



HM Revenue
& Customs

A summary of tax reliefs available for innovative companies: contacts and guidance information provided by HM Revenue and Customs

Please note that this information is correct as of 1 April 2022 and could change.

Incentives and Reliefs available:

- Patent Box
- Research and Development Tax credits (R&D), (including Advanced Assurance)
- Creatives Tax Reliefs (Film, Animation, High End TV, Children's TV, Video Games, Theatre, Orchestra, and Museums and Galleries)
- Venture Capital Schemes (EIS, SEIS, VCT).

Patent Box

The aim of the Patent Box is to provide an additional incentive for companies to retain and commercialise existing patents and to develop new innovative patented products.

The Patent Box allows companies to elect to apply a 10 percent rate of corporation tax from 1 April 2013 to profits attributable to qualifying patents, whether received as a royalty or embedded in the sales price of products. The regime will also apply to other qualifying intellectual property rights such as regulatory data protection (also called 'data exclusivity'), supplementary protection certificates and plant variety rights.

- [Corporation Tax: the Patent Box - GOV.UK](#)
- [Guidance CIRD200000](#) and pages following set out the qualifying criteria
- [CIRD275000](#) includes a flowchart for the computation required.

R&D

Research and Development (R&D) tax relief (or credit) is a company tax relief that may reduce a company's tax bill or in some instances involve a payment of credit by HMRC to the company. It is based on the company's expenditure on R&D.

The company can only claim for R&D tax relief if an R&D project seeks to achieve an advance in overall knowledge or capability in a field of science or technology through the resolution of scientific or technological uncertainty and not simply an advance in its own state of knowledge or capability.

- [Corporation Tax: Research and Development tax relief - GOV.UK](#)
- [CIRD80000](#) and pages following set out the qualifying criteria
- [CIRD100000](#) includes a flowchart for the computation required and further information.

Creative industry tax reliefs

These are a group of eight reliefs that allow qualifying companies to claim a larger deduction for certain expenses. The company will receive a reduction in their Corporation Tax liability, or in some circumstances a payable tax credit.

- Film Tax Relief
- Animation Tax Relief
- High-end TV Tax Relief
- Children's TV Tax Relief
- Video Games Tax Relief
- Theatre Tax Relief
- Orchestra Tax relief
- Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief.

These reliefs are available to companies that fall within the charge to UK Corporation Tax and that are a qualifying production company; they must be responsible all stages of production.

[Creative industry tax reliefs for Corporation Tax - GOV.UK](#)

Venture Capital Schemes

The schemes are intended to incentivise investment in smaller, higher risk, unquoted trading companies that would otherwise struggle to access finance for growth by providing a range of income tax and capital gains tax reliefs to individual investors.

Guidance and support

- [Enterprise Investment Scheme](#) (EIS)
- [Venture Capital Trust](#) (VCT)
- [Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme](#) (SEIS).

Methods of contact:

- R&D: Contact details are set out in [CIRD80350](#)
- Advance Assurance (R&D). [Explanation of this service.](#)

By email

- R&D and Patent Box: RD.IncentivesReliefs@hmrc.gov.uk
- Creatives - creative.industries@hmrcgov.uk
- Venture Capital Reliefs: Contact us by email - enterprise.centre@hmrci.gov.uk

By phone

- There is a dedicated helpline number **0300 123 3440** and select from the options listed.