

Where to get help with your tax

Many people find tax matters confusing, but there are ways of getting help. RNIB has a team who support people with sight loss with income tax issues. The service, supported by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), provides information about tax allowances such as the Blind Person's Allowance and the Marriage Allowance, which can reduce your tax bill.

RNIB can help you with queries related to income tax, tax-free savings, VAT-free products and tax credits. The team can also contact HMRC to help with resolving problems and to arrange support with completing tax forms and self assessment tax returns.

What is the Blind Person's Allowance?

People registered as blind or severely sight impaired can claim the Blind Person's Allowance. The allowance is £2,290. This can reduce tax by £458 this year. You can backdate the allowance to the previous 4 years. You can also transfer the allowance to your husband, wife or civil partner.

What is the Marriage Allowance?

The Government introduced the Marriage Allowance tax-break in 2015. It lets you and your partner share part of your tax-free Personal Allowance to help lower your overall tax bill. In 2016/17 you can transfer £1,100 of your Personal Allowance to your partner which will save up to £220 in tax.

To apply for the Marriage Allowance you need to be married or in a civil partnership. Both partners need to be born on or after 6 April 1935. One partner needs to be a non-taxpayer, and the other partner has to be a basic rate taxpayer.

RNIB want to make sure anyone who is eligible receives these tax allowances and the team can help you with claiming them. In most cases it can be done easily over the phone, with no forms to complete.

How to contact RNIB's Tax Advice team

For help and information on income tax and HMRC-related issues you can call RNIB on **0345 330 4897** or **0151 702 5721** or email: tax@rnib.org.uk You can find more information online, go to www.rnib.org.uk/tax