

General Information Leaflet - Retirement Annuity Contract

The Equitable Retirement Annuity Contract is a UK registered pension scheme. It is not an occupational arrangement.

Guaranteed Annuity Rates

There are no guaranteed annuity rates under this policy.

Commission

We do not pay commission or loyalty bonuses to Independent Financial Advisers or any other third party.

Pension Advice Allowance

We will pay your financial adviser up to £500 from your savings free from tax, providing certain criteria are met.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)

There is no GMP liability under this policy.

Loyalty Bonus

We do not pay a loyalty bonus.

ORIGO Options Pension Transfer

We do not currently support this.

Policyholders Over Age 75

No contributions may be paid after your 75th birthday.

This information is based on our understanding of current legislation and HM Revenue and Customs regulations, as at the date of production.

Retirement

Minimum Retirement Age

This is age 60, unless you had a lower age agreed prior to 6 April 2006 due to a special occupation. There is no upper age limit for taking retirement savings.

Ill Health

You may be able to take your retirement savings before age 60 where you are incapable of carrying out your occupation.

Retirement Options

- Take some or all of your retirement savings as cash. A quarter of each amount taken is tax free and the rest taxed at your marginal rate.
- Transfer your retirement savings to another company. You must do this if you want to use your retirement savings for income drawdown. We send your whole fund to your chosen provider and they pay your tax free cash.
- Use your retirement savings to buy an annuity on the open market. We pay your tax free cash and send the rest to your chosen company to buy an annuity.

Pension Commencement Lump Sum (PCLS)

You can usually take up to 25% of your retirement savings as a tax free cash lump sum, also known as PCLS.

Protected Tax Free Cash

There is no protected cash available under this policy.

Death Benefits

If you die before retirement savings are taken, the fund is payable as either a lump sum or a pension. If you die after your 75th birthday, any death benefits may be taxed.

A small number of our policies do not provide a return on death - more information about this can be found in the policy document and in the Policy Specific Sheet issued under separate cover.

With-profits Information

With-profits Values

With-profits policies have a guaranteed value which is the minimum amount payable on retirement, maturity, death or at a time specified in the policy. Your policy document sets down exactly when the guarantee applies. Most with-profits pension policies taken out before 1 July 1996 provide a guaranteed investment return of 3.5% pa (2.5% pa for some policies taken out before October 1975). This increases the guaranteed benefit over time.

If you take your investments at a time when the guarantee applies, we work out the amount we pay by looking at:

- your policy value, which depends on the type of policy you have, the amount of premiums you have paid and when you paid them, the investment returns on the fund, the costs and charges, and any other profits and losses from the Society's business; plus
- an amount which represents the share of capital that has been allocated to your policy and is payable when your policy is paid out.

We compare the total of these two parts with the guaranteed value and pay the larger figure.

If you take your investments at a time when the guarantee does not apply, a transfer value is payable. This is calculated as the total of the policy value and the share of capital described above. Depending on the Society's financial circumstances at the time of transfer, this value may be reduced by a financial adjustment. Currently, the financial adjustment is nil (0%). Transfer values can go down as well as up.

Further details on the with-profits fund including the asset mix can be found on the website in the Principles and Practices of Financial Management.

Switching Funds

There is no charge for switching funds. We reserve the right to deduct a charge in future without notice.

The with-profits fund available for switching will be the underlying value of the policy plus any capital distribution. This is reduced by the financial adjustment, currently nil, where the switch occurs before age 75.

Any guarantees will no longer apply to any funds switched out of the with-profits fund.

Contributions to With-profits

If with-profits contributions are not made in accordance with the policy terms and conditions, no further contributions to purchase with-profits benefits will be accepted. The main condition is that a contribution must be invested in the with-profits fund at least once in each policy year.

Contribution Charges

This is 4.5%. The charge is deducted before buying retirement savings by applying a 95.5% Allocation Rate.

There are no additional charges or penalties for ceasing, amending or restarting contributions.

Annual Charges

With-profits funds - 1.5%. These annual charge rates are not guaranteed.

Further details can be found on our website in "A guide to how we manage the with-profits fund".

Unit-linked Information

Unit-linked Values

When you take your investments, the amount will be worked out using unit prices applicable at that time and will be based on premiums paid up to that date. Unit prices can go down as well as up.

Unit-linked funds are managed by Aberdeen Asset Management.

Switching Funds

There is no charge for switching funds. We reserve the right to deduct a charge in future without notice.

Unit-linked funds cannot be switched into with-profits if future contributions to with-profits cannot be accepted (see 'Contributions to With-profits').

There is no restriction on the number of funds you can invest in.

Further details are found in "A guide to how we manage our unit-linked funds". This guide is available on our website which also includes unit-linked fund prices, performance and factsheets.

Contributions to Unit-linked

Contributions to purchase unit-linked benefits can be started or stopped at any time.

Contribution Charges

This is 4.5%, applied through the bid/offer spread.

There are no additional charges or penalties for ceasing, amending or restarting contributions.

Allocation Rate

This is 95.5%.

Annual Charges

Unit-linked funds - 0.5%, 0.75% or 1% depending on the fund. These annual charge rates are not guaranteed.

Further details can be found on our website in "A guide to how we manage our unit-linked funds".