

Client Agreement - Investments

This agreement sets out the terms under which we'll provide our services to you, so it's important that you read it fully and in conjunction with our **Client Agreement (Investments) - What we do and how we charge** document. If there's something you don't understand please ask us to explain it.

If you have a question or concern about any aspect of our services, please contact us at:

- **Telephone:** 01626 833225
- **Email:** admin@loughtons.co.uk
- **Website:** www.loughtons.co.uk
- **In writing:** Loughtons Independent Financial Advisers
Town Hall House, Bovey Tracey, Devon, TQ13 9EQ

This agreement sets out our respective obligations and should be read in conjunction with the information in our **Client Agreement (Investments) - What we do and how we charge** document which has also been provided to you. The section 'Useful information about our services' below includes details of the protections available to you under UK financial services regulation. The services we have agreed to provide and the cost for those services are shown on the 'New and Additional Cost of Services Calculation' and / or 'Ongoing Cost of Services Calculation' which has been issued to you separately.

Our obligations

Our recommendations

- Before providing advice, we'll assess your needs, consider your financial objectives and assess your attitude to any risks that may be involved. If you don't want to discuss a particular area of financial planning and that area should not form part of the advice given, we can exclude it, if you instruct us to do so. This might of course have a bearing on the advice that might be given.
- Before making any recommendations, we'll carry out a suitability assessment so that we are able to act in your best interests.
- We'll confirm any recommendations we make in writing (our Suitability Report) along with details of any special risks that may be associated with the products or investment strategies we've recommended.
- Where we agree to provide you with a service that includes an ongoing review of the suitability of the investments we have recommended, we'll carry out this review at least annually. To do this we will need to make contact with you to assess whether the information we hold about you remains accurate and up to date. We'll issue you with a report setting out the results of our assessment and, if relevant, any updated recommendations.
- Please be aware that investments can fall, as well as rise, and that you may not get back the full amount invested. The price of investments we may recommend may depend on fluctuations in the financial markets, or other economic factors, which are outside our control. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.
- Specific warnings relevant to the investments, investment strategies or other products we arrange are provided in the relevant product literature provided.
- We may occasionally recommend investments that are not readily realisable. We'll only do this where appropriate but, if we do, we'll draw your attention to the risks associated with the investments in our Suitability Report. There is a restricted market for such investments and in some circumstances, it may not be possible to deal in the investment or obtain reliable information about its value.

Financial crime

- We are obliged to put in place controls to prevent our business from being used for money laundering and other forms of financial crime.
- We'll verify your identity before undertaking any business with you. To do this we may use electronic identity verification systems and we may conduct these checks from time to time throughout our relationship, not just at the beginning. The check may leave a 'footprint' on your credit file but it will not affect your credit rating.

Best execution

- Where we send investment applications on your behalf to third parties (e.g. to put an investment into force), we'll take all sufficient steps to ensure that we obtain the best possible result for you. This is referred to as 'best execution'.
- We have a best execution policy. If you want to see a copy of it, please ask us.

Conflicts of interest

- Although we'll always try to act in your best interests there may be situations where we or one of our other clients has some form of interest in the business being transacted for you. If this happens or we become aware that our interests or those of one of our other clients conflicts with your own interests, we'll write to you and ask for your consent to proceed before we carry out any business for you. We'll also let you know the steps we'll take to make sure you are treated fairly.
- We have a conflicts of interest policy. If you want to see a copy of it, please ask us.

Communicating with you

- Our normal ways of communicating with you are by telephone, post, e-mail, SMS text message, internet meeting or in person. Our communications will be in English.
- We may ask you to confirm your instructions to us in writing as this helps to avoid any future misunderstandings.

Your obligations

This section sets out your obligations in agreeing to receive our services.

Providing information about your circumstances

- Our advice will be based on the information that you give so it's important that you provide us with accurate and up to date information when we request details about your circumstances and objectives. This will allow us to provide you with suitable advice. If the information you provide is inaccurate or if you limit the information provided, this could affect the suitability of the advice we give.

Payment for services

- By signing this agreement, you are agreeing to pay the charges for our services as set out in the 'Cost of New or Additional Financial Planning Services Calculation' and / or 'Cost of Ongoing Financial Planning Services Calculation' (if relevant). Your selected payment method is confirmed in the 'Declaration'. This and the aforementioned documents will be provided to you separately. We will tell you if any payments are subject to VAT.
- Our **initial** charges are payable once we've completed our agreed work and must be settled within 30 days from the date of issue where raised on invoice.
- If you are paying our **initial charges** by instalment (only applies when you have taken out a regular contribution contract and by our prior agreement) it's important that you make payments as agreed. Where you miss a payment, or cancel the contract from which the payments are coming, you will be invoiced for the missed payments and must settle all outstanding payments due within 30 days from the date of issue of the invoice.
- Any products we have arranged for you will only be kept under review as part of an ongoing service for which you have agreed to pay. Our ongoing services are optional, but if you agree to purchase an ongoing service, unless otherwise agreed, the ongoing service will be provided as a follow up to the initial service.

- Our charges for **ongoing** services will start when all business under the initial advice services provided are fully settled. Our charges are payable as agreed with your adviser for the review period in question.
- **Ongoing** services can be cancelled at any time by informing us in writing (see section – Cancellation and amendments) but please note that we do reserve the right to charge you for services we have provided before cancellation.
- Where our charges are based on a % of your investments, the amount of our **ongoing** charges may increase as the size of your fund grows, subject to the minimum charge outlined in the Cost of Ongoing Financial Planning Services Calculation.
- In some circumstances, we may receive ongoing payments (commission) from product providers relating to existing investments you hold. Such payments may be taken into account when determining the charges for ongoing services. We'll discuss and agree this with you where relevant.

Legal and accounting advice

- We are not qualified to provide legal or accounting advice or to prepare any legal or accounting documents. This means that the onus is on you to refer any point of law or accountancy that may arise during the course of discussions with us, to a solicitor or accountant.

Cancellation and amendments

Ending this agreement

- We may terminate this agreement by giving you at least 20 business days' written notice.
- You may terminate this agreement at any time, without penalty. Notice of termination must be given in writing and will take effect from the date of receipt.
- Any transactions already initiated will be completed according to this agreement unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- You will be liable to pay for any services we have provided before cancellation and any outstanding fees, if applicable.

Amendments

- From time to time it may be necessary to amend the terms set out in this agreement where it's not necessary to issue a new agreement. If this is the case, we'll write to you with details of the changes at least 30 days before the change come into effect.

Product cancellation rights

- Full details of any financial products we recommend to you will be provided in the relevant product information you will receive. This will include information about any product cancellation rights along with any other early termination rights and penalties.

Useful information about our services

Who authorises us to advise you?

- We are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HS. www.fca.org.uk. Our firm reference number is 525567.
- Our permitted business is advising on and arranging pensions, savings and investment products, non-investment insurance contracts and mortgages.
- You can check our details on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website www.fca.org.uk/firms/systems-reporting/register or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.
- Unless we tell you otherwise, we'll treat you as a **retail client** for investment business. This means that you are given the highest level of protection available under the UK's regulatory system.

What if things go wrong?

- If you are unhappy with our advice or any aspect of our services, we encourage you to contact us as soon as possible. We'll do our best to resolve your concerns.

Telephone: 01626 833225

Email: admin@loughtons.co.uk

Website: www.loughtons.co.uk

In writing: The Compliance Officer
Loughtons Independent Financial Advisers
Town Hall House, Bovey Tracey, Devon, TQ13 9EQ

- We have a complaints procedure and we can provide further details on request. If you do have a complaint, and you are not happy with our response, the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) may be able to help. The FOS settles disputes between financial services businesses and their clients. Full details are available at www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

Additional peace of mind

- The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is the UK's statutory compensation fund for customers of authorised financial services firms who are unable to pay claims against them, usually because they have gone out of business.
- You may be able to claim compensation from the FSCS if we can't meet our obligations. The amount of compensation available will depend on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. We can provide more specific information on request, but as a guide:

Investments - eligible claims related to most types of investment business are covered for 100% of a claim up to a maximum of £85,000 per person per firm.

- Further information is available from the FSCS at www.fscs.org.uk.

Benefits we may receive

- Under the rules of our regulator, the FCA, as a firm providing independent advice we are unable to accept or retain payments or benefits from other firms (e.g. product providers) as this would conflict with our independent status.
- From time to time we may attend training events funded and /or delivered by product providers, fund managers and investment platforms. These events are designed to enhance our knowledge and enhance the quality of service we provide to our clients. As such this doesn't affect our obligation to act in your best interests. Please ask us if you want further details.

Protecting your personal information

- To provide our services properly we'll need to collect information about your personal and financial circumstances. We take your privacy seriously and will only use your personal information to deliver our services.
- Processing of your personal data is necessary for the performance of our contract for services with you. Generally this is the lawful basis on which we intend to rely for the processing of your data. (Please see the reference to special categories of data below). Our policy is to gather and process only that personal data which is necessary for us to conduct our services appropriately with you.
- We adopt a transparent approach to the processing of your personal data. Sometimes, we may need to pass your personal information to other organisations. If you apply to take out a financial product or service, we'll need to pass certain personal details to the product or service provider.
- We may engage the services of third-party providers of professional services in order to enhance the service we provide to you. These parties may also need to process your personal data in the performance of their contract with us. Your personal information may be transferred electronically (e.g. by email or over the internet) and we, or any relevant third party, may contact you in future by what we believe to be the most appropriate means of communication at the time (e.g. telephone/ email /letter etc.).
- The organisations to whom we may pass your details also have their own obligations to deal with your personal information appropriately. Sometimes a product or service may be administered from a country outside Europe. If this is the case, the firm must put a contract in place to ensure that your information is adequately protected.
- We will issue you with our Privacy Notice. This is a separate document which provides more information about the nature of our personal data processing activities and includes details of our retention and deletion policies as well as your rights of access to the personal information that we hold on you.
- As part of this agreement we'll ask you to consent to the transfer of personal information in accordance with the protections outlined above.
- Special categories of personal data: there are certain categories of personal data that are sensitive by nature. The categories include: data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership and data concerning health. Depending on the nature of the products and services that you engage us for we may need to obtain your sensitive personal data particularly in relation to health. Our policy is that should we require any special category of personal data we will only gather this with your explicit consent.
- If you are concerned about any aspect of our privacy arrangements, please speak to us.