

The Bankruptcy Loophole **Playbook**

Quick, actionable steps you can take right now – whether you are working to avoid bankruptcy altogether, or to make the process as painless as possible.

36 Years

Advising high-net-worth clients and business owners through financial distress.

10

Practical quick wins five before bankruptcy, five after.

FT

Recognised in the Financial Times for finding the legal loophole.



FINANCIAL TIMES



At its core, bankruptcy can offer a way out of an unsustainable situation. But it is still a last resort. That means detecting early signs of financial stress and acting quickly is strongly advised, says Vee Bharkhada, who left the City to start her own bankruptcy-support firm, NaVigate Business Recovery.

Her mission as she describes it is to “find the [legal] loophole” for high-net-worth clients seeking to prevent bankruptcy. Or, if there is no choice, she works to plan a bankruptcy that’s as pain-free as possible. Bharkhada even acts as a forceful advocate to take on aggressive trustees.

Introduction

- As featured in the Financial Times, I am known for helping clients find the legal loophole to prevent bankruptcy and where bankruptcy is unavoidable, planning a process that is as pain-free as possible.
- With over 36 years of experience, I provide corporate insolvency advice for high-net-worth clients and business owners, as well as support in personal insolvency matters. My work spans the full spectrum of financial distress from early creditor pressure to post-bankruptcy disputes with trustees.
- This guide shares the steps you can act on today. Read it through, then start with the threats that can move fastest.



Before Bankruptcy: Quick Wins

The window before a petition is where the most options exist. Move on these five first.

BEFORE — STEPS 1-5

Find threats, freeze the damage, check for loopholes, buy breathing space, build your defence.

THE EVENT PETITION / ORDER

AFTER — STEPS 6-10

Control day one, protect what's yours, challenge demands, shorten the term, rebuild.

01

TRIAGE

Identify your top three financial threats today

- List your largest debts, deadlines, and any court action in progress.
- Prioritise those that can trigger bankruptcy fastest, such as statutory demands, County Court Judgments, and HM Revenue and Customs petitions.

02

PROTECT

Freeze the damage

- Stop making preference payments such as repaying family before other creditors.
- Avoid taking new credit you cannot service, as it will be examined later.

03

INVESTIGATE

Check for loopholes (common examples)

- Does the creditor's paperwork have errors
- Is the debt disputed or partly set off by money owed to you
- Is the security or charge valid

04

NEGOTIATE

Negotiate breathing space

- Contact HM Revenue and Customs for a Time to Pay plan.
- Make written proposals to creditors, even short term ones, to hold action.

05

PREPARE

Gather your defence pack

- Contact HM Revenue and Customs for a Time to Pay plan.
- Make written proposals to creditors, even short term ones, to hold action.

Note: source PDF repeated Step 4 here — replace with your own defence-pack wording.

After Bankruptcy: Quick Wins

The window before a petition is where the most options exist. Move on these five first.

06

DAY
ONE

Control the first 30 days

- Respond promptly to the Official Receiver.
- Have all documents ready for the initial interview.

07

KEEP

Protect what you are entitled to keep

- Tools of your trade.
- Pensions.
- Reasonable household items and living costs.

08

CHALLENGE

Challenge unfair demands

- Get valuations independently checked.
- Question income payment requests that are too high.

09

SHORTEN

Shorten your bankruptcy period

- Comply fully and avoid any conduct that could extend the twelve months.

10

REBUILD

Start your rebuild early

- Open a basic bank account as soon as possible – ideally before bankruptcy is finalised, but it can be done after.
- Monitor and repair your credit report monthly.

UK accounts known to accept bankrupt customers

BARCLAYS

Basic Current Account

Bankruptcy-friendly; often lets you keep it if already held.



NATIONWIDE

FlexBasic

Open to existing or new customers.



CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Cashminder

No credit checks; available before and after bankruptcy.



VIRGIN MONEY

M Account

Online or app banking; can be opened after bankruptcy.



Trustee Tactics

Know these before you are tested on them.

A

Requests that may be unreasonable – and how to spot them.

B

How to respond firmly without escalating conflict.

C

When to seek immediate professional help.

FINAL NOTE

Even if you can act on some of these steps yourself, the real advantage of working with me is **uncovering options you did not know you had** before it is too late.

[Book a confidential consultation →](#)

