

O'LEARY
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Welcome to the Autumn edition of **OLFP Connect**

In This Edition:

Investment Outlook: Markets, budget update and what investors are watching.

Advisor Spotlight: Catch up with financial advisor Mary Burke.

Pension Deadline: Make the most of your contribution.

Client Q&A: Your financial questions, answered.

OLFP News: New faces and team updates.

New Savings Scheme: What you need to know.

A MESSAGE FROM CLEONA

OCTOBER TENDS TO BRING FINANCIAL PLANNING INTO SHARPER FOCUS.

There is often a noticeable change in the conversations we have with clients at this time of year. Questions become more specific. Should I make an additional pension contribution? Am I making full use of the reliefs available to me? Has the Budget changed anything I should act on? Is there something I should be doing before the end of the year?

With Budget 2027 now announced and the pension contribution deadline approaching, there is plenty for individuals and business owners to consider.

In this edition, we look at what these developments could mean for your planning, alongside some of the conversations we're having with clients at OLFP.

We hope you find this edition useful.

Cleona Kinahan

M.SC CFP® QFA FLIA
Managing Director & Financial Planner



Market & Economic Update – What It Means for You

Ireland's economy continues to grow, but rising inflation, interest rates and geopolitical uncertainty are creating challenges for investors as we approach 2027.

The Central Bank forecasts Irish domestic demand growth of 3.8% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027, supported by consumer spending and investment. However, inflation is expected to remain elevated at 3.4% this year.

The European Central Bank raised interest rates again in September, responding to inflation pressures linked to higher energy costs. These developments continue to influence borrowing costs, bond markets and investor expectations.

Budget 2027 Highlights

- **Investment exit tax** reduces from 38% to 35% from January 2027.
- **Capital Gains Tax** falls from 33% to 31% for most disposals from 7 October 2026.
- **New Investment Account** launches from 1 July 2027, subject to legislation and provider availability.
- **Income Tax:** Standard-rate band increases by €2,500 for single taxpayers, with corresponding changes for others.
- **USC:** The 2% band ceiling rises to €30,300.
- **PRSI:** Class A employee contributions rise to 4.35% from October 2026, with further increases scheduled.

What Does This Mean for You?

Budget changes may create opportunities for more tax-efficient investing and wealth planning, although individual circumstances will determine the benefits.

As 2027 approaches, your investment strategy should reflect your financial objectives rather than short-term market movements.

Sources: Central Bank of Ireland, September 2026 Quarterly Bulletin; ECB, September 2026; Budget 2027 and Revenue, October 2026.

ADVISER SPOTLIGHT: MARY BURKE

BA (HONS), QFA RPA | DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER

For **Mary Burke**, good financial planning starts with listening.

As a Director and Co-Founder of O'Leary Financial Planning, Mary has spent more than two decades helping clients make sense of important financial decisions.

Her approach is structured and practical, with a focus on turning individual goals into a plan that clients can understand and act on.

Mary works with clients across pensions, investments, protection and inheritance planning. She is particularly good at simplifying complex decisions without losing the detail behind them.

That often means looking beyond the immediate question. A pension review, for example, may lead to a wider conversation about retirement income, family priorities, tax planning or existing assets.

Mary considers how these pieces fit together before recommending a course of action.

> ***"One of the most rewarding parts of my work is supporting clients through different stages of their lives. I've seen people build careers and businesses, prepare for retirement and then start thinking about the legacy they want to leave to the next generation. Being there for those conversations over many years is something I really value."***

A Galway native, Mary places enormous value on the relationships built through her work. Trust and transparency are central to her approach, particularly when decisions may affect clients and their families for years.



She also believes clients should understand why a particular course of action is recommended. Explaining the reasoning behind a strategy helps her clients make informed decisions about their money.

If you'd like Mary to take a fresh look at your financial plan, get in touch with the OLFP team.

Pension Deadline: Make the Most of Your Contribution

By Cleona Kinahan

If you are considering an additional pension contribution for 2025, the window to do so is getting shorter.

Depending on your pension arrangement and circumstances, an eligible contribution made before the deadline may qualify for Income Tax relief against 2025 income, subject to Revenue rules and limits. A claim or election for 2025 relief may be required.

The weeks ahead are particularly important for business owners, the self-employed and employees considering an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) or PRSA contribution.

It also provides an opportunity to review unused contribution capacity.

For self-assessed taxpayers filing a Form 11, the standard Pay and File deadline is **31 October 2026**. Where both the 2025 Form 11 and appropriate payment are completed through ROS, the extended deadline is **18 November 2026**.

Your tax-relievable contribution limit depends on your age, relevant earnings, pension arrangement and contributions already made.

Revenue's age-related limits range from 15% of relevant earnings for those under 30 to 40% for those aged 60 and over, subject to an earnings cap of €115,000.

This is where planning before the deadline can make a difference.

The key is to start the conversation early. Your available contribution capacity may differ from what you expect, particularly if you have already contributed during the year.

A **Progress & Future Planning** meeting with OLFP can establish whether there is scope to contribute more and whether doing so makes sense within your retirement plans.

Waiting until the deadline can complicate matters, particularly if information is needed from your accountant, pension provider or Revenue.

Considering an additional pension contribution for tax year 2025? Contact the OLFP team to arrange a review and understand your options before the relevant deadline.

References: Revenue, Pension Tax Relief guidance, Tax Relief Limits, 2026 Pay and File guidance and eBrief No. 034/26.

**Information correct as at October 2026, based on Revenue guidance and applicable Irish pension tax rules.*

CLICK HERE TO ARRANGE A CHAT

Client Corner – Frequently Asked Question

Q: I have a will in place. Is that enough to make sure my wealth passes efficiently to my family?

A: A will is essential, but it is only one part of planning how wealth will pass to the next generation. A good starting point is understanding what you own, who you want to benefit and how different assets may eventually transfer.

Property, investments, pensions, business interests and life assurance can each require different considerations.
Tax is also important. In Ireland, Capital Acquisitions Tax can arise when someone receives a gift or inheritance above the relevant tax-free threshold.

With early planning, there may be opportunities to structure gifts, inheritances and appropriate protection more effectively.

The threshold depends on the relationship between the giver and the receiver, and on previous gifts or inheritances within the same threshold group.

Timing matters too. Some families choose to transfer part of their wealth during their lifetime rather than leaving everything through their estate. The Small Gift Exemption, for example, currently allows a person to receive up to €3,000 from another individual each calendar year.

It applies per donor and per recipient, so two parents can each gift the same child in one year, and the amount does not use up that child's CAT threshold. Used consistently over several years, it can move a meaningful sum tax effectively.

That can create opportunities, but it needs care alongside your own future income and financial security. Giving away capital in your sixties can look different by your eighties, when care costs and longer life expectancy come into view.

OLFP helps clients look at the financial side of wealth transfer alongside their solicitor and tax advisor, **so the plan for the next generation also works for the generation passing the wealth on.**

Source: Revenue, Capital Acquisitions Tax and Small Gift Exemption guidance, 2026.

O'Leary Financial Planning News

There's plenty happening behind the scenes at OLFP, and we wanted to showcase a familiar face and a new addition to the team.

Helen McGlynn is an established member of the OLFP team and plays an important role in keeping the business organised behind the scenes. In her role as Financial Planning Administrator, she coordinates both the advisory and administration teams and helps ensure the day-to-day running of OLFP stays on track.

We're also delighted to welcome **Esme Anderson** to the OLFP team. Joining us as Client Administrator, Esme supports our day-to-day client service activities and communications across the business. Her role is to help us maintain the personal, attentive service our clients value, while supporting the team in keeping everything running smoothly.

It's great to recognise the people whose work contributes to our clients' experience every day. We've also been improving our internal systems, streamlining client processes and developing how we communicate throughout the year.

New Investment Account: What You Need to Know

By Caroline Hartigan

Budget 2027 has confirmed a new Investment Account for Irish savers, expected to become available from 1 July 2027.

What is the Personal Investment Account?

The new **Investment Account** is designed to encourage more people to consider investing their long-term savings rather than holding everything in cash.

Irish tax residents aged 18 and over with a PPS number will be able to invest up to **€12,000 annually**, with no minimum contribution.

Eligible investments will include shares, bonds, investment funds such as ETFs, and certain insurance-based investment products. Only one account per person will be permitted initially.

How will it be taxed?

One of the most attractive features is the new tax treatment. Investments held within the account will not be subject to Capital Gains Tax, exit tax or the eight-year deemed disposal rule.

Instead, an annual **1% tax applies only to account value above €50,000**. For example, an account with an average daily value of €52,000 would incur approximately a €20 annual tax charge.

Importantly, this tax applies to account value, not investment gains, so tax could arise even when investments fall. Providers will handle tax reporting and payment to Revenue.

Where could an Investment Account fit?

For people looking to build wealth outside their pension, the Investment Account could offer a useful additional option.

With no minimum holding period or lock-in, investors will also have flexibility to access their money when needed, although investment values can fluctuate.

Pensions will continue to offer important advantages, including potential Income Tax relief and employer contributions.

The right approach will depend on your financial circumstances, investment timeframe and objectives. Both options could have a role within the same financial plan.

What happens next?

At OLFP, we see the Investment Account as an exciting development that could make investing more accessible and tax-efficient for Irish savers.

With the main details now announced, we'll be examining the available investment options, provider arrangements and how the account could benefit different clients.

The account is expected to launch on **1 July 2027**, subject to legislation and provider availability.

Keep an eye out for our **Understanding Risk and Savings series**, launching 2027.

More information on Investment Accounts can be found [here].

Interested in whether an Investment Account could have a place in your financial strategy? Speak to the OLFP team.

TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS

Sources: Department of Finance, Zurich Budget 2027 - Key Updates

"The Investment Account will give people another useful way to invest outside their pension.



The important part will be understanding where it fits alongside the savings, investments and retirement planning they already have in place."

-Caroline Hartigan

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