

Equitable Life

General Information Leaflet - Retirement Annuity Contract

The Plan	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.
Guaranteed Investment Return (GIR)	Most with-profits pension policies taken out before 1 July 1996 provided a GIR of 3.5% pa (2.5% pa for some policies taken out before October 1975). This increases the guaranteed benefit over time.
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.

With-Profits Values	<p>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. The guaranteed value will increase by up to 3.5% pa.</p> <p>If you take your investments at a time when the guarantee applies, we work out the amount we pay by looking at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>We compare the total of these two parts with the guaranteed value and pay the larger figure.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Unit-Linked Values	<p>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.</p> <p>Unit-linked funds are managed by Aberdeen Asset Management.</p>

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, reduced by the financial adjustment where the switch occurs before age 75.

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

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

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" and "A guide to how we manage the with-profits fund". These guides are available on our website which also includes unit-linked fund prices, performance and factsheets.

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 that will be issued under separate cover.

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.

Contributions to Unit-Linked

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

Clients Over Age 75

No contributions may be paid after your 75th birthday.

Contribution Charges	With-profits-	4.5% (3% for policies issued before October 1975). The charge is deducted before buying retirement savings.
	Unit-linked -	4.12%. The charge is applied through the bid/offer spread.
Allocation Rate	With-profits-	95.5% (97% for policies issued before October 1975).
	Unit-linked -	95.88%
Annual Charges	With-profits funds -	1.5%
	Unit-linked funds -	0.5%, 0.75% or 1% depending on the fund

These annual charge rates are not guaranteed.

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

Further details can be found on our website in “A guide to how we manage our unit-linked funds and “A guide to how we manage the with-profits fund”.

Our Contact Details:

Website	www.equitable.co.uk		
Address	Equitable Life Walton Street Aylesbury Bucks HP21 7QW		
Telephone	0330 159 1530	or	+44 1296 386242 if you live abroad
Fax	0845 835 5765	or	+44 1296 386243 if you live abroad
Email	enquiries@equitable.co.uk		

You should be aware that sending information by email is not always secure.

For security reasons, we may not always be able to respond by email.

We are open from 09:00 until 17:00 Monday to Friday.

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