



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT TAXATION OFFICE

A General Guide to Falkland Islands Taxation for Individuals for the Tax Year 2020

1. Introduction

This brief guide to the Falkland Islands (FI) tax system is aimed at private individuals. This guide has been written in general terms, it does not have any legal force or bind the FI Government Taxation Office in any way. It should be read in conjunction with the Taxes Ordinance 1997, Medical Services Tax Ordinance 2010 and associated legislation and regulations.

Readers familiar to the UK tax system may notice some similarities in the FI legislation. However, there are differences, both of substance and in drafting and it is best therefore to treat the FI system as a totally different regime.

The FI tax year is 1st January to 31st December, submissions are required by 31st of July in the following year for Individuals.

2. What taxes are there?

The main taxes are Income Tax, Medical Services Tax and Corporation Tax. The Falklands do not have any wealth taxes, death duties, sales tax, VAT or stamp duties. There is no general tax on capital gains.

Employers are required to withhold POAT (Payments on Account of Tax) from employee remuneration (see point 6).

There are no withholding taxes except for a 10% tax on royalties paid to non-residents.

Credit will normally be given for foreign taxes either unilaterally or through the one Double Taxation Agreement, with the UK. Proof of foreign tax paid and confirmation it has/will not be refunded will be required.

3. Tax residency

An individual's entitlement to allowances/deductions and chargeable income depends on their residency position for tax purposes (please note that this differs to residency for immigration purposes).

Resident – present in FI for a total of 183 days or more during the relevant tax year.

Ordinarily resident – repeatedly FI resident except for a temporary absence

4. Income Tax

Entitlement to allowances/deductions and chargeable income:

Resident and / or ordinarily resident for tax purposes - assessed on worldwide income, entitled to the full Personal Allowance (PA) and may claim a deduction for Retirement Pension Contributions (RPCs), contributions to certain pension/retirement benefit schemes, subscriptions and charitable donations.

Not resident and not ordinarily resident - assessed on income from within FI and/or for duties performed in FI. Entitled to a proportion of the PA according to the number of days present in FI during the relevant tax year and may claim a deduction for compulsory RPCs and charitable donations only.

Rates and allowance:

Individuals are taxed on the first £12,000 at 21% and any remainder at 26%, after taking into account allowable deductions.

Husband and wife are taxed independently.

The Personal Allowance (PA) is £15,000 for the tax year 2019.

5. Medical Services Tax (MST)

MST has been set at a rate of 0% with effect from 1st January 2018 for both individuals and employers.

6. Employee taxation

There is a system of withholding sums (POAT - *Payments on Account of Tax*) from employee remuneration by employers set out in detail in the Payments on Account of Tax (Employees Deductions) Regulations.

Non-residents should have tax deducted at a straight 21% (POAT for Income Tax). They have the right to submit a tax return should their actual tax liability be less than the amount deducted under POAT. There is also provision for FIGTO to issue a tax return where the POAT deduction is less than their liability for the relevant year.

Resident individuals should have tax deductions made according to the monthly/weekly tax tables which take into account the PA annual deduction.

There is limited taxation of benefits-in-kind, these are set out in detail in The Taxes (Benefits in Kind) Rules. There is a separate guide available on Benefits In Kind.

Any further Income Tax due from the individual e.g. on self-employed profits, is collected through assessment after the end of the relevant tax year.

7. Exemptions

There are various items of income and categories of taxpayers who are exempt from FI Income Tax.

8. Contacts

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning taxation.

FIG Taxation Office	Tel	(+500) 28470
St Marys Walk	Email	general@taxation.gov.fk
Stanley	Public	Mon-Fri 9am - 12noon
Falkland Islands	opening hrs:	(afternoon appointments by prior arrangement)
FIQQ 1ZZ		

Any questions concerning Retirement Pension Contributions (RPCs) should be sent to:

Pensions Office	Tel	(+500) 28415
FI Treasury		
Thatcher Drive	Email	Pensionsclerk@sec.gov.fk
Stanley		DAldridge@sec.gov.fk
Falkland Islands		
FIQQ 1ZZ		