EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE NATIONAL SAVINGS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2026

2026 No. 266

1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by HM Treasury and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 Torsten Bell, the Minister for Pensions at HM Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 Kripali Manek, Deputy Director, Debt and Reserves Management, Fiscal Group, at His Majesty's Treasury, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Alex Spelling at HM Treasury can be contacted by email at the following address with any queries regarding the instrument Alexander.Spelling@hmtreasury.gov.uk. Alternatively, he can be contacted by telephone on 07867162052.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

From 6 April 2024, the minimum age to open an adult Individual Savings Account (ISA) was raised from 16 to 18 years old and individuals were also allowed to open multiple ISAs of the same type in any financial year (within their overall allowance), , rather than only one of each previously. These changes have already been reflected within legislation governing the ISA framework (The Individual Savings Account Regulations 1998 amended by The Individual Savings Account (Amendment) Regulations 2024). Correspondingly, this instrument amends Section 25(2) of the National Savings Regulations 2015 to recognise the new entry age of 18. Secondly, this instrument omits Section 25(7) of the National Savings Regulations 2015 governing the number of ISAs to be opened in any financial year.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.1 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

4.2 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 The *National Savings Regulations 2015* incorporates various pieces of secondary legislation regarding National Savings and Investments (NS&I) and sets the legislative framework for accounts and savings products offered by NS&I, under the *National Savings Bank and National Savings Bank Act 1971*. These amendments are required to ensure NS&I's legislative framework remains consistent with the wider ISA legislation.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.2 Prior to 6 April 2024, the minimum age to open an adult ISA was 16 years old and those opening ISAs were limited to one of each type of ISA annually, e.g., one *stocks and shares ISA* and one *cash ISA*. Following a two year transition period, from 6 April 2026 individuals must be 18 years old to open an adult ISA. Since 6 April 2024, individuals have been able to open multiple ISAs of the same type in any financial year (within their overall allowance).

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 In order for a junior ISA to be compliant with changes to The Individual Savings Account Regulations 1998 (amended by the Individual Savings Account (Amendment) Regulations 2024), reference to the minimum age to open an adult ISA of 16 years old is required to be removed and replaced with a reference to the minimum age in accordance with the Individual Savings Account Regulations 1998.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.2 The 1998 Regulations specify different applicable ages according to the type of product, and this amendment allows for consistency between the two Regulations by not prescribing a separate age requirement.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 No consultation was undertaken because these changes update the National Savings Regulations 2015 to reflect changes to the primary legislation – The Individual Savings Account (Amendment) Regulations 2024 – in respect of policies that have been operative since April 2024.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 No guidance needed – this was provided in the form of amended Guidance Notes for ISA managers in 2024[1].

[1] ISA managers' guidance: www.gov.uk/government/collections/isa-managers-guidance

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as measures affecting businesses that are acting on behalf of a public authority are also excluded under section 27 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9.3 The instrument does not impact small or micro businesses.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 The approach to monitoring this instrument is that His Majesty's Treasury and NS&I will continue to review compliance with the ISA Regulations using information provided annually and through regular contact with ISA Managers.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to negative procedure and does not amend primary legislation no statement is required.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts").