



Please read this document carefully so you fully understand the implications of any financial decisions and keep it safe for future reference. It may also help to refer to our online **glossary** for explanations of technical or unfamiliar terms.

EMBARK PENSIONS PRIVATE PENSION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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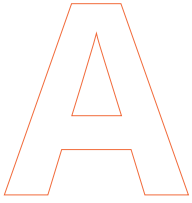
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TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Introduction

These **Terms and Conditions** set out how we operate the **Plan** and explain your rights and benefits under it. We have a legally binding agreement with you, which is formed by:

- your signed application form(s);
- these **Terms and Conditions**, which include the **Fee Schedule** and the **Scheme Member Schedule**; and
- any subsequent documents we send to you confirming changes to the above documents.

In addition to the documents that form the legally binding agreement, the following documents provide important information: the Key Features Document; your personalised illustrations; and the annual renewal packs that we send to you.

Please read these documents carefully and keep them together in a safe place for future reference.

We can change the **Terms and Conditions**, the **Fee Schedule** and the **Permitted Investments Schedule** in the circumstances described in section 28.

IMPORTANT

We and the **Independent Trustee** limit our liability for specific aspects of the **Plan**. You are responsible for paying specific fees, costs and losses. Details are set out in sections 19 and 31.

We do not provide any investment management or advisory services under these **Terms and Conditions**. You are responsible for selecting investments for your **Plan**. We and the **Independent Trustee** are not responsible for selecting investments, monitoring investments or investment performance.

Your **Plan** is based on the declarations you made to us and the information you disclosed to us on the application form. If you have any questions, please contact us on 01204 803500 or contact your **Financial Adviser**.

2. Understanding this document

Expressions shown in **Bold** are explained in section the Glossary on pages 20 and 21 “We”/“us”/“our” refers to Embark Services Limited, acting as administrator and operator of the **Scheme**. “You”/ “your” refers to:

- the individual named as **Member** in the **Scheme Member Schedule** or
- (for a **Beneficiary** who is taking **Drawdown Pension**) the applicant named in the **Beneficiary's** benefit payment request form.

Reference to any enactment includes reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment or any regulation made under it.

3. Private Pension

The **Scheme** is established under trust and is governed by the **Rules**. We are responsible for operating and administering the **Scheme**. We impose conditions and restrictions on how the **Plan** operates under the **Scheme**, which are set out in these **Terms and Conditions**. If there is any inconsistency between the **Terms and Conditions** and the **Rules**, the **Rules** prevail. If there is any inconsistency between (i) the **Terms and Conditions** and (ii) the **Fee Schedule**, the **Permitted Investments Schedule** and the **Scheme Member Schedule**, then the **Terms and Conditions** prevail.

These **Terms and Conditions** apply to each **Arrangement** under the **Scheme** and, for the purposes of the **Rules**, to each “**Individual Fund**”.

You can access a copy of the **Rules** on our website or ask us for a copy. It might be necessary to change the provisions of the **Rules** to meet with any changes to law or regulation affecting the **Scheme**. We will provide notice to you of any significant changes. Unless we decide otherwise, notice of changes under this section 3 will be published on our website only.

4. Independent Trustee

The assets in your **Plan** are held by the **Independent Trustee**. You can ask us to appoint an **Individual Trustee** to act with the **Independent Trustee**, in which case the assets in your **Individual Fund** will be held jointly by the **Independent Trustee** and the **Individual Trustee** and decisions of the **Trustees** must be in accordance with the **Rules**. For investment matters, we direct the **Independent Trustee** to act only according to your investment instructions (or investment instructions from persons we have agreed can provide instructions on your behalf). Sections 12 and 13 set out limits on investment choice. For

all other matters, the **Independent Trustee** acts according to our direction only.

5. Membership

Anyone can apply to become a **Member**. However, all applications must be submitted through a **Financial Adviser** and we reserve the right to decline any application at our discretion. If we accept an application, the individual becomes a **Member**.

A parent or legal guardian can apply for membership on behalf of his/her child under the age of 18. Until the child reaches age 18, we will act on the instructions of the parent or legal guardian in relation to the child's **Plan**. Once the child reaches age 18, he or she will have full authority to give instructions in relation to his/ her **Plan**, provided that he/she accepts these **Terms and Conditions**.

We will treat you as a "retail client" for the purposes of the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority. This gives you the highest standard of regulatory protection.

6. Financial Adviser

You must appoint a **Financial Adviser** when you apply for the **Plan**. At our discretion, we can require that you appoint a **Financial Adviser** at the point you start taking **Drawdown Pension**. The **Financial Adviser** must be an individual or firm that is (i) appropriately authorised to transact investment business within the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority and (ii) permitted by us to operate pension accounts by virtue of having agreed to our terms of business and that permission has not been subsequently revoked by us.

The **Financial Adviser** can provide you with financial advice about the suitability of using the **Plan** and with administration and implementation services related to the investment of and decisions about your **Plan**. We will treat your **Financial Adviser** as continuing to be appointed unless and until we receive written notice from you or the **Financial Adviser** that the appointment is to end. At this point, you should appoint a replacement **Financial Adviser**.

7. Communication and instructions

7.1 Our communications to you

Our formal communications to you will be provided in writing, either via your **Financial Adviser** (normally) or direct to you. If we send a communication via your **Financial Adviser**, you are treated as having received it when the **Financial Adviser** receives it (or is deemed to have received it).

If we send a communication direct to you, we will select a method of communication that complies with the requirements of any applicable law.

Where practicable, we will communicate with you using electronic mail ("email"), using your last known email address according to our records. Any communication sent by email will be deemed to have been received once your email provider has accepted delivery.

If communicating with you by post, we will write to you at your last known address for correspondence according to our records. Any communication sent by post will be deemed to have been received within three working days.

Oral statements by us or the **Independent Trustee** cannot be relied upon unless confirmed by us in writing.

7.2 Your instructions

Instructions about your **Plan**, whether they relate to contributions, transfer payments, benefits, payment of **Adviser Charges** or your investment instructions, must be:

- given in writing and signed by you or (if we agree) your **Financial Adviser**;
- submitted to us via your **Financial Adviser** or (if we have received written notice direct from you or the **Financial Adviser** that the **Financial Adviser's** appointment is to end and you have not yet appointed a replacement **Financial Adviser**) direct to us;
- identifiable by including your **Plan's** full name and reference number; and
- actually received before they are effective, at the following address: Embark Pensions, Provincial House, 37 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TU

We can agree with you or give you notice that instructions:

- should be submitted to a relevant third party instead of to us. For example we can agree with you that your investment instructions should be submitted direct to a **Discretionary Fund Manager (DFM)** or to the provider of a share dealing facility or investment product, in accordance with the separate terms and conditions governing those services or investment products;
- about urgent buying or selling of investments can be given by facsimile or email, in which event you must submit the original to us as soon as possible; and
- about ongoing decisions relating to direct investment in **Commercial Property**, other than the decision to buy or sell it, be given in the manner set out in the relevant application form.

"Instructions" include notices, decisions, application forms, benefit options and nominations and investment decisions or directions. You authorise us and the **Independent Trustee**:

- to rely on, and treat as fully authorised and binding on you, any decision or instruction which purports to have been given by you without further enquiry by us; and
- to accept such a decision or instruction as genuine, without the need for further investigation as to the authority or identity of the person giving it, or purporting to give it, provided the instructions have been received in good faith and without negligence.

7.3 Individual Trustee

You must ensure that the **Individual Trustee** (if any) gives instructions in accordance with section 7.2 (but read with references to “you” being replaced with references to the “**Individual Trustee**”, as appropriate). We may arrange with you that instructions we submit on your behalf to third parties, including to the provider of the **Designated Account**, do not require the signature of the **Individual Trustee**.

8. Contributions

8.1 Who can pay contributions

As a **Member** you can contribute to your **Plan**. Contributions can be regular or one-off. We will receive contributions from you, or from someone else on your behalf (e.g. from a spouse, partner, parent, grandparent etc.) or from your employer. Contributions can continue after you take retirement benefits in the form of a **Lifetime Annuity** or **Drawdown Pension**. Contributions can continue after you reach age 75 (but any contributions made after you reach age 75 will not qualify for tax relief).

Currently we do not impose any minimum or maximum limits on the amount you can contribute or transfer in (see section 9) to the **Plan** (but there is a limit on contributions for which you can get tax relief each year – see the section below headed “tax relief”). We can introduce minimum or maximum limits or both by changing these **Terms and Conditions** under section 28.

The **Scheme** is unable to accept ongoing payments relating to **Contracted-Out Benefits** direct from **HMRC** (although it can accept transfer values that include the value of **Contracted-Out Benefits** - see section 9).

8.2 How to pay

Regular contributions must be paid by direct debit or, with our consent, by standing order.

Single contributions can be paid:

- by direct credit (i.e. using an electronic payment system such as BACS or CHAPS);
- with our consent, by cheque, payable to ‘The HM SIPP’ - [your initials], [your surname]’; or
- with our consent, by standing order.

We will act as the collecting agent for all contributions and will pass money, including basic rate tax relief on member contributions, where applicable to the **Designated Account**.

You can stop and start your contributions at any time without penalty, although charges continue to apply whether or not you are contributing.

8.3 Tax relief

Legislation limits the amount of tax relief on your contributions or contributions paid by others for you. You can claim tax relief on personal contributions up to the higher of:

- £3,600 p.a. (including the allowance for basic rate tax relief); and
- 100% of your relevant UK earnings in the same period. (“Relevant UK earnings” means earnings or income subject to UK income tax, as defined in the **Finance Act**).

We will claim the basic rate tax relief from **HMRC** on the contributions made by you or on your behalf. You must normally be a UK resident for tax purposes in order for the tax relief to be claimed. The basic rate tax relief will only be applied to your **Plan** once **HMRC** pays the tax relief to us.

You can claim higher rate tax relief through your Self Assessment tax return. Tax relief on personal contributions paid on behalf of an individual is attributable to that individual as opposed to the person who actually pays the contribution. An employer should claim tax relief as a business expense on any employer contributions.

Any contributions over the tax relief limit can, with our agreement, still be paid into your **Plan**, but you will not receive any tax relief on them.

8.4 Annual allowance

If your total contributions exceed the annual allowance there might be a tax charge on you. The annual allowance is the maximum amount of pension saving you can have each year that benefits from tax relief. It will be lower once you have triggered the money purchase annual allowance (see section 8.5), and in any year for which your earnings plus employer contributions exceed the adjusted income and a tapered annual allowance is triggered. This applies to all pension savings that you make plus any pension savings made for you by someone else – for example, your employer – in any pension scheme. The tax charge is called the annual allowance charge, which **HMRC** would levy against you directly via your tax code or, in certain circumstances, against us and which we would recover from your **Individual Fund**. You are responsible for notifying the local Inspector of Taxes if the annual allowance is exceeded.

It is possible to carry forward “unused annual allowance” from the previous three tax years to achieve tax relief on contributions over the annual allowance, provided that you were a member of a **Registered Pension Scheme** during those years, and you are not subject to the money purchase rules (see section 8.5). You should discuss this with your **Financial Adviser** if you are planning to make contributions over the annual allowance.

There will be no test against the annual allowance in the year that you die, or if your pension entitlement is paid as a serious ill health lump sum.

The law governing tax relief for pensions might change.

8.5 Money purchase annual allowance

Once you have accessed any of your pension savings using flexi-access drawdown pension (see section 23.2) or by taking an **Uncrystallised Funds Pension Lump Sum** you are subject to the money purchase annual allowance from that tax year onwards.

If you are subject to the Money Purchase Annual Allowance, you will be liable to a tax charge on the amount that exceeds the MPAA. This includes contributions made across all your pension schemes.

8.6 Refund of excess contributions

If you have paid pension contributions over the tax relief limit, you can ask us to refund the excess. Provided the refund would not be an **Unauthorised Payment**, we will refund the excess contribution. If the value of that excess contribution has subsequently fallen, we will only refund its current value. In addition, **HMRC** will require us to repay the full amount of the basic rate tax relief that we had claimed on the excess contribution.

If contributions are paid which result in the annual allowance or money purchase annual allowance being exceeded, you cannot avoid the annual allowance charge simply by obtaining a refund of contributions from us.

9. Transfer payments into the scheme

9.1 Right to transfer in

A **Member** can transfer benefits from another **Registered Pension Scheme** to the **Plan**. This includes benefits already in **Drawdown Pension**. It also includes **Contracted-Out Benefits**, in which case the value of **Contracted-Out Benefits** becomes part of your **Individual Fund** when transferred to the **Plan**. The contracted out benefits will lose their status as **Contracted-Out Benefits** and will be treated in the same way as the rest of your **Individual Fund**.

You cannot transfer funds to the **Plan** that are already being used to provide a scheme pension.

9.2 Right to cancel the transfer

Each time you apply to transfer an existing pension into the **Scheme** you have a right to cancel the transfer.

You have a 14 day pre-contractual withdrawal right and a 16 day post contract cancellation right. This commences from when we receive the completed Transfer Form. You may instruct us to waive the 16 day cancellation rights but we cannot waive the 14 day withdrawal right, as such we will request your monies 14 days after receiving the completed Transfer Form. Otherwise we will request the monies 30 days after receiving the completed Transfer Form.

If you have invested any funds within the 30 day cancellation period you may get back less than you originally invested. We cannot be held responsible for any loss.

9.3 Beneficiaries in drawdown

Any individual who has become entitled to **Drawdown Pension** on the death of a member under another **Registered Pension Scheme** can apply to transfer the entitlement into the **Scheme** for the purpose of

continuation of **Drawdown Pension**. The application must be in writing on our prescribed form, which includes the individual's agreement to these **Terms and Conditions**. We reserve the right to decline such an application at our discretion. If we accept the application, the individual is treated as a **Beneficiary**.

9.4 Making the transfer

Transfers in can be made by cash payment (by cheque or direct credit) or transferring assets or a combination of both. A transfer of assets is subject to the following conditions:

- our right to refuse specific investments as set out in section 13.2;
- our having been able to obtain a current open market valuation of the assets (the cost of which, if any, will be met from your **Individual Fund** in accordance with section 19, irrespective of whether or not the transfer is actually completed) and
- full legal ownership of the assets being transferred to the **Trustees**.

Other fees and costs might be incurred during the process of reregistering the relevant assets.

9.5 Common transfer declaration

When making a transfer in you agree to the following declarations, made to the administrator or provider of the transferring scheme (the "current provider"), and to us and the **Independent Trustee** (together referred to in the declarations as "Embark Pensions"), as the context requires:

I authorise and instruct you to transfer funds from the plan(s) as listed in the appropriate section of my application directly to Embark Pensions. Where you have asked me to give you any original policy document(s) in return for the transfer of funds and I am unable to do so, I promise that I will be responsible for any losses and/or expenses which are the result, and which a reasonable person would consider to be the probable result, of any untrue, misleading or inaccurate information deliberately or carelessly given by me, or on my behalf, either in this form or with respect to benefits from the plan.

I authorise you to release all necessary information to Embark Pensions to enable the transfer of funds to Embark Pensions.

I authorise you to obtain from and release to the **Financial Adviser** named in this application any additional information that may be required to enable the transfer of funds.

If an employer is paying contributions to any of the plans as listed in the appropriate section of my application, I authorise you release to that employer any relevant information in connection with the transfer of funds from the relevant plan(s).

Until this application is accepted and complete, Embark Pensions' responsibility is limited to the return of the total payment(s) to the current provider(s).

Where the payment(s) made to Embark Pensions represents all of the funds under the plan(s) listed in the appropriate section of my application, then payment made as requested will mean that I shall no longer be entitled to receive pension or other benefits from the plan(s) listed.

Where the payment(s) made to Embark Pensions represent(s) part of the funds under the plan(s) listed in the appropriate section of my application, then payment made as requested will mean that I shall no longer be entitled to receive pension or other benefits from that part of the plan(s) represented by the payment(s).

I promise to accept responsibility in respect of any claims, losses and expenses that Embark Pensions and the current provider(s) may incur as a result of any incorrect information provided by me in this application or of any failure on my part to comply with any aspect of this application.

If I have taken benefits from any pension arrangement, with the current or any other pension provider, in a way which means I am subject to the Money Purchase Annual Allowance (MPAA), I have supplied the date the MPAA first applied to me in the appropriate section of my application.

When making a transfer in of benefits that have already been designated for the payment of a **Drawdown Pension**, you agree to the following declarations, made to the administrator or provider of the transferring scheme (the "current provider"), and to us and the **Independent Trustee** (together referred to in the declarations as "Embark Pensions"), as the context requires:

I authorise and instruct you to transfer funds from the plan(s) as listed in the appropriate section of my application directly to Embark Pensions. Where you have asked me to give you any original policy document(s) in return for the transfer of funds and I am unable to do so, I promise that I will be responsible for any losses and/or expenses which are the result, and which a reasonable person would consider to be the probable result, of any untrue, misleading or inaccurate information deliberately or carelessly given by me, or on my behalf, either in this form or with respect to benefits from the plan.

I authorise you to release all necessary information to Embark Pensions to enable the transfer of funds to Embark Pensions.

I authorise you to obtain from and release to the **Financial Adviser** named in this application any additional information that may be required to enable the transfer of funds.

If an employer is paying contributions to any of the plans as listed in the appropriate section of my application, I authorise you release to that employer any relevant information in connection with the transfer of funds from the relevant plan(s).

Until this application is accepted and complete, Embark Pensions' responsibility is limited to the return of the total payment(s) to the current provider(s).

Where the payment(s) made to Embark Pensions represent(s) all of the funds under the plan(s) listed in the appropriate section of my application, then payment made as requested will mean that I shall no longer be entitled to receive pension or other benefits from the plan(s) listed.

Where the payment(s) made to Embark Pensions represent(s) part of the funds under the plan(s) listed in the appropriate section of my application, then payment made as requested will mean that I shall no longer be entitled to receive pension or other benefits from that part of the plan(s) represented by the payment(s).

I promise to accept responsibility in respect of any claims, losses and expenses that Embark Pensions and the current provider(s) may incur as a result of any incorrect information provided by me in this application or any failure on my part to comply with any aspect of this application.

If I am transferring a capped drawdown arrangements to a flexi-access drawdown arrangement(s), I will be subject to the Money Purchase Annual Allowance (MPAA) from the date of my first flexi-access payment, or

If I am already subject to the MPAA, I have supplied the date the MPAA first applied to me in the appropriate section of my application.

10. Transfer payments out of the scheme

You can transfer all or part of your **Individual Fund** to another **Registered Pension Scheme** or overseas pension scheme allowed by **HMRC** rules. You need to check that the proposed scheme is willing to accept the transfer. If you are transferring part only of your **Individual Fund**, you must tell us which assets are to be sold or cashed in before we can arrange the transfer.

10.1 Costs of transfer

Costs might be incurred for selling assets and making the transfer out (for example, by the **DFM** or product provider). It might be possible to make a transfer payment to another pension scheme "in specie" (i.e. the assets are not sold but, instead, are re-registered in the name of the trustee of the new pension scheme). With an in-specie transfer, costs might be incurred during the re-registration process.

With both cash and in-specie transfers, costs might also be incurred if we require a current open market valuation of the assets.

The costs (irrespective of whether or not the transfer out proceeds) will be met in accordance with section 19, prior to any transfer taking place. Payment of a transfer value might be delayed if there is a delay in receiving the relevant invoice.

11. Banking arrangements, cash deposits and interest

11.1 Banking arrangements and fixed term deposits

All money in your **Plan** that is not invested must be held in bank accounts of our choosing. The bank accounts that we choose:

- (a) will be interest bearing;
- (b) will be opened as trust accounts (but shall not be required to be opened in the name of any **Individual Trustees**); and
- (c) may pool money from **Plans** of other **Members**, beneficiaries and **Registered Pension Schemes**.

At our discretion, we may open and close such bank accounts, and the bank accounts may include:

- (a) instant access accounts,
- (b) accounts which require us to give the bank advance notice of any withdrawals; and
- (c) fixed term deposits.

Money in your **Plan** may not be immediately available in the event of a default by the banks concerned. As the bank accounts may be pooled accounts, in the event that a default by any bank concerned causes any unreconciled shortfall in the money held in the pooled accounts, your **Plan** will share proportionately in that shortfall. Compensation may be available in the event of default as described in section 27.2. We will publish details of the banks with which the money of our **Members** is held on our website.

Any bank account may be operated exclusively by the **Independent Trustee**, acting on our instructions and without the requirement to obtain the signature of the **Individual Trustee** (irrespective of the type of account and whether the account has been opened in the name of the **Trustees**).

Where an **Individual Trustee** is, or has been, an authorised signatory of a bank account, we can require that before undertaking certain transactions you make such arrangements as are necessary to provide the **Independent Trustee** with authority to act as the sole authorised signatory.

Currently, Bank of Scotland levies an annual charge of £30 per scheme bank account, which will be collected from your account annually on the anniversary date. We shall notify you if this changes.

Non-standard transactions can attract charges (for example, receipt of money in foreign currencies or electronic transfer). Any bank charges attributable to your **Plan** will be met in accordance with section 19.

We will maintain a record of the money attributable to contributions and transfer in payments made to all of your **Arrangements** under the **Plan** known as the **Designated Account**.

11.2 Interest

If your **Designated Account** has a credit balance it will earn interest, paid free of tax based on the amount of money in your **Designated Account** and the rate of interest determined by us.

The rates of interest we pay to **Members** will be published on our website and may be different to the rate of interest the bank pays to the **Independent Trustee** (which will usually be based on the aggregate of all cash held from plans of other **Members**, **Beneficiaries** and **Registered Pension Schemes**). We are entitled to receive and retain any such difference between the rate the bank pays the **Independent Trustee** and the rate earned in accordance with this section 11.2.

For full details of the current interest rates received by each bank; the interest paid to your bank account; and the interest retained by us, please visit www.embarkpensions.co.uk/banking-information.

We are not regulated to hold client money. Money held in the bank account will fall outside the scope of protection provided by the client money rules as set out in the Financial Conduct Authority's client asset sourcebook.

11.3 Minimum balance in Designated Account

Unless we inform you otherwise in writing, you must maintain a cleared balance of at least £1,250 in the **Designated Account**. This is to cover payments due from your **Plan**, for example:

- (a) benefit payments;
- (b) ongoing capital and interest repayments in connection with any borrowing;
- (c) our fees and charges; and
- (d) **Adviser Charges**.

If the cleared balance falls below this minimum amount, we can cover the shortfall by arranging for the sale of investments held within your **Plan** under the procedure described in section 21.

You are responsible for any liability (including any tax charge) incurred due to insufficient cleared funds being available in the **Designated Account**.

11.4 Deposit accounts and DFMs

You can ask us to open other bank deposit accounts, set up in the name of the **Trustees**, to invest money in your **Individual Fund**. These must be operated as deposit accounts rather than current accounts and no payments into or out of your **Individual Fund**, other than interest received, can be made without our consent. Any deposits into or transfers out from an alternative deposit account must be made via the **Designated Account**.

If a **DFM** is appointed, cash might be held by the **DFM** or its nominees, subject to section 12. Cash held in this way might attract interest. Details of the appropriate prevailing interest rates can be obtained on request from the **DFM**.

11.5 No overdrafts

Overdrafts are not permitted on any bank account used for the **Plan**.

12. Permitted investments

The range of investments that we permit in your **Plan** is set out in the **Permitted Investments Schedule**. Any investments selected for your **Plan** must be an investment listed in the **Permitted Investments Schedule**. We can change the **Permitted Investments Schedule** in accordance with section 28, but we will not notify you every time we change the **Permitted Investments Schedule** and therefore it is your responsibility, along with your **Financial Adviser**, to check that any proposed investment is listed within the **Permitted Investments Schedule** when making decisions about investments.

If any investment held within your **Plan** ceases to be an investment listed within the **Permitted Investments Schedule** we can require the **Trustees** to sell that investment without giving you any notice. You acknowledge we shall not be liable for any cost or loss incurred by you in the event of such a sale.

In addition, we only permit investment transactions (whether directly or indirectly) with:

- you or a person connected with you (e.g. a family member or a business partner); or
- a company or firm in which you or a member of your family has an interest

If the transactions are made on an arm's length basis i.e. on commercial, open market terms.

Before 1 April 2024 we allowed you to invest in certain Non-Standard Investments provided they met our due diligence requirements. Holdings in these investments continue to be permitted provided we received your investment instruction before 1 April 2024. Additionally if an existing standard investment becomes non-standard (for example if it is delisted or becomes suspended) then this can continue to be held in your plan. Otherwise no further investments into Non-Standard Investments (other than certain cash deposits with fixed terms longer than 30 days) are permitted after 1 April 2024, including top ups and roll overs for existing holdings.

13. Investment management

13.1 Making investments

You (and any **Individual Trustee**) are responsible for selecting and giving us instructions about investments for your **Plan**. You can do this yourself, using your own judgment or using advice from one or more **Financial Advisers**, or you can arrange (subject to section 13.4)

for one or more **DFMs** to select and give instructions about investments for you. Any investment instruction must be communicated in accordance with section 7.2, using the form that we make available on our website for this purpose.

We and the **Independent Trustee** are not responsible for selecting investments, monitoring investments or investment performance.

13.2 Our right to refuse

We can refuse a proposed investment instruction. The decision to refuse an investment proposal will not be exercised unreasonably and will normally be taken in order to:

- ensure all investments are and remain investments listed in the **Permitted Investments Schedule**;
- protect the **Scheme** from **Unauthorised Payment** tax charges;
- ensure no investment is held in the **Scheme** that might, in our opinion, limit or restrict in any way our ability to administer the **Scheme**.

Subject to the decision being reasonable, our decision to refuse an investment proposal is exercisable in our absolute discretion as we think fit. Such decision shall be final and no appeal will be allowed.

Any investment instruction will only be carried out if there is enough cleared money available to complete the transaction in addition to the minimum balance requirement for the **Designated Account** described in section 11.3.

13.3 Execution Only

You can select an execution only dealing facility, for trading in stocks and share/ securities, which will be governed by separate terms and conditions. It will be necessary for you to complete the relevant documentation provided by the facility provider and to agree to those terms and conditions.

13.4 Discretionary fund management

Instead of directing investments yourself, you can appoint, with our agreement, one or more **DFMs** to manage all or part of your **Individual Fund**, on a discretionary basis. Such appointments must be notified to us. If you wish for a **DFM** to be appointed, it will be necessary for you to complete the relevant documentation provided by the appointed **DFM**. The investment strategy will be set out in the documentation which will also detail the terms and conditions under which the **DFM** will execute transactions in relation to the assets of your **Individual Fund** managed by that **DFM**. These terms will be formally entered into by the **Trustees** and us with the **DFM**. Please note that the **DFM** might have rights to compensation from or to take security over some or all of the assets of your **Individual Fund** held by them in certain circumstances.

We will release cleared money to the appointed **DFM** only once the **DFM** has opened an account for the **Scheme** relating to your **Plan**.

The costs arising from the **DFM's** commissions, fees and disbursements relating to your **Individual Fund** will be borne by the investments under the control of the **DFM** relating to your **Individual Fund**.

Any **DFM** appointed will be able to provide full details of their charges.

14. Stock custody

Permitted investments can be registered in the name of nominee companies used by any **DFM** appointed in accordance with section 13 or, subject to our agreement, such other third party provider appointed by you.

The costs arising from fees and charges of any nominee or custodian relating to stock registration or custody and settlement shall be charged to your **Individual Fund** in accordance with section 19.

The **Independent Trustee** will not exercise voting rights. You can ask any appointed **DFM** or nominee or third party provider about the approach they will take to voting rights.

Without prejudice to the rights to sell assets granted to us in accordance with section 12 and section 15, you acknowledge that the **Independent Trustee** shall be entitled to sell any assets held within your **Plan** without consultation or prior notice to you if in our reasonable opinion the continued retention of any such assets would not be consistent with both ours and the **Independent Trustees** fiduciary obligations to the **Scheme** to ensure the ongoing effective administration of the assets in our custody. You acknowledge we shall not be liable for any cost or loss incurred by you in the event of such a sale.

15. Commercial property

Neither we nor the **Independent Trustee** give advice in respect of property investment in relation to your **Plan**. You (and any **Individual Trustees**) are responsible for any choice of property investment in your **Plan** and for any loss or liability arising from that investment.

All **Commercial Property** in your **Plan** will be held and any associated borrowing will be made in the name of the **Trustees**.

When purchasing or selling any **Commercial Property**, we will instruct or appoint only approved third parties. This will include surveyors, environmental specialists, solicitors, insurance consultants, property administrators and property managers. The fees arising from the appointed third parties, together with all associated costs and expenses arising from the on-going administration and compliance with relevant legislation in respect of **Commercial Property** including litigation, will be charged to your **Individual Fund** and met in accordance with section 19.

We can instruct the **Trustees** to sell a **Commercial Property** or the land surrounding it at any time without prior notice to you if a particular risk or liability (statutory, regulatory or otherwise) arises to the **Scheme**. For example, if legislation changes so that the property is no longer treated by **HMRC** rules as **Commercial Property**

or the property is subject to revised environmental requirements. You acknowledge that we shall not be liable for any loss or costs to you in the event we instruct on such a sale in accordance with this paragraph of section 14.

Subject to section 21, the acquisition and disposal of **Commercial Property** will require your instructions (and those of any **Individual Trustee**) as set out in section 7.

15.1 Insurance

You are responsible for arranging suitable **Insurance** for any property investment in your **Plan**. We provide a block **Insurance** policy which, provided you meet the insurer's requirements, is available for you to insure a **Commercial Property** investment. In the event that you do not arrange suitable **Insurance** for any property investment, or for any period during which the property investment is held in your **Plan** it ceases to be suitably insured, any cost of insuring the property under our block insurance policy will be charged to your **Individual Fund** and met in accordance with section 19.

Without prejudice to the above, in the event we arrange **Insurance** under our block **Insurance** policy or otherwise, we will charge an administration fee, which will be charged to your **Individual Fund** and met in accordance with section 18.

15.2 Property valuations

You are responsible for arranging a valuation acceptable to us of any property investment in your **Plan** on the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) when we test your benefits against the lifetime allowance under section 22.4;
- (b) when we review the maximum pension income payable to you under capped drawdown (see section 23.3);
- (c) when we calculate the value of your **Individual Fund** in relation to any "Group Fund", as defined in the **Rules**; or
- (d) the later of (i) every fifth anniversary of the date the property investment becomes held in your **Plan** and (ii) the fifth anniversary of the last occurrence of one of the events described in (a), (b) or (c).

If you do not arrange for a valuation in accordance with this section 15.2 we may arrange a valuation on your behalf, and the cost of providing the valuation will be charged to your **Individual Fund** and met in accordance with section 19.

We charge an administration fee for arranging a valuation of the property investment in an event of your default on the obligation in this section 15.2, which will be charged to your **Individual Fund** and met in accordance with section 18.

16. Borrowing

You can arrange for your **Individual Fund** to borrow money for investment purposes, if the requirements described below are met.

16.1 Borrowing limits

Legislation limits the amount your **Arrangement** can borrow. Currently the limit is 50% of the “net market value” of your **Arrangement** (immediately before the borrowing takes place). “Net market value” has the meaning given by Section 278 of the **Finance Act**. The value of any asset being purchased using the borrowing must therefore not be taken into account in calculating the borrowing limit unless, exceptionally, the asset was already held in your **Individual Fund** before the borrowing takes place (e.g. a re-mortgage). We will take into account any existing borrowing when calculating the limits.

In addition to the maximum amount described above, any borrowing might be further restricted in accordance with the terms and conditions offered by the lender. For example, a lender might not be willing to lend the maximum otherwise permitted in respect of individuals under the age of 18 years or if there are benefits in payment.

16.2 Arrangements for borrowing

All borrowing must be arranged in the name of the **Trustees**.

Neither we nor the **Independent Trustee** take responsibility for finding a willing third party lender, but we might be able to facilitate a third party lender that could be used.

When we confirm that the borrowing is acceptable, we will instruct the **Independent Trustee** to sign the lender’s loan documentation on behalf of your **Individual Fund**. Any **Individual Trustee** will also need to sign the loan documentation.

We will comply with the terms and conditions offered by the lender.

16.3 Repayments

All borrowing must be repaid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the lender’s loan documentation (for example on completion of the sale of a **Commercial Property**).

Certain lenders might require your **Individual Fund** to maintain a suitable cleared balance in the **Designated Account** to cover ongoing capital and interest repayments. This will vary from lender to lender.

You are responsible for ensuring that there is enough cleared money available in good time to make the ongoing capital and interest repayments. If there is not enough cleared money in the **Designated Account** to meet the repayments, we can cover the shortfall by arranging for the sale of investments held within your **Individual Fund** under the procedure described in section 21.

17. Statements

You will get regular statements in respect of the **Designated Account** on the basis of the instruction you gave in your application form. We will also include a transaction statement in respect of the **Designated Account** as part of the annual renewal pack that we send to you.

You must agree with the **DFM** (if one is appointed) how often investment updates are issued, including transaction details and a portfolio valuation during the period.

We will arrange to send you a yearly statement covering investments relating to your **Plan**. This will give details of all investments relating to your **Plan** although (due to issues of timing and costs in obtaining valuations) this might not be a current valuation. If you ask us for a current valuation, the cost (if any) of obtaining this will be charged in accordance with section 19. If you require an additional summary of investments at any time, we can apply an additional charge for each and every statement (although currently we do not apply additional charges for this). Any additional charge will be met in accordance with section 19. Please refer to the **Fee Schedule** for more details.

18. Our charges

We charge fees and expenses for administering your **Plan**. The fees and expenses that apply are set out in the **Fee Schedule** and depend on the investments you select, the benefits you take and any administrative or other requests you make. Additional services outside the normal administration activities shown in the **Fee Schedule** will be charged on a “time/cost” basis using an hourly rate. We will notify you at the time if this applies to any request you make and will provide the hourly rate and an estimate of the cost.

We will normally increase our charges on 1 January each year in line with any rise in the Government’s Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) measure during the previous calendar year as described in the **Fee Schedule**.

We can make other increase or changes to the fees and expenses by changing these **Terms and Conditions** under section 28. Copies of our current **Fee Schedule** are available from us on request at any time.

All charges quoted are exclusive of any VAT, stamp duty and other applicable taxes and/or duties, which, if payable, are in addition.

We will deduct any applicable fees from your SIPP bank account, however we may also provide the ability for you to send payments for fees directly to us. Where you elect to pay your fees directly to us before the date on which they become due, you must do so at least ten business days prior to the due date, otherwise this amount and that which we may deduct from your SIPP bank account will be considered due and payable to us. In the event that a fee has been deducted from your SIPP bank account and you later also make a payment to us directly, both amounts will be considered fully due and payable to us at the point of receipt. We will however in either case pay any amounts to you, as applicable, within ten business days of identification.

In the event that a change in your circumstances results in a reduction to the applicable fee amount we will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure our records are updated accordingly. However, in the event that we are not explicitly notified of this change in circumstance (either by you, your Financial Adviser or another appropriate party), then the

original amount will be considered fully due and payable to us at the point of receipt. We will however pay any amounts to you, as applicable, within ten business days of us being notified of your change in circumstance.

19. Payment of charges and other sums due

Our annual administration fee will be automatically deducted directly from your **Individual Fund** annually on or soon after the anniversary of you taking out the **Plan** or, if you are a **Beneficiary**, your starting to take **Drawdown Pension**. Other fees and charges will be automatically deducted directly from your **Individual Fund** when they become payable as set out in the **Fee Schedule**.

All charges and other sums due from your **Individual Fund** must be paid out of funds held in the **Designated Account**. You are responsible for ensuring that there is enough cleared money available in good time to pay charges or any other sums due under these **Terms and Conditions**. If there is not enough cleared money in the **Designated Account** to meet charges or other amounts as they fall due, we can cover the shortfall by arranging for the sale of investments held within your **Individual Fund** under the procedure described in section 21.

Important: If any shortfall remains after the sale of all investments held within your **Individual Fund**, you will be personally responsible for paying the outstanding charges or other sums due to us.

20. Payment of adviser charges

20.1 Adviser Charge

The charges that you agree to pay your **Financial Adviser** are a matter between you and your **Financial Adviser**. However, you can instruct us to facilitate the payment of **Adviser Charges**. If so instructed, we will deduct the amount of the **Adviser Charge** from your **Individual Fund** and pay it to your **Financial Adviser**. We make the payment at your direction and on your behalf.

This is not a payment for any services provided by your **Financial Adviser** to us. We do not charge for the facilitation service.

We set limits on the payments that we are prepared to facilitate for you. We will inform you if your instruction exceeds the limit.

20.2 Timing of deduction

Any **Adviser Charges** relating to contributions or transfer in payments are deducted from your **Individual Fund** upon receipt of the relevant contribution or transfer in payment.

Any **Adviser Charges** relating to investment of or decisions about your **Individual Fund** are deducted from your **Individual Fund** after the investment or decision has been arranged. For example, an **Adviser Charge** for pension advice when a **Member** designates funds available for **Drawdown Pension** are deducted after the **Member** has designated funds for **Drawdown Pension**.

20.3 Instructions

We will act only in accordance with your instruction in respect of the payment of **Adviser Charges**, except where we expressly indicate otherwise in these **Terms and Conditions**. We will stop or reduce the payment of **Adviser Charges**, if instructed by you.

We will confirm with you any instructions about facilitating payment of **Adviser Charges**.

We will act on the instructions of your **Financial Adviser** only if your **Financial Adviser** is asking us to reduce or stop paying any **Adviser Charge**. We will not extend or increase **Adviser Charges** without your instruction.

20.4 Payment

Adviser Charges will be paid to the order of your **Financial Adviser** and once due, payment will be credited to your **Financial Adviser** on dates agreed between us and your **Financial Adviser**.

If after reasonable efforts on our part, we have been unable to make payments of any **Adviser Charge** to your **Financial Adviser**, we will stop deducting **Adviser Charges** and notify you of our action. **Adviser Charges** deducted but unpaid to your **Financial Adviser** will be re-credited back to your **Individual Fund**.

The payment of an **Adviser Charge** is in addition to our charges.

If we receive an **Adviser Charge** refund from your **Financial Adviser**, we will not be able to return it to you in cash. We will, however, credit the **Adviser Charge** to your **Individual Fund**.

We accept no responsibility for monitoring any payment of **Adviser Charges** from an investment held in your **Individual Fund** made where the **Adviser Charge** is paid to your **Financial Adviser** by a third party.

20.5 Cancellation

When you take out your **Plan**, you will have a 30 day period during which you can change your mind by cancelling your **Plan**. If you decide to cancel your **Plan** during the cancellation period, we will not reclaim any **Adviser Charges** already paid to your **Financial Adviser**.

You might have to pay your **Financial Adviser** for their advice and services, if not covered by the **Adviser Charges** already paid. You should check the terms of your agreement or arrangement with your **Financial Adviser**.

If you have transferred in benefits from another pension scheme and your **Financial Adviser** returns the **Adviser Charge** to us, we will refund the **Adviser Charge** to the previous scheme subject to that scheme accepting the transfer.

Any gain in the value of your assets up to the point at which you cancel will not be returned to you if you cancel an Account during the 30-day cancellation period. Any gain will be retained by us and paid to a registered Charity of our choice.

20.6 Our right to stop paying an Adviser Charge

We can stop or reduce the payment of all or part of an **Adviser Charge** if:

- we no longer have a business relationship with your **Financial Adviser**;
- we reasonably believe that the payment of the **Adviser Charge** would be in breach of any relevant laws or regulations;
- we reasonably believe that your **Financial Adviser** was not appropriately authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority or exempt from authorisation under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 or any replacement regulator at the time of providing you with advice or services in relation to your **Plan**;
- your **Financial Adviser** ceases to trade;
- we believe your **Financial Adviser** is insolvent;
- we terminate our services to facilitate **Adviser Charges**;
- the payment exceeds the maximum amount of **Adviser Charge** that we are prepared to facilitate, as set by us from time to time; or
- we can no longer facilitate an **Adviser Charge** due to changes in the **Plan**.

We will endeavour to notify you as soon as possible of the action we have taken.

Adviser Charges that have already been deducted but not yet paid will be re-credited to your **Individual Fund**.

If there is not enough money in the **Designated Account** to pay an **Adviser Charge** in full, we can make a partial payment to the extent possible.

You might remain liable to pay any shortfall of **Adviser Charge** to your **Financial Adviser** and you should check the terms of your agreement or arrangement with your **Financial Adviser**.

20.7 Information about the charges

We will provide you with written confirmation when we set up the arrangements to pay the **Adviser Charges** you have instructed us to pay to your **Financial Adviser** or if the **Adviser Charges** are varied or stopped.

We can ask you to check the information that we provide to you and bring it to our attention if you believe there are any errors or omissions.

20.8 Outstanding responsibility

If an **Adviser Charge** is stopped, reduced, unpaid or is re-credited to your **Individual Fund**, you might remain liable to reimburse your **Financial Adviser**. You should check the terms of your agreement or arrangement with your **Financial Adviser**.

20.9 Value Added Tax (VAT)

We expect that most **Adviser Charges** relating to your **Individual Fund** will not be subject to VAT. We will treat all

instructions from you to pay **Adviser Charges** as including any VAT applicable at the rate prevailing at the time of the payment of the **Adviser Charge** and taking into account any changes to the rate of VAT howsoever occurring. We will not update any existing ongoing **Adviser Charges** to account for new VAT rates.

21. Insufficient cleared funds

21.1 Request for contributions or disinvestment instructions

If there is not enough cleared money in the **Designated Account** to meet our minimum balance requirement or to meet benefit or other payments due from your **Individual Fund**, we will ask you for either or both of

- additional contributions;
- instructions to sell assets from your **Individual Fund**.

The instructions must specify the assets we should sell and the order in which we should sell them and must be signed by you (and any **Individual Trustee**).

21.2 Default disinvestment strategy

We will arrange for assets to be sold to the extent necessary to provide enough cleared money, if within one month we do not receive enough additional contributions or instructions to sell.

We will sell assets in the following order:

- any cash held on deposit with another bank or licensed deposit taker;
- any assets held through a **DFM** (last appointed **DFM** contacted first);
- stocks and shares, on a last-in, first-out basis;
- investment trusts/unit trusts/OEICs on a last-in, first out basis;
- trustee investment policies/bonds on a last-in, first out basis;
- any other asset (excluding **Commercial Property**) not included above on a last-in, first-out basis; then
- **Commercial Property** on a last-in, first-out basis.

You (and any **Individual Trustee**) agree and accept that in these circumstances you authorise us to sell assets in the order set out above.

We apply a charge for coordinating the sale of assets under the priority order above and will deduct this charge from your **Individual Fund** in accordance with section 19. This is in addition to other parties' charges incurred in valuing and selling the assets. Our charge will be on a "time/cost" basis (i.e. hourly rates for the service).

We will write to you as soon as practicable to confirm the intention to sell assets and the order in which we will do this. We will also write to confirm details after the assets have been sold and the amount of any charge made.

In some circumstances, it can be necessary to sell an asset at whatever price is available at the time. This can result in selling assets when the relevant market is depressed.

Cashing-in any investment will be governed by the **Terms and Conditions** of that investment. Such **Terms and Conditions** might include a right for the investment provider to delay the cashing-in.

21.3 Unable to act

For the purpose of this section 21 only, we will accept the instruction of any legally authorised party acting on your behalf if we receive medical advice (commissioned by and addressed to us) that you are unable to act due to serious ill health, physical or mental incapacity. The cost of obtaining the medical advice will be met from your **Individual Fund**.

22. Member's benefits

22.1 Intended retirement age

When you applied for the **Plan** you chose a retirement age, which must be on or after your 55th birthday. This is the age you intend to take retirement benefits, although you do not need to actually retire to take benefits. You can change your chosen retirement age by telling us in writing. If you wish to make your retirement date earlier, you should first check the terms and conditions of any investment product within your **Plan**. Some investment products apply penalties for cashing in earlier than expected.

If you are in ill health or serious ill health, as defined in the **Finance Act**, it might be possible to start taking benefits earlier than your 55th birthday. "Ill health" is where evidence has been provided by a registered medical practitioner that you are and will continue to be medically incapable (either physically or mentally) as a result of injury, sickness, disease or disability of continuing your current occupation and, as a result of the ill-health, you cease to carry on the occupation. "Serious ill health" is where evidence has been provided by a registered medical practitioner that your life expectancy is less than a year.

In addition, some people have a right to a special early normal retirement age under **HMRC** rules which applied before 6 April 2006.

If you believe you may be entitled to take your benefits early for any reason please contact us for further guidance.

Within a reasonable period (consistent with good practice) before your chosen retirement date, we will provide you with information about your benefit options and the tax implications of taking benefits. We will also issue you with a reminder that you can choose to take guidance on your options from MoneyHelper's **Pension Wise** service. If required by the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority, we will ask questions to determine if you have received advice or guidance. Depending on your reply, at each stage we shall proceed to identify risk factors and provide risk warnings. You must then give us at least one month's notice in writing of your selected option(s) before the date you wish to take benefits.

22.2 Cleared funds to pay benefits

You are responsible for ensuring that there is enough cleared money in the **Designated Account** available in good time to pay any benefits you have chosen to take. If there is not enough cleared money in the **Designated Account** to pay the benefits, we might have to sell assets within your **Plan** under the procedure described in section 21.

Depending on how you have chosen to invest your **Plan** there may be an unavoidable delay in selling the assets, which could delay the benefit payment. If we think this may occur in respect of your **Plan**, we shall let you know within a reasonable period before your chosen retirement date. Where this is not possible, or where you decide to take benefits at a different time, we will let you know as soon as practicable after we have received your instruction.

22.3 Benefit options

You can take benefits from your **Plan** in either or both of the ways described in (b) and (c), each with or without (a), or in the way described in (d) on its own:

- (a) take a tax-free lump sum (also known as pension commencement lump sum), when you apply your **Individual Fund** to provide a **Lifetime Annuity** or **Drawdown Pension**).

You can normally take a quarter (25%) of the value as a tax-free lump sum. In some circumstances, a higher amount may be available. The total of all tax-free lump sums you can take from your pension plans will normally be capped at the Lump Sum Allowance, currently £268,275. If you have a protected tax-free lump sum or previously applied to HM Revenue & Customs for certain protections, you may be entitled to a higher amount.

Any benefits taken in excess of this allowance will be taxable as income at your marginal rate.

- (b) buy a **Lifetime Annuity** with the balance of all or part of your **Individual Fund** (after any tax free lump sum).

We do not provide Annuities but you can take an 'Open Market Option' to purchase an Annuity with another provider. If you do not have a Financial Adviser we will provide you with information about how you may be able to purchase an Annuity from another provider. Your Financial Adviser or you will place Trade Instructions with us to sell the Assets in your Account to create sufficient Available Cash to purchase the Annuity. Once we have the proceeds of sale in Available Cash, we will then forward the amount on to your chosen Annuity provider. If you have unused Lump Sum Allowance available and have chosen to take a Pension Commencement Lump Sum, we will calculate the lump sum due, if any, and then pay this to you at the same time we make the transfer to buy an annuity. If you only use part of the money in your Account to buy the chosen Annuity, including taking any tax-free lump sum, the rest will continue to be invested in the existing Assets.

- (c) take **Drawdown Pension** with the balance of all or part of your **Individual Fund** (after any tax free lump sum) – see section 23.

- (d) provided you have enough **Lump Sum Allowance** remaining, take a lump sum without applying your **Individual Fund** to provide a **Lifetime Annuity** or **Drawdown Pension**, called an **Uncrystallised Funds Pension Lump Sum (UFPLS)**. 25% of the lump sum is tax-free and the rest is subject to income tax.

22.4 Payment

We will pay any lump sum and any **Drawdown Pension** payments by direct credit (BACS) into your chosen bank or building society account.

23. Drawdown pension

23.1 General

Drawdown Pension means drawing an income from your **Plan**. You can do this if you are:

- a **Member** aged over 55;
- a **Member** in serious ill health;
- a **Member** with a protected retirement age; or
- a **Beneficiary** entitled to a pension under the **Plan**

and we have accepted your application for **Drawdown Pension**.

You do this by designating all or part of your **Individual Fund** as being available for providing **Drawdown Pension**. The designation must be made on the form that we provide for this purpose.

Acting reasonably, we can at our absolute discretion refuse your application for **Drawdown Pension**. We will tell you as soon as practicable if this is the case. The acceptance of your application for **Drawdown Pension** is on such terms and subject to such requirements as we may decide at our absolute discretion from time to time. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, we may require you to take advice from a **Financial Adviser** before accepting your application.

23.2 Flexi-access Drawdown Pension

With flexi-access **Drawdown Pension** you can take out as much of your **Individual Fund** as you want after having taken your tax-free lump sum. You can increase, reduce and/or ask us for an extra one-off flexi-access **Drawdown Pension** payment. You can choose for flexi-access **Drawdown Pension** to be paid on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis.

We will require you to complete, and return to us, certain paperwork (which we will supply) before you can start, stop or vary flexi-access **Drawdown Pension**, and we will treat each such request as an application for **Drawdown Pension** for the purposes of section 23.1.

The contract between you and us includes a right to impose a minimum on the amount that you can designate for providing flexi-access drawdown pension. For the time being we have decided to waive this right, however if we reinstate a minimum we will give you details by notice as described in section 28.

23.3 Capped Drawdown Pension

With capped **Drawdown Pension**, there is a maximum limit on the income that can be taken, set by **HMRC** rules. We will calculate and provide you with details of your maximum. You can choose to take any level of income up to the maximum, and you can choose not to take any income at all after having taken your tax-free lump sum. Subject to the maximum limit, you can increase, reduce and/or ask us for an extra one-off capped **Drawdown Pension** payment. You can choose for capped **Drawdown Pension** to be paid on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis.

We will require you to complete, and return to us, certain paperwork (which we will supply) before you can designate more of your **Individual Fund** to provide a capped **Drawdown Pension**, or to start, stop or vary capped **Drawdown Pension** payments, and we will treat each such request as an application for **Drawdown Pension** for the purposes of section 23.1.

The contract between you and us includes a right to impose a minimum on the amount that you can designate for providing capped drawdown pension. For the time being we have decided to waive this right, however if we reinstate a minimum we will give you details by notice as described in section 28. **HMRC** also require that the maximum limit on capped **Drawdown Pension** is reviewed at least every 3 years (even if you are not taking any income after your tax-free cash payment) until the end of the review year when you reach age 75, then every year from your 75th birthday. If necessary, the amount of income must be reduced to ensure the maximum limit is not exceeded. The reviews can be carried out on any pre-arranged future date within a 60 day period before the review date. You can elect for any such review date by giving us five days' notice. Making this calculation early will not affect the timing of any subsequent review. Before you reach age 75 you can also request an earlier review on any anniversary date and we can agree to this. Please speak to your **Financial Adviser** before requesting this, as the outcome of the review can result in a reduction in the maximum amount of income you can draw.

You can only designate part of your **Individual Fund** for providing capped **Drawdown Pension** if it applies to an **Arrangement** under which part of your **Individual Fund** was designated for capped **Drawdown Pension** on 5 April 2015.

You can re-designate your **Individual Fund** to provide a flexi-access **Drawdown Pension** instead of a capped **Drawdown Pension** at any time by giving us an instruction that you wish to do so.

24. Benefits following member's death

On the death of a **Member**, the **Member's** remaining **Individual Fund** is used to pay a number of different benefits, which are described below. Upon being notified of the death, we will write to the **Member's** personal representatives or potential beneficiaries (as applicable) with details of the ways in which benefits can be provided from the **Members' Individual Fund**.

24.1 Scheme administrator discretion

If we are satisfied that at the time of the **Member's** death the **Member's** benefits are subject to a "valid trust", we will apply any **Uncrystallised Fund** not exceeding the **Member's** individual **Lump Sum and Death Benefits Allowance** available on death as a lump sum to the **Trustees** of that trust. A valid trust is one under which no beneficial interest in a benefit can be payable to the **Member**, the **Member's** estate or the **Member's** legal personal representatives.

In all other cases, on the **Member's** death we will use the **Member's** remaining **Individual Fund** in either or both of the following ways as we in our absolute discretion determine:

- to provide pension income in accordance with section 24.2 for any one or more **Beneficiaries** and, if more than one, in such proportions as we decide; and
- to pay a lump sum death benefit in accordance with section 24.3 to one or more recipients as we decide (from the range of possible "lump sum beneficiaries", as defined in the **Rules**) and in such proportions as we decide.

The **Member** can complete an Expression of Wish form to inform us of the **Member's** wishes for who should receive death benefits and the form of those benefits (lump sum or pension) for when we are exercising our discretion. We will take the **Member's** wishes into account but we are not bound by them.

24.2 Beneficiaries' pensions

Any **Beneficiary** who becomes entitled to a pension under this section 24 must take the pension in either or both of the following ways:

- buy a **Lifetime Annuity** in the **Beneficiary's** name, using part or all of his or her **Individual Funds**; or
- apply to take income as **Drawdown Pension** (see section 23), using part or all of his or her **Individual Funds**. Any application for **Drawdown Pension** must be made in writing using our prescribed application form, which includes the **Beneficiary's** agreement to these **Terms and Conditions**. We recommend that the **Beneficiary** appoints and takes advice from a **Financial Adviser** and we may require him or her to do so before we accept the application. We can decline an application if the **Beneficiary** is not habitually resident (i.e. does not normally live) in the UK and this would, in our opinion, likely lead to an **Unauthorised Payment** or would limit or restrict in any way our ability to administer the **Scheme**. We will write to the **Beneficiary** confirming if the application is successful.

If a **Beneficiary** fails to decide which option should be used for pension income within three months of being asked to do so (or such longer period as we, at our discretion, decide), we can require the **Trustees** to buy a **Lifetime Annuity** for that person, from a pension provider of our choice.

The tax treatment of a **Dependant's**, **Nominee's** or **Successor's Drawdown Pension** is set out in the **Finance Act**. Benefits payable in the event of the **Member's** death are paid without deduction of tax.

24.3 Lump Sum and Death Benefit

Any lump sum to be paid under this section in the event of a **Member's** or **Beneficiary's** death before age 75 may be paid without any tax being deducted unless the lump sum is not paid within two years of the date we first received notification of the **Member's** or **Beneficiary's** death or, if earlier, the date we could have first reasonably been expected to have known of the **Member's** death. If it is not paid within two years, or in the event of a **Member's** death over age 75, if paid to a beneficiary the whole lump sum is subject to income tax at their marginal rate. If paid to a non-qualifying person it is subject to the special lump sum death benefits charge of 45%.

The tax treatment of the benefits is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to determine the correct tax treatment with HMRC. All lump sum death benefit payments will be paid gross.

The total of all tax-free lump sums that can be paid from all of your pension plans, including lump sum death benefits, will normally be capped at the Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance, currently £1,073,100. If you've previously applied to HM Revenue & Customs for certain protections, you may be entitled to a higher amount.

Any benefits taken in excess of these allowances will be taxable as income.

25. Benefits following beneficiary's death

If a **Beneficiary** dies while taking income through **Drawdown Pension** we will use the **Beneficiary's** remaining **Individual Fund** in either or both of the following ways as we in our absolute discretion shall determine:

- to provide pension income in accordance with section 24.2 for any one or more **Successors** and, if more than one, in such proportions as we decide; and
- to pay a lump sum death benefit in accordance with section 24.3 to one or more recipients as we decide (from the range of possible "lump sum beneficiaries", as defined in the **Rules**) and in such proportions as we decide.

The **Beneficiary** can complete an Expression of Wish form to inform us of his or her wishes for who should receive death benefits. We will take the **Beneficiary's** wishes into account but we are not bound by them. Any tax charge(s) will be deducted before payment.

26. Taxation of income payments

If you are receiving income payments from the **Scheme**, the income you receive will, if applicable, be taxed under the Pay As You Earn System. If we have taken reasonable steps to identify your correct tax code, or we are otherwise acting in accordance with any guidance for scheme administrators issued by HMRC from time to time (including in certain circumstances where the application of an Emergency Code is recommended) we will not be liable for any loss whatsoever that you incur as a result of the use of an incorrect tax code.

If you are receiving income payments from the **Scheme**, we will provide you with a P60 at the end of each tax year showing the gross income paid, tax code used and details of any tax deducted.

27. Complaints and compensation

27.1 How to complain

Our aim is to provide you with excellent service at all times.

However, we do understand things can sometimes go wrong. If this happens, we will do our best to resolve your concerns as quickly as possible.

If you have an issue with any aspect of our service you can raise your concerns with us, either in writing or by telephone.

We will acknowledge your complaint in writing, by letter or email, within 5 working days (there may be times where it is easier for us to call you to make sure we fully understand all of the issues you are raising.)

Your complaint will be looked after by our Complaints Team, who will conduct an independent investigation and we will issue a final response letter to you sent out within 8 weeks of receiving your complaint. Embark Pensions is a trading name of Embark Services Limited.

Complaints Team

Embark Pensions, Provincial House, 37 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 6TU

Telephone: 0116 366 8681

Email: complaints@embarkpensions.co.uk

What if you remain dissatisfied?

If you are dissatisfied with our response after eight weeks and your complaint relates to the administration or management of your pension scheme you can contact:

The Financial Ombudsman Service

Exchange Tower, London, E14 9SR

Tel: 0800 023 4567 www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk

The Pension Ombudsman

10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, E14 4PU

Tel: 0800 917 4487 www.pensions-ombudsman.org.uk

If you wish to refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service, you must do so within 6 months of the date of our final response.

27.2 Compensation

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is a scheme that provides limited compensation for customers who might otherwise lose out if a company regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority is unable to pay claims against it.

Investments in your **Plan** might be covered by the FSCS. If compensation is available in respect of an investment in your **Plan**, we will make the claim on your behalf.

FSCS contact details:

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

10th Floor Beaufort house, 15 St Botolph Street, London, EC3A 7QU

Tel: 0800 678 1100 www.fscs.org.uk

Please ask us if you have any questions about the FSCS or the protection it provides.

28. Changing these terms and conditions

28.1 Changes under specified circumstances

We can change these **Terms and Conditions** (including the **Fee Schedule** and **Permitted Investments Schedule**) for any of the following reasons:

- to respond proportionately to changes in general law or decisions of the Financial Ombudsman Service or The Pensions Ombudsman or the Financial Services Compensation Scheme or of a court;
- to meet regulatory requirements;
- to reflect new industry guidance and codes of practice which raise standards of consumer protection;
- to reflect a change in our corporate structure that does not have a significant unfavourable effect on your rights under the **Scheme** but which does require us to make certain changes to the **Terms and Conditions**;
- to respond proportionately to changes in the Bank of England base rate, other specified market rates or indices or tax rates;
- to proportionately reflect other legitimate cost increases or reductions associated with providing the **Scheme**;
- to provide for the introduction of new or improved systems, methods of operation, services or facilities associated with providing the **Scheme**;
- to correct any mistake in the **Terms and Conditions**, provided the correction does not have a significant unfavourable effect on rights that you have as a result of the mistake; or
- to reflect the appointment by us of alternative third parties to provide services under the **Scheme** or to respond proportionately to changes in the terms or charges of any third parties appointed under the **Scheme**.

We give you notice of any change under this section 28.1 in advance where practicable, or at the earliest opportunity after the change where advance notice is not practicable. We aim to review these **Terms and Conditions** regularly.

28.2 Other changes

Further, we can change the **Terms and Conditions** including the **Fee Schedule** and **Permitted Investments Schedule** if we have any other valid reasons for doing so. We will not charge for transferring out your **Individual Funds** if:

- a change under this section 28.2 has any unfavourable effect on your rights under the **Scheme**; and
- we receive your written request to transfer within 30 days' of notice of the change.

Although, in these circumstances, we will not charge for the transfer, any outstanding charges will still be payable and any fees and charges for cashing in or selling assets, or for making an in specie transfer of any asset (see section 10.1) will still be charged. We give you at least 30 days' notice of any change under this section 28.2.

28.3 Notification of changes

Unless we decide otherwise, notice of any change to these **Terms and Conditions** will be published on our website only.

29. Termination

These **Terms and Conditions** (including the **Fee Schedule** and **Permitted Investments Schedule**) shall continue until your **Individual Fund** has been extinguished through the payment of a transfer value to another **Registered Pension Scheme**, overseas pension scheme, QROPS or the provision of pension or death benefits outside the **Scheme** or until the **Scheme** is wound up in accordance with the **Rules**.

On wind-up, we will apply the assets of your **Individual Fund** as set out in the **Rules**. No fees or charges already paid shall be refunded and those due shall remain so and will include any charges associated with undertaking any transaction necessary to wind up the **Scheme**. A copy of the **Rules** is available on request. The obligations of payment of charges and other sums due in sections 18 and 19 and the provisions in section 31 shall continue in full.

Wind-up will be without prejudice to the completion of transactions already initiated. The **Independent Trustee** is authorised to continue to operate the **Designated Account** to our order and direction for the purposes of receiving money, paying benefits and paying any expenses or charges due to us, the **Independent Trustee** or other parties.

30. Other terms

30.1 Proof of ownership

We have the right to delay calculation of any amount due under the **Plan** until we have received satisfactory proof of ownership. Similarly, the exercise of rights conferred by the **Plan** and payment of any benefit is subject to satisfactory proof of ownership.

30.2 Change of address or other personal circumstances

You need to tell us as soon as possible if you move to another address or if there are any other relevant changes to your personal circumstances. If you are in doubt as to whether a change is relevant, please contact us.

30.3 Assignments

Your **Plan** may be subject to a Pension Sharing Order under the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999 but otherwise may not be assigned, mortgaged or charged in any way by you.

30.4 Entire Agreement

These **Terms and Conditions** (and the documents described in section 1 as forming our legally binding agreement with you) constitute the entire agreement between you and us and supersede all previous versions.

30.5 Governing law

These **Terms and Conditions** will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England. The English courts are to have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes or claims that may arise out of or in connection with these **Terms and Conditions**. We, the **Independent Trustee** and you agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

30.6 Rights of third parties

We, the **Independent Trustee** and you can enforce the **Terms and Conditions**. Nothing in the **Terms and Conditions** expressly or impliedly confers any right on any third party to enforce any of its provisions under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999. For the purpose of this section, a third party is any party not already mentioned in this paragraph.

30.7 Severability

These **Terms and Conditions** will only apply provided they are not held by a relevant court or decided by the Financial Conduct Authority to be unfair contract terms or reasonably considered by us to be unfair contract terms. If a term is held, viewed or considered to be unfair it will, as far as possible, still apply but without any part of it which could cause it to be held, viewed or considered unfair.

30.8 Privacy Notice

Our Privacy Notice contains information in respect of the personal data that we collect about you. This is available from our website, embarkpensions.co.uk/privacy-notice/, or by emailing clientservicing@embarkpensions.co.uk. Please read this information carefully before submitting your application to us. By signing the application, you consent to the use of your personal information for the purposes and on the terms set out within our Privacy Notice. You have the right to withdraw consent at any time.

31. Responsibility and liability

31.1 Your rights

Your rights in relation to your **Plan** are limited to those detailed in these **Terms and Conditions**. You waive any other rights that you otherwise have had to make any and all legal claims at any time against any previous, current or future officers, employees, agents and sub-contractors of ours, or of any company within the Embark Group of companies.

31.2 Your responsibilities

You are responsible for

- selecting and appointing your **Financial Adviser**.
- selecting and giving us instructions about investments for your **Plan** either personally or via your **Financial Adviser**.
- communicating with us in a way that complies with the **Rules** and these **Terms and Conditions**.
- any benefit options, benefit nominations and all other matters which are within your control or in respect of which you provide, or are entitled to provide, instruction to us either personally or via your **Financial Adviser**.

You are also responsible to us for all reasonable costs, claims, expenses, tax charges, demands and losses whatsoever that we suffer or incur in performing our duties under the **Terms and Conditions** or carrying out our lawful duties and responsibilities in relation to you, except as a direct result of our negligence, wilful default or fraud.

31.3 Scope of our responsibilities

We are responsible for operating and administering the **Plan** in accordance with these **Terms and Conditions** and your instructions given under the **Terms and Conditions**. We and the **Independent Trustee** are not responsible for selecting investments, monitoring investments or investment performance.

Other than as a direct result of our negligence, wilful default or fraud, neither we nor the **Independent Trustee** accept any liability or obligation for any or all losses, costs, actions, proceedings, claims and demands arising directly or indirectly that are incurred by, or brought or made against us or the **Independent Trustee**:

- if we or the **Independent Trustee** acted in good faith in accordance with any instruction (relating to benefit options, benefit nominations and investment directions) that reasonably appears to have been given by you or by your **Financial Adviser**;
- as a result of having acted in good faith on the instruction of a legally authorised party acting on your behalf, including if we have received medical advice (commissioned by and addressed to us) that you are unable to act due to serious ill-health, physical or mental incapacity (in accordance with section 21.3;

- as a result of any error by you or by your **Financial Adviser**, or your representatives or agents;
- as a result of any instruction or investment direction sent by you, or your representatives or agents, or any third parties who may hold or manage or advice on investments, not being received by us;
- for any failure or delay in implementing any instruction or investment direction which is caused by circumstances beyond our reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God, fires, strikes, terrorism, power failures, intervention by exchanges or regulators, court orders, failure or error of any equipment, telecommunications, intermediary, exchange, counterparty product provider or bank; and
- for default or any losses whatsoever caused by any third parties, nominees, other custodians, banks or authorised institutions which hold any assets including, but not limited to, insurance company unit linked funds, stocks and shares, unit trusts, Open-Ended Investment Companies (OEICs) and investment trust companies and cash for the purpose of your **Plan**.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following words and expressions, which appear in bold, have the meanings as set out below:

Adviser Charge means the charge agreed between you and your **Financial Adviser** for providing you with either or both of

- advice about your **Individual Fund**
- administration and implementation services related to investment of and decisions about your **Individual Fund** the payment of which you have instructed us in accordance with these **Terms and Conditions** to facilitate from your **Individual Fund**.

Arrangement has the meaning given by the **Finance Act** and refers to each **Arrangement** a **Member** has made with us for the provision of benefits under the **Scheme** and for the purposes of which we hold sums and assets relating to the **Member**.

Beneficiary means any of an individual's **Dependants**, **Nominees** or **Successors** in receipt of benefits from the **Scheme**.

Commercial Property means any land or building that is zoned, designed or intended for use by businesses such as offices, retail, leisure and industrial developments but not "residential property" for the purposes of the taxable property provisions as defined in paragraphs 7-10 of Schedule 29A of the **Finance Act**.

Contracted-Out Benefits means benefits earned under another **Registered Pension Scheme** from contracting out of the State Schemes (State Earnings Related Pension scheme and/or the State Second Pension).

Dependant means, in relation to a **Member**, a person falling within any of the following categories at the date of their death:

- the **Member's** wife, husband or civil partner;
- in the context of **Dependant's** drawdown only, any child of the **Member** who reached their 23rd birthday after 15th September 2016;
- in all other contexts, any child of the **Member** who has not reached the age of 23 and any child of the **Member** who has reached the age of 23 and in our opinion is dependent on the **Member** because of physical or mental impairment; or

- any other individual who in our opinion is financially dependent on the **Member**, or who is in a mutually dependent financial relationship with the **Member** or is dependent on the **Member** because of physical or mental impairment.

Designated Account means the record of any cash held within the **Scheme's** bank account(s) attributable to contributions and transfer in payments made to your **Individual Fund** that is described in section 11.

Discretionary Fund Manager ("DFM") means an investment manager who has been given complete discretion to manage and invest all or part of your **Individual Fund** (see section 13).

Drawdown Pension means taking an income directly from your **Individual Fund**. The part of your **Individual Fund** designated as available for paying **Drawdown Pension** remains invested so its value can go up and down. Please see section 23 for further details.

Fee Schedule means the schedule we provide or make available to you from time to time, which sets out the charges applicable to your **Individual Fund**, as amended from time to time.

Finance Act means the Finance Act 2004 as amended from time to time.

Financial Adviser means the firm named as "**Financial Adviser**" in your application form or any replacement you have appointed and notified us of in accordance with these **Terms and Conditions**.

HMRC means Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.

Independent Trustee means Hornbuckle Mitchell Trustees Limited or any successor appointed by us.

Individual Fund means the investments (including cash) of the **Scheme** attributable to you under each **Arrangement** having regard to

- (for a **Member** only) contributions or (for a **Beneficiary** only) any amounts allocated to provide you with **Drawdown Pension** following the death of a **Member** and
- transfer in payments paid by or in respect of you

less any benefits and transfer-out payments paid to or in respect of you and any charges and fees that we deduct and any borrowing, adjusted to account for any growth or loss in the investments.

Individual Trustee means any person (who may include the relevant **Member**, **Dependant**, **Nominee** or **Successor**) for the time being appointed as a trustee to act with the **Independent Trustee** in relation to the **Member's**, **Dependant's**, **Nominee's** or **Successor's Individual Fund** (as appropriate).

Insurance means a property owner's insurance policy in the name of the **Trustees** with Property Owner's Liability cover of at least £5,000,000 and subject to such other requirements as we may inform you of from time to time.

Lifetime Annuity means an annuity contract purchased from an insurance company, which provides an income for life.

Lump Sum Allowance means the total amount of tax-free lump sums that can normally be paid from your pension benefits. This is currently set at £268,275, but may be higher if you've applied to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) for certain protections.

Lump Sum & Death Benefit Allowance means the total amount of all your pension benefits that can be paid tax free, including death and certain other lump sum payments (such as for serious ill-health). The limit is currently set at £1,073,100, but may be higher if you have applied to HMRC for certain protections.

Member means an individual whom we have accepted for Membership of the **Scheme** under section 5 and who has not subsequently left the **Scheme**.

Nominee has the meaning given in Schedule 28 of the **Finance Act**, being an individual nominated by the **Member** or us to receive death benefits from an **Arrangement** following the death of a **Member**, but who is not a **Dependant** of the **Member**.

Non-Standard Investment is any asset type not specified by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to be a standard asset as defined under IPRU-INV 5.9.1 of the FCA Handbook. If you held a Non-Standard Investment on 1 April 2024 you can continue to do so, although no further investments into the Non-Standard Investment can be made.

Permitted Investments Schedule means the schedule that we provide or make available to you from time to time that sets out the investments you are permitted to hold within your **Individual Fund**.

Plan means

- (for a **Member**) the **Arrangement** or collection of **Arrangements** the **Member** has made with us under the **Scheme**
- (for a **Beneficiary**) the **Arrangement** or collection of **Arrangements** a **Beneficiary** makes with us for the provision of **Drawdown Pension** benefits

and that is identified by the unique reference number shown in the **Scheme Member Schedule**.

Registered Pension Scheme means a pension scheme registered under Part 4 of the **Finance Act**.

Rules means the trust deed and **Rules** that establish the **Scheme**, as amended from time to time.

Scheme means the Private Pension.

Scheme Member Schedule means the schedule we provide or make available to you from time to time, which sets out the specific details of how these **Terms and Conditions** apply to your **Plan**, as amended from time to time.

Successor has the meaning given in Schedule 28 of the **Finance Act**, being an individual nominated by a **Dependant**, **Nominee** or **Successor** of a **Member**, or by us, to receive death benefits from an **Arrangement** following the death of a **Dependant**, **Nominee** or **Successor**.

Terms and Conditions means the **Terms and Conditions** set out in this document, as amended from time to time.

Trustees means the **Independent Trustee** and, where appointed, any **Individual Trustee**.


Unauthorised Payment means an **Unauthorised Payment** (as defined in Section 160(5) of the **Finance Act**), which attracts tax charges.

Uncrystallised Fund means, in relation to a **Member** only, any part of your **Individual Fund** that has not been designated as available for paying **Drawdown Pension** or used to provide any other benefit.

Uncrystallised Funds Pension Lump Sum is a way of taking a single payment from your **Uncrystallised Funds** from age 55. The payment is made up of 25% tax-free lump sum with the remaining 75% being subject to income tax.



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EBS Pensions Limited act as operator for the Option SIPP, Full SIPP, Liberty SIPP, EBS SIPP and EBS SAPP. Embark Services Limited act as operator for the Hornbuckle Mitchell SIPP, Hornbuckle Mitchell Private Pension, Hornbuckle Mitchell FIPP, The Private Pension and the Freedom SIPP.

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