

The logo for the Pension Protection Fund, featuring a white curved line above the text.

Pension
Protection
Fund

When you retire



Protecting people's
futures

Register on our member website

We've developed a secure website for the exclusive use of our members.

Please register as soon as you can because the website gives you the freedom to access and manage information about your benefits, and make informed decisions, at a time that best suits you.

Once you've set up an account, you can do lots of things online.



If you haven't started taking your compensation payments, you can use the website to plan your retirement by seeing how much you could receive.



You may also be able to retire online, using our Quote and Retire service, which means less paperwork for you to complete.



Once retired, you can also view your payslips and P60s online. You can also use the website to update your contact and personal details, at any time.

To register, please go to the website at www.ppf.co.uk/members and follow the simple registration instructions. It should only take a few minutes.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything included in this booklet, please visit our member website or contact us. Contact details are at the back of this booklet.

Introduction

When you retire, you have important choices to make. It's vital that you understand the options open to you so that you can make the best decision for your future.

This booklet is designed to explain those options so that you can be confident that, when making a decision about your payments, it's the right one.



Your retirement options

If you're about to retire, you'll generally receive, alongside this booklet, an illustration with your retirement options. You then need to choose which option best suits you and retire online using our secure member website. Or if this isn't possible, you'll need to let us know your chosen option and we'll process your retirement for you. You can also retire in advance. If you know you'd like to retire in the next three months, go to the member website. You'll then be able to select your retirement date and complete the process, safe in the knowledge that your PPF payments will start exactly when you want them to.

Remember that the figures shown will be an illustration only and your actual payments will be calculated when you've made your choice from the options available.

We'll have based the illustration on any information you and your former scheme have given us. If any of the information is wrong, please get in touch with us.

Please note that all payments must be paid directly into an account in your name. We pay on the first of the month. If this falls on a non-working day, we'll pay on the previous working day instead. If your annual compensation is under £250, you can receive your payments on a quarterly, bi-annual or annual basis instead.

Normal retirement

You can retire when you reach your normal pension age.

We'll contact you with details of your retirement options closer to your normal pension age, but you can also check your options yourself, using our benefit modeller tool on our member website. Your normal pension age will be based on the rules of your former scheme.

You'll receive compensation payments from the PPF. For more information about how compensation is calculated, please visit our member website.

What happens when compensation is paid at different times?

Parts of your compensation may be payable at different times. For example, you may have one part of your compensation which is payable when you're 60 years old, and another part which is payable when you reach 65 years old.



If your payments are due at different times, there are some options available to you.

- Using the example above, you can take the payments due when you reach the age of 60 and leave the rest until it becomes due.
- When you reach the age of 60, you can put off receiving your payments until you're 65 years old – so you can receive all your payments at one time.
- You can take your later payments early and start receiving them at the age of 60, although the payments will reduce because you're being paid before your normal pension age and therefore over a longer period. An early retirement factor will be applied to your payments to account for this.

- You can put off receiving all of your payments until a later date, up until the age of 75. A late retirement factor will be applied to your payments to account for this.
- But you cannot put off receiving any payments beyond their due date if you're already receiving payments from us. By this we mean that if you're already receiving payments which were due at the age of 60, you cannot delay receiving those payments due at the age of 65.

We regularly look at how we calculate options members may choose to take (such as a tax-free cash lump sum and early or late retirement), to consider any changes in financial conditions during the previous year. This means, what you're entitled to receive can go up or down, depending on when you choose to start your payments.

Please call us if you have any further questions or want to discuss an option not set out in the illustration.

Early retirement

You may be able to receive your compensation earlier than your normal pension age.

You have to be 55 years old or over to do this. There are only two reasons why you could take your compensation earlier than your 55th birthday. Firstly, you may have a right to take your pension from age 50 depending on the rules of your former pension scheme (known as 'protected' pension age). Or, if you have a serious, life-limiting medical condition, you could be eligible to take a Terminal Ill Health lump sum at any age.

Please be aware that the Normal Minimum Pension Age, as set out in legislation, is expected to increase from 55 to 57, with effect from 6 April 2028.

Depending on how old you are now, this may have an impact on the age that you can retire early from the PPF.

If you want to receive your compensation early, you should contact us for an early retirement illustration, or visit our member website.

Because you'll be receiving your payments early, the amount you'll receive will be lower than what you would've received at your normal pension age, as it's being paid over a longer period.

Deferring your payments to a later date

You might want to start receiving your payments later than your normal pension age.



You can put off receiving payments up until the age of 75. You just need to let us know as soon as you can when you think you'd like to start receiving your payments (but please note that special rules apply if you have benefits payable from different ages – see the previous page). You can also choose to defer your payments, and make updates to your deferment, using our member website.

After you reach your normal pension age your benefits will no longer increase by inflation. Instead, a late retirement factor will be applied to your payments.

If you change your mind about deferring your payments and want to take your payments earlier or later than planned, please contact us and we'll provide you with a revised illustration based on the new payment date. Alternatively, you can visit our member website.

Making the right choice

To help you make the right choice, we've explained some of the options available and the terms used to describe them:

Tax-free lump sum option

Your illustration will tell you what compensation you'll receive if you decide to give up some of your payments to receive a tax-free lump sum.

The figures in the illustration will be based on the maximum lump sum that you can receive.

You can choose whether or not you want to take the lump sum.

If you take the lump sum, you can choose an amount that is less than the maximum possible. For example, if your maximum lump sum is £50,000, you can ask for a lower lump sum of, for instance, £20,000.

We'll then calculate a new figure for your monthly payments based on the lump sum you've asked for.

You can also use our benefit modeller on our member website, which will allow you to explore your options yourself.

Your lump sum is payable on your retirement date. If this falls on a non-working day, it will be payable the following working day. As we make these payments by BACS, please allow 3 to 5 working days from the date the lump sum is paid, for the money to reach your account. Your compensation payment will generally reach your account by the first working day of the month.

Recycling lump sums

Recycling is the term used by the pensions industry for people who use some or all of their tax-free lump sum to make contributions to a different registered pension scheme.

Special tax rules apply to this practice. So, if you plan to use your compensation lump sum to buy additional pension benefits in a separate pension scheme, you need to declare it as you may incur a tax charge.

Further details can be found on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Trivial commutation

This term simply means taking all the payments that you're due as a one-off payment rather than taking it in monthly instalments.

If you want to take advantage of this option:

- you must be between 55 (or earlier 'protected' pension age of at least 50) and 75 years old
- your benefits due from all pension schemes plus your PPF compensation must not be above a certain limit, and
- if you've already used this option with another pension scheme, you must take your PPF compensation within 12 months of that earlier payment.

If we think you may be eligible for this option, we'll include it on the retirement illustration we send you.

Trivial commutation lump sums are taxable and so are paid through our monthly payroll. 25 per cent of the payment is tax-free and the rest is taxed at the basic rate. This means that lump sums are paid on the first of the month, after the retirement date.

Annual increases

In most cases, your payments relating to pensionable service from 6 April 1997 will then rise in line with inflation each year, subject to a maximum of 2.5 per cent a year. Payments relating to pensionable service before that date won't increase.

Sometimes there won't be a rise in inflation and so your payments won't increase. Sometimes inflation will fall but, if it does, your payments won't be reduced.

Please bear in mind that increases are pro rata, so when we pay the first annual increase it may not be for the full year, depending on when you retire.

Lifetime Allowance and the new Tax-Free Lump Sum Allowance

Between 6 April 2006 and 5 April 2023, people were only allowed a maximum amount of pension benefits throughout their lifetime without triggering a tax charge. This amount was called the Lifetime Allowance (LTA).

As part of the Government's plan to remove the LTA, from 6 April 2023 to 5 April 2024 the tax charges that applied to pension benefits in excess of the LTA were removed. However, from 6 April 2024, the LTA will be replaced with two new allowances, the Lump Sum Allowance and the Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance.

These allowances apply when certain tax-free lump sum benefits are taken.

The Lump Sum Allowance

The Lump Sum Allowance limits the amount of tax-free lump sum that an individual can take across all of their pension arrangements. The allowance is currently £268,275.00.

Any amount of pension commencement lump sum or any untaxed amount of lump sum(s) paid from a money purchase arrangement (known as uncrystallised funds pension lump sums or UFPLS), paid since 6 April 2024, is deducted from this allowance.

Benefits taken before 6 April 2024 are also taken into account. Where an individual hasn't used all of their LTA, this is typically done by deducting 25 per cent of the value of the total benefits taken prior to 6 April 2024, or by deducting the amount stated in an individual's transitional tax-free amount certificate, where available.

For more information, please visit the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) website www.hmrc.gov.uk.

The Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance

The Lump Sum and Death Benefit Allowance is £1,073,100.00. To work out how much is available in respect of an individual, you'd deduct any of the following types of payment made since 6 April 2024 from the allowance:

- (i) the amount of any pension commencement lump sum; and
- (ii) the untaxed amount of
 - a. lump sum(s) paid from a money purchase arrangement, known as uncrystallised funds pension lump sums (UFPLS);
 - b. any serious ill-health lump sum;
 - c. any lump sum death benefit.

These may be subject to certain exceptions depending on your circumstances. Benefits taken before 6 April 2024 are also taken into account.

The amount deducted from the allowance in respect of benefits taken before 6 April 2024 may vary depending on a number of factors, including whether the individual had exceeded their LTA, or whether a serious ill-health lump sum, or death benefits lump sum, has been paid before that date.

For more information, please visit the HMRC website www.hmrc.gov.uk.

HMRC benefit protections

Some people may have a form of protection for their benefits, under HMRC rules. If this applies to you, please let us know as soon as possible. If you think you may be affected by the Lump Sum Allowance (or your benefits are subject to HMRC protections), we recommend that you seek advice from an independent financial advisor.

Tax

Your payments are regarded as earned income which means you have to pay tax on them.

HMRC will take into account all taxable income you receive, including your state pension, other earnings, bank interest and so on and issue a relevant tax code.

We'll produce a P60 for you at the end of each tax year. P60s are available to view, at any time, on our member website. You can also request a copy by post. Your P60 will show the total payments you've received and the amount of tax deducted.

If you have any questions about your tax, then contact HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) quoting reference 948/KZ68905 using the following details:

**Pay As You Earn and Self Assessment
HM Revenue and Customs
BX9 1AS
United Kingdom
Tel: 0300 200 3300**

You can also use HMRC's online service to check your tax codes, including whether there has been a change, your personal allowance and estimates of how much tax you'll pay over the whole tax year.

You can access information about your current tax code at www.gov.uk/check-income-tax-current-year or find information about your previous tax codes at www.gov.uk/check-income-tax-last-year.

All you'll need is your Government user ID and password. If you don't already have a user ID, you can create one when you sign in for the first time.

Protecting your data

We take care to handle your personal data in compliance with data protection legislation.

We process your personal data correctly and lawfully, to enable compensation payments to be made to you, to keep you up-to-date with developments and to seek your feedback about ways we could improve our service.

We won't rent, swap or sell your personal data to any other organisation.

You can view our full privacy policy at www.ppf.co.uk/members or you can request a printed copy of the privacy policy be sent to you by using our contact details.

This booklet is for guidance only. It's necessarily simplified and not a definitive statement of law or entitlement.

Information in this booklet is based on our current understanding of the legislation governing the PPF in force at the time of writing.

Payments will always have to be calculated in accordance with legislation which will, therefore, override in the case of conflict.

Do you need assistance?

We understand that some of our members may need some extra assistance from time to time and so we have a number of services and tools in place to help.

- If you need, or would prefer, to have a representative contact us on your behalf, we can send a Letter of Authority form for you to complete and return. The form is also available on our member website www.ppf.co.uk/members.
- If you need, or would prefer, to have a representative make decisions or amend personal information on your behalf, please send us a Power of Attorney. More information on how to make or register a lasting Power of Attorney can be found on the government website www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney.
- If you have a sight impairment, we can provide letters and other communications in large print or Braille, in alliance with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).
- For members who have a hearing or speech impairment Relay UK will enable you to communicate with companies over the phone. This service is regulated by Ofcom and is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Our staff can provide further information on how Relay UK can assist you and how we work together with them to support our members. Alternatively, you can find more information on their website www.relayuk.bt.com/about-relay-uk.
- To help British Sign Language (BSL) users communicate with us, you can make a call to us via an interpreter at SignLive, which is a free service. All members have to do is register for SignLive once, through their website or app. When a member contacts us via SignLive, an interpreter relays the call between them and us. You can find more information on their website www.signlive.co.uk.
- For members experiencing mental health issues, our Contact Centre staff are trained to provide supportive conversations and know how best to assist members facing a number of difficulties and problems. All staff are familiar with the right organisations to signpost people to, where necessary.
- Our member website www.ppf.co.uk/members is available to all of our members and can make it easier for you to access information, such as viewing our correspondence on screen and you can also contact us via the website through our secure messaging service. We're always finding ways to develop the website further and offer more online services to our members.

If you'd like to talk to us about any of these services, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this booklet. If the assistance you need isn't mentioned on this list, please don't hesitate to contact us so we can discuss how we can help. You can also use our secure messaging service to let us know of any vulnerability you may have and how we can further support you.



Contact us

Pension Protection Fund
PO Box 254
WYMONDHAM
NR18 8DN

Telephone

0330 123 2222

Overseas Members

+44 (0)208 633 4902

Email

ppfmembers@ppf.co.uk

Member website

www.ppf.co.uk/members

Keeping your personal data secure is very important to us. That's why we're now asking you not to email us with any changes you want to make to your personal information. Your personal details, either in the email or on any attached documents, are the type of information fraudsters look for. So for your safety, we provide a secure messaging service through our member website. We can also reply back to your web account and you'll be notified when you have a new message from us. You can also safely upload documents to our member website using our Send Us a Document Tool. As well as being quick and simple to use, you'll know your details are secure.



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