

E3M: Finance for Social Enterprise Growth Social Investment Tax Relief

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Determining eligibility

A direct investment needs to satisfy eight tests

Investee	

Test	The investee organisation is eligible if it:
Legal Status	Is a registered charity, Community Benefit Society or CIC; AND
Size	Has less than 500 FTE equivalent AND
	Less than £15m assets AND
Activities	Not undertake excluded activities, being: electricity generation, property
	development solely or primarily to make capital gains, personal lending (20%
	threshold for certain activities)

Investment

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Investor

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Test	The investment is eligible if:
Туре	It is either of:
	- Shares OR
	- Debt that is:
	 Not secured by any assets AND
	 Does not repay the principal in first 3 years AND
	 Is not preferred to any other investment instruments on wind-up AND
Size	The tax relieved amount is no more than £290,000 (approximate calculation)
	AND
Other relief	It has not received tax relief already (through EIS or VCT) on the same
Test	The investor is eligible if:
Investor	It is an individual paying tax in the UK AND
Structure	The investor invests either:
	- Directly OR
	- Through a nominee fund



A slow start – but encouraging progress

Early obstacles included

- Limited state aid allowance for investee organisation due to ICRF and other grants
- Interpretation of what constitutes an excluded activity e.g. property development
- Limit on 500 FTEs excludes many 'people businesses' in the social sector e.g. domiciliary care
- Lack of clarity over HMRC interpretation

However, advance assurance processes starting to give greater clarity over eligible transactions

- Advance assurance proposals working through HMRC following Royal Assent
- Standard form of investment documentation emerging
- Use of SIB structures
- Outcome of recent HMT consultation on scheme might help further (broader SIB definition, indirect (VCT) investments, expanding scheme



Case study – Structuring a SITR deal

Background

ClearlySo raised £1.25m debt into a leading social enterprise from leading social impact funds earlier this year to fund expansion via new sites.

Several HNWIs were keen to explore an investment in the investee alongside the impact funds.

Eligibility analysis

The social enterprise and the deal was thought likely to satisfy the criteria.

Illustrative economics

£100k unsecured loan @ 5.00%, 5 year bullet term = £25k total interest

Total return to investor (including 30% SITR) = £55k

Annualised undiscounted returns = 9.16%

Challenges

Pre-dated Royal Assent and advance assurance process

HNWIs investing through trusts already benefit from tax relief

Cannot hold more than 30% of capital / take paid board positions

Counter-intutitive to take a lower return as junior lenders despite tax relief

9	1. Legal status = Charity	*
The Investee	2. 400 employees and circa £4m assets	*
	3. No excluded activities	*
The Investment	4. Unsecured subordinated debt + Principle repaid after 5.25 years and No preference in windup 5. Tax relief < £290,000 Circa £90k State-Aid received (€200k - €115k) / (28% + 30%) = £122k available for relief	•
	6. No relief received on same investment	•
stors	7. Individual paying tax in UK	•
The Investors	8. Investing directly	×