

BREXIT AND THE BUDGET

Prime Minister Theresa May finally initiated the formal Brexit process on 29 March by triggering Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. Negotiations are unlikely to prove straightforward however not least because of the degree of emotion involved for all parties.

The UK is clearly keen to negotiate the terms of its future relationship with the EU alongside its exit. European Council President Donald Tusk has stressed though that “parallel talks... will not happen”. Increasingly the EU wants to identify the extent of the financial settlement that they want to be reached before any trade deals can be discussed.

Whilst the exact terms have yet to be quantified the Financial Times has estimated a bill of around £20 million would be incurred to leave the EU. It will be interesting to see the fulfilment of the pledge to increase NHS funding made prior to the referendum in the context of the savings achieved.

Apart from the costs the nature of our trade agreements will be critical to the UK’s economic success going forward. If the UK fails to agree terms then we would fall under the World Trade Organisation’s Terms which would raise the prospect of trade tariffs.

At the same time as these issues are starting to be discussed Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon also continued to place pressure on the UK Government to hold a second referendum on Scotland’s independence.

The uncertainty created by the Brexit negotiations was reflected in the recent Spring Budget projections. The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) has revised up its forecast for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2017 by 0.6 percentage points to 2.0%. Thereafter there is a shallower slowdown and a more gradual recovery, with growth revised down to 1.6% in 2018, 1.7% in 2019, and 1.9% in 2020, followed by an unchanged forecast of 2.0% growth in 2021.

Alongside news of stronger than expected economic growth, the Government’s Spring Budget included news of a cut in the tax free dividend allowance for shareholders from £5,000 to £2,000 that will take place in April 2018.

In fairness neither the Government or the various economic agencies are able to predict with any certainty the real outcome from Brexit, and the OBR have already made substantial adjustments to the figures as the UK Economy has proved very resilient boosted by consumer spending and the initial positive impact of a much weaker currency. Indeed this health has been reflected in the very strong performance of the UK Stock market. The blue-chip index rose by 0.8% during March, whilst the FTSE 250 Index also rose by 1.1%.

WELCOME, JEANETTE!

Sabre Insurance Services is pleased to welcome Jeanette Hammett to their personal lines team.

Previously based in Plympton, joining Sabre is almost a “welcome home” for Jeanette, who grew up locally and studied at Kingsbridge Community College. She now lives in Kingsbridge with her husband, step-son and daughter.

Jeanette has over 18 years of experience in both personal lines and commercial insurance and a wealth of knowledge on the local area.

We look forward to working with her when she joins us at the beginning of next month!



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SABRE FINANCIAL

This year, Sabre celebrates 20 years of providing quality, independent financial advice across the South West. We’d like to thank you for your continued support.

HIGH-NETWORTH HOUSE INSURANCE

Good customer service is one of the things that can set your business apart from the others of its kind. At Sabre, we pride ourselves in offering such a service. Whether we are processing your household renewal, quoting for your holiday home, or finding a policy which covers your motor boat, our approach is the same, patient, friendly and attentive. We know our product and aim to help our customers make the best choices for them. We have an experienced team of local people who understand your needs.

Sabre can assist you in building your High Net Worth portfolio to include your main home, annual travel, holiday home and motor insurance. The High Net-Worth Insurers offer warranty free policies, meaning the normal clauses relating to the use of alarms, locks or safes would not be present. Claims are dealt with by experienced teams who understand the need for a simple, swift and sensible settlement. Knowing our client carries enormous weight with insurers when assessing the risk. Our long-standing relationships with the major High Net Worth specialist insurers in the UK, will give you the peace of mind you need when looking for that bespoke policy for you as an individual.

Call into our offices and speak to our team face to face.



TOP TIPS

In 2017/18, a spouse or civil partner who is not liable to income tax or not liable above the basic rate for a tax year will continue to be entitled to transfer up to 10% of their personal allowance (£1,150 in 2017/18) to their spouse or civil partner, provided the recipient of the transfer is not liable to income tax above the basic rate.

The transferor's personal allowance will then be reduced by up to £1,150 and the spouse or civil partner receiving the transferred allowance will be entitled to a reduced income tax liability of up to £230.

STAFF NEWS

It's a very exciting time for the team at Sabre. Over the coming months, we'll be hearing plenty of pitter-pattering of little feet!

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate those of our team who have just welcomed or are about to welcome new arrivals to their family:

Lucy Stokes (Administrator) welcomed a daughter, Willow Fox, last month. Congratulations to her and her partner, Miles.

Steph Pope (Paraplanner) and her husband, Simon are about to welcome their first baby. Steph has recently left for maternity leave and her baby is due imminently.

Kelly McCormack (Account Handler) will be going on maternity leave at end of April. This will be her third child with husband Kieran – congratulations!

