



MES PENSIONS

MES SIPP Permitted
Investments

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We are committed to protecting our clients, and to do this, we must ensure compliance with all the relevant pension and financial services regulations that govern Self Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs). Although regulation tends to only ever get tighter, we are still able to offer a high degree of flexibility in the types of investments available to SIPP members.

We review all investments case by case, and in line with our investment policy. We need to ensure each investment meets the definition of a standard asset, that it complies with UK pension tax law, and take reasonable steps to mitigate the possibility of a pension scam. An investment may still be declined even if it meets the criteria set out below, and we will not always provide a reason for such decisions. Our decision to allow an investment to be added to our SIPP products has no bearing whatsoever on whether an investment is appropriate or suitable for our clients, and by permitting an investment we are not advocating or recommending it. It is the responsibility of the client and/or their adviser to understand the asset class, risk, costs, penalties, structure, investor protection and suitability of any given investment, in respect of their own circumstances and their attitude to risk. We always recommend that a client takes appropriate financial advice.

Permitted investments

- Cash
- Shares*
- Exchange traded funds where authorised or recognised by the FCA*
- Units in Regulated Collective Investment Schemes (defined as Collective Investment Schemes authorised in the UK, or alternatively where constituted outside the UK are recognised by the FCA, as shown on the FCA Collective Investment Scheme Register)
- Exchange traded commodities*
- Shares in investment trusts*
- Real estate investment trusts (REITs)*

*These must be traded on a regulated venue which refers to stock exchanges, multilateral trading facilities.

Non-Standard Assets

Due to the FCA position on non-standard assets and the additional Capital Adequacy requirements this places on SIPP providers, we will only allow investment in Fixed Term Deposits that meet the following criteria:

- Must have a fixed term of 2 years or less;

Where the term or notice period is more than 12 months, the term must be breakable on death or allow access to the deposit within a specified notice period.

Not all fixed term deposits will allow access prior to maturity. Where a deposit can be broken prior to maturity, the deposit taker may apply a penalty. You can obtain the details from the deposit taker about the ability to break the term and the penalties applicable.

Additional charges will apply for the completion of due diligence of a Fixed Term Deposit plus an additional annual fee for the holding of this investment. Please refer to our fee schedule for further information.

Requirements

It is expected that a portfolio will be appropriately diversified in line with your attitude to risk.

Any asset must be capable of being accurately and fairly valued on an ongoing basis and readily realised within 30 days, whenever required, to meet the FCA's definition of a standard asset.

The investment must not allow any form of direct or indirect benefit to the member.

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Any asset should be listed on a recognised stock exchange for a period of 12 months or more. Where it has not, we reserve the right to reject that investment.

Please note that although we try our best to provide as much guidance as we can, there may be instances where we will need to decline investments despite them meeting the specified criteria, and we reserve the right to do this at any time. Such instances are rare, and we would always look to engage with clients or financial advisers to explain how we reached that decision where we can.

The SIPP investments will be held through the MES Platform, providing the client with the ability to build and self-manage a bespoke portfolio of investments tailored to their individual needs. otherwise agreed by the Trustees.

These Guidelines do not override any additional legal requirements imposed on the promoter of an investment or investment adviser, in ensuring the clients eligibility to invest in the proposed investment and in satisfying any contractual requirement or any client classification rules imposed under law or regulation in the Jurisdiction of the product manufacturer/fund manager and/or under the Member's current jurisdiction at the time of promotion and/or investment.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MES Financial Services Limited will approve or decline investments at its absolute discretion. Approving or declining an investment to be held in the SIPP is not an endorsement or promotion of the investment, nor is MES Financial Services Limited commenting on the suitability, credibility or quality of an investment in any way. MES Financial Services Limited is not regulated to provide financial advice and does not assess the appropriateness or suitability of any investment for any client. No action undertaken by MES Financial Services Limited constitutes the provision of advice or the making of a personal recommendation to a client. Where MES Financial Services Limited deems an investment holding no longer complies with our investment policy, we may require the immediate liquidation of the asset and take no responsibility for any penalty or losses which may be incurred as a result of this decision.



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