

# Making the most of your workplace savings

Helping you achieve financial  
freedom through future planning



# The Aegon Master Trust

Your employer has chosen to provide your workplace pension benefits through the Aegon Master Trust (AMT).

The trustees of the Aegon Master Trust have appointed us (Aegon) to administer the Scheme on their behalf. They've asked us to write and produce this communication.

When we refer to we, us and our we're referring to Aegon. We'll refer to the board of trustees as the trustees, and your employer as your employer.

You might feel you're on track for the income you'll need, for the retirement lifestyle you want, or you might think you've a bit more work to do.

Wherever you are in your journey, we want to make it as easy for you as possible. So, we've created this guide to help you get the most out of your workplace savings.

You'll find simple steps to take and lots of tips to help you.

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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 version of this document, please visit [aegon.co.uk/additionalsupport](https://www.aegon.co.uk/additionalsupport) or call 03456 017 721 (call charges will vary).

# Your path to retirement

Your pension pot could be your most valuable asset when you reach retirement. Actively engaging with your plan can help you make the most of your savings and increase the chances of seeing your pension pot grow over time.

Regularly reviewing your retirement goals and considering your options in advance can also help you feel more in control - which can help to give you reassurance your retirement plans are on track.

## Here's what you can do to make the most of your workplace savings



### Review your monthly contributions

Knowing how much you're putting towards your savings and regularly reviewing them can help to make sure they're in line with the income you'll need for the retirement lifestyle you'll want.

See [page 5](#)



### Review your investment funds

Which funds you choose to invest your savings in will have a direct impact on the amount you'll have to live on in retirement.

See [page 8](#)



### Find out if combining your pots is right for you

Combining isn't for everyone. But if it's the right thing for you, it can make managing your pension savings much easier.

See [page 9](#)

### ★ Top tip

Review your pension savings regularly, at least once a year. This can help you manage your retirement goals and stay on track for the retirement lifestyle you'd like to achieve.



### ☆ Top tip

Remember, the more you pay into your pension pot, and the earlier you pay it in, the more potential it has to grow in value.

## Your pension contributions

**If you haven't taken a look at your pensions savings for a while - the sooner you start, the more you could potentially save for your future.**

Knowing what lifestyle you're aiming for in retirement will help you to make more informed decisions. Even if your current finances aren't in the best shape, that doesn't mean they have to stay that way.

### **Review your contributions regularly**

Just like you may do with your other finances - such as bills, insurance premiums or savings accounts - we recommend that you take a look at your pension contributions too. It's good practice, and by doing this, you can keep an eye on what you're saving is in line with your goals as your needs and finances change.

There might be times that prompt you to review your contributions, such as getting a pay increase at work, changing financial circumstances or even new hopes for how you'd like to spend your retirement.

### **Know if you're saving enough**

The amount you contribute to your pension pot will directly determine the type of lifestyle you could have in retirement - that's why it's important to estimate how much money you're likely to need. This will depend on your personal circumstances, any other income you may receive and the way you'd like to live.

Take a look at our myTarget retirement income calculator at [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://www.aegon.co.uk/targetplan) - it helps you to understand what the impact on your future income could be, if you changed your current contributions.

## How you could boost your pension pot

If you find you aren't on track, or could afford to save more, there are a few ways you could boost your pension pot.

- By making one-off contributions through your employers payroll, such as if you've had a bonus or unexpected income.
- Increasing your regular monthly contributions.
- If offered by your employer, using part of your salary, known as salary sacrifice.

You can change your contributions by logging into TargetPlan – [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://aegon.co.uk/targetplan), or by using your employers benefits platform.

The value of an investment can fall as well as rise and isn't guaranteed. The final value of your pension pot when you come to take benefits may be less than has been paid in.



### ☆ Top tip

Whichever option you go for, remember to regularly review your investments – it's easy to do on [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://aegon.co.uk/targetplan)

# Review how your contributions stack up

There are different ways you can do this and it will depend on what your employer has chosen for your workplace scheme.



## Let's take an example income

- Assuming an earning of **£30,000** gross a year (**£2,500** a month) and are a standard UK tax payer.
- This would normally take home **£2093.30** a month.
- Paying income tax **£290.50** and National Insurance **£116.20**.

## 1 Using 'employee contribution'

If you paid into your pension plan yourself, known as an 'employee contribution', your employer would deduct your pension contribution from your gross salary, before calculating income tax.

This reduces the income tax you have to pay.

## 2 Using 'Salary sacrifice'

If you pay into your pension plan using salary sacrifice, part of your salary is given up in return for your employer making a contribution to your pension plan on your behalf.

This reduces the amount of income tax and National Insurance that you have to pay, although this may not be the case for everyone.

	Gross Salary per month	4% pension contribution	Income Tax	National Insurance	Take home pay	
1	£2,500.00	£100 (including £20 tax relief from HMRC)	£270.50 (£20 saving)	£116.20	£2013.30	£20 Tax saving
2	£2,400.00	£100 (paid in by your employer)	£270.50 (£20 saving)	£108.20 (£8 saving)	£2021.30	£28 Tax saving

The value of the reduction in tax and National Insurance will depend on your individual circumstances, and could change. This example is based on our understanding of current taxation law and HMRC practice, which may change. The figures shown are only examples and are based on the tax and National Insurance (NI) rates for 2024/25.

Income tax rates and bands are currently different in Scotland to the 'rest of the UK'. Please note all examples included above are based on the 'rest of the UK' rates and bands.

Salary sacrifice isn't always suitable for everyone. You should think about other things linked to your level of salary such as statutory maternity, paternity and sick pay, working tax credit/child tax credit or the amount of mortgage you can borrow. If you want more information on the suitability of salary sacrifice, you should speak to a financial adviser.

# Review your investment funds

The fund(s) you invest in can make a big difference to the amount you'll have to live on in retirement.

That's why it's so important that you're happy with the investment fund(s) you choose and that you regularly review them, especially as your circumstances change and you get closer to accessing your retirement savings.

We want to make it as easy for you as possible. Your workplace pension scheme offers two options:

## 1 Do it for me

Your employer will have chosen a default investment fund or strategy for your pension scheme. When you become a member of your workplace pension, this is where your contributions are automatically invested unless you tell us otherwise.

For Aegon Master Trust, the default fund is **Aegon Lifepath Flexi**. The fund is designed to grow your savings by investing in a mix of different investments in the early years. It then gradually and automatically moves into less risky investments as retirement nears, preparing your savings for when you use them to generate your retirement income.

## 2 Leave it with me

If you're more confident you can choose from a wider range of funds that have been carefully selected by the Aegon Master Trust Trustees. There are 28 funds to choose from<sup>1</sup>, offering a diverse range of options to help build an investment strategy that suits your needs.

### The default investment fund

The default fund is a ready-made investment solution that adjusts over time to manage risk, designed for those who want their pension investments managed for them. The Aegon Master Trust trustees have chosen the fund because they believe it is the best fit for an average scheme member. They have a duty to review it regularly to make sure it remains appropriate.

If you're happy for your contributions to be invested in it you don't have to do anything - you'll automatically be invested in the default fund.

However, if you want a more hands-on approach to where your money is invested, you can choose from the wider fund range. You can see a list of funds by logging into your online account [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://aegon.co.uk/targetplan)

You can find out more in the 'Your investment options' brochure, which you'll see in the document store in your online account.

The value of investments can fall as well as rise and isn't guaranteed. The final value of your pension pot when you come to take your benefits may be less than has been paid in. If you're not sure if a particular fund, or switching funds is right for you, please speak to a financial adviser. There may be a charge for this.

1. As at 31 December 2024

# Combine your pension pots

No matter where you are in your career, you'll likely gather several pensions from different jobs. It could be helpful to have all your pensions in one place.

## Why combine your pension pots?

### ✓ **Convenience**

You'll see exactly how much you have with one online account.

### ✓ **Fewer charges**

Easier to monitor charges and potentially save money if other plans have higher fees.

### ✓ **It's free**

We won't charge transfer or set-up fees for moving your pensions to us. Check if your current provider has exit fees and how much they are.

Your Aegon plan allows you to combine your other pension pots - and we're here to help.

Combining pension pots isn't always the best choice, and there are important things to consider. At Aegon, we want to help you decide what's right for you and your future, which is why we've provided the information you need to decide. If you choose to combine, we're here to help you take the next step.



### ★ **Top tip**

Charges are typically shown as a % of your pension pot, for example a 0.5% charge on a pot of £10,000 means you pay £50 every year.

**Before deciding, here are important things to consider:**

1. Can I combine my pensions?
2. Is it right for me?
3. Should I speak to a financial adviser?



## 1 Can I combine my pensions?

We want to help protect you and your retirement savings and not all pensions can be combined. Some pensions have special features or benefits that you might lose if you combine them.

You must speak with a financial adviser if:

- You have a defined benefit pension.
- You might lose important safeguarded benefits.
- Your pensions with other providers have certain protection benefits.

We can't accept transfers in these cases without a financial adviser. They can help you decide if combining your pensions is in your best interest.

> See **page 12** for more on guidance and advice.



### How can I find this out?

You can usually find information about these benefits on your pension statement. If you need further guidance Aegon Assist are on hand to help.

## 2 Is it right for me?

Before combining your pension pots, check each one carefully. Understand your options and how combining them might affect your retirement savings. We always recommend getting guidance or advice.

### Use this checklist to help you make a decision:

#### Features and benefits

Check if combining your pension pots will cause you to lose valuable features, protections, or guarantees from other providers.

I've checked it's in my best interest to combine

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#### My investment funds

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.

I've compared my investment fund options

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#### Combining related charges

Check the charges you're paying from other pension providers and see if you'll be paying more or less by combining them into one pot. We don't charge you any transfer or set-up fees, however check if your current pension providers will charge an exit fee if you transfer – and how much it is.

I've compared my charges



The value of your pension pot after transfer can still fall as well as rise and isn't guaranteed. The final value of your pot when you come to take benefits could be less than has been paid in.

### 3 Should I speak to a financial adviser?

We always recommend you get guidance or advice to make sure you're making the best decision for yourself.

**We also understand everyone's circumstances and needs are different.**

**Here are some options for you to consider:**



#### **Receive guidance from Aegon Assist**

Aegon Assist can help if you don't have an adviser and need guidance on bringing your pension pots together. For general enquiries, please visit **Support and contact**.

#### **Call Aegon Assist on:**

03456 01 77 20

Call charges will vary.

Lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm.



#### **Speak to a financial adviser**

Financial advisers can give you tailored advice, though they may charge a fee.

They can also help you determine if you can combine your pensions.

#### **To find an adviser visit:**

**[moneyhelper.org.uk/choosing-a-financial-adviser](https://moneyhelper.org.uk/choosing-a-financial-adviser)**



#### **Access additional support**

To help you make the best decision, we've created additional resources online you can explore for further information.

#### **Please visit:**

**[aegon.co.uk/target-planUI/help-and-support/guides?screen=Requesting\\_a\\_transfer\\_in](https://aegon.co.uk/target-planUI/help-and-support/guides?screen=Requesting_a_transfer_in)**

**I've weighed up my options, have considered guidance or advice and I'm ready to combine my pension pots.**

➤ Go to **page 14** for next steps.



## Why should I choose Aegon?

We've developed a simple approach for you to combine your pots with us and help to potentially grow your savings in one account.



Manage all your savings in one place to get a more realistic overview of your retirement income



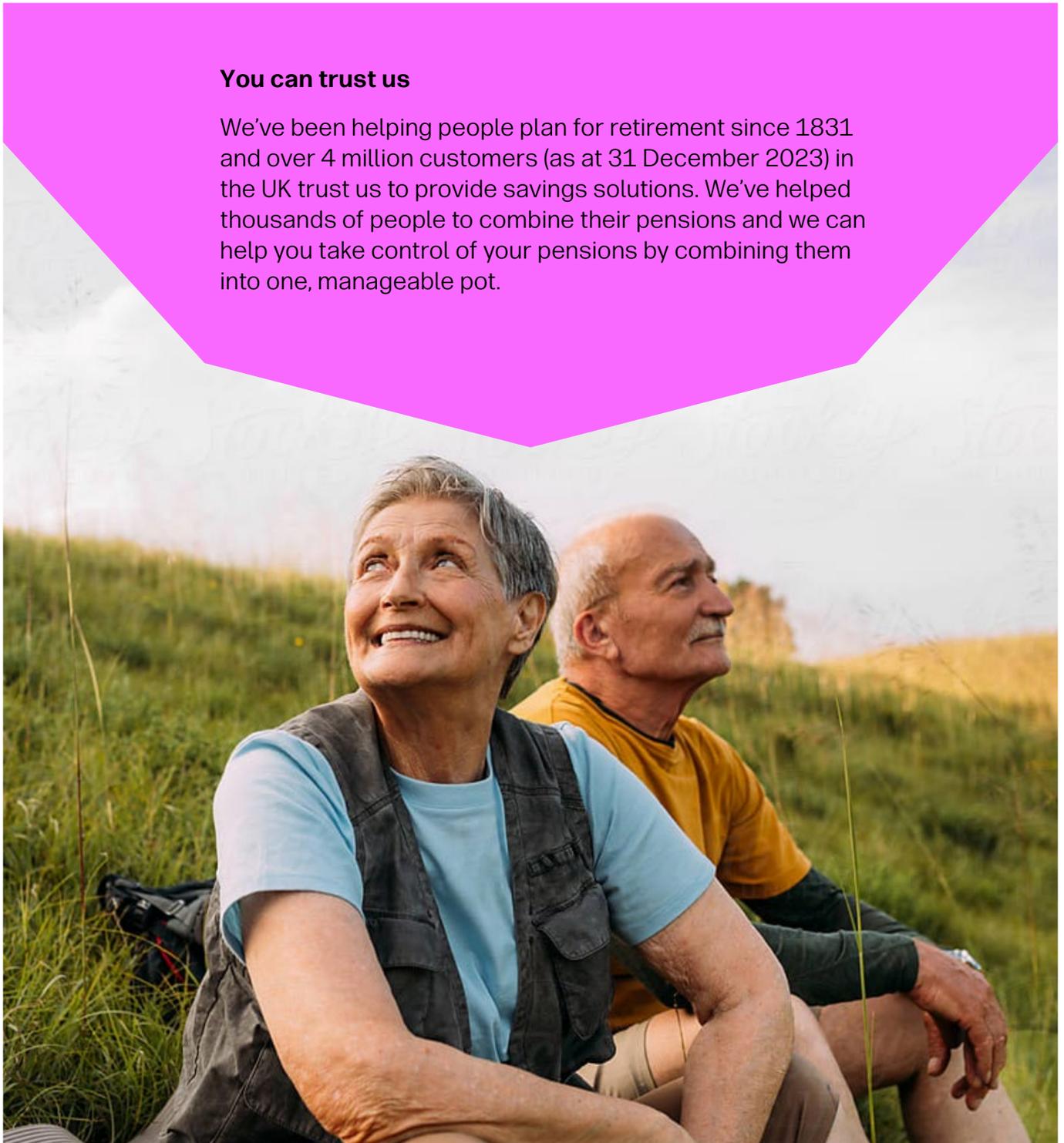
Take control by using your online account and see all your investments in one place



Easier to see what charges you're paying and potentially save money

### You can trust us

We've been helping people plan for retirement since 1831 and over 4 million customers (as at 31 December 2023) in the UK trust us to provide savings solutions. We've helped thousands of people to combine their pensions and we can help you take control of your pensions by combining them into one, manageable pot.



## I'm ready to combine, what's next?

If you've checked your old pensions statements, are sure you don't have any of the benefits or features described in the previous sections, and with guidance or advice, have decided that combining your pensions with Aegon is right for you, we're here to help.

### 1. Confirm you're eligible

We want to help you achieve your financial goals. That's why we want you to make sure you're not losing out on any guarantees or benefits that are valuable to you.

You must speak to a financial adviser if:

- You have a defined benefit pension.
- You may lose important safeguarded benefits.
- Your pension products with other providers contain certain protection benefits.

### 2. Let us know you'd like to combine

→ Login to [aegon.co.uk/targetplan](https://aegon.co.uk/targetplan) and complete the online application

 15 minutes

It will be helpful to have this information to hand before you start:

- National Insurance number
- Bank account details

You might also find it helpful to capture the details for your other pensions.

Take a look at your pension statements to find the information - don't worry if you can't fill in all the details.

Scheme name	Plan number	Date	Type of pension	Provider	Contact details

### 3. Leave it with us

Once you've submitted your application, sit back and relax, we'll take care of the rest for you and we'll be in touch when the transfer is complete.



# Security with the Aegon Master Trust (AMT)

The AMT has been authorised as a master trust by The Pensions Regulator (TPR). The approval from the TPR is based on an initial and ongoing assessment by them that the AMT meets the authorisation criteria and any other obligations, including relevant legislation and codes of practice. Their objective is to ensure that master trusts continue to be financially viable, are run by fit and proper persons, provide value for money and work in the best interests of members.

Authorised master trusts must have a clear strategy for the future and have fully funded and documented what will happen if events arise to disrupt the scheme. Aegon is confident in the trustees and the strategy for the master trust and, as required by legislation, Aegon has placed sufficient monetary funds for the trustees to resolve any incidents without ever having to increase charges to members.

This gives confidence that in all circumstances the scheme will be resourced to perform in line with the strategy, provide value for money and be run in the best interests of the members.

[aegon.co.uk](https://aegon.co.uk)  [@aegonuk](https://twitter.com/aegonuk)  [Aegon UK](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aegon-uk)

This communication has been written and produced by Aegon, the company your employer has chosen to provide their workplace pension scheme.

Aegon is a brand name of Scottish Equitable plc, authorised to carry out contracts of insurance used by the Aegon Master Trust. Scottish Equitable plc is also the appointed administrator of the Aegon Master Trust by its trustees. Scottish Equitable plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Financial Services Register number 165548. Registered office: Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE Registered in Scotland (No. SC144517). © 2024 Aegon UK plc.

The Aegon Master Trust is authorised and regulated by The Pensions Regulator