

General Information Leaflet - Wind Up Policy/Transfer Plan

This is a UK registered pension scheme. It is an occupational arrangement.

Guaranteed Annuity Rates

There are no guaranteed annuity rates under this policy.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)

There is a GMP liability under this policy which is detailed in the separate Policy Specific Sheet.

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.

Loyalty Bonus

We do not pay a loyalty bonus.

Terminal Bonus

We do not pay terminal bonus. However, we do allocate an amount of final bonus which is only known at the point of termination.

ORIGO Options Pension Transfer

We do not currently support this.

Online Facility

We do not offer a facility for you to manage your savings online.

Contributions

No further contributions will be accepted into this policy.

Investment options

All savings are invested in the with-profits fund. There are no unit-linked investment options available under this policy.

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 55, unless you have a protected minimum age. There is no upper age limit for taking retirement savings.

Ill Health

You may be able to take your retirement savings before age 55 where you are incapable of carrying out your occupation.

Taking retirement savings as Guaranteed Minimum Pension

Retirement savings may only be taken before the retirement date stated in the policy if their value is sufficient to cover any GMP liability.

Pension Commencement Lump Sum (PCLS)

You may be able to take up to 25% of your retirement savings as a tax free cash lump sum, also known as PCLS. If you are entitled to more than 25%, this will be shown on the separate Policy Specific Sheet. A PCLS can only be paid if your retirement savings are more than sufficient to cover the GMP liability.

Taking retirement savings as a lump sum

If you wish to take your retirement savings as a lump sum and the value of your GMP is more than £30,000 you must first seek advice from a suitably qualified financial adviser. The financial adviser must be independent from the pension scheme or employer to which your retirement savings relate.

Small funds lump sum

If you are aged 55 or over and the total value of your retirement savings is £10,000 or less, you can take them all as a small funds lump sum. One quarter of the payment will be tax free and the balance taxable at your marginal rate. We will deduct tax at basic rate. You can only take three small cash lump sums, either from us or other pension providers, in your lifetime.

Flexible lump sum

If you are unable to take a small fund, you can take the whole of your retirement savings as a flexible lump sum.

One quarter of any payment will normally be tax free and the balance is taxable at your marginal rate. We deduct tax on the first payment at the emergency rate. On any further instalment paid in the same tax year, we normally apply a tax code supplied by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). You can contact HM Revenue and Customs if you have paid the wrong amount of tax.

Death Benefits

If you die before retirement savings are taken, the fund is payable as either a lump sum or a pension. After age 75, death benefits become subject to tax. If benefits are paid direct to a beneficiary they will be taxed using their tax code. If paid to your estate or trustees, they will be taxed at 45%.

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 separate Policy Specific Sheet.

Cash Equivalent Transfer Value

Where retirement savings are being taken in lump sum form, the minimum amount payable will be the Cash Equivalent Transfer Value. This reflects the value of the GMP the policy provides. If the with-profits policy value is higher than the Cash Equivalent Transfer Value, the higher amount will be paid.

With-profits Information

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

We have announced plans regarding the future of the Equitable.
If approved, the Proposal will increase the value of your with-profits policy,
convert it from with-profits to unit-linked,
remove the investment guarantee and transfer it to Utmost Life and Pensions.
Information about the Proposal can be found at www.equitable.co.uk

You should think carefully before taking your savings. If the Proposal is approved, and you take your with-profits savings before implementation, you would miss out on the proposed increase to your policy value.

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. Your statement of value will confirm if this applies. 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 can be found on the website in the Principles and Practices of Financial Management, and the website shows details of the asset mix. Our with-profits funds are managed by Black Rock Investment Management (UK) Ltd.

Annual Charges

Annual charges are currently 1% for expenses and 0.5% for costs of guarantees. These are taken into account when calculating the return allocated to policies each year.

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