



For customers

See your future more clearly  
with the Aegon Platform



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If your personal circumstances mean you need any additional support, or if you'd like a large print, Braille or audio CD version of this document, please call us on 03456 044 001 (call charges will vary), or visit [aegon.co.uk/support/additional-support](https://aegon.co.uk/support/additional-support)

## What is the Aegon Platform?

A platform is a service that lets investors buy, sell and hold investments online all in one place.

Most have a degree of flexibility that allows your financial adviser to change your investments as your needs change, generally without you having to pay additional charges when they buy and sell on your behalf.

The Aegon Platform gives you a seamless transition from saving to taking an income, and by keeping all your savings in one place, you get a clear view of what you have. Because we recognise that things can change, the Aegon Platform is flexible enough to allow you to change your mind to help you get the outcome you want.

The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and isn't guaranteed. You could get back less than you invest.

# What are the benefits of a platform?

Many people have various different savings – such as individual savings accounts (ISAs), pensions, savings accounts, unit trusts and various other investments with a number of different providers. A platform allows you and your financial adviser to bring all those different investments together.

There are many benefits to investing on the Aegon Platform:

- You can bring all your savings together in one place, giving you a single view, even if they aren't with us.
- The more you save with us, the lower the rate of platform charge could be across each product.
- Minimal paperwork for you and your adviser.
- Online management makes it easily accessible and gives you more control.
- You can see how your savings are performing, anytime, no matter where you are.
- You and your financial adviser can decide how much control you want to have.

Bringing savings together (consolidating) may not be the best option for you. It's up to you to decide if this is the right decision for you so make sure you compare products before consolidating. If you're not sure, speak to a financial adviser – there may be a charge for this.

We've designed the Aegon Platform to support your financial adviser, and have provided tools to support them and help them to save time, so they have more time to manage your savings.

The Aegon Platform makes it easier to plan for the future, as you and your financial adviser can look at your savings as a whole and plan multiple goals, or work out the gaps you need to fill to secure the future you want. On our platform, you and your adviser can do all your financial planning, and can move money from one investment to another if your needs change.

## Planning your future

Broadly, there are two stages to planning your future savings.

The Aegon Platform supports you through both stages, so everything you need is in one place.



### Growing your investments

It can help you build up enough savings towards the retirement you deserve.



### Taking an income

It helps you take an income, and lets you change it if you need to.

# Growth, income, or both?

Depending on what stage of life you're at, you'll have very different savings needs.

Whatever stage you're at, or whatever your needs, we can help you to get the outcome you need. Below are the sorts of questions you might ask yourself at each stage.

## Growth

- How much will I need to save to live the lifestyle I want?
- What's the best way to grow my savings to achieve my goals?
- Will I have to pay any tax charges?
- How will I be able to access my savings?
- What's the easiest way to keep track of everything?

## Income

- What are my options?
- Will my income last until I die?
- How can I access my savings if I need to?
- What will the tax implications be?
- Do I have a choice who I leave my money to when I die?



# Choosing products

Achieving the goals you've set will be dependent on two important factors – having the right product and the right investment solutions.

## Access a range of products

With the Aegon Platform, you can invest your money in a range of different ways. Each product has different benefits and is designed for different types of savings, so there's something for every situation you may find yourself in. Each of our products have different tax rules and allowances, but your financial adviser will talk you through which options are right for you.



Our products are designed to complement each other, with the aim to help you make the most of your money and achieve your financial goals.

The value of any of the products above can fall as well as rise, isn't guaranteed and you may get back less than you invest.

Although the GIA and ISAs have no fixed term, you should be prepared to hold the product for at least five years, ideally longer. The value of any tax relief or benefits will depend on individual circumstances.

All references to taxation are based on our understanding of current taxation law and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) practice, which may change.

# Family-friendly investing

As people start to live longer, there may be times when you need your money to work harder to support your family. And that's where our Junior ISA and trust products come in.

## Junior ISA

A Junior ISA is a tax-efficient way to save for a child's future, whether that's university fees, a first car or getting onto the property ladder. You can start saving into a Junior ISA as soon as a child is born, and they can't access the money until they're 18. So it's a great way to prepare for the future and can help you teach them about the benefits of saving.

## Help build a solid financial future for them

We all know saving can be difficult as we get older and as life throws us different challenges. By encouraging regular saving early on in a child's life, you're setting a good example and you can feel assured that you're contributing to a more secure financial future for them. And, with no personal income tax or capital gains tax on the income and growth, the money you put away could grow even faster.

Our Junior stocks and shares ISA automatically transfers to an Aegon stocks and shares ISA once the child turns 18. And should you wish, the child can manage the account when they turn 16 – although they must be 18 to withdraw any money.

## Get other family members involved

Junior ISAs aren't just for parents with expendable income. Family members can also contribute, making the Junior ISA a great alternative to outright gifts – especially for children at a young age. Visit [gov.uk/junior-individual-savings-accounts](https://www.gov.uk/junior-individual-savings-accounts) to find out more about the yearly allowance.



## Trusts

Setting up an asset (money, investments, land or buildings) in trust or transferring existing assets into trust can be used as a key tool for the management of capital gains and inheritance tax (IHT) planning.

Although you may often associate trusts with the very wealthy, you can use trust planning in many different situations and trusts can help you protect and, in some circumstances, manage your assets tax-efficiently.

Whether you're looking to provide for loved ones, protect an inheritance for your family, or provide for elderly relatives, our range of trusts can help you achieve your financial planning goals.

### What trusts are for

Trusts are set up for a number of reasons, including:

- To control and protect family assets.
- When someone's too young to handle their affairs.
- When someone can't handle their affairs because they're incapacitated.
- To pass on assets while you're still alive.
- To pass on assets when you die (a 'will trust').
- Where a minor is a beneficiary, under the rules of intestacy (if someone dies without a will), the assets are held in a statutory trust.

### What does a trust offer?

- Makes sure those that matter to you can access the asset without needing to get probate first.
- Encourages inheritance tax savings, meaning you can pass on as much of your estate as possible.
- Makes sure the people you want to benefit from your savings do.

Trusts establish legal rights and entitlements and might have material financial and tax implications for the settlor, trustees and beneficiaries. We aren't authorised to provide legal advice, so you should seek legal advice before setting up a trust, to make sure that it meets your requirements. Our trusts have been drafted for use by UK-domiciled individuals only.

This information is based on our understanding of current taxation law and HMRC practice, which may change.

The value of any tax relief will depend on individual circumstances.



## Combine your pensions

We can help you take control of your pensions by combining them into one pot.

Many of us are switching jobs several times in our lives. This means that our pension pots are often scattered about, which can make it hard to get a complete picture of our pension savings, or how on track we are for retirement. Moving your pension savings into one pot, in one place, can help you take control.

### Why consider combining your pensions?

**Fewer charges** – multiple pensions could mean you're paying multiple charges. By combining into one pot means one set of charges – making it easier to see what charges you're paying and potentially save money.

**Control** – one pension rather than multiple pensions means one yearly statement and a clear view of your retirement savings.

**It's free** – we won't charge you any transfer or set-up fees for transferring your other pensions to us. Your previous pension provider may charge an exit fee when you transfer.

### Is it right for you?

Transferring a pension may not be the best option for you. You may lose features, protections, guarantees or other benefits – so make sure you compare products before transferring. It's up to you to decide if this is the right decision for you. If you're not sure, speak to an adviser – there may be a charge for this.

It's important to remember the value of your consolidated pension pot can still fall as well as rise and the final value of your pension pot when you come to take benefits may be less than has been paid in.

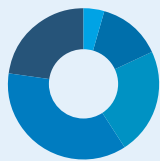
Any new investment funds you move your pension pots into will have their own set of risks that will be detailed in the fund information available to you.



# Investing to grow your savings

The Aegon Platform has a huge range of investments to help you grow your savings. But if you find the choice daunting, our range of ready-made solutions may make your decision easier.

Our Risk-Managed Portfolios are designed to make investing easier and provide value for money. You can use the Risk-Managed Portfolios in your pension, individual savings account (ISA), or general investment account (GIA). You can read about our Risk-Managed Portfolios on our website, visit: [aegon.co.uk/customer/investment-choices/through-an-adviser/leave-it-with-me/aegon-platform](https://aegon.co.uk/customer/investment-choices/through-an-adviser/leave-it-with-me/aegon-platform).



## A complete investment portfolio

Designed to be the only fund you might need, they hold a mix of different types of investments from around the world, managed for you by experts.



## Aligned to your risk appetite

The range has six portfolios, each catering for a different risk appetite, from cautious through to adventurous investors.



## Managed on your behalf

Our Portfolio Management team monitors the portfolios and changes the mix of investments with the aim of keeping each portfolio at its risk level.



## Monitored

Our fund governance team provides independent scrutiny of the portfolios to check if they're performing as they should.



## Cost effective

Focused on value for money, you get a complete investment strategy for a competitive 0.25% a year fund charge.<sup>1</sup>

## Building investment portfolios

You can use our ready-made solutions or build your own investment portfolio with your financial adviser.

Our platform offers a range of over 4,000 investment options (as at December 2022), which your financial adviser can use to build investment portfolios that exactly meet your savings needs and risk appetite.

There's no guarantee that fund objectives will be met. If you're unsure if a particular fund is right for you, please speak to your financial adviser. There may be a charge for this.

Please remember, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and there's no guarantee the fund objectives will be met. 'Risk-Managed' doesn't mean there's no risk and you may get back less than the amount invested.

You can find out more about our investments at [aegon.co.uk/customer/investment-choices](https://aegon.co.uk/customer/investment-choices)

<sup>1</sup> Transaction fees, a platform charge and adviser charges (where applicable) will also apply.

# Taking an income in retirement

Many people now choose a more gradual transition from working life into retirement, and our products support a flexible, phased approach from saving to taking an income.

You can use your SIPP to take an income when you finally want to use your savings. HMRC rules mean that you must be 55 before you can take benefits from your SIPP (increasing to age 57 on 6 April 2028). You may be able to take benefits earlier than this in certain circumstances.

Our SIPP has a few different options available when you finally want to access your pension pot. We've provided an overview below – the different options come with different conditions. When the time comes, your adviser can help you decide which options are right for you and explain any tax implications.

## Take a cash lump sum

Take your entire pension pot as a cash lump-sum or take a series of lump sums as and when you need to. If you choose this option, typically 25% of the lump sum will be tax free and the rest will be taxed as income. This type of payment is called an uncrystallised funds pension lump sum.

## Take a small pot payment

If you have a pension pot of £10,000 or less, you can take this as a cash lump-sum under the small pot payment rules. As with other lump sum payments, you'll receive 25% tax free from each small pot, with the remaining 75% subject to income tax. You can take a maximum of three payments from contract-based pension arrangements (such as group personal pensions) over your lifetime.

## Take flexi-access drawdown

You can ask for some or all your pension pot to be used for flexi-access drawdown. Usually, 25% of the pot used for flexi-access drawdown will be paid as tax-free cash with the rest remaining invested (no further tax-free cash can be taken from the drawdown fund). You can then take a regular income or one-off payments from the drawdown fund – these payments are taxed as income. You can read more about flexi-access drawdown on the next page.

## Buy a lifetime annuity<sup>2</sup>

You can take up to 25% of your pension pot as tax-free cash, then use the balance to buy an annuity that pays you a guaranteed income for life – giving you the security of knowing exactly what you'll receive.

We don't offer annuities so please speak to your adviser for more information, or visit [moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/taking-your-pension/guaranteed-retirement-income-annuities-explained](https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/taking-your-pension/guaranteed-retirement-income-annuities-explained)

<sup>2</sup>As annuity rates can change substantially and rapidly, there's no guarantee that if you do buy an annuity the rates at the time will be favourable. This could mean that your annuity income thereafter may be less than you hoped for.

# Investing in retirement

If you decide to stay invested in retirement, by opting for flexi-access drawdown we can help you achieve the retirement income you need.

## Flexi-access drawdown

Flexi-access drawdown lets you take an income from your pension pot, leaving the rest invested, so you can continue to benefit from potential investment growth. Plus, as there's no limit to the amount you can take through flexi-access drawdown (apart from the size of your drawdown fund), it offers more flexibility than an annuity.

However, drawing income will reduce the value of your pot and you'll need to take on some investment risk, which means the value of your savings could fall as well as rise and could run out too soon.

Please note, there's no guarantee the investments will meet their objectives. The value of an investment, and any income you take from it, can fall as well as rise and isn't guaranteed. You could get back less than has been paid in.



# Help and support

Retirement planning can sometimes be confusing and a little worrying. But help is available if and when you need it.

If you have any questions or concerns about your options, we recommend you get professional financial advice before making any decisions. If you don't have a financial adviser, Moneyhelper can help you find the right one - visit [moneyhelper.org.uk/en/getting-help-and-advice/financial-advisers/choosing-a-financial-adviser](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/en/getting-help-and-advice/financial-advisers/choosing-a-financial-adviser). There may be a charge for getting advice.

## Where can I find more information on pension products and retirement?

Pension Wise, a service from MoneyHelper, is a free and impartial government service offering guidance about your retirement options. This service is available online at [moneyhelper.org.uk](https://moneyhelper.org.uk) by phone on 0800 138 3944 or face to face by appointment.

## How can I work out what I'll need in retirement?

We provide support through our digital site Your Retirement Planner. It provides engaging, helpful information and tools to help you understand your options as well as the benefits and risks. Please note we can't give you advice. To find out more, visit [aegon.co.uk/retirementplanner](https://aegon.co.uk/retirementplanner)

## Where can I go to find out about tax implications?

Products have different tax implications depending on your personal circumstances. To find out more, visit [moneyhelper.org.uk/en/savings/types-of-savings/tax-on-savings-and-investments](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/en/savings/types-of-savings/tax-on-savings-and-investments)

# Why Aegon?

We've been helping our customers achieve financial security since we started out as Scottish Equitable in 1831. Over the years, we've evolved our brand and proud heritage with the global strength of Aegon N.V.

With our scale and experience to rely on, we feel we're well placed to help you and your adviser get you closer to your financial goals. We've designed the Aegon Platform to help you feel in control of your future, prepare for the moments that matter and help you achieve a lifetime of financial security.

You can find out more by visiting [aegon.co.uk/about-us](https://aegon.co.uk/about-us)



## What to do next?

If you think the Aegon Platform could be right for you, speak to a financial adviser.

Read more on our website about Aegon Platform – [aegon.co.uk/customer/support/aegon-platform](https://aegon.co.uk/customer/support/aegon-platform)

[aegon.co.uk](https://aegon.co.uk)



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