



High Income Child Benefit Tax Charge

Year ended 5th April 2026

Grants Accountants & Tax Advisors

April 2026

Explanatory notes: 6th April 2025 to 5th April 2026

We have prepared brief notes to allow you to consider whether these rules will affect you and/or your partner.

Who is affected by the High Income Child Benefit charge (HICBC)?

The HICBC will affect taxpayers if any of the following applies:-

- you have an individual income that exceeds £60,000 in a tax year and are entitled to receive Child Benefit;
- you have an income that exceeds £60,000 and live (or have lived) with a partner who is entitled to receive child benefit; or
- if you and your partner both have an income that exceed £60,000, the charge will apply to the partner who receives the highest income

Definition of Partner

A partner comprises:

- a married couple living together;
- civil partners living together;
- a man and a woman who are not married to each other but who are living together; or
- a man living with a man or a woman living with a woman who are living together as if they were civil partners.

Definition of Income

Adjusted net income will generally be the total of your taxable income before your personal allowance less: specified allowable deductions, e.g. losses, gross pension contributions, gross gift aid payments.

Who isn't affected

You won't be affected if:

- both you and your partner have an individual income below £60,000 for a tax year;
- neither you or your partner are entitled or have been entitled to receive Child Benefit.

Tax Return – year ended 5th April 2026

If you are affected by the HIBC and on the assumption that you did not inform the Child Benefit office that you wished to put a stop to your payments before 5th April, it is likely you will be liable to the HICBC for the year ended 5th April 2026.

Please, therefore, complete the child benefit section of our Tax Return form, to allow us to work out the relevant tax charge.

For reference the 2025/26 rates of child benefit are as follows:-

Child Benefit Rates	Amount Per week	Annual
	From 6 April 2025	Entitlement
Eldest/only child	£26.05	£1,354.60
Additional Children	£17.25	£ 897.00

How the tax charge works

Anyone who has to pay the charge will need to pay an amount equivalent to some or all of their Child Benefit entitlement.

For taxpayers whose income is between £60,000 and £80,000, the tax charge will always be less than the Child Benefit entitlement. The amount of the charge is 1% of the amount of Child Benefit for every £200 of income over £60,000.

A taxpayer whose income exceeds £80,000 will be liable to the tax charge on the full amount of child benefit received.

How to Pay the High Income Child Benefit Charge

If you are liable for the HICBC in 2025/26, this will be due for payment on 31st January 2027.

However, you may be able to choose to pay the charge through your tax code from 6 April 2027. We will advise if this is possible when preparing your Tax Return.

Moving forward

You will need to choose to do one of the following:

- Keep receiving Child Benefit payments
- Tell the Child Benefit Office that you want to stop receiving Child Benefit payments - in which case you won't be liable for the tax charge

If you or your partner choose to keep receiving child benefit, you will need to pay the HICBC to HMRC.

It may, therefore, be preferable to those earning more than £80,000 to tell the Child Benefit Office that you/your partner wants to stop receiving Child Benefit. However, **please read** below before making this decision.

Child benefit and your state pension

If a non-working parent (for example the mother) doesn't register for child benefit, she won't receive national insurance credits for the period during which she doesn't pay national insurance. This will leave a gap in the national insurance record, and on reaching state retirement age, the state retirement pension paid will be of a lower amount.

As a parent registered for child benefit (for a child under 12) you automatically receive national insurance credits even if you don't receive the child benefit payments.

Therefore, it may be worth ensuring that you register for child benefit to receive the national insurance credits, even if you elect not to receive the child benefit payments or stop payments at a future date.

If you have any queries on any of this guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.