

For members



When was the last time you looked at your pension?



Our records show that you intend to take benefits from your pension pot soon.

Firstly, please check the retirement date you've indicated is correct and if it isn't right you may be able to change it at [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://www.aegon.co.uk/targetplan) or by contacting us.

The earliest you can access your pension under current legislation is age 55 (increasing to age 57 on 6 April 2028).



There are different ways you can use your pot. Hopefully you've already decided how you are going to do this, but briefly, they are:

Tax-free cash lump sum: Most people are able to take up to 25% of their pension pot as tax-free cash. You can take the remaining pot as:

- 1 Annuity:** With an annuity, you give your pension pot to an annuity provider who in turn pays you a guaranteed income until your death. You can add on extras like index linking, where the income goes up each year, or a pension for your spouse that would be paid if you die before them. As annuity rates can change substantially and rapidly, there's no guarantee that when you do purchase an annuity the rates will be favourable. This could mean that your pension thereafter may be less than you hoped for.
- 2 Income drawdown:** With income drawdown you keep your pension pot, and keep it invested. Any money generated from those investments or the capital itself can provide you with an income. 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.
- 3 Cash:** You can also take some or all of your pension pot as a cash lump sum, but only the first 25% of your pension pot is tax free and the remaining 75% is subject to income tax. This information is based on our understanding of current, taxation law and HMRC practice, which may change.

You can even choose to have a combination of these.

Do you know what funds you're invested in?

Three important reasons why you may want to adjust how your pot is invested are:

- 1 How you want to use your pot
- 2 When you want to use your pot
- 3 Your attitude to investment risk

It's very important that you look at your fund choices as you don't want any sudden surprises just before you take your pension benefits - you may want to speak to a financial adviser.

What else can I do?

- 1 List all of your existing pensions plans and their current value.
- 2 Sign in to your online account at aegon.co.uk/targetplan and use the retirement planning tools to help you work out how much income you might need when you stop working. If you've never used your online account, you'll need to activate it first before signing in. It only takes a few minutes to get started, all you'll need is your account number, which you'll find on your annual statement and your National Insurance number.
- 3 Once you have registered for TargetPlan, after 24 hours, you can download and register for the Aegon app. Thanks to the app you can check on your pension and make changes, wherever you are. Sign in is quick and secure - you'll be able to use fingerprint or face recognition for added security. The **Aegon UK** app is free. Visit the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store to get started.

- 4** Decide if you need to take any action, which could be, change your:
- Retirement age
 - Investment choices
 - Contributions (which could include a single, one-off contribution)

For advice on whether to take any action or what it means for you, please speak to a financial adviser.

Where can I get more information?

Sign into your account at [**aegon.co.uk/targetplan**](https://aegon.co.uk/targetplan) where you can get information about funds, how you can take your pension pot, and a pension calculator which can help you answer all of these questions. You may also be able to change your target retirement date online, but please remember that we can't give you advice. You may want to speak to a financial adviser. For details of local financial advisers visit [**moneyhelper.org.uk/choosing-a-financial-adviser**](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/choosing-a-financial-adviser). There may be a charge for this.

You can also use Pension Wise, a government service from MoneyHelper that offers free, impartial pensions guidance about your pension options ([**moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise**](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise)).

If you're aged 50 or over, you can book a free appointment to speak with someone at Pension Wise – appointments are available by phone or face to face. They'll talk you through your options to help you make an informed choice when you access your pension savings. You can book your appointment online ([**moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise**](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/pensionwise)) or by calling them on 0800 138 3944.

The government wants to encourage members to make use of this service and therefore when applying to take your benefits you'll be asked if you've either had guidance from Pension Wise or you're willing to opt out of having guidance.

Please note: This leaflet can only give you a brief overview of pension benefit options, in general terms. Some options may require a minimum pot value, so may not be available to everyone. Not all schemes offer all of the retirement options and you may have to transfer out to another scheme to access some of the options.

Pension scams

Find out what to look for and how to protect yourself and your retirement savings at [**aegon.co.uk/online-security-and-fraud-protection/pension-scams**](https://www.aegon.co.uk/online-security-and-fraud-protection/pension-scams)



Want to know more?



0345 601 7721



my.pension@aegon.co.uk



aegon.co.uk/targetplan

Our email system and the way we deal with data internally is secure. However, we're unable to ensure the security of emails before they reach us so please consider this and do not include any personally sensitive, financial or banking information that hasn't been appropriately secured.

If you have access to our online services, you may be able to log in and complete your action securely.

If your personal circumstances mean you need any additional support, or if you'd like a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, please call 0345 601 7721 (call charges will vary) or visit aegon.co.uk/support.



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