

Your retirement options

At this stage, there are four options you can choose from. You need to tell us which option you have chosen before your chosen retirement date.

Option 1: You can change your chosen retirement date to a later date

You will need to tell us to change the date you start to receive income benefits. We will write to you again at least four months before your new start date to check whether you wish to take any benefits at that time.

What you need to tell us now:

If you want to change your income start date, please complete the enclosed "Paying Out Benefits" form. We must receive your completed form in our office **15 business days** before your Guaranteed Income Payments are currently due to start, otherwise we will be unable to process your request and your income payments will start as already agreed.

Option 2: On your chosen retirement date, you can take an optional pension commencement lump sum (PCLS), where permitted, and/or choose to use all of the remaining pension fund to provide you with Income benefits

→ Pension Commencement Lump Sum

You are entitled to take a tax-free Pension Commencement Lump Sum (PCLS) from your Plan, and you can receive it as a single payment before you start to use your pension fund to provide income benefits.

You do not have to take any PCLS. If you take a PCLS amount, it will reduce the amount of your pension fund which can be used to provide income benefits. Therefore, the Guaranteed Income Payment amount shown in this letter will decrease in proportion to the amount of the PCLS taken.

The maximum PCLS is usually 25% of your pension fund. If you choose to take less than your maximum PCLS entitlement, you cannot decide to take the rest at a later date.

→ Income benefits

By choosing to take Guaranteed Income Payments from this Plan from the date already agreed, you have currently chosen to use your pension fund, or any remaining amount after any PCLS has been paid, to provide flexi-access drawdown pension benefits.

Flexi-access drawdown pension income can include:

- i. your regular Guaranteed Income Payments; or
- ii. one-off or regular non-guaranteed Income Withdrawals; or
- iii. a combination of the two.

What you need to tell us now:

To receive Guaranteed Income Payments from your Plan on your chosen retirement date, please complete the enclosed "Paying Out Benefits" form, telling us if you want to take 0%-25% PCLS from your Plan and return it to us.

Option 3: You can transfer your pension fund to another provider

You can transfer some or all of your pension fund to another Registered Pension Scheme (RPS) or a Qualifying Registered Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS).

If you have more than one AXA Life Invest plan, you can transfer all of the benefits in one or more of your Plans to another RPS or a QROPS without affecting your remaining plans with us.

What you need to do now:

If you want to transfer some or all of your Plan, please contact your financial adviser.

Option 4: You can buy a lifetime annuity from another insurance company

Lifetime annuities provide an income for life in return for a lump sum. It is possible to purchase different types of annuity and add different options depending on your needs and circumstances.

AXA Life Invest does not provide lifetime annuities. However, you can choose to use some or all of your pension fund to buy a lifetime annuity from another insurance company. This is referred to as using the "open market option".

What you need to do now:

Find out more about the different lifetime annuities available in the enclosed independent guide from the Money Advice Service. If you want to use some or all of your Plan to buy a lifetime annuity, please contact your financial adviser.

Points to consider before transferring your pension fund or buying a lifetime annuity

If your Plan includes a Lifetime Income Benefit, it will provide you with a guaranteed minimum income for life. This benefit will be lost if you transfer to another provider and you should consider this with your financial adviser before making a decision to transfer.

If you transfer some of your Plan, it will reduce any Guaranteed Income Payments we will pay from this Plan in proportion to the amount transferred. For example, if you transfer 25% of your Plan, we will reduce your Guaranteed Income Payments by 25%.

The Plan Value is not guaranteed and can go up as well as down, this means you could get back less than you invested should you choose to transfer your funds.

Have you heard about Pension Wise?

You now have more options on what you can do with your pension savings. Getting guidance or advice can help you with your decision-making. **Pension Wise** is a new government service offering free and impartial guidance. Read more about this service over the page.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Have you had your **free** appointment with Pension Wise?

Pension Wise is a free and impartial government service to help you understand what you can do with your pension money.

We offer telephone or face-to-face appointments with our highly-trained professionals.

You'll get:

- guidance on how to make the best use of your money
- information about tax when taking money from your pension
- tips on getting the best deal, including how to compare products, get financial advice and avoid scams

9 out of 10 people who have had a Pension Wise appointment would recommend it to friends and family, so book yours now. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,



Jamey Johnson
Deputy Director, Pension Wise



cut out and keep

Book your **free** appointment now

It's easy to book your appointment, simply call:

 **0800 280 8880**

Or for more information, visit www.pensionwise.gov.uk