee trust made by the employer for his own benefit. Such a trust:

- (1) is not a “settlement” for IT purposes: see 11.3 (“A settlement”).

45 See “*Marshall v Kerr* Revisited”, *Taxation*, 3 May 2001 (Christopher Sokol).

- (2) is a settlement in the ordinary trust law sense, and in the usual CGT and IHT definitions of the term.

HMRC accept this. CG Manual 34804 (June 2003):

Companies frequently create settlements. These are generally settlements for employees, see CG35020, or other commercial arrangements, see CG35023. Such settlements are usually excluded from TCGA Section 77 because of the bounty test. Exceptionally it may be appropriate to argue that TCGA Section 77 applies to the particular settlement. Although there is no specific provision comparable to TCGA Schedule 5 Paragraph 8(4), nevertheless it may be appropriate in such a case to consider whether the property entering the settlement has been provided indirectly by the shareholders, both for the purposes of TCGA Section 77 and for the purposes of [s.624 ITTOIA].

37.20.2 *Who is the settlor of a trust with no element of bounty?*

CG Manual 33240 provides:

Because a person who has ‘made’ or ‘entered into’ a settlement is within the definition of settlor it is not considered necessary for ‘bounty’ to have been provided. Therefore employee trusts have a settlor. See CG33580 and CG35020+.

The argument is considered valid for the IHT definition of “settlor” which uses the words “made” or “entered into”. The argument does not run for the CGT s.86 or s.79 definitions.⁴⁶

46 The CG Manual accepts this:

“35020. Trusts for employees

There is nothing in Section 77 itself to prevent it being applied to a company. In particular, where a company has set up a settlement for its employees, the deed may provide that if all the trusts fail, the property may revert to the company. The most common cases are share option schemes and unapproved pension schemes. In the latter case it can also be argued that the employees themselves are also settlors.

The Revenue Booklet entitled ‘The tax treatment of Top-Up Pension Schemes’, Para 2.7.5, states:

‘The ‘benefit to settlor’ rules in Part XV Taxes Act and FA 1988, s.10 [TCGA, s.77–TCGA, s.79] can apply to top-up pension schemes. But this is not likely to be the case where the structure and operation of a scheme are broadly similar

37.21 Trust made by company

The IT and CGT settlement provisions do not apply to settlements made by companies even if there is an element of bounty and so a settlement.⁴⁷ Where a company is a settlor, however, the controlling shareholder(s) will often also be settlor(s) because they provide property indirectly.⁴⁸

37.22 Tax planning to create settlement with foreign domiciled settlor

The “who is the settlor” question may arise in a tax planning context.

Example 1

- (1) H (UK domiciled) gives property to his wife W (not UK domiciled); and
- (2) W gives it to a settlement.

Who is the settlor, H or W or both?

The success of schemes involving a transfer to a foreign domiciliary who creates a settlement depends on how the transaction is carried out. It is suggested that the test is: does W have a genuine and wholly independent role? See 37.3 (Gift from A to B followed by gift to trust by B). As a practical matter it is suggested that W should retain the property for at least one year; that no decision be made as to whether or not to create a settlement at the time of the gift from H to W; *a fortiori* no decision should be made on the terms of the trust; and W should receive independent legal⁴⁹ advice on any proposed gift to a settlement.

Example 2

- (1) Trustees of a trust (with a UK domiciled settlor) appoint property to a beneficiary (“B”) (not UK domiciled); and

to an approved pension scheme.”

47 See *Venables and Kessler on the Taxation of Charities*, 5th ed.

48 Contrast 13.4.2 (Quasi transferor).

49 While W also needs tax advice, what matters here is that W has independent advice on the property law aspects of the gift.

(2) B gives the property to a new settlement.

The settlor of the new trust will be B, not the settlor of the old trust: see 37.5 (Appointment from old trust to B followed by gift to new trust by B). Of course, care must be taken in carrying out such schemes. Watch the trust law rule of fraud on a power, and *Furniss v Dawson*. It would be better if the terms of the new settlement are different from the terms of the old. For an (almost unbelievable) example of botched execution of this scheme, see *Anker-Petersen v Christensen* [2002] WTLR 313.

CHAPTER THIRTY EIGHT

SITUS OF ASSETS FOR IHT

38.1 Concepts of situs

Situs¹ of assets is relevant for many tax and non-tax purposes of which the most important for the foreign domiciliary are:

- (1) IHT excluded property status; and
- (2) the CGT remittance basis.

Situs (like domicile) is in origin a concept of private international law (or conflict of law) which has been developed for tax and non-tax purposes. The rules are laid down by the common law. The common law rules apply for tax, except so far as modified by specific rules in tax legislation. IHT situs is almost entirely based on the common law rules. CGT has statutory situs rules which cover most situations, and the common law is only needed to fill in a few gaps. So CGT situs is now best regarded as a separate subject, even though in a few cases the common law/IHT principles still apply for CGT. As a third tier of complexity, some old IHT double tax treaties (not considered here) override the usual IHT situs rules. The income tax rules are different: see 6.5 (Situs of source).

The situs of land and chattels seems obvious (but occasionally the law does not adopt the obvious solution). For intangible assets (shares, debts, etc.), the law must choose connecting factors to link the asset to a jurisdiction. There is a large choice of possible connecting factors, and the

1 A note on terminology. The IHTA and TCGA generally refer to the “situation” of assets though the heading to s.275 TCGA refers to “location”. One sometimes sees “local situation”. The concept in each case is the same. “Situs” has become adopted into legal English usage and should not be written in italics.

selection of the determining factor must sometimes be arbitrary.² One might think that it would not matter much what the rule was, as long as there is some rule and its application is clear. But the desirable rule (at least the HMRC viewpoint) is one which minimises the scope for tax planning. The common law rules do not achieve that, and so this is an area of law with many anomalies. The common law situs rules are not well suited to serve as a territorial limitation for tax. It is not surprising that common law situs no longer has the role it once had in private international law, and very few of the common law rules apply to CGT.

38.2 Every asset has one situs

Under the common law rules,³ every asset is situate in one jurisdiction⁴ and only in one jurisdiction. In *R v Williams* [1942] AC 541 at 559 the Privy Counsel said:

Property, whether movable or immovable, can ...⁵ have only one local situation.

This rule is self evidently necessary since the purpose of situs rules in

2 In *R v Williams* [1942] AC 549 the Privy Council said:

Shares in a company are “things in action” which have in a sense no real situs, but it is now settled law that for the purposes of taxation ... they must be treated as having a situs which may be merely of a fictional nature.

In *New York Life Insurance v Public Trustee* [1924] 2 Ch 101 the situs rules were described as “legal fictions”. A better analysis is to say that “situs” (of a chose in action) is metaphorical language describing an abstract concept. The situs of a chose in action is not “fictional”, but perfectly “real” (or at least as much so as concepts such as “residence” or “domicile” or indeed “chose in action”) though the concept may be described as “technical” or even “artificial”. Lawyers are entitled to use ordinary words in special senses but to call a situs of a chose in action a “fiction” is pedantic and inappropriate. See J.H. Baker, *The Law's Two Bodies*, OUP, 2001 lecture 2 (“Legal Fictions”).

3 This rule can be altered by statute, and for CGT it has been, but only in minor respects see 39.23 (Intellectual property).

4 *English Scottish and Australian Bank v IRC* [1932] AC 238.

5 The omitted words are “... for the purposes of determining situs as among the different provinces of Canada in relation to the incidence of a tax imposed by a provincial law upon property transmitted owing to death”. These words do not qualify the general principle as there is only one common law situs concept and (subject to statute) that applies for all purposes.

private international law is to resolve conflicts of jurisdiction, and one purpose in tax is to avoid double taxation. It is also implicit in the word *situs*: the physical fact that a physical object (above the level of quantum physics) can only be situate in one place. I stress this as some old cases considered assets could be dual situate. They no longer represent the law.

38.3 Situs of shares: general principle

In *Brassard v Smith* [1925] AC 371 the Privy Council said:

This is, in their Lordships opinion, the true test. Where could the shares be effectively dealt with?

In *R v Williams* [1942] AC 541, the Privy Council approved this passage and said:

It may be useful here to make some general remarks on the meaning and effect of the principle laid down in *Brassard v Smith* and in the *Erie Beach* case. The first observation is that the phrase used in laying down the principle clearly means “where the shares can be effectively dealt with as between the shareholder and the company, so that the transferee will become legally entitled to all the rights of a member,” e.g., the right of attending meetings and voting and of receiving dividends. If the phrase only meant “effectively dealt with as between transferor and transferee of shares,” the test would obviously be almost completely useless, since the rights of a shareholder as between himself and a transferee can, speaking generally, effectively be transferred in any part of the world.

These cases concerned registered shares, but the comments (cited in the IHT Manual at 27122) are not so restricted and apply to bearer shares also.

The question which follows from this test is: How to identify the place where shares can be dealt with?

38.4 Situs of registered shares⁶

38.4.1 Place-of-register rule

The IHT Manual provides:

⁶ See “The Situs of Registered Shares”, Robert Venables QC, PTPR Vol 9 p.115.

IHTM27121 -Inscribed⁷ and registered securities:⁸ usual location

For the purposes of Inheritance Tax an inscribed and registered security (a shareholding in a Company for example) is located at the place where the title of ownership must be registered – see *Att Gen v Higgins*.⁹

However, some international securities have different rules (IHTM27078).

It makes no difference that the business of the company is totally administered outside the country in which the register is kept: see *Baelz v Public Trustee* [1926] Ch 863.

I refer to this as the place-of-register rule. This is a straightforward application of the general principle that shares are situate where they can be dealt with.

It is necessary for completeness to mention *Macmillan v Bishopsgate Trust (No. 3)* [1996] 1 WLR 387. This concerned a company incorporated and with its share register in New York. Auld LJ adopted the place-of-register rule: see p.411E. Alarming, Aldous LJ stated without discussion that the situs is the place of incorporation: p.423F. Staughton LJ inclined to the same view but expressed himself more cautiously: p.405E. However, this was a case where the Court did not have to decide between place-of-register rule and the place of incorporation as rival situs rules. The Court's attention was not on the point and the relevant cases were not discussed. In the circumstances, it is suggested that no weight whatever should be given to these dicta. HMRC Manuals tactfully ignore this case. It is a pity that the majority of the Court of Appeal did not express themselves more carefully or more cautiously; they have introduced into the law if not an uncertainty at least an inconsistency which needs to be explained away. But there it is.

38.4.2 *Company with more than one share register*

Multiple registers raise a problem for a place-of-register rule. If there is only one register applicable to the shares in question, that is where the shares can be dealt with. The IHT Manual provides:

7 “Inscribed” securities are those whose legal owners are inscribed in a register; the term is, as far as I can see, only an old fashioned synonym of “registered”.

8 “Securities” here includes shares as well as debt securities.

9 (1857) 2 H & N 339 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. This was approved in *AG v Winans (No. 2)* [1910] AC 27.

IHTM27122 - Inscribed and registered securities: branch registers

If a company has more than one register, and any changes must be recorded on one of the registers, the relevant securities are situated in the place where that register is required by law to be kept – not in the place of the head office of the company.

This requires an examination of company law to identify which of the two registers is applicable. The IHT Manual helps:

IHTM27124 - Inscribed and registered securities: overseas branch registers of UK companies

Under UK law a share cannot, at one and the same time, be registered on more than one register.

The rule applies even as regards overseas branch registers (these are branch registers of members resident in the country to which the register relates). Under Companies Act 1985/SCH14/para4, a company that maintains an overseas branch register has to keep a duplicate thereof at the place where its principal register is kept.

And “no transaction with respect to any shares registered in an overseas branch register shall, during continuance of the registration, be registered in any other register” – see SCH14/para5.

Shares on the overseas branch register of a UK company are therefore situated, for Inheritance Tax purposes, in the country where the register is kept.

Under Companies Act 1985 S362 a company may maintain an overseas branch register. The countries and territories in which overseas branch registers may be kept are specified in SCH14. Companies Act 1985 S362 (4) and (5) enable the provisions as to overseas branch registers to be extended by Order in Council to countries within the jurisdiction, or under the protection, of the Crown.

Another solution may be that the company has only one register and merely a “transfer office” elsewhere:

IHTM27125 - Inscribed and registered securities: duplicate or multiple registers of non-UK companies

Some overseas company laws allow a shareholder to use duplicate (or multiple) share registers to record the transfer of their securities.

The South African Companies Act, for example, authorises South African companies to maintain branch registers in any foreign country. Shares can be transferred on any register, but no transfer of shares

passing on death can be registered in the UK until any death duty claimed by South Africa on the shares has been paid.

Remember that some registers merely record information about transfer of securities without providing the legal basis for the transfer. These registers do not affect the locality of the security (IHTM27071)

Details of transfer arrangements given in the Stock Exchange Year-Book do not always make the position clear and, if necessary, you must ask the taxpayer to explain.

If that fails one must look for another territorial connection:

Where there are many registers the register upon which the shares would normally be dealt with in the ordinary course of business is the register that determines the locality of the security – see *Treasurer of Ontario v Aberdeen* [1947] AC 24.

But which is the register which would normally be used? The Manual explains:

If the share certificates are here, one of the alternative registers is here, and transfers can be effected here the shares will normally be regarded as legally situate here (*Re Clark, McKechnie v Clark* [1904] Ch 294).

R v Williams [1942] AC 541 is another example of the location of a (signed and endorsed) share certificate acting as a tie-breaker between two competing jurisdictions (each with a share register).¹⁰ The Manual continues:

This is only an assumption and as such can be rebutted by the particular circumstances of the case (see *Standard Chartered Bank Ltd v IRC* [1978] 1 WLR 1160). But if tax is offered on shares in a foreign company with transfer facilities in the UK, you can assume that the register here is the one on which the shares would normally be dealt

10 IHT Manual para. 27150:

“If the company has more than one register on which the holding could be effectively transferred, and the share certificates are found at the material time at a place where a register is located, the holding is for Inheritance Tax purposes situated at that place – see *R v Williams* [1942] AC 541. Cases where none of the effective registers is located where the certificates are found must be referred to TG (IHTM 01081) or your Team Leader, in Scotland.”

with in the ordinary course of business.

38.4.3 *Company without “register” (in true sense)*

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27123 - Inscribed and registered securities: effectiveness of register

If shares are entered on a list, which could be called a register, but the register does not affect the legal holding of the security, the place where the list is situated does not affect the locality of the security.

In *Erie Beach Co Ltd v Att Gen for Ontario* [1930] AC 161, certain shares (on the view that they could, under the Ontario Companies Act, be effectively dealt with only in Ontario) were held to be situated in that province for the purposes of Ontario Succession Duty, notwithstanding that they had in fact been entered on a “register” opened elsewhere.

It was explained however, in *R v Williams*, that the *Erie Beach* decision was based on the finding that the particular shares in question could be dealt with effectively in Ontario only. It is not an authority for holding that any company subject to the Ontario Companies Act is precluded from establishing registers outside Ontario on which effective transfers can be made, and Ontario companies like other Canadian companies may establish branch registers kept by “transfer agents” which are equivalent to duplicate or multiple registers (IHTM27125).

38.4.4 *Register of share transfers*

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27127 - Canadian companies: transfer agencies

Many companies incorporated under Canadian law keep a register, or branch register, of **transfers** kept by one of the company’s duly appointed “transfer agents”, not a register of shareholders as with UK companies.

When we ask ourselves “where could the shares be effectively dealt with” (*Brassard v Smith*), we must find out where the company has established transfer agents to operate a register, or branch register, of transfers. There usually is more than one such transfer agent with whom it is open to a shareholder to transfer his holding, regardless of where the relevant share certificate was issued; some (but relatively few) companies have such transfer agents in the UK. These equally available transfer arrangements in various places are said to be “interchangeable”,

and for the purposes of locality in relation to Inheritance Tax can be taken as equivalent to duplicate or multiple registers (IHTM27125). This applies to shares registered in the name of the taxpayer or his nominee (including marking names), and applies whether or not the share certificates are endorsed in blank (*Treasurer of Ontario v Aberdeen* [1947] AC 24). This will apply whether the company in question was incorporated under Canadian dominion or provincial law.

38.4.5 *Miscellaneous*

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27128 - Canadian companies: branch registers of British Colombian and Newfoundland companies

Branch registers can be kept outside the provinces so the location of the branch register will determine the locality of any shares registered thereon.

In certain circumstances shares registered on a branch register in the name of a **deceased** member can be transferred only on a duplicate register kept at the registered office of the company. This restriction does not affect locality for Inheritance Tax purposes on the deceased's death.

IHTM27129 - Canadian companies: Nova Scotia companies

Every company incorporated under the laws of Nova Scotia must keep a duplicate of any branch register kept outside the province at its registered office in the province. As regards transfers inter vivos, a distinction is understood to arise between:

1. Companies incorporated under the Nova Scotia Companies Acts, in which case a transfer inter vivos on a branch register appears to be valid and effectual in itself. Accordingly if the securities are registered on a branch register in the UK they must be treated as situated in the UK.
2. Companies incorporated under other Acts, in which case no transfer on a branch register is effectual until entered in the principal register. On that footing, registered securities may be regarded as situated in Nova Scotia, even though they may be registered on a branch register in the UK.

This restriction does not affect locality for Inheritance Tax purposes on the deceased's death.

38.5 Registered debt securities¹¹

The rules are, in general, the same as for registered shares; the passage from the IHT Manual set out above refers to securities, generally meaning both shares and debt securities.

38.5.1 *Place-of-register rule v specialty rule*

Shares are not “specialties” so the specialty rule cannot apply to them.¹² A debenture may be a specialty so the question arises as to the priority between the place-of-register rule and the specialty rule. The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27079 Specialty rule: bonds and debentures under seal

Debentures if under seal, are specialty debts, locally situated where the document is found. So, also, are debts due from the Crown, or under a statute, whether under seal or under hand, and even when they are secured by registered bonds.

Thus for debentures the specialty rule overrides the place-of-register rule. So one must investigate whether registered securities are in fact ‘specialties’. The IHT Manual continues at 27079 with a little help:

Most UK government securities (e.g. Treasury Loan, Exchequer Stock, War Loan) are registered, so that their locality is determined by the place of registration. However, some bonds issued by the UK government (containing an express obligation to pay) are governed by the general rule that a debt due from the Crown is a specialty debt, situated where the document evidencing the obligation is physically found.

In *Royal Trust Co v Att Gen for Alberta* [1930] AC 144 the decision related to registered bonds of the Dominion of Canada and their situation for the purpose of Alberta death duties.

IHTM27080 - Specialty rule: Treasury Bills, British Savings Bonds, National Savings Income Bonds

Securities falling within the specialty rule includes Treasury Bills and British Savings Bonds. (IHTM27078)

Although no actual bonds are in existence holders receive a bond book

11 I use the term “debt securities” to mean securities which are not shares.

12 See 38.12 (Specialty obligations).

or, in some cases, a certificate. When the person beneficially entitled to these bonds is domiciled outside the UK, the bonds are regarded for Inheritance Tax purposes as situated outside the UK at any time that the bond book or certificate is situated outside the UK.

National Savings Income Bonds, however, are securities registered on the National Savings Stock Register and as such are situated in the UK.

(This text has been withheld because of exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000)¹³

38.6 Bearer documents

The place-of-register rule cannot apply to bearer shares as there is no register of shareholders.

38.6.1 *Bearer shares*

The general principle is that the shares are situated where they can be legally transferred, see 38.3 (General principle). Applying this rule it is clear that bearer shares are situated where the certificate is held.

38.6.2 *Bearer debt securities*

The leading case is *AG v Bouwens*.¹⁴ This concerned foreign bearer bonds which were marketable in England and it was not necessary to do any act outside England in order to make a valid transfer of them. Lord Abinger said at p.192:

No ordinary¹⁵ in England could perform any act of administration within his diocese, with respect to debts due from persons resident abroad, or with respect to shares or interests in foreign funds payable abroad, and incapable of being transferred here; and therefore no duty would be payable on the probate or letters of administration in respect of such effects. But, on the other hand, it is clear that the ordinary could administer all chattels within his jurisdiction; and if an instrument is

13 Perhaps this gives instructions how to identify securities when a tax charge falls due.

14 (1838) 4 M & W 171 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. This was approved in *AG v Winans* (No. 2) [1910] AC 27.

15 The situs rule turned on the jurisdiction of the Ordinary (an ecclesiastical office). The jurisdiction passed to the Court of Probate in 1857, and to the Chancery Division in 1875, but nothing turns on that.

created of a chattel nature, capable of being transferred by acts done here, and sold for money here, there is no reason why the ordinary or his appointee should not administer that species of property. Such an instrument is in effect a saleable chattel, and follows the nature of other chattels as to the jurisdiction to grant probate.

This seems to state that the situs of bearer debt securities is where the document is to be found, and this is the view taken by Dicey¹⁶ and by the Manuals. The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27076 - Locality of assets (situs): bearer securities¹⁷

A security which is represented by a document of title, the property in which passes by delivery, is locally situated, for Inheritance Tax purposes, in the place where that document is found at the material time – see *Att Gen v Bouwens*,¹⁸ *Winans v Att Gen* [1910] AC 27.

38.7 Letter of allotment of shares

A letter of allotment confers the right to an issue of shares. The letter is normally transferable by delivery and so in some respects similar to a short-term bearer share. One would have thought that the bearer security rule would apply. However, in *Young v Phillips* 58 TC 232 a letter of allotment in respect of a company with UK registered shares was held to be situate in the UK, not where the letter of allotment was held. This case concerned the common law rules before s.275A TCGA and is still relevant for situs for IHT, and for CGT in the case of foreign incorporated companies. Nicholls J cited the passage in *AG v Bouwens* set out above¹⁹ and said:

From this it is apparent that for an instrument to be treated as analogous to a chattel for situs purposes more is required of it than mere transferability of title by delivery. A simple contract debt owed by a foreign debtor to a person resident in England and evidenced by a promissory note might be, and normally would be, freely and effectively transferable in England, but such a debt has as its situs the country where the debtor resides, not the

16 The Conflict of Laws, 13th ed, 2000, para.22-044. But for a dissenting view, see 38.7 (Letter of allotment of shares).

17 This passage applies to both shares and debt securities.

18 (1838) 4 M & W 171 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

19 See 38.6 (Bearer documents).

place where the creditor lives or currently holds the promissory note. What is required is that in practice the value of the instrument can be realised by a sale of the instrument for money in the country where the instrument is found: the reason being that if an instrument in England could be so sold, the ordinary could properly and effectively administer that asset by selling it here, there being no need in such a case to have recourse to where the foreign debtor lived. When so saleable an instrument is in practice realisable in the same way as a saleable, valuable chattel, and hence, for situs purposes, it falls to be treated in the same way....

This approach requires an investigation into whether a market exists. The Judge said:

In the instant case there are no grounds for concluding that in practice the value of the letters of allotment, which were issued with a life-span of a little over two months, could have been realised by a sale of those documents for money wherever they were to be found. The Special Commissioners pointed out that no evidence had been led before them to prove that there existed a market in letters of allotment of shares in private companies. Having regard to the fact that shares in private companies may not be the subject of a public issue, they expressed themselves as being far from prepared to assume the existence of such a market. With that approach I agree. And it is to be noted that the “sales” of the letters of allotment which did take place in Sark were not arm’s length transactions but were to purchasers wholly under the control of the vendors, and they had been prearranged even before the letters of allotment were issued. Accordingly, applying the principles I have mentioned to the facts of this case, the renounceable letters of allotment in the UK companies do not fall to be treated as saleable chattels, realisable where they might be found from time to time. They are documents evidencing rights against UK companies, which rights were enforceable in the UK.

The requirement for “marketability” is not well founded in the cases, nor does it make good sense. A buyer could be found for any valuable asset in any community where investment exists and one buyer makes a market.²⁰ Whether a market exists is a question of fact, so application of

20 This is self-evident, but for an illustration see *FGP v Union of India* 2004 (168) Excise Law Times 289 (Supreme Court of India) accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. Contrast the much more sophisticated definition of “asset for which there is a liquid market” in ICEAW Tech 7/03 para 19 (Guidance on the determination of realised

the marketability test will result in assets moving from one jurisdiction to another as markets come and go. It is conceivable that there was no market in Sark (population 600).

It seems that *Young v Phillips* stretched the law in order to defeat a tax avoidance scheme, and in doing so has left something of a mess. In practice it is suggested that HMRC are right to restrict the application of the case to short-term assets, such as letters of allotment.

The CG Manual provides:

12460. Letters of allotment [March 2003]

Letters of allotment should be treated as located in the country where the company issuing the letters is registered. In the case of *Young v Phillips* 58 TC 232 bonus shares were issued in respect of registered shares located in the UK. The issue was made in letter of allotment form. The letters were then taken to the Channel Islands and disposed of there. It was held that the letters of allotment were located in the UK because they evidenced rights which were properly enforceable only in the UK.

Thus in the HMRC view *Young v Phillips* is relevant to letters of allotment only, it has no relevance to the situs of bearer debt securities or shares. The case clearly has no application to bearer shares, since it is not consistent with the general test for situs of shares: see 38.3 (Situs of shares: general principle). The case could arguably be relevant to bearer debt securities. It is suggested that the reasoning should be restricted to short life assets (such as letters of allotment which, it was noted, have a life of only two months).

It is plain from *Young v Phillips* that even letters of allotment may be situate where the letter is situate, if there is a “market” there.

38.8 Eurobonds and depository receipts

There are no relevant statutory provisions, so the common law rules apply for IHT. But what is the rule? The IHT Manual deals with the matter briefly:

IHTM 27077 Locality of assets (situs): Eurobonds and American

profits in the context of distributions under the CA 1985).

depository receipts

The situs of securities dealt with through computerised clearing systems (e.g. Euroclear; CEDEL) is regarded as determined by the terms of issue of the particular security. ...

A published statement is more helpful:

... where a financial institution or other intermediary has purchased Eurobonds or similar fungibles through Euroclear or Cedel on behalf of a client-investor, the Revenue will treat the financial institution or intermediary as the nominee or agent of the client-investor, unless the terms of the particular issue prescribed otherwise. So, save in the excepted circumstances, the Revenue will look through the intermediary and treat the beneficiary-investor as owning the underlying Eurobonds or similar fungibles.

We have also explained that, in the Revenue's view, the *situs* for IHT purposes of Eurobonds and similar fungibles in any issue depends on the terms of that issue and, in particular, where under those terms the bondholder's rights to or rights of action for property exist. Those rights will be determined by reference to general, not Revenue, law principles. So where title to the rights under an issue passes by delivery, the *situs* for IHT purposes of such rights is where the instrument of title is physically.

There is little we can add to the foregoing guidance. In particular we cannot offer any undertaking about the likely future IHT liability which may arise in respect of rights to particular Eurobond issues currently extant or which may be issued in future.

However, in order to be as helpful as possible, we can say that where a Eurobond issue satisfies the terms and conditions of section 124 ICTA, the Revenue will treat for IHT purposes the rights and interests of the beneficiary-investors in such issues as rights to and interests in a bearer security.

([1994] PCB 139)

The CG Manual discusses depository receipts in more detail:

50240. Depository receipts: general

You may come across assets referred to as Depository Receipts (DRs). The commonest are American Depository Receipts (ADRs).

DRs are used as substitute instruments indicating ownership of securities such as shares. Although DRs may be owned by anyone, they are designed primarily

to enable investors to hold and deal in shares of companies located in countries other than their own. Such activities might otherwise be inhibited by difficulties in transferring original share certificates from one country to another. The investors hold or trade the DRs rather than the share certificates themselves.

A person holding shares for which DRs are available can convert them into DR form by depositing the share certificates with a local branch of a depository (a financial institution such as a bank). The depository issues a DR. This document certifies that the depository, or an appointed custodian in the country of the underlying shares, holds the share certificates and that the owner of the DR is entitled to the share certificates on surrender of the DR. The precise detail of the arrangements may vary, but the holder of a DR will generally retain the rights attaching to ownership of shares, such as voting rights, and will receive via the depository any dividends on the shares, converted into the investors' local currency, or US Dollars for an ADR.

The holder of shares in DR form may at any time cancel the arrangement by asking for delivery of the share certificates in respect of their underlying shares, and surrendering the DRs at a local branch of the depository.

50241. Tax analysis

For capital gains purposes the holder of the DR has two separate chargeable assets, namely

- ◆ a beneficial interest in the underlying shares, and
- ◆ the DR (being the document evidencing title, and comprising a number of rights as against the depository).

A disposal of shares in DR form is therefore in strictness a disposal of two separate assets. In general, however, the value of a DR may be expected to track closely that of the underlying shares. So the consideration on any disposal may relate entirely, or almost entirely, to the shares themselves. In practice therefore you may not need to make any apportionment of base cost, or consideration received, on a disposal of shares in DR form.

50242. Tax analysis

If a person 'converts' shares into DR form, there is no change in their ownership of the underlying shares, but they have acquired a second asset, the DR itself. If a person 'converts' their DR back into the underlying shares, there is again no change in their ownership of the shares, but there will have been a disposal of the separate DR asset. Normal TCGA principles would apply to this disposal. Normally there will be no chargeable gain on such an event.

50243. Tax analysis – situation of assets

Although the DR itself may be issued outside the UK, you should not accept any suggestion that a disposal of shares in a UK registered company held in DR form by a non-domiciled person should give rise to chargeable gains only on a remittance basis, see CG25300+. It is to be expected that the great majority, or all, of any consideration on such a disposal will be attributable to the disposal of the beneficial interest in the shares themselves. The shares are, under Section 275[1](e) TCGA, assets located in the UK, see CG 12451, so the remittance basis

will not apply.

Now, the general common law rule is that a bare trust is transparent for situs; that is, the situs of the interest of the beneficial owner is that of the underlying asset.²¹ But a DR is unlike an ordinary bare trust in that it can readily be dealt with (i.e. transferred) in the jurisdiction of the depository. That is the jurisdiction where litigation over the transfer of a DR is likely to take place, and the better view is that that is the situs of the DR; the situs of the underlying shares is irrelevant. Dicey agrees:

... the general principle is that the *situs* of a chose in action is where it is recoverable or may be enforced. ... Furthermore, there is an analogy between immobilised securities and registered securities (which are normally regarded as situated where the register is located). Accordingly, the *situs* of immobilised securities should be regarded as the place where the depository is established and where it keeps the database in which the entitlements of the depositors are recorded.²²

It must be frustrating for HMRC to see a significant part of the economy taken out of the scope of UK tax by means of depository receipts. But in practice IHT at least on such assets is largely uncollectable. It is likely that HMRC will back down on this point if pressed.

38.9 Share certificate indorsed in blank

The IHT Manual explains the background law as follows:

IHTM27150 - Locality of assets (situs): share certificates endorsed in blank

Certificates of many American and Canadian railroads and of certain other companies have a printed form of transfer and/or power of attorney endorsed, which enables the certificates, when the form is signed by the registered holder of the shares, to be transferred by delivery.

It is common practice for such certificates to be “endorsed in blank”, i.e. for the endorsement to be signed by the registered owner as transferor,

21 See 38.24 (Bare trust or nomineehip).

22 13th ed para.22-043. This view is enthusiastically supported by Joanne Benjamin's *Interests in Securities*, OUP, 2000, Chap 7. See too an interesting posting to the Trusts Discussion Forum V2 # 74 (Peter Cushen).

the name of the transferee being left blank.

Dividends are paid by the company to the registered owner, and if these shares have in fact changed hands by delivery, the beneficial owner for the time being recovers his dividends from the registered owner.

Usually the shares are registered in the name of a recognised broker, bank, discount house, etc, known in England as a “good Marking Name” or, in America, as a “Street Name”. This helps to make sure that the purchaser receives their dividends with minimum of trouble and risk.

A list of good Marking Names recognised by the London Stock Exchange is printed in the Stock Exchange Official Year Book.

However the beneficial owner can have them registered in their own name, or in the name of some nominee other than a good Marking Name.

The local situation of shares for Inheritance Tax purposes is determined as followings:

- [a] If the registered owner is a good Marking Name, the shares are situated where the register is kept, not where the certificates are found....²³
- [b] If the registered owner is the beneficial owner himself, or a nominee of the beneficial owner, or, in the case of settled property, the trustees of the settlement or their nominees, the rules are as at (a) above.²⁴

[Paragraphing added]

The HMRC view is that one ignores the fact a share transfer form has been indorsed in blank. This is right, because the indorsed certificate does not alter the place where the shares are dealt with as between shareholder and company: see 38.3 (Situs of shares: general principle). At this point the Manual becomes confused:

- [d] If the registered owner is neither a good Marking Name, the

23 Omitted text set out at 38.4.2 (Multiple share registers).

24 The Manual continues:

“[c] In such cases it is considered that the legal and only title of the holder consists in his registration as owner. By bringing the certificates to the UK he is in a position to create, in a purchaser, an equitable interest in the shares which would be situated here, but until he does so the beneficial interest has not been severed from the legal interest so as to have a different locality.”

This is garbled, or muddled and wrong.

beneficial owner, nor any other of the persons named at (b) above, and the certificates are physically present in the UK at the material time, the shares are locally situated in the UK for Inheritance Tax purposes, (*Stern v The Queen* [1896] 1 QB 211).

I find it hard to see how [d] can apply: the registered owner will always be one of the persons named at [b] (beneficial owner or a nominee).

Certificates of this kind, not containing any express obligation or promise, are not specialty debts – see the *Williams* case at [1942] AC 556.

That is correct.

38.10 Simple²⁵ contract debt

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27091 - Debts: contractual

In English law, a **simple contract** debt is situated where the debtor resides: *Att Gen v Bouwens*,²⁶ *English, Scottish and Australian Bank Ltd v IRC* [1932] AC 238.

I refer to this as the place-of-debtor rule. It can be traced back to Elizabethan times.²⁷

A winding up order against the debtor does not affect the situs of the debt,²⁸ but judgment against the debtor (turning the debt into a judgment debt) does do so.²⁹

38.11 *Reason for place-of-debtor rule*

Many cases simply state the place-of-debtor rule without giving any reason for it. There is no reason why the rule should have a reason, as any rule is bound to be arbitrary and any clear rule is better than none.

25 A “simple” contract is one which is not a specialty. Different rules apply to judgment debts and bank accounts: see below.

26 (1838) 4 M & W 171 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

27 *English Scottish & Australian Bank v IRC* [1932] AC 238 at 248.

28 *Wight v Eckhardt* [2004] 1 AC 147. In practice this issue will not usually arise.

29 See 38.15 (Judgment debt).

Some cases offer the reason that (1) the debt is situate where it can be enforced, and (2) it is enforced where the debtor resides.³⁰ This raises a difficulty where the debtor resides in one jurisdiction but the debt is enforceable in another. *Raiffeisen Zentralbank v Five Star Trading* [2001] QB 825 at paras 36, 37 upheld the place-of-debtor rule regardless of where the debt would be enforced:

In the case of intangible property, English law has, for various purposes (e.g. inheritance), traditionally allocated to it a situs at the place of the debtor's residence. This is on the basis that the debtor is there directly subject to the coercive power of the courts to enforce the obligation. The location of a right of action in this or any way is, however, evidently artificial. Parenthetically, I add that "coercive power" would itself appear to be an unstable international concept, capable of widely differing interpretation ...

Modern conditions underline the artificiality of selecting supposed control at the debtor's residence as an appropriate basis for characterisation or choice of the relevant law to determine questions regarding the validity or effect as against the debtor of an assignment. Jurisdiction may be grounded on consent and various other bases apart from residence. Obligations are commonly enforced today not against the person, but against assets. Debtors often trade or hold some or even all of their assets overseas. Proceedings are as a result often begun and enforced against debtors in countries other than that of their residence, as in this case. The move towards single legal markets, like those involving countries party to the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, makes judgments readily exportable between countries.

Although the historic reason for the place-of-debtor rule no longer holds, the rule still survives and is as good as any other. Well established precedents are not overturned merely because their historic reason has become unsound. So it is submitted that the law is settled.

30 *New York Life Insurance v Public Trustee* [1924] 2 Ch 101. It has also been suggested that the reason for the rule is that the place of residence is where the assets used to satisfy the debt will most probably be found: *New York Life Insurance* at p.114 following *Commissioner of Stamp v Hope*. But it would be better to say the rule has (and needs) no reason than to give such slender reason as this, for where a debtor is resident in country A, but his assets are in country B, no-one suggests his debt is situate in country B.

38.11.1 *Dual resident debtor*

Where the debtor is dual resident, the place-of-debtor rule does not provide a solution; the solution adopted in *New York Life Insurance Co v Public Trustee* [1924] 2 Ch 101 was where the debt was payable. For this purpose test of residence for a company is not the usual tax test (management and control) but where the company carries on business: *Kwok Chi Leung Karl v CED* [1988] STC 728 at 733.

38.12 Specialty obligation

38.12.1 *Meaning of “specialty”*

“Specialty” is an opaque technical term whose meaning can only be ascertained from the case law. Four categories of asset are “specialties”:

- (1) The paradigm example of a specialty is a debt due under a deed.
- (2) The term also applies to deeds which create or record obligations which are not debts.³¹ A life policy, contract for deferred annuity, capital redemption policy and the like are specialties if made by deed. Shares are not specialties.³²
- (3) The term also includes a debt incurred under a statute, whether or not it is a debt under a deed.³³
- (4) Certain debts are by statute given the nature of a specialty debt.³⁴

For a document to be a “deed” in English law it was formerly a requirement that the document must be sealed. The requirements under

31 In *Aiken v Steward Wrightson Agency* [1995] 1 WLR 1281 the term was applied to a contract by deed to provide services (and an action for breach of that contract was held to be an action “upon a specialty” so as to qualify for a twelve year limitation period).

32 *R v Williams* [1942] AC 541.

33 *Royal Trust Co v AG for Alberta* [1930] AC 144.

34 e.g. s.14(2) CA 1985: “Money payable by a member to the company under the memorandum or articles is a debt due from him to the company, and in England and Wales is of the nature of a specialty debt.”

the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 are now that the deed must be signed, witnessed, delivered, and must “make it clear on its face that it is intended to be a deed”. It is clear that these rules govern the meaning of “specialty”. So a seal is not now required for an English law document to be a “specialty”. The Law Commission took this view in Working Paper no. 85 (1985) and Report no. 253, para. 2.12ff. No particular form is necessary to be a “specialty” beyond the formalities of a deed.

As a shorthand, a deed was often referred to as a document “under seal” and a non-deed as a document “under hand”. This usage is now out of date but it is still found in HMRC Manuals.

38.12.2 *Documents governed by foreign law*

Authority is scant, but it is suggested that the position depends on whether the foreign law has a concept of a “deed” (and a “specialty”).

A document governed by foreign law which recognises “deeds” is a specialty if it is executed in accordance with the local law requirements of a deed. In the Isle of Man, for instance, a seal was never required except for corporations, though for a document to be a deed the parties must intend it to be a deed.³⁵

A document governed by a foreign law which does not recognise deeds will be a specialty if it is executed in accordance with the English law requirements of a deed, even though the local jurisdiction does not recognise deeds.³⁶

38.12.3 *Situs of specialty*

The IHT Manual provides at para. 27091:

A specialty debt is situated where the instrument happens to be.

I refer to this as the specialty rule.³⁷ This rule (like the place-of-debtor

35 *Aall Trust & Banking Corporation v Samuel McCormick* 2 OFLR 85, Butterworths Offshore Service Cases, Vol 2, p.479.

36 *Alliance Bank of Simla v Carey* (1880) 5 CPD 429.

37 *Att Gen v Bouwens* (1838) 4 M & W 171 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk. This was approved in *AG v Winans (No. 2)* [1910] AC 27. *Comr of Stamps (New South Wales) v Hope* [1891] AC 476.

rule) can be traced back to Elizabethan times.³⁸ So a debt due from a UK resident can be made non-UK situate for IHT by drafting the debt as a specialty and keeping the document offshore. Conversely a debt, policies, and other specialities can be made UK situate for IHT by bringing the deed here.

The specialty rule requires one to ascertain whether a debt is a specialty, and the IHT Manual offers a little guidance at 27091:

Corporation mortgages, issued by local authorities under seal, and Northern Irish Land Bonds, are examples of specialties, situated where the instrument is located. (Corporation mortgages should not be confused with Corporation stock, which is far more common and which is a registered security situated where the register is kept.)

This rule overrides the place-of-register rule: see 38.4 (Situs of registered shares).

38.12.4 *Scottish specialties*

The IHT Manual continues:

IHTM27092 - Debts: debts in Scotland

In Scotland, the rule that a debt is situated where the debtor resides applies alike to specialty (IHTM27078) debts and to those due on simple contract. For Inheritance Tax purposes debts due from persons resident in Scotland are regarded as locally situated there. If any difficulty arises in applying this rule, refer the case to TG (IHTM01081).

Any case where a Scottish instrument under seal is outside the UK and the locality of the asset determines whether or not an allowance under IHTA84/S159 is admissible must also be referred to TG for consideration.

This direction relates to specialty debts generally. It covers, for example,

[1] mortgages under seal,

[2] policies under seal, and

[3] covenant debts, and

[4] also applies to debts due from the Crown, or due under a statute.

(Paragraphing added)

38 *English Scottish & Australian Bank v IRC* [1932] AC 238 at 248.

I find the comments relating to Scotland somewhat surprising.

38.12.5 Reason for the specialty rule and future developments

What is the reason for this rule? In *R v Williams* [1942] AC at 555 the Privy Council offer this explanation:

Such an obligation [a specialty debt] was for centuries treated as very different from an ordinary debt. Indeed, the act of creating a specialty by deed was at one time possible only to men of the highest rank. Unlike debt, it was enforced by an action of covenant³⁹: Holdsworth, *A History of English Law*, 3rd ed., vol. iii., p. 417. The deed itself was the foundation of the action, the original debt, if any, being merged. The terms of the deed were conclusive. Specialty debts till recent [?] times conferred special rights. They used to rank in the administration of the estate of a deceased person in priority to simple contract debts⁴⁰; and, unlike such debts, were enforceable against the real estate.⁴¹ They were said to be “of a higher nature” than debts by contract. It is, therefore, not surprising that specialty debts by deed were treated from an early date as bona notabilia [i.e. assets situate] where the deeds were found at the time of the death, unlike ordinary debts which were said “to follow the person of debtor”.

In this reasoning the conclusion does not follow from the premises, and in any case the premises have long ceased to be valid in English law. The rhetorical language (not for the first time) conceals a weakness in the reasoning. One might conclude that the specialty rule has no good reason but *Commissioner of Stamps v Hope* [1891] AC 476 offers a better explanation:

... the distinction drawn and well settled has been and is whether it is a debt by contract or a debt by specialty. In the former case, the debt being merely a chose in action – money to be recovered from the debtor and nothing more – could have no other local existence than the personal residence of the debtor, where the assets to satisfy it would presumably be, and it was held therefore to be bona notabilia [i.e. assets situate] within the area of the local jurisdiction within which he resided; but this

39 This rule was abolished by the Civil Procedure Act 1833.

40 This rule was abolished by the Administration of Estates Act 1869.

41 This rule was abolished by the Administration of Estates Act 1833.

residence is of course of a changeable and fleeting nature, and depending upon the movements of the debtor, and inasmuch as a debt under seal or specialty had a species of corporeal existence by which its locality might be reduced to a certainty ... it was settled in very early days that such a debt was bona notabilia where it was “conspicuous,” i.e. within the jurisdiction within which the specialty was found at the time of death: see *Wentworth on the Office of Executors*, ed. 1763, pp. 45, 47, 60(1).

The reason for the rule is not that the specialty has a “species of corporeal existence”.⁴² The reason is that the specialty rule is certain and easier to apply than a place-of-debtor rule. There is a little sense in that.

A bold House of Lords might one day sweep these dusty cobwebs away. But the issue of situs rarely arises nowadays outside tax cases. HMRC are not likely to argue the point against their own Manuals. It will not normally be in the interest of a taxpayer to argue against the specialty rule, as a well advised taxpayer will keep his specialties outside the UK. So the Courts are not likely to have that opportunity to examine the issue (except perhaps in litigation relating to Scotland or in the Privy Council). The House of Lords has shown itself prepared to amend long established common law rules, such as the rule that there is no recovery for payments made under a mistake of law. But it has generally done so when the old law not only lacks a logical basis but is also conducive to injustice. That is not the case here. Well established rules are not overturned merely because the underlying principle is logically unsound. So it is submitted that the rule will remain even if challenged in the Lords. It should be abolished (if at all) by Parliament.⁴³

38.13 Debt secured on land

38.13.1 Specialty debt charged on land

In the case of a specialty debt charged on land, the choice lies between the

42 That is either tautologous (if “having a species of corporeal existence” means “situate where the deed itself is situate”) or metaphysical (if “having a species of corporeal existence” means anything more than “situate where the deed is situate”). It is not, after all, the case that transfer of the deed brings about a transfer of the debt or right to which the deed relates.

43 It is interesting to note that the specialty rule was disapplied for probate duty: s.39 Revenue Act 1862 and it does not usually apply for CGT.

location of the land and the specialty rule (location of deed).

Let us look at the matter as one of principle. Is the rule that situs depends on location of the land a sensible or workable rule? It is not, for the following reasons:

- (1) One debt may be charged on land in two different countries. A secured debt confers a bundle of different rights, including:
 - (a) right to sue on the covenant;
 - (b) right to sell if the debt is unpaid;
 - (c) right to foreclose if the debt is unpaid.However, this bundle is a single asset. It cannot be situate in both countries.
- (2) The rule becomes absurd if a large debt happens to be secured on an asset of small value. Would one say a £100m debt is situate in Jersey if it is secured on a property there worth £100,000? But obviously one cannot have a rule where the situs depends on relative values of the debt and the security which may fluctuate enormously from time to time.
- (3) It has never been suggested that a debt charged on (say) shares is situate where the shares are situate but there is no good reason to distinguish between shares and land.

The only sensible rule therefore is to apply the specialty rule and ignore the fact that the debt is secured.

The case law is complicated. The law got off on the right footing with *Commissioner of Stamps v Hope* [1891] AC 476. Here the debt was a specialty secured on land in New South Wales. The deed was held in Victoria. The question was situs for the purpose of probate duty and the Privy Council held that the debt was situate in Victoria.

Only three years later the Privy Council muddled the waters in *Walsh v The Queen* [1894] AC 144. Here there were a variety of debts, some secured on property in and out of Queensland. It was held that the debt should be regarded as being in Queensland up to the value of the property there. The best explanation of this case is that it did not concern the common law situs rule. A different rule was implied by implication for the purpose of the relevant statute (the Queensland Dividend Duty Act of 1890). This explains why the earlier case of *Commissioner of Stamps v*

Hope was not referred to in the judgement of the Privy Council.

Payne v R [1902] AC 552 concerned a specialty debt charged on land in Victoria. The deed was in New South Wales, the Privy Council held at p.560 (without citing authority or any discussion) that a mortgage debt was a specialty debt in New South Wales and a simple contract debt in Victoria. That is obviously wrong. They also held the asset was situate in Victoria and New South Wales, which (although followed in *Henty v The Queen* [1896] AC 567) is not now the law.⁴⁴ The comments must be dismissed as now overruled or *per incuriam*.

Toronto General Trust Corporation v The King [1919] AC 679 is an exceptional case that proves the existence of the general rule. Here a mortgage debt was represented by two duplicate deeds, one in Ottawa and one in Alberta. In such a case one cannot apply the rule that the debt is situate where the deed is situate, so it is sensible to fall back on the simple contract rule. But had there been only one deed, it is plain that the debt would have been situate where the deed was.

Dicey notes that a mortgage debt is normally a specialty and continues:

- [1] A mortgage of land confers an interest in land and will be held situate where the land is situate,⁴⁵
- [2] but where it is necessary (e.g. for taxation purposes) to distinguish between the situs of the mortgagee's interest in land and that of the mortgagor's personal obligation to repay, then the latter (if in the form of a specialty) will be held situate where the deed is situate from time to time.⁴⁶ ...
- [3] In the conflict of laws the distinction between the interest in land and the personal obligation is not normally made for the purposes of situs, and the asset is regarded as a unity which is situate in the country where the land lies.⁴⁷

Dicey's view at [1] and [3] is that the location of the land prevails. With respect, this overlooks the authorities cited above. The case cited, *Re Hoyles*, does not support Dicey. It shows that for the purposes of

44 See 38.2 (Every asset has one situs).

45 [Dicey's footnote] *Re Hoyles* [1911] 1 Ch 179.

46 [Dicey's footnote] See *Walsh v The Queen* [1894] AC 144; *Payne v R* [1902] AC 552. Also *Henty v The Queen* [1896] AC 567.

47 Dicey's footnote refers to: *Re Hoyles* [1911] 1 Ch 179; Dicey para. 22–012; Falconbridge, *Selected Essays on the Conflict of Laws*, 2nd ed. 1954 pp.573–580.

succession law a mortgage debt is dealt with according to the law of the land. However, it does not follow from this that the debt should be regarded as situate in that country for the purpose of the situs rules and situs as such is nowhere discussed in *Re Hoyles*. The suggestion at [2] is that tax law may distinguish between the mortgagee's interest in land the mortgagees's right to payment. But the distinction is an almost impossible one, and nowhere drawn in tax law (apart from *Walsh*, not a situs case).

The IHT Manual passage cited above⁴⁸ suggests that the HMRC view is (like mine) that the specialty prevails, not the location of the land.

38.13.2 *Simple debt charged on land*

In the case of a simple debt charged on land (not made by deed) the choice lies between:

- (1) The location of the land.
- (2) The simple debt rule (situs is residence of debtor).

The arguments of principle suggest the simple debt rule prevails. This conclusion is also supported by the passage from *Raiffeisen* cited in 38.10 (Simple debt situs for IHT). This conclusion is consistent with the position for specialty debts secured on land.

38.14 Debt under letter of credit

The IHT Manual para. 27091 provides:

A debt under a letter of credit has been held to be situated in the place where it is in fact payable against documents (*Power Curber International Ltd v National Bank of Kuwait* [1981] 3 All ER 607).

38.15 Judgment debt

A judgment debt is situate where the judgment is recorded.⁴⁹ Obtaining

48 38.12.3 (Situs of specialty); note the references to mortgages in the quotation from the IHT Manual.

49 *AG v Bouwens* (1838) 4 M & W 171 accessible on www.kessler.co.uk.

judgment may therefore have the effect of changing situs, for better or worse.

38.16 Bank account

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27093 - Debts: Bank accounts

A bank account is a debt, and under general law is situated at the branch of the bank where the account is kept: *R v Lovitt* [1912] AC 212.

This general law rule may be modified for IHT purposes by a Double Taxation Convention ...

UK bank accounts may, however, qualify as excluded property; see s.157 IHTA.

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27151 - Locality of assets (situs): bank or building society accounts in Channel Islands and Isle of Man

Any case in which it is claimed that an account with a UK Building Society must be treated as situated in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and therefore as exempt from IHT, must be referred to TG (IHTM01081), your Team Leader must be consulted in Scotland.

38.17 Insurance policies

For the purpose of situs rules a policy is regarded as a debt, so the place-of-debtor and specialty rules apply.⁵⁰ The IHT Manual correctly provides:

IHTM27101 - Policy monies: general rule

When the policy is under hand the policy monies are situated where the debtor (company) is resident (generally the head office of the company) More information on policies can be found from IHTM20000.

IHTM27102 - Policy monies: payment made at place other than Head Office

Where under the terms of the policy, payment is to be made at some place other than the residence of the head office the monies are deemed to be situated at the place of payment (*New York Life Insurance Co v Public Trustee* [1924] 2 Ch 101).

50 *New York Life Assurance Co v Public Trustee* [1924] 2 Ch 101.

IHTM27103 - Policy monies: policy issued at branch office

If⁵¹ a policy is issued by, or through, a branch office of a UK company, outside the UK, and no reference is made in the terms of the policy as to the place where the policy monies are to be paid.

Policy monies are to be treated as situated in the country of the branch office provided that the whole course of business in relation to the policy had been transacted in that country.

The “whole course of business” connotes the happening of all the following events in the country of the branch office:

- that the policy is issued to a resident in that country from the branch in that country
- that the holder of the policy remains resident and retains the policy there, pays the premiums to the branch there, and dies there
- that representation to his estate is taken there and the money collected there.

With regard to condition (b) if at the date of the life assured’s death, the policy is in the UK at the Assurance Company’s head office and the life assured has assigned the policy to the assurance company as security for a loan, do not assume that the policy was situated in the UK without considering the other circumstances surrounding the policy.

Divergence in detail (for example, discontinuous residence) would not necessarily lead to a different conclusion. However if any of the conditions is not fulfilled, or where the locality of the policy has to be determined before the policy holder’s death, each case must be considered on its own facts. Any such case must be referred to TG (IHTM01081).

Where a policy under hand in terms provides for payment **either** at its head office **or** at a branch office, and the “whole course of business”, in the sense indicated above, takes place in the country of the branch office, the monies are also treated as locally situated in that country.

Some of para. 27103 is doubtful but the practice will normally favour the taxpayer so the issues will not often arise.

38.17.1 *Policy made by deed*

The IHT Manual correctly provides:

51 The text has gone wrong here: The previous manual read: “A further type of case is one in which the policy etc”; and that is clearly the meaning.

IHTM27104 - Policy monies: policies under seal

Policies under seal are specialty debts (IHTM27078).

This is correct. It requires one to investigate whether policies are specialties. The IHT Manual gives a little guidance at 27104:

Most Lloyds policies are embossed with a seal but they are not specialties unless additionally they bear the witnessed personal signature of the General Manager of Lloyds Policy Signing Office.

On IHT treatment of UK situate policies see 20.14 (IHT on UK situate policies).

38.18 Land

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27074 - Locality of assets (situs): land/interest in land

Immovable property is situated where it is actually located, but you should note that in the case of some types of interest either in land or relating to land, different legal systems may take opposing views as to whether they constitute movable or immovable property.

These differences are resolved (under Private International Law, and also by specific provision in Double Taxation Conventions where these apply) by the adoption of the view taken by the law of the country in which the land itself is situated: *Johnstone v Baker* (1817) 4 Madd 474; *Macdonald v Macdonald* [1932] SLT (HL) 381.

Land is usually classed as immovable property, and so is generally governed by the law of the country in which the immovables are situated. This issue of devolution may be especially significant here when ascertaining the exemption of foreign property that may or may not pass to a surviving spouse...

38.19 Securities of international organisations

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27141 - Securities issued by international organisations: list of non-UK situs organisations

Unless in bearer form and situated physically in the UK securities issued by the following organisations are effectively outside the charge to IHT where:

1. they form part of the estate of a person domiciled outside the UK

- or
2. they are comprised in a settlement and the settlor was not domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made, namely:
 - the International Monetary Fund:
 - The Bretton Woods Agreement Order in Council, 1946 ((SR & O) 1946 No 36)
 - the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development:
 - The Bretton Woods Agreement, as above
 - the International Finance Corporation:
 - The International Finance Corporation Order, 1955 (SI 1955 No 1954)
 - the International Development Association:
 - The International Development Association Order, 1960 (SI 1960 No 1383)

This list of organisations may not be exhaustive if you receive a claim for exemption in respect of a security issued by any other international body refer the papers to TG (IHTM01081) or your Team Leader (Scotland).

IHTM27142 - Securities issued by international organisations: designated as non-UK by Treasury

By Statutory Instrument the Treasury can designate securities issued by certain international organisations as situated outside the UK for the purposes of FA84/S126 extended by FA85/S96 (now TA88/S324).

The following organisations have been so designated.

1. The Asian Development Bank: The International Organisations (Tax Exempt Securities) Order 1984 (SI1984/1215) made on 2 August 1984
2. The African Development Bank: The International Organisations (Tax Exempt Securities) (No 2) Order 1984 (SI1984/1634) made on 22 October 1984
3. The European Community; The European Coal and Steel Community; The European Atomic Energy Community; The European Investment Bank: The European Communities (Tax Exempt Securities) Order 1985 (SI 1985 No 1172) made on 25 July 1985 in respect of a. and d.
4. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: The International Organisations (Tax Exempt Securities) Order 1991 (SI1991/1202) made on 16 May 1991.

Accordingly any security issued by the above mentioned organisations automatically has a foreign situs for IHT where the event occurred on or after the date of the order.

IHTM27143 - Securities issued by international organisations: OECD & Inter-American Development Bank

Any security issued by the OECD support fund or the Inter-American Development Bank is treated as situated outside the UK for IHT purposes: OECD Support Fund Act 1975/S4 (1) and FA76/S131 (2) respectively.

38.20 Chattels

The rule is what one would expect. The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27075 - Locality of assets (situs): Chattels

Chattels are situated where they happen to be at the relevant time.

For a concession on works of art see 26.14 (Works of art).

38.21 Ships and aircraft

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM 27073 - Locality of assets (situs): ships

A ship on the high seas is deemed to be situated at its port of registry but when it comes within territorial waters this artificial situs is displaced by the actual situs: *Trustees Executors & Agency Co Ltd v IRC* [1973] Ch 254.

38.22 Goodwill

Goodwill is situate where the trade or profession is carried on (see *IRC v Muller* [1901] AC 217) but because of Business Property Relief, the issue will not often arise.

38.23 Property subject to contract of sale

An interest in English land subject to a contract of sale is still situated in the UK: *Re Clore, IRC v Stype Investments* [1982] STC 625. It is suggested that a contract of sale does not affect situs.

38.24 Situs of interest under a bare trust or nominee⁵²

The interest of a beneficial owner in property held by a nominee or bare trustee is situate where the underlying asset is situate: a nominee⁵² or bare trust is “transparent” for situs. See *Re Clore, IRC v Stype Investments* [1982] STC 625 at 633/4 (where land in England was held by a Jersey

⁵² For present purposes the terms “bare trust” and “nominee⁵²” are identical.

nominee). The practice of HMRC is to look through nomineehip of all kinds.⁵³ Thus it is quite safe for a foreign domiciled individual (or trust with a foreign domiciled settlor) to hold foreign securities through a UK stockbroker's nominee.

What happens in practice if an individual with no connection to the UK dies holding a portfolio of securities including UK situate securities held by a nominee? I suspect that it is not the practice of the nominee to require a grant of probate in every jurisdiction in which the securities are situate, though it has been suggested that this would be desirable.⁵⁴ Otherwise it may be necessary to seek grants in many jurisdictions and the administration of estates would be made considerably more difficult. If it is correct that a nominee for an individual unconnected with the UK, holding UK situate assets, does not require probate then the IHT strictly payable on the death of the individual in respect of the UK situate securities held by the nominee is uncollectable. This brings into question the proposition that securities situate in country A held by nominees in country B should be regarded as situate in country A and not in country B. The rule that one looks through nominees holding securities (as opposed to land) makes little sense in current market conditions. But the opposite rule would have disastrous consequences for situs as no foreign domiciled individual (or trust with a foreign domiciled settlor) could use UK stockbroker nominee services. The status quo is better than the alternative. Moreover it is possible for securities situate in country A to be held by a nominee in country B who holds for a nominee in country C who holds for an individual. In such a case one cannot say that the situs of the individual's asset is that of the nominee. So the only workable rule is to ignore nominees. Underlying the problem is the fundamental unsuitability of the common law situs rules to determine territorial limitations for tax purposes, at least in relation to intangible assets such as securities.

38.25 Situs of equitable interest under a substantive⁵⁵ trust

The situs of an equitable interest under a substantive trust is only rarely

53 See 38.8 (Depository receipts) and 38.9 (Share certificates indorsed in blank).

54 See the thread in the Trusts Discussion Forum, September 2002, under the heading "Onshore/Offshore" accessible on www.trustsdiscussionforum.co.uk.

55 By "substantive" I mean a trust other than a bare trust (nomineehip) or unit trust.

relevant for IHT, but it may matter, e.g. where a reversionary interest is not excluded property for IHT.

There are many connecting factors which might be used to attribute a situs to an equitable interest, and the Courts have not had to consider all possible permutations. *Favorke v Steinkopff* [1922] 1 Ch 174 concerned an English law will trust, with English trustees, but German situate property; the equitable interests of an annuitant, life tenant and remaindermen were held to be situate in England. It is suggested that an equitable interest is normally situate where the trustees are resident. If the trustees are resident in different jurisdictions, situs would be determined by an exclusive jurisdiction clause if there is one, or failing that, by the proper law.⁵⁶

There is a sound basis to say that situs of the assets of the trust fund is not relevant to the situs of the equitable interest. If the trust assets are situate in different jurisdictions it would be impossible to ascertain the situs of the equitable interest (if the equitable interest is regarded as a single asset). An equitable interest such as a life or reversionary interest should not be regarded as several separate interests in as many assets as are held by the trustees. Such an equitable interest is generally regarded as one asset and not as many assets as there are items of trust property. Where the equitable interest is a power of revocation the position is even clearer. Where the equitable interest is an annuity, it would often be impossible to locate the annuity by reference to the situs of the trust assets, because one cannot identify any particular trust asset and say that asset is (to any fixed extent) the source of the annuity.

38.26 Situs of unit in a unit trust

The situs of a unit in an authorised unit trust is not normally relevant for IHT.⁵⁷ The situs of a unit in an unauthorised unit trust is important for IHT.

A unit is quite unlike an equitable interest under a conventional trust. A unit trust is based on contract, as well as trust, and is governed to some extent by company law principles. One should not apply rules governing other kinds of equitable interests without considering this.

56 For a contrary view see Jonathan Harris, *The Hague Trusts Convention*, 1st ed., 2002, chapter 9 (Situs of equitable interests).

57 See 26.4 (Authorised unit trusts and OEICs).

It is suggested that share/security situs rules should normally be applied, so that the place of the register is normally the determining factor. HMRC accept this.⁵⁸

Another possible view is that situs depends on the residence of the trustees. In practice a situation where the place of residence of the trustees is different from the place of the register would be so rare that the priority between the two tests may never need to be decided. The residence of the trustees determines whether the unit trust is an “offshore fund” for the purpose of the offshore funds provisions: see 21.2 (Meaning of “offshore fund”). It might therefore be said to be consistent with the CGT legislation if situs of a unit depends upon the residence of the trustees. However, situs is not a CGT concept but a general law one so the relevance of the CGT position is very marginal.

What is reasonably clear is that situs of the unit does not depend on the situs of the underlying assets of the unit trust. The idea that one looks at the underlying assets, at first sight seems sensible, as it is consistent with the traditional test for situs of a bare trust. But it is unsound for two reasons:

- (1) If the underlying assets are spread across different jurisdictions it would be impossible to ascertain the situs of the unit (if a unit is regarded as a single asset). The unit should not be regarded as several separate interests in as many assets as are held by the unit trust, looking through the unit trust like a bare trust, as this is to ignore the nature of the unit.⁵⁹
- (2) The proposal to look to the situs of the underlying assets is unworkable because the unit holder will not normally be able to ascertain what the underlying assets are at any particular moment. (Accounts of the unit trust may disclose the position at the end of an accounting period but that will not help as assets are bought and sold

58 Press Release 16th October 2002 (OEICs and AUTs) para.9 stated (before the introduction of IHT relief for AUTs):

“[OEICs and units in Authorised Unit Trusts] are treated as situated in the UK in the same way as other UK registered shares. That is so even if the ‘underlying’ assets of the collective investment fund are non-UK assets.”

See too [1998] PCB 172.

59 A similar argument applies in relation to the situs of an equitable interest under a substantive trust.

constantly by the trustees of the unit trust. The holder of a unit normally has no further rights to information.)

Although the consequence is that one can alter situs by interposition of a unit trust, that is not so surprising: one can do the same with an OEIC.

The reader interested in this topic should study Kam Fan Sin, *The Legal Nature of the Unit Trust* (1997), Clarendon Press.

38.27 Unadministered estate of deceased person

The IHT Manual provides:

IHTM27072 - Locality of assets (situs): unadministered estates or shares therein

In general a person who takes an absolute interest as a residuary legatee, under English law and many other legal systems,⁶⁰ is entitled, not to the assets **in specie** of the testator, but to a **chose in action**, enforceable against the executors.

This means the executors must administer the estate and transfer the clear residue, or a share thereof, as the case may be to the beneficiary. The same rule applies in the case of intestacy.

This is a similar rule to the **ius crediti** to which a Scots beneficiary is entitled.

The “chose in action” is situate where it is enforced, i.e. where the executors are. The situs of the assets of the estate is not relevant. See *CSD v Livingston* [1965] AC 694. The IHT Manual continues:

For IHT however, the deceased is treated as having a direct interest (in the whole or a share, as the case may be) in the net assets of the testator’s (or intestate’s) residuary estate. See IHTM22031⁶¹

Consequently you must, in such a case, consider separately the situs of each of the underlying assets.

For example, the excluded property provisions in IHTA84/S6 (2) may apply to qualifying securities included in the unadministered estate (IHTM04260)

60 Author’s note: Further consideration will be required for jurisdictions other than England Wales, especially civil law jurisdictions.

61 See s.91 IHTA.

CHAPTER THIRTY NINE

SITUS OF ASSETS FOR CGT

39.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with situs of assets for CGT. For a general introduction to the subject see 38.1 (Concepts of situs).

39.2 Municipal & government shares and debentures

Section 275(1)(d) TCGA provides:

shares or debentures issued by any municipal or governmental authority, or by any body created by such an authority, are situated in the country of that authority.

The CG Manual provides:

12450. Shares and securities¹

(Published 7/94)

Shares or securities issued by any municipal or governmental authority or by any body created by such an authority are situated in the country of that authority, Section [275(1)(d)] TCGA. This applies to shares and securities issued by such bodies whether they are in registered form or in bearer form.

39.3 UK incorporated companies

Section 275(1)(da) TCGA provides:

Subject to paragraph (d) above, shares in or debentures of a company

1 Following the 2005 reforms, the reference to securities should read 'debentures'.

incorporated in any part of the UK are situated in the UK.

If the company is not incorporated in the UK, the intricate combination of statutory and common law rules (discussed below) apply for CGT. It would be more sensible if the rule were that *all* shares/debentures are situate in the place of incorporation.

It is doubtful whether this is consistent with EU law but in practice the issue may not arise.

The 2005 reform prevents CGT planning for UK companies by use of bearer shares and foreign share registers. This was a common practice for many years. The spur to the legislation was probably *Chandrasekaran v Deloitte & Touche* [2004] EWHC 1378 which openly discussed this planning.

39.4 Registered shares /debentures

Section 275(1)(e) TCGA provides:

subject to paragraphs (d) and (da) above, registered shares or debentures are situated where they are registered and, if registered in more than one register, where the principal register is situated.

The CG Manual provides:

12451.

(Published 7/94)

Registered shares and securities² other than those dealt with in the previous paragraph are situated where they are registered. This will normally be in the country where the company was incorporated. If they are registered on more than one register then they are located where the principal register is located, Section [275(1)(e)] TCGA. Which register is the principal register is a question of fact.

This is a statutory re-statement of the common law rule but it only applies to foreign incorporated companies.

In relation to debentures (as opposed to shares) there is an apparent

2 Following the 2005 reforms, the reference to securities should read 'debentures'. But it is hard to see what difference this makes.

conflict between this rule and the creditor-residence rule.³ However, that rule is expressly subject to s.275(1)(e) so the place-of-register rule prevails. It follows that there is an important distinction for CGT situs between:

- (1) debentures, whose situs is:
 - (a) UK if issued by UK incorporated company, or
 - (b) (if registered) the place of the register, and
- (2) debts which are not debentures, whose situs is the residence of the creditor.

39.5 Meaning of “shares” and “debentures”

Section 275(2) provides:

In subsection (1) above—

- (a) in paragraphs (d), (da) and (e), the references to shares or debentures, in relation to a company that has no share capital, include any interests in the company possessed by members of the company, and
- (b) in paragraphs (d) and (e), the references to debentures, in relation to a person other than a company, include securities.

“Debentures” and “securities” are not defined. For a discussion of the meaning of “security”, see *Gore-Browne on Companies* paragraph 17.3; *Interests in Securities*, Benjamin, 1st ed., 2000, paragraphs 1.02 and 1.20.

39.6 Bearer shares/debentures and letters of allotment

For bearer shares/debentures of foreign incorporated companies, the bearer security rule applies.⁴

The CG Manual provides:

12452. Shares and securities

(Published 7/94)

The Companies Acts allow companies to issue ‘share warrants to bearer’ or ‘stock warrants to bearer’ provided the company’s Articles of

³ See 39.8 (Debt situs for CGT).

⁴ See 38.6 (Bearer documents).

Association allow it. These are commonly called bearer shares and securities. The name of the owner of such bearer securities is not recorded in the register of the company. They can be sold without any necessity to notify the company. The holder of the warrant is entitled to receive payment of dividends and, provided certain conditions are complied with, to vote at general meetings.

12453.

(Published 7/96)

The location of bearer securities issued by any body other than those referred to in CG12450⁵ is not covered by a specific capital gains rule. Therefore it has to be decided in accordance with general law, see CG12420–12421. General law provides that such securities are located where the certificate is located. As for chattels, the location can change if the certificate is moved in or out of the UK.

The bearer security rule applies for CGT in relation to bearer shares of non-UK incorporated companies. It does not apply to bearer debt securities, where specific CGT rules override the common law rules: see 39.8 (Ordinary debt). But in the common arrangement of debentures of non-UK incorporated companies, where a company owes a single debt to trustees, and investors hold merely an equitable interest in that debt, it is suggested that the investors' right is not a "debt" and therefore dealt with by the bearer security rule, not by the statutory CGT debt rules.

39.7 Judgment debt

Section 275(1)(k) TCGA is a statutory restatement of the common law rule:

a judgment debt is situated where the judgment is recorded.

The CG Manual explains:

12440. Debts

Judgment debts, that is, debts created by the judgments, decrees, etc, of courts of record, are located where the judgment is recorded, Section [275(1)(k)] TCGA.

5 See 38.19 (Securities of international organisations).

Obtaining judgment may have the effect of changing situs.

39.8 Ordinary debt

A debt is in some cases a chargeable asset for CGT, so its situs may be relevant for CGT. Section 275(1)(c) TCGA provides:

subject to the following provisions of this subsection, a debt, secured or unsecured, is situated in the UK if and only if the creditor is resident in the UK.

This reverses the usual common law rule (situs is where the debtor is situate). The CG Manual explains:

12441.

The general rule for other debts [non judgment debts] is that the debt is situated in the UK if and only if the creditor is situated in the UK. This applies whether the debt is secured or unsecured, Section [275(1)(c)] TCGA.

This provision is subject to the rules relating to:

- (1) municipal and government securities;⁶
- (2) registered securities and registered debentures of foreign incorporated companies;⁷
- (3) debentures of UK incorporated companies;
- (4) judgment debts.

This provision does override the UK proper law rule and common law rules such as specialty rule and the bearer security rule.

39.9 Bank account

A foreign currency bank account is normally a chargeable asset for CGT;

6 See 39.2 (Municipal & government share and debentures).

7 See 39.4 (Registered shares/debentures).

s.252 TCGA.⁸ The question therefore arises as to the situs of the account.

Section 275(1)(l) TCGA provides:

a debt which—

- (i) is owed by a bank, and
 - (ii) is not in sterling, and
 - (iii) is represented by a sum standing to the credit of an account in the bank of an individual who is not domiciled in the UK,
- is situated in the UK if and only if that individual is resident in the UK and the branch or other place of business of the bank at which the account is maintained is itself situated in the UK.

This restates the common law rule for bank accounts; it is needed because without this provision the situs of the account would be the residence of the creditor (i.e. the account holder).

In cases where the conditions (i), (ii) and (iii) are not all satisfied, the usual CGT debt rule applies. The moral is that a foreign domiciled UK resident individual should keep chargeable foreign currency in non-UK bank accounts (or, better, in accounts held by non-resident trusts).

39.10 Intangible assets

Section 275A(1) TCGA provides:

This section applies for the purpose of determining whether the situation of an intangible asset (“asset A”) is in the UK if the situation of asset A is not otherwise determined (see section 275B(1)).

Section 275B(1) TCGA provides a commonsense explanation of “not otherwise determined”:

For the purposes of section 275A, the situation of an asset is not otherwise determined if, apart from that section, this Act does not make any provision for determining—

- (a) the situation of the asset, or
- (b) whether the situation of the asset is in the UK.

⁸ To this there is one exception, relating to personal expenditure: s.252(2).

Thus all the rules in section 275 TCGA have priority to this rule.

39.10.1 *Meaning of “intangible asset”*

Section 275A(2) TCGA provides a commonsense definition of “intangible asset”:

In this section “intangible asset” means—

- (a) intangible or incorporeal property and includes a thing in action, or
- (b) anything that under the law of a country or territory outside the UK corresponds or is similar to intangible or incorporeal property or a thing in action.

This includes policies and bonds, futures and options.

39.10.2 *The UK law rule*

Section 275A(3) TCGA provides:

If asset A is subject to UK law (see section 275B(2)) at the time it is created, it shall be taken for the purposes of this Act to be situated in the UK at all times.

I refer to this as “the UK law rule”.

The expression “subject to UK law” is widely defined in section 275B(2):

For the purposes of section 275A, an intangible asset is subject to UK law at a particular time if any right or interest which comprises or forms part of the asset is, at that time,—

- (a) governed by, or otherwise subject to, or
- (b) enforceable under,
the law of any part of the UK.

39.11 **Futures and options**

39.11.1 *Definition of “future” and “option”*

Section 275B(3) TCGA incorporates the definitions in para. 12(6) to (10) Sch. 26 FA 2002:

(6) A "future" is a contract for the sale of property under which delivery is to be made—

(a) at a future date agreed when the contract is made, and

(b) at a price so agreed.

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (6)(b) a price is to be taken to be agreed when the contract is made—

(a) notwithstanding that it is left to be determined by reference to the price at which a contract is to be entered into on a market or exchange or could be entered into at a time and place specified in the contract; or

(b) in a case where the contract is expressed to be by reference to a standard lot and quality, notwithstanding that provision is made for a variation in the price to take account of any variation in quantity or quality on delivery.

(8) An "option" includes a warrant.

(9) A "warrant" is an instrument which entitles the holder to subscribe for shares in a company or assets representing a loan relationship of a company; and for these purposes it is immaterial whether the shares or assets to which the warrant relates exist or are identifiable.

(10) References to a future or option do not include references to a contract whose terms provide—

(a) that, after setting off their obligations to each other under the contract, a cash payment is to be made by one party to the other in respect of the excess, if any, or

(b) that each party is liable to make to the other party a cash payment in respect of all that party's obligations to the other under the contract, and do not provide for the delivery of any property.

Nothing in this sub-paragraph has effect to exclude, from references to a future or option, references to a future or option whose underlying subject matter is currency.

This excludes futures and options, such as financial futures over the FTSE 100 index, which are settled only in cash, rather than by delivery of the underlying subject matter.

I surmise that the purpose of the rules relating to futures and options is to prevent avoidance by shifting value from UK incorporated companies (UK situate for CGT) into futures and options which might (but for these rules) be situate outside the UK. That explains why financial futures are not affected by these rules. But if that is right, the proviso to paragraph 12(10) bringing currency options within the rules, makes no sense in this context.

39.11.2 “Underlying subject matter”

This expression is given a commonsense definition by s.275B(4) TCGA:

For the purposes of section 275A—

- (a) the underlying subject matter of a future is the property which, if the future were to run to delivery, would fall to be delivered at the date and price agreed when the contract is made, and
- (b) the underlying subject matter of an option is the property which would fall to be delivered if the option were exercised.

39.11.3 *Underlying subject matter in existence*

If a future/option is subject to UK law when created, it is UK situate under the UK law rule. Special rules apply to a foreign law future/option. The drafting makes some formal gestures in the modern plain English style, but in its structure it is so convoluted that one wonders whether the drafter was trying to make a point about it (or perhaps a joke).

Section 275A(4) TCGA provides:

Subsections (5) to (9) below have effect if asset A—

- (a) is a future or option (see section 275B(3)), and
- (b) is not subject to UK law at the time it is created.

The rule is in section 275A(6) TCGA:

That rule is that where, in the case of any intangible asset,—

- (a) the asset is a future or option,⁹
- (b) the underlying subject matter (see section 275B(4)) of the asset consists of or includes an asset which is an intangible asset, and
- (c) either—
 - (i) [A] that intangible asset is subject to UK law at the time it is created and,
 - [B] on the assumption that there were no rights or interests in or over that asset, the situation of that asset would not be otherwise determined, or
 - (ii) that intangible asset is treated by this subsection as being so subject at that time,

⁹ This is otiose, since it repeats s.275A(4); but it does not matter.

the intangible asset mentioned in paragraph (a) above [ie the future or option] is to be treated for the purposes of subsection (5) above and this subsection as being so subject at the time it is created.

This then triggers section 275A(5) TCGA:

If, as a result of the application of the rule in subsection (6) below in relation to asset A or any other asset or assets, asset A falls to be treated as being subject to UK law at the time it is created, it shall be taken for the purposes of this Act to be situated in the UK at all times.

Thus a foreign law future/option over a UK situate underlying intangible asset may itself be UK situate.

The FB 2005 explanatory notes explain the point of s.275A(6)(c)(ii):

These rules apply recursively. In any case where there is a “nested sequence” of futures or options in which the underlying subject matter of each contract in the sequence consists of or includes the next contract in the sequence, subsection (5) has effect to provide that the first contract is taken for TCGA purposes to be situated in the UK at all times if the [relevant] requirements ... are met in relation to any of the contracts in the sequence.

One might think that s.275A(6)(c)(i)[B] leaves a gap where the situs of the underlying subject matter *would* be otherwise determined. However, that gap is filled by s.275A(8)(b)(i)[B]:

(7) If—

(a) asset A is not taken to be situated in the UK by virtue of subsection (5) above, and

(b) as a result of the application of the rule in subsection (8) below in relation to asset A or any other asset or assets, asset A falls to be treated as being situated in the UK at any time,
it shall be taken for the purposes of this Act to be situated in the UK at that time.

(8) That rule is that where, in the case of any intangible asset,—

(a) the asset is a future or option, and

(b) the underlying subject matter of the asset consists of or includes an asset—

(i) which is, by virtue of
[A] subsection (9) below or of

- [B] any provision of this Act apart from this section, situated in the UK at any time, or
- (ii) which is treated by this subsection as being so situated at any time,
- the intangible asset mentioned in paragraph (a) above is to be treated for the purposes of subsection (7) above and this subsection as being so situated at that time.

39.11.4 *Underlying subject matter unissued shares or debentures*

Section 275A(7) to (9) TCGA makes provision for the case where the underlying subject matter is unissued shares or debentures:

- (9) Where—
- (a) the underlying subject matter of a future or option consists of or includes shares or debentures issued by a company incorporated in any part of the UK, but
- (b) at the time the future or option is created, those shares or debentures have not been issued,
- the underlying subject matter of the future or option, so far as consisting of or including those shares or debentures, is to be taken, for the purposes of subsection (8) above, to consist of or include an asset which is situated in the UK at all times.

39.12 Co-ownership

Section 275C TCGA provides:

- (1) This section applies for determining for the purposes of this Act—
- (a) the situation of an interest (see subsection (4)) in an asset, or
- (b) whether the situation of an interest in an asset is in the UK.
- (2) The situation of the interest in the asset shall be taken to be the same as the situation of the asset, as determined in accordance with subsection (3) below.
- (3) The situation of the asset for the purposes of subsection (2) above shall be determined on the assumption that the asset is wholly owned by the person holding the interest in the asset.
- (4) In this section “interest”, in relation to an asset, means an interest as a co-owner of the asset (whether the asset is owned jointly or in common and whether or not the interests of the co-owners are equal).

At first sight it is hard to see the point of this. If an asset is situate in a jurisdiction, how can a share in the asset be situate elsewhere? However, it is relevant to the statutory rules on shares in UK companies. It might be argued that if someone held merely an interest in a bearer share as co-owner, he did not hold a “share” so section 275(1)(da) would not apply and so the common law rule (bearer share situate where certificate is) survived. If that is the right view, it does not matter that there is no equivalent in IHT to the rule in section 275C.

39.13 Depository receipts

Depository receipts are discussed at 38.8 (Eurobonds and depository receipts) where I argue that the common law situs rule looks to the situs of the DR, not the situs of the underlying asset. If the DR is subject to UK law, then that will be overridden for CGT by the UK law rule: see 39.10 (Intangible assets). However, a DR is not normally made subject to UK law.

39.14 Insurance policies

The situs of policies and bonds rarely arises for CGT, because of the relief for policies, see 20.12 (CGT). UK policies will be UK situate under the UK law rule and for others the common law rule will apply.¹⁰

39.15 Land

Section 275(1)(a) TCGA provides:

the situation of rights or interests (otherwise than by way of security) in or over immovable property is that of the immovable property.

The CG Manual provides:

12430. Land and buildings

(Published 7/94)

Land and buildings are located in the country where they are found. This applies to all rights and interests in the land and buildings. It will

10 A policy is not a debt for the purposes of the CGT place-of-creditor rule.

therefore apply to leases of land, tenancies etc, Section [275(1)(a)] TCGA.

39.16 Securities of international organisation

The CG Manual provides:

12470. Securities of International/European Organisations

(Published 7/94)

Special rules are provided for dealing with securities issued by International and European Organisations.

12471. (Published 7/94)

Section 265 TCGA allows the Treasury to designate for special treatment certain organisations whose membership includes the UK or any of the Communities of which the UK is a member. Once such an organisation has been designated any securities issued by it are deemed for the purposes of [the TCGA]¹¹ to be located outside the UK. The list of organisations that have been designated under this provision is as follows:

- ◆ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- ◆ Asian Development Bank
- ◆ African Development Bank
- ◆ The European Economic Community
- ◆ The European Investment Bank
- ◆ The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- ◆ The European Coal and Steel Community
- ◆ The European Atomic Energy Community

12472. (Published 7/94)

Section 266 TCGA also provides that any security issued by the Inter-American Development Bank shall be treated as located outside the UK for Capital Gains purposes.

39.17 Chattels

Section 275(1)(b) TCGA provides:

subject to the following provisions of this subsection, the situation of rights or interests (otherwise than by way of security) in or over tangible movable property is that of the tangible movable property.

11 This is the correct reference following the 2005 amendments.

The CG Manual provides:

12435. Chattels

(Published 7/94)

Items of tangible moveable property (chattels) are located where they are found at any point in time. This applies to all rights and interests over such assets also. Therefore a lease of a chattel can change from being located in the UK to being located elsewhere if the chattel is removed from the UK to another country, Section [275(1)(b)] TCGA.

39.18 Ships and aircraft

Section 275(1)(f) TCGA provides:

a ship or aircraft is situated in the UK if and only if the owner is then resident in the UK, and an interest or right in or over a ship or aircraft is situated in the UK if and only if the person entitled to the interest or right is resident in the UK.

The CG Manual provides:

12480. Ships and aircraft

(Published 7/94)

Contrary to the general rules of international law, for capital gains purposes the location of a ship or aircraft does not depend on its country of registration. Instead the ship or aircraft is located in the UK if and only if the owner is resident in the UK. Similarly any interest or right in or over the ship or aircraft is located in the UK if and only if the owner of the interest or right is resident in the UK, Section [275(1)(f)] TCGA.

39.19 Goodwill

Section 275(1)(g) TCGA provides:

the situation of good-will as a trade, business or professional asset is at the place where the trade, business or profession is carried on.

The CG Manual provides:

12490. Goodwill

(Published 7/94)

Goodwill which is an asset of a trade, profession or vocation is located where the trade, profession or vocation is carried on, Section [275(1)(g)] TCGA. If the trade etc is carried on in more than one country part of the goodwill appropriate to the part of the trade etc carried on in any one country should be treated as located in that country.

39.20 Situs of interest under bare trust or nominee ship

The interest of a beneficial owner in property held by a nominee or bare trustee is situate where the underlying asset is situate: s.60 TCGA reinforces the common law rule on this point.

39.21 Situs of equitable interest under a substantive trust

The situs of an equitable interest under a substantive trust is only rarely relevant for CGT, but it may matter, e.g. in the case of a purchased interest or an interest in a non-resident trust. If the trust is “subject to UK law” as defined, the interest will be situate in the UK. This clearly includes the case of a trust with a UK governing law; it may arguably apply to any trust with UK trustees. In other cases the common law rules will apply.

39.22 Situs of unit in a unit trust

If the unit trust is governed by UK proper law, the UK law rule will apply and the interest will be situate here. In other cases the common law rule applies.¹² It is suggested that a unit is an asset for CGT purposes, rather than an interest in an asset, so that the co-ownership rule does not apply.¹³

39.23 Intellectual property

Section 275(1) TCGA provides:

- (h) patents, trade marks, registered designs and corresponding rights are situated where they are registered, and if registered in more than one register, where each register is situated, and licences or other rights in respect of any such rights are situated in the UK if they or any right derived from them are exercisable in the UK,

¹² See 38.26 (Situs of a unit in a unit trust).

¹³ See 39.12 (Co-ownership).

- (j) copyright, design right, franchises, and corresponding rights, and licences or other rights in respect of any such rights, are situated in the UK if they or any right derived from them are exercisable in the UK.

“Corresponding rights” is defined in s.275(3) TCGA:

In subsection (1) above, in each of paragraphs (h) and (j), “corresponding rights” means any rights under the law of a country or territory outside the UK that correspond or are similar to those within that paragraph.

This will not often concern the UK resident foreign domiciliary. It is important for non-residents carrying on a trade in the UK through a permanent establishment, who are (in short) subject to CGT on UK situate trading assets: s.10 TCGA. Intellectual property is (uniquely) capable of being situate for CGT purposes in more than one jurisdiction.

39.24 Unadministered estate of deceased person

If the estate is governed by UK law, it is UK situate for CGT. Other estates are governed by the common law rules.¹⁴

¹⁴ See 38.27 (Unadministered estate).

CHAPTER FORTY

DUTIES OF DISCLOSURE

40.1 Reporting requirements on creation of settlement

There is in principle no obligation to report to HMRC the creation of a trust made by a foreign domiciliary unless that trust receives income or gains subject to UK tax. The position with regard to settlements with a UK domiciled (or deemed domiciled) settlor is governed by s.218(1) IHTA:

Where any person, in the course of a trade or profession carried on by him, other than the profession of a barrister, has been concerned with the making of a settlement and knows or has reason to believe—

- (a) that the settlor was domiciled in the UK, and
- (b) that the trustees of the settlement are not or will not be resident in the UK,

he shall, within three months of the making of the settlement, make a return to the Board stating the names and addresses of the settlor and of the trustees of the settlement.

Several conditions must be satisfied for the duty to apply to a person:

- (1) The person must be acting in the course of a trade or profession carried on by him.

Barristers are exempt from this duty. The reason must be that they will usually be instructed by others who are subject to the duty. The duty rests on the firm or company acting and not directly on its employees.

- (2) The practitioner must be concerned with the making of a settlement.

This would include not only solicitors who might draft the settlement but other advisors who advise in relation to the creation of a settlement, even if the actual execution of the settlement were delegated to foreign advisors.

The practitioner might advise on the matter generally, leaving the client to take whatever action he wishes in light of the advice, perhaps in conjunction with the trustees; in such circumstances he is probably not “concerned with the making of a settlement”; this presupposes the settlement had been established. What if the client had decided against a non-resident settlement after all or wanted to think about it? The practitioner may not know what the client eventually decided to do. The obligation under s.218 must obviously be restricted to those who are able to provide the relevant information.

- (3) The practitioner must know or have reason to believe that the settlor is domiciled in the UK.

“Settlor” for this purpose has the usual IHT meaning: see 37.1 (Who is the settlor?). A settlement may have more than one settlor. Supposing one settlor is domiciled in the UK but the other is not. Does the reporting requirement arise? On a literal construction one could not say “the settlor” is UK domiciled and the reporting requirement would not arise. The answer may be that there are deemed to be two separate settlements for IHT. In any event, a purposive construction suggests that the duty does arise, and that is the better view. A practitioner should err on the side of caution.

A question also arises about the time when the settlor’s domicile is relevant. Section 218 merely says that it applies if the settlor *was* domiciled in the UK. Does this mean domiciled in the UK at the time the settlement was made? Or does it mean that the settlor had at any time been domiciled in the UK. Context and common sense dictate that the provision should be interpreted as referring to the domicile of the settlor at the time the settlement was made because that is the date that matters for IHT.

- (4) The person must know or have reason to believe that the trustees of the settlement are not or will not be resident in the UK

TCGA Schedule 5A imposes overlapping reporting requirements relating

to non-resident settlements made by UK domiciled settlors. But s.218 IHTA is wider in three respects. First, it applies to a deemed domiciliary. Second, it applies to settlements which are not necessarily non-resident under the CGT rule.¹ Third, the CGT duty is imposed on the settlor. The duty here is on the professional advisors.

In marginal cases the practitioner may be placed in difficulty. It may be necessary in some cases to disclose the creation of the settlement to HMRC out of caution.

There is no requirement under s.218 to notify the amount or nature of the settled property. This is unlikely to impede HMRC because they have power in s.219 to require information to be provided by “any person” and they would know from the notification to whom further enquiries could profitably be directed.

40.1.1 *Non-resident practitioner*

It is arguable that no duty will arise on foreign practitioners who have no UK connection; the usual territorial limitation must apply: see *Clark v Oceanic* 56 TC 183. However, the author is inclined to think that the requirement that the settlor is domiciled in the UK is sufficient to meet the territorial requirements so that no further territorial limitations should be implied.

40.1.2 *Penalty for failure to disclose*

Failure to make the return can give rise to a nominal penalty.

1 The test of non-residence for the purpose of s.218 is set out in s.218(3):

“For the purposes of this section trustees of a settlement shall be regarded as not resident in the UK unless

- [1] the general administration of the settlement is ordinarily carried on in the UK and
- [2] the trustees or a majority of them... are for the time being resident in the UK.”

(Paragraphing added)

A quick reading of this provision may give the impression that the test is the same as that which applies for CGT. See 4.4 (Trust residence for CGT). However, although the wording is similar the effect is significantly different. A trust is non-resident for CGT only if neither conditions [1] nor [2] are not satisfied. A trust is non-resident for s.218 if only one of these conditions is not satisfied.

More seriously, the practitioner faces criminal liability for fraud on HMRC or conspiracy to defraud if:

- (1) the practitioner dishonestly fails to disclose when a duty lies on him to do so; or
- (2) any person agreed with another practitioner or a client that there shall be no disclosure.

40.2 Reporting requirements on death of foreign domiciled individual

40.2.1 Ordinary estates

Section 216 IHTA provides that, with certain exceptions, the personal representatives of a deceased person must deliver to the Board an account specifying to the best of their knowledge and belief all “appropriate property” and the value of that property. “Appropriate property” (in short) means all property which forms part of the deceased’s estate immediately before his death, so excluded property need not be returned.

40.2.2 Excepted estates

The IHT (Delivery of Accounts) (Excepted Estates) Regulations 2004 provides different rules for so-called “excepted estates”. There are three categories of excepted estate. Two apply to a person who dies domiciled in the UK.² The third applies where:

- (a) the person died on or after 6 April 2004;
- (b) he was never domiciled in the UK or treated as domiciled in the UK by section 267 [IHTA] ; and
- (c) the value of that person’s estate situated in the UK is wholly attributable to cash or quoted shares or securities passing under his will or intestacy or by survivorship in a beneficial joint tenancy or, in Scotland, by survivorship in a special destination, the gross value of which does not exceed £100,000.

2 It is doubtful whether a person who is deemed domiciled qualifies under these heads, so the estate of a deemed UK domiciliary can never be an excepted estate. Reg. 4(5)(b) distinguishes between someone domiciled and someone treated as domiciled in the UK.

See regulation 4(5).

However, while a so-called excepted estate is not required to put in an account *under section 216 IHTA* it is required to deliver more or less the same information set out in regulation 6(2):

The information specified for the purpose of paragraph (1) is—

- (a) the following details in relation to the deceased—
 - (i) full name;
 - (ii) date of death;
 - (iii) marital status;
 - (iv) occupation;
 - (v) any surviving spouse, parent, brother or sister;
 - (vi) the number of surviving children, step-children, adopted children or grandchildren;
 - (vii) national insurance number, tax district and tax reference;
 - (viii) if the deceased was not domiciled in the UK at his date of death, his domicile and address;
- (b) details of all property to which the deceased was beneficially entitled and the value of that property;
- (c) details of any specified transfers, specified exempt transfers and the value of those transfers;
- (d) the liabilities of the estate; and
- (e) any spouse or charity transfers and the value of those transfers.

It is considered that there is no obligation to give information about excluded property. This is a purposive construction, because, strictly, excluded property is “property to which the deceased was beneficially entitled” even though it does not form part of his estate for IHT purposes. However, it is absurd to say that there is an obligation on excepted estates to disclose excluded property, when there is no such obligation on ordinary estates.

40.2.3 *Commentary*

It is evident that the 2004 Regulations impose a significant burden on (primarily) small estates which would not formerly have had to provide these details. Whether or not this is a necessary burden is a matter on which different views may be expressed. However, the *chutzpah* in the explanatory notes deserves to be recorded:

7. Impact

7.1 These Regulations do not impose new costs on business or charities.

40.2.4 Conclusion

Discharge is required for ordinary and excepted estate even though no tax is payable on the death (e.g. because the property falls within the nil rate band). How well observed this requirement is in practice is another matter. However, if an individual wishes to ensure that his personal representatives are under no duty to put in returns to the UK on his death, he must not have any UK situate property at the time of his death. Then there is no duty to disclose the assets of the estate.

40.3 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and disclosure of tax avoidance schemes

A discussion of these topics is outside the scope of this book.

40.4 Disclosure on tax returns

40.4.1 Required disclosure

The relevant principles of law are as follows:

- (1) The taxpayer's duty (and that of his advisors) is to complete his tax return:
 - (a) honestly; and
 - (b) without neglect, i.e. taking reasonable care to ensure that all the answers given are correct.
- (2) The standard of reasonable care is that to be expected of a reasonable taxpayer. In ordinary negligence proceedings, a solicitor is entitled to rely on advice given by an appropriate expert Counsel (though they should not do so blindly and should reject it if obviously or glaringly wrong). If he acts in this way he is not negligent; see *Locke v Camberwell Health Authority* [1991] 2 Med LR 249-254.
- (3) The standard of honesty is the ordinary standard of reasonable and

honest people.³

Everyone who is responsible for completing tax returns has to ask themselves questions all the time, and then decide on the answer. If a clear and firm answer is reached, there is no general obligation to disclose this process of question and answer to HMRC and failure to do so is not dishonest.⁴ The fact that there is a conceivable possibility that the courts might disagree with an advisor's view does not call for disclosure.

The position is different in a case where an individual has carried out complex, artificial, and aggressive tax avoidance scheme of a kind where:

- (1) success is always uncertain (given the current attitude of the courts), and
- (2) which HMRC would have a duty to investigate and would quite possibly wish to challenge if they know the full facts.

In such a case I would advise that (even though it is considered the scheme will succeed) full disclosure of the transactions should be made in the "white box" section of a tax return, so HMRC have a proper opportunity

3 But what are those standards? It will ultimately depend on the view of the judge or jury as finders of fact. Did Pepys reflect those standards when he wrote in his diary for 10 December 1660:

"This afternoon there was a Couple of men with me, with a book in each of their hands, demanding money for polemony; and I overlooked the book and saw myself set down *Samuel Pepys, gent.*, 10s for himself and for his servants 2s. Which I did presently pay without any dispute; but I fear I shall not escape so, and therefore I have long ago laid by 10l: for them; but I think I am not bound to discover myself".

The point of the entry is that he was liable to pay £10 as an esquire under the act (12 Car. II c.9) In fact his good fortune continued under the next poll tax: The entry of 20 March 1667 reads:

"I... assessed by the late Pole-bill, where I am rated at an Esquire; and for my office, all will come to about 50l - but not more then I expected, nor so much by a great deal as I ought to be for all my offices - so I shall be glad to escape so."

4 The Keith Committee recommended that doubts of this kind should be disclosed to HMRC but the recommendation was rejected as impractical: see Committee on Enforcement Powers of Revenue Departments (1983) Cmnd 8822 paragraph 7.3.6 and subsequent HMRC consultation papers "The Inland Revenue and the Taxpayer" and "Keith: Further Proposals" (1988).

to review the matter.⁵ This avoids any suspicion that the scheme is of the dishonest kind which relies in whole or in part on HMRC not finding out the facts. That would not apply in a case where, if HMRC were fully aware of the facts, they would be quite wrong to raise an assessment as the prospects of success would be so low as not conceivably to justify any litigation. If there were any doubt I would recommend disclosure.

40.5 Disclosure to prevent enquiry under s.29 TMA 1970

HMRC usually have 12 months in which to begin an enquiry into a tax return, beginning with the filing date. However, s.29 TMA 1970 provides an extension of time in certain cases:

(1) If an officer of the Board or the Board discover, as regards any person (the taxpayer) and a year of assessment—

(a) that any income which ought to have been assessed to income tax, or chargeable gains which ought to have been assessed to capital gains tax, have not been assessed,

the officer or, as the case may be, the Board may, subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, make an assessment in the amount, or the further amount, which ought in his or their opinion to be charged in order to make good to the Crown the loss of tax.

(3) Where the taxpayer has made and delivered a return under section 8 or 8A of this Act in respect of the relevant year of assessment, he shall not be assessed under subsection (1) above—

(a) in respect of the year of assessment mentioned in that subsection; and

(b) in the same capacity as that in which he made and delivered the return,

unless one of the two conditions mentioned below is fulfilled.

(4) The first condition is that the situation mentioned in subsection (1) above is attributable to fraudulent or negligent conduct on the part of the taxpayer or a person acting on his behalf.

This “first condition” will not be satisfied in the absence of fraud or neglect. That takes us to the second condition:

5 Even if such cases would not be caught by the new tax avoidance scheme disclosure rules (though they sometimes will be).

(5) The second condition is that at the time when an officer of the Board—

- (a) ceased to be entitled to give notice of his intention to enquire into the taxpayer's return under section 8 or 8A of this Act in respect of the relevant year of assessment; or
- (b) informed the taxpayer that he had completed his enquiries into that return,

the officer could not have been reasonably expected, on the basis of the information made available⁶ to him before that time, to be aware of the situation mentioned in subsection (1) above.

An advantage of disclosing transactions is that HMRC could not (after the one year period has passed) make any further enquiries into the return. If a taxpayer wants 100% security that the matter is closed after one year, therefore, it would be necessary to disclose all the facts in the white box “additional information” section of the tax return.

6 Section 29(6) provides:

“(6) For the purposes of subsection (5) above, information is made available to an officer of the Board if—

- (a) it is contained in the taxpayer's return under section 8 or 8A of this Act in respect of the relevant year of assessment (the return), or in any accounts, statements or documents accompanying the return;
- (b) it is contained in any claim made as regards the relevant year of assessment by the taxpayer acting in the same capacity as that in which he made the return, or in any accounts, statements or documents accompanying any such claim;
- (c) it is contained in any documents, accounts or particulars which, for the purposes of any enquiries into the return or any such claim by an officer of the Board, are produced or furnished by the taxpayer to the officer, whether in pursuance of a notice under section 19A of this Act or otherwise; or
- (d) it is information the existence of which, and the relevance of which as regards the situation mentioned in subsection (1) above—
 - (i) could reasonably be expected to be inferred by an officer of the Board from information falling within paragraphs (a) to (c) above; or
 - (ii) are notified in writing by the taxpayer to an officer of the Board.”



POSTSCRIPT

According to the case law of the European Court of Justice:

“the principle of legal certainty, which is part of the Community legal order, requires that Community legislation must be clear and precise and its application foreseeable by individuals. That requirement must be observed all the more strictly in the case of an act liable to have financial consequences and imposing obligations on individuals in order that those concerned may know precisely the extent of the obligations which it imposes on them.”¹

Readers are invited to speculate to what extent the UK authorities achieve, or even aspire to, the same goal.

1 Recital 2, Guidelines for the Quality of Drafting of Community Legislation (1999/C 73/01)

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