

Key Features of Core Investments

The Financial Conduct Authority is a financial services regulator. It requires us, Royal London, to give you this important information to help you decide whether our Pension Portfolio is right for you. You should read this document carefully, so that you understand what you're buying, and then keep it safe for future reference. If you're concerned that it may not be suitable for you, contact your financial adviser.

This is an important document and you should read it together with your illustration and the enclosed Core Investments Charges Summary. Please read it and keep for future reference.

This document contains the following information:

- the aims of the Pension Portfolio
- your commitments if you take out the plan
- the risks associated with the plan
- questions and answers that explain the plan's main features
- how to contact us.

Pension Portfolio is a personal pension plan. It allows you to build up money tax efficiently to provide you with pension savings in later life. The plan has two distinct parts: Core Investments and Self Investments.

This key features document provides information only about the Core Investments.

If you opt to self invest your plan, we'll give you a separate **Key Features of Self Investments** document, which provides more information about them.

When you decide to take your pension savings you'll be able to take cash lumps sum(s) and/or use your Core Investments to buy a secure income.

Alternatively, another feature available when you take your pension savings is Income Release. This allows you to take tax-free cash and income payments directly from your plan.

Its aims

- To build up a sum of money tax efficiently, during working life to provide for your retirement.
- To allow you to access all or part of your pension savings, as tax free cash, taxable income or a secure income any time after age 55 (this will change to 57 from 6th April 2028).

Your commitment

- You and/or your employer agree to make regular contributions to your plan until your chosen pension date. You can also make one or more single contributions, or transfer funds from other pension plans.
- You agree to tell us if your circumstances change. For example, if you no longer have UK earnings or are no longer resident in the UK.
- You need to let the plan build up until you're allowed to access your pension savings, which is currently 55, rising to 57 from 6th April 2028.
- If you take pension savings from another pension plan, you need to tell us as this may trigger the money purchase annual allowance (MPAA). For more information about this, see the **What about tax?** section.
- Once you've started accessing your pension savings, you'll need to review them on a regular basis. This will ensure that they're still appropriate for your needs, both in the early and later parts of your retirement.

Risks

- We can't guarantee what you'll get back at your chosen pension date. Various factors can alter your plan value. For example:
 - Investment performance, interest rates and charges may be different to those illustrated.
 - If you stop, or take a temporary holiday from making regular contributions, this will reduce your potential pot of money.
 - You might take some or all of your pension savings earlier than your chosen pension date. If you take your pension savings earlier than your chosen pension date, you should think about reviewing your investment option as it may no longer be appropriate. The investment growth of your remaining assets may be insufficient for you to maintain your income payments at the level you wish for the rest of your life. This could mean you would have to reduce your income payment amounts.
 - Tax rules and legislation can change and the value of any tax benefits will depend on your individual circumstances.
 - Investment returns are never guaranteed. So while there's a chance your pension savings could grow, their value can also go down. This means you could get back less than you started with.
- If you transfer pension savings from another pension plan, you may be giving up valuable benefits. There's also no guarantee that your pension savings will be more than if you'd stayed in your previous plan.
- If you invest in the Royal London With Profits fund, but take money out of the fund before your chosen pension date, we may apply a market value reduction (MVR). An MVR reduces the value of your fund and is applied to ensure that the amount we pay you isn't unfairly higher than your share of the fund.

Income Release

The following additional risks relate specifically to Income Release.

- If you withdraw an income directly from your plan, this will reduce the plan's value, reducing the overall value of the fund. The investment growth of your remaining assets may be insufficient for you to maintain your income payments at the level you wish for the rest of your life. This could mean you would have to reduce your income payment amounts.
- One option you may have when you come to access your pension is to use it to buy a secure income for life, known as an annuity. Annuity rates change over time, and the

rates available to you will affect the income you receive. They may be lower or higher than you expected

- If there's not enough money in your Income Release Account to cover your income payments and our charges, we'll stop paying the income.

Questions and answers

What is Pension Portfolio?

Pension Portfolio is a personal pension plan. It allows you to build up money tax-efficiently for retirement to provide you with an income for life, cash lump sum(s) and/or tax-free cash.

We designed the plan for people who want to build up tax-efficient savings in a very flexible way. In particular, in terms of how and when they can access their pension savings.

Pension Portfolio has two parts: Core Investments and Self Investments.

The Core Investments consist of our own investment funds and a selection of investment funds managed by other investment companies. You must have a Core Investments part to your plan.

If you want more control over how your plan's invested or greater investment freedom, you can access the Self Investments. You can do this without having to set up a new plan. We provide details of the Self Investments arrangement in a separate **Key features of Self Investments** document.

It's possible any time after age 55 (this will change to age 57 from 6th April 2028) to:

- take cash lump sum(s) directly from your plan, and/or purchase a secure income, or
- take tax-free cash and an income directly from your plan. This facility is called Income Release. For more information about this, see the **What is Income Release?** section.

Is this a stakeholder pension?

No. Pension Portfolio isn't a stakeholder pension because it doesn't meet the stakeholder criteria for contributions and charges set out by the Government.

Stakeholder pensions are widely available. You should consider whether this type of pension would meet your needs as well as the Pension Portfolio. You should discuss this with your financial adviser.

What is Income Release?

Income Release is the name of our facility, that allows you to take tax-free cash and/or income directly from your plan.

You don't need to use all your pension savings. You decide how much tax-free cash and/or income you need and when you need it. We recommend that you seek appropriate guidance or advice to understand your options at retirement.

You can use Income Release any time after age 55 (this will change to age 57 from 6th April 2028). If you are a new customer, you must have a minimum of £15,000 in your Core Investments. However, for existing customers the minimum is £10,000.

You don't need to take your income with us. You're free to shop around to find the best rates.

How it works

If you do decide to take income with us using Income Release, we'll split your plan into two separate accounts. An Income Release Account, from which the tax-free cash and income are paid, and a Savings Account. You can continue to make contributions into your Savings Account if you wish to do so.

If you use your whole plan for Income Release, you'll only have an Income Release Account. You won't have a Savings Account unless you make additional contributions to your plan.

It's not possible to move money from the Income Release Account back into the Savings Account.

If you're using the Income Release facility, those assets not used to provide income payments and/or tax-free cash will continue to be invested.

Using Income Release

You can use your pension savings to receive benefits in a number of ways, such as:

- Regular tax-free cash payments
- Lump sum tax-free cash payments
- Regular taxable income payments
- One-off taxable income payments
- Or as a combination of tax-free cash and taxable income payments.

If payments are taken as regular tax-free cash, or as a combination of tax-free cash and taxable income, they can be paid either monthly or yearly. They'll be paid until you use up all of your tax-free cash savings, or until you tell us otherwise. Once you've used up all of your tax-free savings, any future payments you'll receive will be treated as income payments. Any payments can be stopped or started at any point on your plan.

Income payments can be paid monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, yearly or on a one-off basis and will be taxable. For more information about this, see the **What about tax?** section for details. Whilst the income payments aren't guaranteed for the rest of your life, you do have the flexibility to increase or reduce your income. You can also change the frequency of your income payments.

When you access all or part of your pension savings it's important that you think about your needs in both

the early and later parts of your retirement. It's your responsibility to ensure your income will last the rest of your life.

You can change your mind and choose to buy a secure income at any time.

Transferring existing benefits

If you're currently receiving an income from another pension plan, it may be possible for you to transfer the value of that plan to a Pension Portfolio plan and continue taking an income from it.

The maximum income you could take from this transfer may be capped at an amount determined by rates produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). You're not restricted to this limit and if you take an income higher than the capped amount, your plan will become a flexi-access drawdown plan and the MPAA will apply to you. For more information about this, see the **What about tax?** section.

If your income's currently capped at the GAD rate, we'll recalculate the maximum level of income you can receive at least every three years until age 75 and then every year after that. Following these reviews, you may decide to increase/decrease the level of income you receive.

What contributions can be made into my plan?

You and/or your employer can make monthly or yearly contributions. You can also make single contributions at any time. If you have another pension plan, you may be able to transfer it into this plan. The following table shows the minimum contributions that apply to the plan.

Contribution type	Minimum contribution
Monthly contributions	£100 ¹
Yearly contributions	£1,200 ¹
Single contributions	£2,500 ²
Transfer payments	£2,500 ²

¹ The minimum can be reduced to £50 per month or £600 per year if a transfer payment or single contribution in excess of £15,000 has been made to your plan.

² The minimum is waived if you are making regular contributions.

Contributions made from your net salary

You make your contributions from your salary after tax has been deducted. We add tax relief at the basic rate and invest it in your plan. We then reclaim the basic rate tax relief from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

If you're an intermediate rate (Scottish taxpayers only), higher rate or additional rate taxpayer, you could be entitled to claim more tax relief through a self-assessment tax return or by contacting your local tax office.

You'll receive tax relief on all regular and single contributions you make to your plan up to a maximum of £3,600 a year or 100% of your earnings, whichever is greater.

Tax rules and legislation can change and the value of any tax benefits will depend on your individual circumstances.

Whilst no further regular or single contributions can be made to your plan once you reach age 75, you can make transfers into your plan after this age.

Regular contributions are usually made by Direct Debit and single contributions by cheque.

You can ask to change your regular contribution amount at any time.

You can ask to stop contributing or to reduce contributions to your plan. You can also ask to take a contribution holiday and then restart contributions again. Stopping or reducing contributions may reduce the amount you get back from your plan. You can ask us for more information about the effect of stopping or reducing your contributions.

You can also choose to increase any regular contributions automatically each year:

- at a fixed rate
- in line with the Retail Prices Index, or
- in line with your salary/earnings.

If you and your employer wish to make separate regular contributions, then two plans will have to be set up. Alternatively, your employer will have to submit your contribution along with their own as only one direct debit can be accepted per plan.

Where are the contributions invested?

Your contributions, including any made on your behalf, are pooled with those made by other investors in unit-linked funds. These are invested in a range of different types of funds, including company shares, property, bonds and cash.

The unit-linked funds are made up of units, which you buy with your contributions. The price of these units depends directly on the value of the investments in the fund.

We work out the value of your investment in each unit-linked fund based on the total number of units you have in the fund and the unit price (the price at which we buy and sell units). If the unit price rises or falls so will the value of your investment in the unit-linked fund.

You can choose from a wide range of investment options; you can read about these in our **Pension and investment options** guide.

If you don't tell us how to invest your contributions we'll invest them in the RLP Deposit fund.

You can switch your investments or change the investment choice for future contributions, although there may be conditions and a charge for doing so.

We have the right to delay a transfer, switch of investments or retirement not at the chosen pension date. We'd do this to protect the interests of everyone invested in that particular fund.

With profits

Any contributions into the Royal London With Profits fund are used to buy units. The price of these units stays the same and the investment performance is paid out as additional units when we allocate regular and final bonuses to your plan.

We work out the value of your investment in the Royal London With Profits fund based on the total number of units you have, any regular bonus due but not yet paid, and any final bonus due.

We may reduce this value by applying a market value reduction if you take money out of the fund at any other time before your chosen pension date.

If you're considering investing in the Royal London With Profits fund we'll give you the booklet **A guide to how we manage our with profits fund** which you should read together with this key features document. This guide is a customer-friendly version of our **Principles and Practices of Financial Management**.

It's important that you read and understand this document as it describes the way in which we manage our with profits business.

ProfitShare

We believe our customers should share in our success. That's why we'll aim to give your pension savings an extra boost by adding a share of our profits to your plan each year. We've called this your **ProfitShare**.

Please note that if you opt to self invest, the self-invested part of your plan doesn't qualify for ProfitShare.

How ProfitShare works

We'll review our financial strength and performance at the end of each year to decide if ProfitShare can be awarded.

Any ProfitShare awarded will be applied in April each year as long as your plan was in force on 31 December the previous year and on the date the award is given.

It'll be based on the value of your plan at the date of the award and will be invested in the same investment choice as your other pension savings to help it grow.

You can take the value of your ProfitShare account along with the rest of your pension savings any time after age 55. This will change to age 57 from 6th April 2028.

There's no guarantee that we'll be able to award ProfitShare every year.

If you invest in with profits, we'll work out your ProfitShare in a different way. You can find more information in the **Royal London With Profits Fund** factsheet.

What might I get when I access my pension savings?

Your **illustration** will provide an indication of what you might get back when you decide to take your pension savings, although this can't be guaranteed.

What can I do with my plan when I access my pension savings?

Any time after age 55 (this will change to 57 from 6th April 2028), you'll have access to your pension savings. You don't need to do anything immediately as your pension savings can remain invested.

With each retirement option, you can normally take up to 25% of your pension savings tax free. The other 75% is taxable.

You'll normally be able to use your plan value to:

- take a cash lump sum which can be some or all of your pension savings
- buy a secure income which will provide you with an income.
- use Income Release, or
- a combination of all the options.

You don't need to have stopped working to take an income from your plan.

Take a cash lump sum

You can usually take some or all of your pension savings as a cash lump sum if you haven't started using Income Release. If you decide to do this, you should be aware that:

- Only 25% of the amount you take is tax free, the rest will be taxed as income.
- We need to hold a valid tax code for you; if we don't, we'll deduct tax at an emergency rate from the cash lump sum. You may need to reclaim tax from HMRC if we've deducted too much tax, or you may have to pay additional tax if we've not deducted the right amount.
- Any future contributions into the plan will be limited. If you decide to pay more than the MPAA, a tax charge will apply.

Buy secure income

You can normally take up to 25% of your pension savings as tax-free cash. The rest can be used to buy a secure income. This is often called 'an annuity'.

An annuity gives you a guaranteed income for life.

Different types of annuity are available to suit your individual circumstances.

If you want to buy a secure income, you don't have to buy it from us. You can shop around to find the best rates and products for you.

Use Income Release

Rather than buying a secure income you can normally withdraw tax-free cash and an income directly from your plan any time after age 55. This will change to age 57 from 6th April 2028. Please see the **What is Income Release?** section for details.

Income Release may not be suitable for everyone. There are alternative products available on the market and you should shop around to find the best product for you.

If, after choosing to take an income from your plan, you decide you'd prefer a secure income, you can buy a secure income at any time.

What happens if I die?

We'll normally pay out your plan value as a lump sum to the individuals you've nominated such as your spouse, civil partner or dependants on your death. If you agree an initial adviser charge payment with an adviser and this is still outstanding at the time of your death, we'll deduct this before we pay out your plan value.

If you've set up a trust to receive the death benefits, we'll pay the lump sum to the trustees.

Alternatively, you can request that we use your plan value to provide an income for your beneficiaries such as your spouse, civil partner or dependants on your death.

Income Release

The following information relates to Income Release.

If you die before age 75, the remaining value of your plan will be paid to the individuals you've nominated such as your spouse, civil partner or dependants on your death, subject to our agreement. The beneficiaries will have three options:

- leave benefits invested and take an income if they wish
- purchase an annuity
- take the remaining value of the plan as a tax-free lump sum.

If you die after age 75 and you were using Income Release, the remaining value of your plan will be paid to the individuals you've nominated such as your spouse, civil partner or dependants on your death, subject to our agreement. The beneficiaries will have three options:

- leave benefits invested and take an income if they wish
- purchase an annuity
- take the remaining value of the plan as a cash lump sum; this will be added to the individual's taxable income and taxed accordingly.

What are the charges?

We'll apply a charge for managing your plan. If you receive a service from a financial adviser, the adviser may agree an adviser charge payment in return for the services they provide. We'll deduct the agreed adviser charge payment from your plan and we will then make a payment to your adviser. Your **illustration** will show the effect these charges may have on the value of your Core Investments over the term.

Full details of the charges applying to the Core Investments, including Income Release, are set out in a separate **Core Investments Charges Summary**. Please read this.

We regularly review our charges and they could change in the future.

If you instruct us to make any additional transfer payments, single contributions or increase your regular contributions and also confirm that you're not using a financial adviser, we may apply an additional administration charge to your plan.

What about tax?

Our pension investment funds are generally free of UK income and capital gains tax. However, we can't reclaim tax deducted at source from the dividends of UK company shares.

Under pension rules, the lump sum allowance (LSA) limits the amount of tax-free cash you can access from your pension plan. Normally 25% of the benefits you take can be paid tax-free, with an overall maximum limit of £ 268,275. Payments above this are subject to tax at your marginal rate of income tax. You may have protection that allows you to take more than this – your policy documents will tell you if this is the case.

If you want to make contributions to your plan after you've taken all or some of your pension savings you may be limited to what you can contribute and receive tax relief on. This is known as the money purchase annual allowance (MPAA). Please note that this is considerably lower than the annual allowance and relates to any pension plan you may have, not just this one. If you want to find out more, speak to your financial adviser or visit our website royallondon.com/pensions.

You don't receive tax relief on payments you transfer into your plan from another pension plan.

Please also be aware that if you move overseas there may be tax implications and restrictions that may affect your pension. If this is likely to affect you we recommend you speak to a financial adviser.

If you die, there's normally no inheritance tax payable on the value of your plan, unless it forms part of your estate.

Whichever retirement income you receive, will be taxable as earned income. You can normally take up to 25% of the value of your plan tax free, however, the remainder of your plan

will be taxed as earned income. If you take a large cash sum, you could end up paying more tax. It's important to check whether the cash sum will push you into a higher tax bracket.

Tax rules and legislation can change and the value of any tax benefits will depend on your individual circumstances.

We recommend you get professional advice if you need more information on tax.

Income Release

The following tax issues relate to Income Release:

Every time you allocate part of your plan for Income Release we'll carry out a test to check whether the total value of your pension savings exceeds the lifetime allowance. We'll also carry out another test when you reach your 75th birthday.

Any death benefits from the Income Release Account which are payable before you reach age 75 will be tax-free.

If you die after age 75 any lump sum death benefits will be added to the individual's taxable income and taxed accordingly. If income is taken instead it will be taxed at the individual's own rate of tax.

Can I transfer my plan?

You can transfer your plan to another pension plan at any time. Your **illustration** gives examples of how much you could potentially transfer to another pension plan, depending on when you transfer and how your investments perform.

If you decide to transfer your plan, we may take a charge from the plan value, including any outstanding initial adviser charge payment.

If you're using the Income Release facility it's possible for you to transfer your plan to another pension plan offering an income drawdown arrangement.

Can I cancel my plan?

You can change your mind within 30 days of receiving your plan documents. If you decide you don't want the plan, you must write and tell us. You can contact us in writing by using the details in the **How to contact us** section. We'll then give you your contributions back. If you've taken any lump sum(s) from your Core Investments these would need to be repaid. Similarly, if you've used the plan for Income Release, any income and/or tax-free cash paid to you would need to be repaid. If we don't hear back from you in 30 days, your plan will continue.

Cancelling the Core Investments part of your plan automatically cancels the Self Investments part as well, if applicable.

If you made a transfer payment to the plan, we'll pay the money back to the other pension provider it came from. If the transfer came from an occupational pension scheme, the trustees of the transferring scheme may not accept the transfer payment back if you decide to cancel the plan.

If you made a single contribution or transfer payment and the plan value has fallen by the time it's cancelled the amount returned will be the plan value. This will be less than you paid in. If the plan value has increased by the time it's cancelled the amount returned will be the value of the contributions. If you agreed that your adviser could receive an adviser charge payment from the plan for the services they provide, the relevant amount returned will be less any adviser charge payment that has been paid to your adviser. This will be less than you paid in.

How will I know how my plan's doing?

We'll send you a yearly statement to show you how your plan's doing. You should review your plan on a regular basis to ensure your pension plan meets your needs. Your financial adviser can help you with this.

You can check the prices of the funds you're invested in online.




You can find out your plan value by phoning our customer helpline or you can get an online valuation at any time. Our contact details can be found in the **How to contact us** section.

To register for our online service, visit royallondon.com/onlineservice.

How to contact us

Your financial adviser should be your first point of contact. We're unable to provide financial advice.

If you have any queries regarding your plan, you can contact us by the following methods:




-  Royal London House
Alderley Park
Congleton Road
Nether Alderley
Macclesfield
SK10 4EL
-  0345 60 50 050 Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm. We may record calls to help improve our customer service.
-  customerqueries@royallondon.com Please make sure you quote your plan number on correspondence, or have it to hand when you phone us.

Other information

Pension Wise

If you'd like to find out more about your retirement options, you can contact Pension Wise.




Pension Wise is a free and impartial retirement planning service for those over 50 from MoneyHelper, introduced by the government to help you understand your options.

-  moneyhelper.org.uk
-  0800 011 3797 Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.
-  pensionenquiries@moneyhelper.org.uk

Please make sure you quote your plan number on correspondence, or have it to hand when you phone us.

How to complain

If you have a complaint against us in connection with your plan, please contact our Customer Relations Team.

-  Customer Relations Team
Royal London House
Alderley Park
Congleton Road
Nether Alderley
Macclesfield
SK10 4EL
-  0345 60 50 050 Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm. We may record calls to help improve our customer service.
-  customer.relations@royallondon.com. Please make sure you quote your plan number on correspondence, or have it to hand when you phone us.

If you're not satisfied with our response, you can refer the complaint to The Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Square, London, E14 9SR. Telephone: 08000 234 567.

Complaining to the Ombudsman won't affect your legal rights.

Terms and conditions

These key features give a summary of the Core Investments within your Pension Portfolio. They don't include all definitions, exclusions, terms and conditions.

You'll receive a copy of the full terms and conditions as detailed in our **Core Investments Plan booklet** after you've taken out the plan and before the 30 day cancellation period has expired.

We have the right to change some of the terms and conditions, including the charges. We'll write to you and explain the changes if this happens.

It may become impossible to comply with the terms and conditions, for example, due to a change in legislation. We'll write to you if this happens.

Pension Portfolio is issued under The Royal London Personal Pension Scheme (No2). If you'd like a copy of the rules of this scheme, please ask us.

Terms and conditions and all communications will be in English.

Law

The terms and conditions applying to your plan are governed by Scots Law, unless we agree with you that a different law should apply.

Client classification

The Financial Conduct Authority requires us to classify our customers to ensure they get the appropriate level of protection under the rules. You've been classified as a retail client, which means you will benefit from the highest level of protection available.

Compensation

Your financial adviser must recommend products that are suitable for you. You have a legal right to compensation if, because of what your adviser recommends, you lose out by taking out a plan that wasn't suitable for your needs at that time.

If we were to become unable to meet our liabilities under your plan you may be entitled to compensation through the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. If you'd like more information about the compensation arrangements that apply please ask your financial adviser or contact us direct.

Benefits we might give your adviser

To help improve the quality of service your adviser gives you, we might give them small non-cash benefits such as marketing and promotional support and technical services and training. We might also make small cash or voucher payments to them for research carried out with them. Your adviser should tell you about any benefits they receive upfront.

Our conflict of interest policy

We've designed our conflict of interest policy to:

- Identify potential conflicts of interest that might be a significant risk to our customers.
- Make sure we take reasonable steps to prevent these conflicts from happening.
- Help us manage these conflicts to protect our customers' interests.

If you'd like more information about our conflict of interest policy, just get in touch.

About us

The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society is a customer-owned life, pensions and investment company.

Solvency and Financial Condition report

We want to provide you with clearer information about Royal London's financial position, so we've created a Solvency and Financial Condition report. This report will provide more details about Royal London's business and company performance. You can access the report from royallondon.com/solvency.



Royal London
royallondon.com

We're happy to provide your documents in a different format, such as Braille, large print or audio, just ask us when you get in touch.

All of our printed products are produced on stock which is from FSC® certified forests.

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