

Client Agreement for Investments & Insurances

It is important you read this document as it sets out important information about us, our services, and the protections you have when engaging with us. If you are unsure about any of the information below you should contact us immediately for further guidance

Authorisation Statement

Tallow Financial Planning Limited is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA regulates financial services in the UK, and you can check our authorisation and permitted activities on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website www.fca.org.uk/firms/systems-reporting/register. Our Financial Services Register number is 912037.

Our Services

We provide independent investment advice. We will consider a range of regulated products from the available market that can meet the investment objectives of a retail client, but we will only provide a recommendation to you when we know the product is suitable for your personal circumstances.

You should be aware that investments carry varying degrees of risk and as their underlying value can fall as well as rise you may not get back the full amount invested.

For **non-investment protection contracts**, we are an intermediary and will act on your behalf when providing advice and making our personal recommendation(s) to you. We will do this based on a fair and personal analysis of insurers for term assurance, income protection, and critical illness.

For **general insurance contracts**, we are an intermediary and will act on your behalf when recommending an insurer based on your demands and needs from a fair analysis of the market. The insurers we consider will be listed to you when we carry out our research. It will be your responsibility to ensure the policy meets your demands and needs for building and/or contents and private medical insurance.

Full details of the products we recommend will be confirmed in the product literature you will receive before it is arranged. We will inform you if any investment we recommend restricts future access to your capital.

Your Aims and Objectives

Unless we notify you in writing to the contrary, we will be treating you as a “retail client” for investment business. This means that you are afforded the highest level of protection under the regulatory system and should have the right to take any complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Any advice or recommendation(s) we offer to you will only be given after we have assessed your needs and considered your financial objectives, attitude to risk and capacity to bear any losses. We will also take into account any restrictions that you wish to place on the types of products or investment strategies you would be willing to consider.

Our Ethical Policy

We are committed to providing the highest standard of financial advice and service possible. The interest of our clients is paramount to us and to achieve this we have designed our systems and procedures to place you at the heart of our business. In doing so, we will:

- be open, honest and transparent in the way we deal with you.
- not place our interests above yours.
- communicate clearly, promptly and without jargon.
- Seek your views and perception of our dealings with you to ensure they meet your expectations or to identify any improvements required.
- Where possible we will adapt our communication means with you according to your needs. Please discuss this with us.

Investment Services and Costs (including structured deposits)

We provide you with an initial consultation free of charge. This helps us to understand your financial objectives, and we will confirm how we can support you in working towards these goals. We will also discuss the cost, and levels, of our services both initially and throughout our relationship with you. We charge our services by way of a fee. These fees are based on a percentage of the amount you invest, subject to a minimum fee and a maximum fee. The 2 steps of this process are explained here:

Financial Review and Recommendation

This can be a continuation from the initial discussion, where agreed, or a further appointment. This process covers the:

- gathering of information about your existing financial arrangements and full personal circumstances.
- understanding of your investment knowledge and attitude and tolerance towards investment risk.
- recommendation of an asset allocation model that matches your risk profile and the subsequent assessment and suitability of any existing holdings.
- preparation of our recommendations to you.
- arranging a second appointment to explain and discuss our recommendations in detail.

Our charge for this service is a fixed fee of £1,500 payable on provision of the report containing our recommendation(s) to you. This fee will be waived wholly or in part should you decide to implement any of our recommendations.

Policy Arrangement & Implementation – Lump Sum Investments or Transfers

Should you instruct us to proceed with (any of) our recommendation(s) we will act for you in the following ways:

- Handle all fund and policy administration on your behalf.
- Provide regular updates to keep you informed of progress.
- Ensure all your documents are issued in line with your expectations.
- Provide confirmation of all actions taken on your behalf in writing.

Our charge for this service is based on a percentage of the amount you invest and/or transfer. These charges are applied as follows:

- 1.00% of the amount you invest and/or transfer, subject to a minimum fee of £1,500 and a maximum fee of £6,000.

This payment can either be facilitated by the product provider when they receive your funds or paid directly by you. Where we receive such a payment, we will waive our 'financial review and recommendation' fee by the same amount.

Example 1: if we arrange an investment on your behalf for £130,000 our maximum implementation fee would be £1,300 - this is less than our minimum Financial Review and Recommendation fee of £1,500 and we would therefore charge you £200 as the balance.

Example 2: if we arrange investments on your behalf, totaling £300,000, our implementation fee would be £3,000. As this exceeds the Financial Review and Recommendation fee, no other charges would be applied.

Non-Investment Protection and General Insurance contracts

When we arrange the sale of a protection or insurance contract, we will not charge you a fee, as we will receive a commission from the provider/insurer. The amount of this will be disclosed to you in the product literature.

Client Suitability for Advice

Generally, having at least £150,000 of liquid or investable assets would be a good starting point to ask for advice from us.

Ongoing Services

It is important to review every investment you hold and at regular intervals. At the time of, or prior to, our recommendation to you we will discuss our ongoing service proposition. This is confirmed in our '**service proposition and engagement**' document which will be sent to you separately from this agreement.

Retirement Income Planning

Due to the complexity and resources required to formulate Retirement Income Planning advice it is not cost effective for our firm to provide this advice service where the combined value of pension funds is less than £150,000.

VAT

Under current legislation our services are not subject to VAT, but should this change in future and VAT becomes payable, we will notify you before conducting any further work.

Cancellation Rights

In most cases, you can exercise a right to cancel by withdrawing from the contract. In general terms, you will normally have a 30-day cancellation period for a life, non-investment protection contracts, payment protection or pension policy and a 14-day cancellation period for all other policies. For investments, this will typically start when funds are invested and for pure protection policies, this will normally begin when you are informed that the contract has been concluded or, if later, when you have received the contractual terms and conditions. Instructions for exercising the right to cancel, if applicable, will be contained in the relevant product information issued to you.

If you cancel a contract with an underlying investment, you may incur a loss due to market movements. This means that, in certain circumstances, you might not get back the full amount you invested if you cancel the policy.

Client Money

We are not permitted to handle client money, and we cannot accept a cheque made out to us (unless it is in respect of an item for which we have sent you an invoice) or handle cash.

Documentation

We will endeavour to make arrangements for all your investments to be registered in your name unless you first instruct us otherwise in writing. All policy documents will be forwarded to you immediately after we have received them. If there are several documents relating to a series of transactions, we will normally hold each document until the series is complete and then forward them to you. We will issue all communications in English unless agreed otherwise.

Material Interest

We will act honestly, fairly and professionally known as conducting business in 'Client's best interest' regulations. Occasionally situations may arise where we or one of our other clients have some form of interest in business transacted for you. If this happens or we become aware that our interests or those of one of our other client's conflicts with your interests, we will write to you and obtain your consent before we carry out your instructions and detail the steps, we will take to ensure fair treatment. Where this cannot be achieved, we will not conduct the business.

Instructions

We only accept instructions in writing (paper or electronic means) to aid clarification and avoid future misunderstandings. Please note we will not act on oral instructions to avoid any possible misunderstandings.

Unless agreed, we will send certain important documents to you electronically as standard. You can ask for paper copies at any time, and we will provide these to you free of charge. Please save copies for your future reference.

Complaints

If you wish to register a complaint, please write to Tallow Financial Planning Limited, Innovation House, South Church Enterprise Park, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, DL14 6XB, telephone 01388 450666 or e-mail advice@tallowfp.com.

A summary of our internal complaints handling procedures for the reasonable and prompt handling of complaints is available on request and if you cannot settle your complaint with us, you may be entitled to refer it to the Financial Ombudsman Service at www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk or by contacting them on 0800 023 4567. The Financial Ombudsman Service is a free and easy-to-use service that settles complaints between consumers and businesses that provide financial services.

Compensation Scheme

If you make a complaint and we are unable to meet our liabilities, you may be entitled to compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. For investment business, you will be covered up to a maximum of £85,000.

Further information about these amounts and limits for all other product types are available from the FSCS at <http://www.fscs.org.uk/what-we-cover/products>

Anti-Money laundering

We are required by the anti-money laundering regulations to verify the identity of our clients, to obtain information as to the purpose and nature of the business which we conduct on their behalf, and to ensure that the information we hold is up to date. For this purpose, 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.

Law

This client agreement is governed and shall be construed in accordance with English Law, and the parties shall submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Force Majeure

Tallow Financial Planning Limited shall not be in breach of this Agreement and shall not incur any liability to you if there is any failure to perform its duties due to any circumstances reasonably beyond its control.

Termination

The authority to act on your behalf may be terminated at any time without penalty by either party giving seven days' notice in writing to that effect to the other but without prejudice to the completion of transactions already initiated. Any transactions effected before termination a due proportion of any period charges for services shall be settled to that date.