

# Self Invested Personal Pensions

A Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP), is a tax-efficient savings vehicle that is primarily used for retirement funding. Whilst there are lots of advantages to using a SIPP, there are also certain disadvantages that should be considered. Ultimately, how appropriate it is for you will depend on your unique personal circumstances.

## Advantages

- The pot is not subject to inheritance tax
- 25% of the fund is available tax free and can either be taken to form part of your income to increase tax efficiency, or as a lump sum
- SIPPs offer a wider range of investment funds and options
- On death before age 75, the pot becomes 100% tax free to your beneficiaries
- The returns are not liable to income or capital gains tax
- Contributions made between birth and age 75 benefit from tax relief
- It is possible to use the previous three years contribution allowances
- If you are employed your employer can make payments into your pension fund
- Income tax relief up to your highest marginal rate is available on contributions up to the annual allowance (limited to 100% of earnings, capped at £60,000pa)

## Disadvantages

- Contributions are limited to the annual allowance
- The charges are generally higher than that of a Workplace Pension
- After your tax free cash allowance the remaining fund is subject to income tax  
You cannot access the fund until age 55 (or age 57 from 2028)
- On death after 75, if paid to an individual, the recipient of your pension fund pays income tax on withdrawals at their highest marginal rate of income tax

\* the Standard Lifetime Allowance is  
£1,073,100

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You should be aware that pension and life fund performance differs from unit trust/OEIC performance, due to underlying tax treatment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. This means that investments will fluctuate and you may not receive back the full amount of your original investment.

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