

Barrier

Solution

Explanation

Account Opening - current rules prevent grandparents opening accounts

A 'nominated contact' system could be introduced for legal clarity. Other financial products already allow this flexibility

The child owns all funds in a Junior ISA from day one regardless of contributor, allowing grandparents to open accounts doesn't affect ownership or tax status

Perceived watering down of financial safeguards and increased risk of fraud

The money will continue to remain locked until the child turns 18. Under the current rules withdrawals are not possible except under exceptional circumstances.

There is no increased risk of misuse. However, if needed parental consent or notification can be built in to provide additional protections.

Perceived increases in tax avoidance

The child's tax status remains unchanged; contributions are still subject to the £9,000 Junior ISA limits.

Grandparents already contribute indirectly and encouraging saving/investment in ISAs is existing government policy.

Legislative Time

The government already intends to change Individual Savings Accounts Regulations 1998 to alter limits as announced at Budget 2025. Any changes can therefore be made during the passing of that legislation

This would involve:

- Defining "authorised account opener" to include grandparents.
- Ensuring compliance with child protection and consent requirements.

Identifying 'Non-Parents'

Mirror existing identity and consent checks, such as Power of Attorney Models.

There are existing identity and consent checks for account opening for other situations which can simply be copied and pasted by financial services providers.