

RETURNING TO THE UK GUIDE

2026/27 EDITION

A financial guide for expats planning to repatriate.

Plan the tax year of return

HMRC states that people returning to the UK will usually become UK resident again and may then be taxable on UK and foreign income and gains, subject to available reliefs.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Choose the timing of the return with the Statutory Residence Test and split-year rules in mind.
- Review whether the four-year Foreign Income and Gains regime may be available based on prior non-residence.

PLANNING FOCUS

- Expect UK reporting requirements to restart.
- Do not assume an offshore account or investment remains outside UK tax once resident.

ELYSIUM PLANNING POINT

The right approach depends on your objectives, time horizon, tax position, residence status and wider financial plan. Review the decision in context rather than in isolation.

Temporary non-residence

Returning within a relatively short period can reactivate UK tax on certain income or gains realised while non-resident.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- HMRC temporary non-residence rules can apply where residence conditions are met and the absence is not long enough.
- Certain capital gains, pension payments and company distributions can be caught.

PLANNING FOCUS

- Model disposals and pension withdrawals before returning, not after.
- Keep documentation for the whole period abroad.

ELYSIUM PLANNING POINT

The right approach depends on your objectives, time horizon, tax position, residence status and wider financial plan. Review the decision in context rather than in isolation.

Reposition investments and pensions

A portfolio built for life abroad may not be optimal once spending, tax and currency return to sterling.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Review currency exposure and future sterling liabilities.
- Assess whether overseas wrappers remain efficient or become reportable/taxable in the UK.

PLANNING FOCUS

- Check pension providers, beneficiary nominations and drawdown strategy.
- Rebuild a UK cash reserve for near-term spending and tax.

ELYSIUM PLANNING POINT

The right approach depends on your objectives, time horizon, tax position, residence status and wider financial plan. Review the decision in context rather than in isolation.

Repatriation checklist

The best time to plan a UK return is before the move date is fixed.

WHAT TO CONSIDER

- Residence and split-year position modelled?
- Temporary non-residence reviewed?
- Foreign investments and structures checked for UK treatment?

PLANNING FOCUS

- Pension withdrawals timed appropriately?
- UK estate plan, wills, banking and insurance updated?

ELYSIUM PLANNING POINT

The right approach depends on your objectives, time horizon, tax position, residence status and wider financial plan. Review the decision in context rather than in isolation.

Your next-step checklist

Use this as a discussion framework with your adviser; it is not a substitute for personal advice.

BEFORE YOU ACT

- ☐ Choose the timing of the return with the Statutory Residence Test and split-year rules in mind.
- ☐ HMRC temporary non-residence rules can apply where residence conditions are met and the absence is not long enough.
- ☐ Review currency exposure and future sterling liabilities.
- ☐ Residence and split-year position modelled?
- ☐ Confirm relevant tax, legal and regulatory implications before making irreversible changes.
- ☐ Document the agreed action plan and review date.

Primary sources and further reading

- GOV.UK Tax if you return to the UK
- HMRC RFIG21560 - temporary non-residence
- HMRC HS278 Temporary non-residents and Capital Gains Tax

Talk to Elysium Wealth Advisors

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This guide is for general information only and does not constitute personal financial, investment, tax or legal advice. Tax treatment depends on individual circumstances and may change. Cross-border matters can depend on the law of more than one jurisdiction.

About Gary Day

Founder of Elysium Wealth Advisors | Senior Wealth Advisor

28+ YEARS

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Experience shaped by discipline

Gary Day brings more than 28 years of international financial services experience across the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East. He began his professional career in the British Army before moving into financial services in 1990, developing a disciplined, structured and analytical approach that continues to shape his advisory work.

CLIENT FOCUS

International and expatriate clients navigating complex, multi-jurisdictional financial decisions with a need for clarity, precision and long-term structure.



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Gary works with clients across the EU, the UAE and other international markets, supporting a geographically diverse client base. He is also involved in UAE-based estate planning structures through Elysium's regional operations.

Core areas of expertise

01 Cross-border financial planning

International residence, mobility and multi-jurisdictional considerations.

02 Estate & succession planning

Including UAE wills and structures intended to support orderly wealth transfer.

03 Pension structuring & transfers

Guidance informed by extensive pension and transfer-related professional education.

04 Investment portfolio design

Portfolio construction aligned to objectives, risk and time horizon.

05 Protection planning

Individual and corporate protection as part of a broader financial strategy.

ADVISORY APPROACH Clarity | Precision | Long-term structure

Professional qualifications

Industry-recognised qualifications and advanced specialist study

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 01** Level 4 Diploma in Financial Services - Institute of Financial Services
- 02** Financial Planning Certificate - Chartered Insurance Institute
- 03** CF2: Investment and Risk - Chartered Insurance Institute
- 04** Mortgage Advice Qualification - Chartered Insurance Institute
- 05** Equity Release Qualification - Chartered Insurance Institute
- 06** Long-Term Care Qualification - Chartered Insurance Institute
- 07** Level 6 Award in Pension Transfers - Institute of Financial Services

ADVANCED SPECIALIST TRAINING

- Professional Certificate in Hedge Funds - New York Institute of Finance
- Equity Portfolio Management - New York Institute of Finance
- Fixed Income Portfolio Management - New York Institute of Finance
- Foundations of Central Bank Law - KU Leuven
- Governance in the European Union - KU Leuven
- European Union Law - KU Leuven
- Contract Law: From Trust to Promise to Contract - HarvardX
- Public Debt, Investment, and Growth (DIG & DIGNAR Models) - International Monetary Fund
- Local Currency Bond Markets - International Monetary Fund

ISLAMIC FINANCE CERTIFICATIONS

Islamic Banking: Principles, Practice and Risk Management - Islamic Research and Training Institute

Islamic Insurance and Investment - Islamic Research and Training Institute

Career context

Gary has held senior advisory and leadership roles within FCA-regulated firms in the UK and has extensive experience working with high-net-worth individuals, internationally mobile professionals and expatriates.

One coordinated advisory framework

Designed to connect planning decisions rather than treat each financial issue in isolation.

What clients say

Independent client feedback highlighting clarity, service and long-term relationships

“ Gary provided an independent review and report on transferring two UK pensions for me. Gary's report was very detailed and clearly laid out the difference between old and new schemes, and highlighted everything I needed to know.

Verified Client

 Outside UK / United Kingdom

“ Thank you, Gary. You and your team were absolutely fantastic throughout the entire process. Your professionalism, expertise, and dedication made everything seamless and stress-free. I truly appreciate all your efforts and can't thank you enough. I will definitely be recommending your services to others.

Grant B.

 United Arab Emirates

“ For the last 10 years Gary Day has given us guidance and support in our portfolio management and planning for retirement. His approach is straight forward and there's been no hidden agenda. He presents things in an easy-to-understand way. Gary very knowledgeable, calm but enthusiastic to deal with. We value his advice.

Elaine P & John

 Hungary

Real people. Real results.

Let's build your future, together.

Trusted across borders

Client relationships, profile summary and contact details

“ Gary has been helping with my finances for many years, I have complete trust in his advice. My pensions have been managed, I have an ISA and a Bond, all based on the guidance Gary has provided. Can't recommend him highly enough.

Hannah G - Milton K

 United Kingdom

“ I am delighted to recommend my financial advisor, Mr. Gary Day. His expertise and professionalism in managing my portfolio have been invaluable. He provides insightful, reliable advice and is a dedicated, customer-focused communicator. I highly recommend his services to anyone seeking a knowledgeable and trustworthy financial advisor.

David B.

 United States

“ We were extremely impressed with the will preparation and coordination services provided by Gary Day and Elysium44. The whole process was clear, personable and professional from start to finish, with everything explained in a straightforward and reassuring manner. We were kept well informed throughout, and the service represented excellent value for money. We are very happy with the final results and would have no hesitation in recommending Gary and Elysium44 to anyone looking for a professional and reliable will preparation service.

Lee B

 United Arab Emirates

Profile summary

Gary Day combines more than 28 years of international financial services experience with a broad range of professional qualifications and specialist training. His work centres on bespoke financial strategies for expatriates, high-net-worth individuals and internationally mobile clients, with particular focus on cross-border planning, estate and succession planning, pensions, investments and protection.

Talk to Elysium Wealth Advisors

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