

Private and Confidential

Mr Romelus Thatcher
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GB

21 August 2023
Dear Romelus

Our Ref: SODBG-0237G55-0053Q

Your retirement options

You have recently contacted us about accessing your pension, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information about your pension savings and to inform you of the retirement options available to you.

We have also included some information about retirement risks that you should consider before deciding how, and when, to access your retirement savings.

In this pack, you will find the following documents:

1. Your pension summary

This provides information about the current value of your plan, contribution details (if applicable) and the date we currently believe you intend to retire. It also provides details for the government backed 'Pension Wise' service to allow you to seek guidance regarding your options at retirement.

Pension Wise

The Pension Wise service provided by MoneyHelper offers free and impartial guidance that will help you understand your options at retirement. Pension Wise can be accessed face to face, by telephone on 0800 138 3944 or online at <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise>. More information and contact details for this service can be found at the bottom of the 'Your pension summary' document.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SEEK GUIDANCE FROM THE PENSION WISE SERVICE OR SPEAK TO A FINANCIAL ADVISER TO UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS AT RETIREMENT BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO.

2. Retirement risk warnings

This sets out some retirement risks that you may want to consider before making any decisions about how and when to start taking benefits. These could affect your retirement savings.

To identify the risks that may be appropriate to you we have considered:

- Your age
- Your intended retirement age
- Whether you have already accessed your pensions savings

3. "Your pension: your choices"

This is a guide produced by MoneyHelper that provides information about:

- taking guidance or obtaining regulated financial advice
- the options available at retirement
- some of the risks to be considered when making decisions on how to access your pension savings
- how to spot investment and pension scams

The options available for your pension

1. Do nothing

It is not necessary for you to access your pension savings if there is no need as there is no maximum age for taking benefits.

2. Purchase a guaranteed income for life

Prior to purchasing an annuity, you can usually choose to take up to 25% of your pension as a tax-free pension commencement lump sum. The balance will be used to purchase a lifetime annuity and get a guaranteed taxable income for life.

3. Provide a flexible retirement income

This is known as flexi-access drawdown. You can usually choose to take up to 25% of your pension as a tax-free pension commencement lump sum and the rest can provide you with a regular taxable income.

4. Take one or regular lump sums

You can usually choose to take up to 25% of your pension as a tax-free pension commencement lump sum and the rest will be paid as a one-off income payment.

Your pension is flexible and you can choose to combine any of the above options.

There is considerable variation in product features and the level of charges between the providers of retirement products. You do not need to keep your pension savings with us and are free to shop around with other providers who may offer products that are more suitable for your retirement needs and could offer a higher level of retirement income.

Any questions relating to your retirement options should be discussed with your financial adviser, if you have one, or with the Pension Wise Service.

1. Your pension summary

Personal and plan details	
Your name:	Romelus Thatcher
Your policy number:	SODBG-0237G55-0053Q
Pension Provider:	Seccl Custody Limited
Retirement Date	
You can change your selected retirement date.	
Your selected retirement date as confirmed by you:	1 October 2047
Your age at this date:	65
Contributions in the last twelve months	
Personal contributions:	£12,500.00
Employee contributions:	£0.00
Employer contributions:	£0.00
Value	
Current pension value:	£9,980.00
Value of pension savings you haven't accessed:	£9,980.00
<p>These values are not guaranteed and will change in line with any investment growth or loss, future contributions and charges paid by your pension. Your pension does not contain any guaranteed benefits.</p> <p>Please review the information contained in this summary and consider both your investment choices and if you are saving enough to meet your retirement needs</p>	



HM Government



Money & Pensions Service

Pension Wise is a free government service from MoneyHelper that offers impartial pensions guidance to help consumers understand their options at retirement.

Pension Wise can be accessed online, by telephone, or you can arrange a face-to-face meeting.

To find out more about the Pension Wise service, browse the online guidance and book a free appointment at <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise> or by calling 0800 138 3944.

2. Retirement risk warnings

We are required to let you know that accessing your pension savings on your selected retirement date of 1 October 2047 may not be the best option.

Pension scams

It is possible to lose all your pension savings to a pension scam. Be aware of cold callers, unsolicited emails or letters offering a free pension review, no obligation consultations, unrealistic investment returns or tax loopholes. These schemes are highly sophisticated and believable and are often backed up with compelling marketing material (such as persuasive websites). If you are considering investing your pension savings in new types of investments that you have no prior experience with, we recommend you speak to a FCA authorised financial adviser. This is because such investments may not be regulated by the FCA, which means you may not have compensation rights if something goes wrong.

Employer contributions

If you are making contributions to your workplace pension, your employer will also be contributing. The employer contributions are a valuable part of your remuneration package, and you should fully understand your options and the impact on your pension savings before making any decisions that could result in your employer ceasing their contributions to your pension.

Making your retirement income last

When thinking of retirement, you need to think about your income needs and whether the value of your pension will support these needs. You still have time to look at the contributions you are making and decide whether you are saving enough to meet your retirement needs. Inflation causes prices to rise over time and you should factor this into your decision. Due to the complexities of this we strongly recommend that you speak to a regulated financial adviser or take guidance from Pension Wise to help you understand your income needs in retirement and your options.

Reduction in your pension savings allowance

The amount you can pay into your pension in a tax efficient manner is limited to £60,000 per year for most people. If you access your pension savings this annual limit could be reduced to £10,000. If you are planning on paying into your pension in the future, you should check if your decision will limit the amount you can contribute.

Reviewing your investments

It is important that you regularly review your investments and make sure they match your retirement aims. Investments carry varying levels of risk; holding high risk investments may not be suitable if the money invested in them needs to be realised at short notice to fund retirement income. If you are holding cash, while it provides a level of security, the real value of your fund is eaten away by inflation. When deciding how and when you are going to access your pension savings, we recommend you review and where necessary amend your investment strategy with a regulated financial adviser.

Choosing your provider

As your pension is held by us you are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in the unlikely event that your provider becomes insolvent. If you transfer out of this scheme you could lose this valuable protection. Different products have different features so you should shop around for the best deal.

Losing your means tested benefits and receiving claims on any debts

If you are currently either in receipt of means tested benefits or anticipate the need to access them soon, withdrawing money from your pension may result in your benefits either being reduced or removed altogether. Visit www.gov.uk to find out how income or savings can affect state benefits. If you have any debts, the money in your pension is usually protected from your creditors. Any money withdrawn from your pension loses this protection and creditors may be able to claim from it.

Working out the tax you will pay

The taxable income taken from your pension is subject to the PAYE tax rules. Calculating the tax you will pay is complicated and subject to your personal circumstances. If you receive income from other sources, taking a taxable income from your pension can result in you paying a lot more tax than you expected and there is a risk that some of your income might be pushed into the higher tax bracket.