

# Group Life Registered Flexible Benefits

Technical Guide

GR01007 – Version 08/2022

This policy is intended for schemes with  
100 or more members



By choosing Aviva, part of the UK's largest insurance group, you benefit from our financial strength. Together with millions of customers worldwide you can feel certain of your choice whether you invest for the future, provide against the unexpected, or protect the things that are important to you.

Our size and efficiency give us the strength to deliver an extensive range of value for money, quality products – investments, retirement, protection and healthcare – designed to meet your needs, both now and in the future.

This Technical Guide has been produced based on the standard format recommended by the Group Risk Development group (GRiD) and The Association of British Insurers (ABI).

This Technical Guide will tell you the main features and benefits about our Group Life Insurance policies for Registered Flexible Benefits. It should be read alongside the illustration with which it was issued.

**It does not form part of the policy contract.** Full details of the contract terms can be found in the Policy Wording which is available at [connect.avivab2b.co.uk/adviser/](https://connect.avivab2b.co.uk/adviser/)

Full details of the contract terms can be found in the Policy Wording.

You are responsible for deciding if the cover meets your needs, and periodically reviewing the cover to make sure it continues to meet your needs.

If you have any existing cover, we recommend you seek financial advice before deciding whether to cancel your existing arrangements. We also recommend you seek financial advice if you are unsure whether this cover is right for you. If you haven't got a financial adviser and you would like to speak to one, you can find one in your area by using **unbiased.co.uk**. An adviser may charge a fee for this service.

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## Please note

Throughout this document certain words are shown in bold type. These are defined terms and have specific meanings when used in this technical guide. The meanings of these words are set out in the Definitions section in the back of this booklet.

## Policy aims

The aim of the **policy** is to meet the demands and needs of an **employer** who, subject to the requirements of a **registered scheme**, wishes to:

- provide insurance to cover a **lump sum benefit**, for example a fixed amount or a multiple of salary, payable via a discretionary trust in the event of the death of a **member**; and/or
- choose the level of **core benefits you** wish to provide and fund as part of an **employee's** flexible benefits package
- decide the **flex benefit** options available to their **employees**
- choose whether to insure all **employees** or a category of **employees**
- decide when new entrants can join the **scheme** and the age in which benefits will cease, up to a maximum age of 75.

We will pay **lump sum benefits** as advised by the **trustees**. The **lump sum benefit** usually does not form part of a **member's** estate and is not subject to inheritance tax.

The **policy** is suited to UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man registered **employers** with more than 100 insured **members**.

An **employer** will need to have a suitable flexible benefits platform in place to administer the **benefits** provided by the **policy**.

The **policy** is not designed to support the following:

- where there is no **registered scheme, trustee** or **employer**
- **employers** who wish to insure fewer than 100 **members**
- **employers** or partnerships who are not registered in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man
- **employers** with **members** who are not in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man or one of **our standard territories**, unless otherwise agreed
- **employers** who wish to insure equity partners
- **employers** who wish to provide a regular income after the death of a **member**
- **employers** who wish to provide cover beyond the age of 75.

The **policy** will not have or accrue a surrender value.

## Your commitment

**You** agree to inform **us** straight away:

- about the pension scheme tax reference (PSTR) for the **scheme**;
- about any **discretionary entrants**;
- when a **TUPE** or group employment transfer takes place;
- if **you** want to change the cover of a category; or
- if **you** want to change the eligibility criteria for membership;
- when any **member** moves overseas to a location which is not listed in **our standard territories** or any additional locations detailed in **your policy schedule**;

- about any changes to the **employer** or **trustees**; and
- about any claims

**You** agree to:

- pay premiums when requested or as agreed;
- comply with the **scheme rules** and the terms and conditions of the **policy**.

**You** also agree to provide **us** with all of the information **we** need:

- when **you** apply for the **policy**;
- at **anniversary/rate guarantee dates**; and if applicable, every month;
- when **you** make a claim;

and tell **us** if these details change.

## Risk factors

- Cover may stop if **you** don't comply with the terms and conditions of the **policy** or if **you** stop paying premiums. This will mean **you** will have no cover in place with **us** for future lump sum benefit and may result in an uninsured liability.
- **Employees** may not be covered or may have their benefits restricted where **medical information** is not provided.
- Payment of claims may be delayed if **you** do not provide the information **we** ask for.
- **We** recommend that a lawyer considers the content of the **employees'** contracts for **you** in the light of this **scheme**, and any requirements **you** may have for offering the benefits to the **employees**.
- Individuals with Enhanced, Fixed or Individual Protection who join a new registered group life scheme, could lose their protection.
- **We** usually guarantee the rate(s) for two years after the start of the **policy**.

The guarantee may not apply if:

- the sum insured we are covering changes by 25% or more;
- the number of **employees** who are covered falls below 5 (if this happens **we** reserve the right to cancel the **policy**); or
- there is a change to the (or any new) legislation, regulation or taxation affecting the **scheme**;
- there is a change to the:
  - benefit basis;
  - eligibility;
  - nature of business; or
  - companies included within the **scheme**.

# Your questions answered

## 1 How does the policy work?

For new **policies**, **we** need a minimum of 100 **employees** to be covered

- The **trustees** appointed to the **scheme** will be the policyholder.
- **You** can choose whether to insure all of the **employees** or a category only and select the **cease age**
- **You** decide the level of **core benefits you** will fund
- **You** decide the **flex benefit** options available to the **employees**
- **You** will need to have a suitable flexible benefits platform in place, in order to administer each **members'** benefit
- **Employers** normally pay the premium for the **default** and **flex benefits to us**. **You** are responsible for collecting any **flex benefit** premiums from the **employee** (for example via salary sacrifice) and paying them to **us** along with any other premiums due
- The cost is usually treated for tax purposes as an allowable business expense
- Premiums are not normally taxed as a benefit in kind for **employees**.
- **You** provide **us** with the information **we** require to assess any claims.
- **We** will pay **lump sum benefits** as advised by the **trustees**. The **lump sum** is normally tax-free.

## 2 What factors should be considered in deciding what benefits to provide?

### 2.1 Who can be covered?

**Employees** with a contract of employment with a UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man **employer** covered by the **policy** and who meet the **eligibility** and **actively at work** conditions. Details of **eligibility** and **actively at work** are in 2.3 and 2.6.

Regardless of what is set out elsewhere in these terms **we** will not be obliged to exercise any of **our** rights, and/or comply with any of **our** obligations under this **policy**, if to do so would cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, **us** to breach any law or regulation in any territory.

### 2.2 Can cover be provided for an employee who is not in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man?

**We** will maintain cover for **members** who are travelling outside of the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man whilst on holiday, or on company business for example; attending conferences, company meetings, or visiting clients.

**We** will cover **members** who are working outside of the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, provided that:

- they are working in one of the listed **standard territories** or any additional locations detailed in **your policy schedule**; and

- they still have a contract of employment with a UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man **employer** covered under this **policy**; and
- the premium to cover **members** based **overseas** is paid in sterling by **you**; and
- they are still eligible for cover under the **policy**

**You** can ask **us** to cover individuals who are working in a country outside of the **standard territories**. In order to consider cover, **we** will require full details of these individuals including their location and the duration they expect to be located overseas before **we** can agree cover. There may be circumstances where **we** are unable to provide cover. Any additional locations will be detailed in **your** illustration or **policy schedule**.

You must tell **us** about any **members** who are working **overseas** at the **policy** start date or **rate guarantee date**. **You** must also tell **us** the countries that they will be working in.

For any **overseas members** who do not pay UK taxes, no tax relief should be claimed in respect of premiums paid for those **members**.

The tax treatment of any **benefit** paid out for an **overseas member** will depend on whether or not they have been treated as non-resident for tax purposes at any time when covered under the **policy**.

Special terms and conditions may apply for cover to **overseas members**.

**You** should seek your own independent advice if **you** wish to continue to provide cover for any **members** who move to another territory.

### 2.3 What are the eligibility conditions?

The **eligibility** conditions will need to be agreed and should include:

- minimum and maximum entry ages
- any service qualification periods
- the categories of **employees** to be covered
- the date that new entrants will enter the **scheme** (for example, monthly).

Membership must be open to all **eligible employees** within a defined category or categories.

**Eligibility** conditions covering entry ages, entry dates and waiting periods must be the same for each **employee** within a defined category.

**You** will also need to choose (subject to **our** agreement):

- The levels of benefit. For example, **you** can provide 4 x salary as a **default benefit** and allow the **employee** to select **flex benefits** above this level subject to the chosen maximum benefit.
- The definition of salary to use. **You** may need to take into account bonuses, commissions and overtime if they form part of the **employees'** regular salaries.

## 2.4 Can different Group Life policies be linked?

It is possible to link different Aviva Registered Group Life, Excepted Group Life or Supplementary Relevant Life Policies taken out by the **employer** or parent/subsidiary of the **employer**. This will be for the purpose of sharing the **free cover limit** and premium rates and is subject to prior agreement by **us**.

### Important Note

It is recommended that **employers** consult their own advisers to ensure that their proposed policy arrangement and **scheme** set up does not breach equality and discrimination laws.

## 2.5 When can members make changes to their flex benefits?

**Members** can change their level of benefit through **flex benefits** at a **qualifying period**. Increases will be subject to **our actively at work** conditions being met.

Cover and premiums due for a **member** who selects cover part-way through the month as a result of a **lifestyle event** or as a new joiner will commence from the 1st of the following month. Cover that ceases part way through the month will not be refunded.

## 2.6 What are our requirements to be 'actively at work'?

**Employees** must be **actively at work** to be covered under the **policy** on:

- the **start date**; or
- from their **scheme eligibility date** if they joined the **scheme** after the **start date**; or
- from the date an **employee's** benefit basis increases, such as through a switch in category or the category benefit basis changes.

If the **employee** is not **actively at work**, **we** will not offer cover until that person has made a full and active return to their normal occupation.

For existing schemes with 20 lives or more **we** will in most circumstances not require **members** of flexible benefit **schemes** to be **actively at work**, if immediately before the start of this **policy**, those **members'** benefits were covered by another insurer and **we** have been informed about any **long term absentees**, and also **members** who have been medically rated, declined or had cover restricted or postponed.

This is provided there has been no break in cover or increases in benefit level. For these **schemes** **we** will also waive **our actively at work** conditions for any new **employees**.

However, **employees** must be **actively at work** to be covered under the **policy**:

- from the date an **employee's** benefit basis increases, such as increasing through **flex benefit**, a switch in category or the category benefit basis changes.

If the **employee** is not **actively at work**, then the increase in benefit will not be covered until the **employee** is next **actively at work**.

## TUPE transfers and group employment transfers

In order to consider cover, **we** require the following information in respect of the **TUPE** or other group employment transfer membership;

- **long term absentee** information;
- details of any **member** who is located overseas;
- details of any **member** who has had their benefit loaded, declined, restricted, postponed or accepted at special terms under a previous scheme.

If the information provided is acceptable, **we** may consider cover under the existing Aviva **scheme**, or alternatively, advise any additional requirements.

## 2.7 When will cover stop for a member?

**You** choose the policy **cease age**, which can be **state pension age** or any fixed age up to a maximum of 75. If the **cease age** is linked to a **state pension age (SPA)**, the **cease age** will be the later of either 65 or the **member's SPA**.

If the **cease age** is currently either **SPA** or a fixed age lower than 75, and **you** want to include **members** beyond the current **cease age** up to a maximum age of 75, then the **cease age** has to increase for the whole **policy** or applicable category.

Cover will stop when a **member**:

- is no longer employed by the employer (including redundancy where there is no redundancy cover)
- is no longer eligible for the **scheme**;
- reaches the **cease age**; or
- When a **member** moves overseas to a location not listed in our **standard territories** or any additional locations detailed in **your policy schedule**, unless otherwise agreed; or
- dies.

Cover will stop for all **members** when the **policy** is cancelled.

## 2.8 What types of cover are available?

### Lump sum benefit

Cover can either be for a fixed amount, or a multiple of salary and is payable when a **member** dies.

**You** decide on the **core benefit**, **default benefit** and maximum benefit and the **flex benefit** increments that an **employee** can select.

This can vary from one category to another, and providing reinsurance can be arranged, there is no limit to the level of cover **we** can insure.

## 2.9 What happens if someone is temporarily absent?

Where a **member** is off work due to illness or injury, the cover can continue up to the **cease age** providing premiums continue and a contract of employment with a UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man **employer** is maintained.

Where absence is due to any other reason (for example, maternity, paternity, shared parental leave and adoption leave, or Armed Forces Reserves call up), then cover may continue to be provided for a maximum of 36 months providing premiums continue to be paid and a contract of employment with a UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man **employer** is maintained.

Any increases in benefit during this period will need to be in line with standard company pay awards and will normally be limited to a maximum of 7% per year.

For existing **schemes** temporary absence cover may be adjusted in line with the **scheme's rules**.

## 2.10 Can cover be extended?

### Redundancy

If requested (and agreed by Aviva) **we** can cover **members** or a category of **members** after redundancy;

- for up to 2 years after the **employee** has left the insured company; or
- until they find alternative employment, whichever is sooner.

The benefit covered will be the **default benefits** covered the day prior to redundancy unless otherwise agreed.

### Early Retirement

If requested (and agreed by Aviva) **we** can cover **members** or a category of **members** for death benefits during early retirement:

- from the day of their early retirement.
- up to the **cease age** of the **policy**/category.

The benefit covered will be the **default benefits** covered the day prior to early retirement unless otherwise agreed.

## 3 How is the policy set up?

### 3.1 What do we need in order to provide an illustration?

To ensure the premium and illustration details can be confirmed before the **policy** starts, **we** need full details of **members**:

- name;
- gender;
- dates of birth;
- salaries;
- benefit basis/level;
- occupations;
- workplace postcode
- countries of residence (if outside the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man); and
- overseas business travel.

**We** will also need full details of any:

- **long term absentees**;
- previous underwriting decisions;
- previous scheme history; and
- previous claims history.

If any of these details or assumptions **we** have made differs from those on the illustration, the illustration may be revised or withdrawn.

### 3.2 What, in addition, do we need to complete the set up of the policy?

To complete the set up of the **policy**, **we** need:

- a fully completed Application Form (which includes a Trustee Proposal);
- a deposit premium or direct debit mandate;
- a completed membership schedule, or confirmation that membership details shown in the illustration are correct;
- individual details of any **member** whose total benefits are above the **free cover limit** (shown on illustration);
- the **scheme** to be registered with **HMRC** under Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004. **We** can only accept cover after this has happened. Online registration is available at [gov.uk/guidance/pension-administrators-register-a-scheme](http://gov.uk/guidance/pension-administrators-register-a-scheme);
- the **scheme's** existing or new **HMRC** Registration Number;
- signed and dated **scheme rules** (incorporating the trust provisions). Existing **schemes** that transfer cover to Aviva may continue to use their existing trust and rules. It is the responsibility of the **trustees** to ensure that the rules are updated to reflect future changes. **We** will require a copy of the existing rules and trust for **our** file.
- for existing **schemes**, written confirmation from the previous Insurer that any **members** above the **free cover limit** have previously been underwritten, the amount underwritten, the underwriting decision and the date of acceptance.

**We** agree to start cover whilst this information is being provided. If **you** do not send **us** everything **we** need within 30 days of the start of cover, **we** reserve the right to cancel cover and **we** may not pay any claims that are made whilst cover was being agreed.

### 3.3 Does any evidence of health have to be provided before members are covered?

#### Cover up to the free cover limit

**Policies** will usually be offered a **free cover limit**. The **free cover limit** is the maximum amount of cover **we** can give without a **member** needing to give **us** **medical information**. This means that **medical information** may only be required for benefits above the **free cover limit**, provided that the person:

- fulfils any **actively at work** conditions; and
- is not a **discretionary entrant**.

**Medical information** will be required for a **discretionary entrant's** total benefit and **we** will tell **you** if cover is provided and if any additional premiums need to be paid.

The **free cover limit** will not apply if at any **anniversary date** there are fewer than 5 **members** covered under the **policy**. In such cases **we** will need **medical information** for:

- all new **members**; and
- existing **members** if their benefits are increased.



**We** will reapply a **free cover limit** if the number of **members** returns to 5 or more.

**Members** with loadings or restrictions will not benefit from any increase in the **free cover limit**.

#### **Cover over the free cover limit**

If a **member** wants a **lump sum benefit** above the **free cover limit**, they will need to provide **us** with information on their leisure activities, medical history and family history. **We** call the assessment of this information, medical underwriting.

**We** prefer to collect this information using **our** digital platform as it is faster, more convenient and avoids the need for the **member** to complete a long questionnaire. A or paper form or telephone interview is available on request.

Depending on the information a **member** gives **us**, **we** may need to ask for more evidence. This could include a medical examination and blood or other tests. **We** will pay for the cost of the medical examination and tests if **we** ask for more evidence. **We** will only consider paying benefit for these **members** if **we** can obtain satisfactory **medical information** in English. If **we** need a **member** who is based **overseas** to attend a medical examination or test(s) in a foreign country, **we** will pay an amount towards the cost of the examination or test(s) up to the amount of an equivalent test in the UK.

**We** will assess all the **medical information** to decide if **we** can offer cover and if any special terms are appropriate. If **we** do apply special terms, these will apply straight away.

**We** will write to **you** to explain any special terms.

If **you** insure more than one group life assurance **policy** with **us**, unless **we** tell **you** otherwise, any special terms will continue to apply to the **member's** total cover under all the policies.

**Members** with loadings or restrictions will not benefit from any increase in the **free cover limit**.

### **3.4 If we have medically underwritten an employee, when will they next need to give us medical information?**

#### **Once Only**

In most circumstances, **members** will only be medically underwritten once, unless their total benefit exceeds £5 million. **Our policy** of only medically underwriting once can apply even if special terms have been applied to individual **members**. Once medical underwriting is concluded **we** will tell **you** if cover is provided and/or any additional premiums need to be paid.

If **we** are unable to accept a **member** on a Once Only basis, **we** will write to **you** and explain any special terms.

Once Only underwriting will only apply to increases in a **member's** salary and not where they have selected to increase their cover through **flex benefits**.

### **3.5 What are our terms if you're switching the insurance to us from another insurer?**

For policies that are currently insured with another insurer and **you** wish to switch the policy to **us** on the same basis, **we** will not normally apply worse medical underwriting terms than those applied by the previous insurer.

**We** will require confirmation from the previous Insurer on all previously underwritten **members** of the amount underwritten, the underwriting decision and the date of acceptance.

**Members** with loadings or restrictions applied to their benefit by the previous insurer will not benefit from any increase in the **free cover limit**.

If a premium loading has been applied by the previous insurer and accepted by **us**, **we** will calculate the premium based on **our** rates and not the previous insurer's. This means that the cover will remain the same, but the premium may change.

#### **Once Only**

If a **member** meeting **our** switch terms was accepted by the previous insurer on a Once Only (or equivalent) basis and their cover does not exceed £5 million, **we** will provide cover on **our** Once Only terms for salary related benefit increases.

### **3.6 What happens if a claim arises before an underwriting decision has been made?**

**We** will provide cover for full benefits (subject to the limits detailed in the next paragraph), excluding any **pre-existing conditions**, for a period of up to 180 days or until **our** underwriting decision is made if sooner. Cover will start from the date of joining the **scheme**, or the effective date of an increase in benefits.

Cover will be subject to;

- a maximum of £2m of benefit insured above the greater of the **free cover limit** or previously accepted benefit; except for

**Discretionary entrants**, where cover will be subject to;

- a maximum of £1m of benefit insured.

The cover will not apply to any **member** who has previously:

- been declined by **us** or another insurer;
- been postponed by **us** or another insurer;
- been restricted by **us** or another insurer; or
- has not provided full **medical information**.

## **4 What premiums will be charged for the cover?**

The premium calculated depends on several factors which include, but are not limited to, the:

- level of benefits insured;
- **eligibility** and entry conditions as shown in the **policy schedule**;
- age of **members**;
- gender split of the **members**;
- occupations of the **members**;
- locations of the workforce; and
- claims history if the **scheme** has been insured before.

The minimum premium **we** will charge is £600. All premium payments are to be made in pounds sterling.

## 4.1 How will premiums be calculated?

### Default Benefit

Premiums will be calculated based on a **unit rate**. For lump sum benefit, this will be shown per £1,000 of benefit.

### Flex Benefit

Unless otherwise agreed by **us**, benefits in excess of the **default benefit** will be calculated using the applicable **single premium flex benefit** premium rates. For lump sum benefit, this will usually be shown per £1,000 of benefit unless agreed otherwise.

**Flex benefits** rates are calculated based on the **members'** age at the beginning of each **policy year**. Premium rates generally increase with age.

## 4.2 Will there be any unexpected extra premiums?

**We** usually guarantee the rate(s) for two years after the start date of the **policy**. A new unit rate may apply at the **rate guarantee date**.

Additional premiums may be payable for **members** who have been medically underwritten because of their health or any hazardous pastimes. These loadings will apply immediately but become payable at the next **anniversary date**.

### Terms and conditions

**We** can change the rates, and any other term or condition of the **policy**, if:

- the sum insured covered changes by 25% or more;
- the number of **employees** who are covered falls below 5 (if this happens **we** reserve the right to cancel the **policy**); or
- there is a change to the (or any new) legislation, regulation or taxation affecting the **policy**;
- there is a change to the:
  - benefit basis;
  - **eligibility**;
  - nature of business; or
  - companies included within the **policy**.

**We** also reserve the right to change the terms and conditions provided for in this **policy** at any **rate guarantee date**.

## 4.3 What commission is included in the premium?

Commission payments to **your** intermediary are usually a percentage of the premium. The illustration will show the rate of commission **we** pay on **your policy**.

Group Protection staff are salaried and they receive an annual bonus based upon the overall performance of the Aviva group. Some members of our Distribution Team may also receive an additional bonus, a proportion of which relates to their sales performance.

## 4.4 Is there a discount for good claims experience?

Claims experience is a factor in assessing a unit rate and premium for a **policy**, so a good claims history will usually be reflected in the rate and premiums charged.

## 5 How does the policy accounting work?

The **policy** runs on one year accounting periods. The premium must be paid in advance monthly, or annually by direct debit, or any other method agreed with us.

Where premiums are paid annually, **we** will charge a deposit premium based on the membership at the **start date** or **anniversary date**.

**We** will then record the accurate premiums based on the monthly data supplied, and produce a final account at the end of the **policy year** (unless otherwise agreed). **We** will then issue an invoice for any premiums due, or issue a refund for any over payment that has been made.

Alternatively, we can collect a variable premium based on accurate data provided to us on a monthly basis.

Where premiums are paid monthly by direct debit, **we** will collect a level premium based on the membership at the **start date** or **anniversary date**. **We** will then record the accurate premiums based on the monthly data supplied, and produce a final account at the end of the **policy year** (unless otherwise agreed). **We** will then advise **you** of any additional premiums due before they are collected, or issue a refund for any over payment that has been made. We may also offer to offset against the following year.

### 5.1 What information is needed for accounting purposes?

#### Single premium rate policies

Unless otherwise agreed with **us**, **we** will require full and accurate membership data to be sent to **us** in an electronic spreadsheet format every month and at each **anniversary date**. This should include:

- names;
- genders;
- dates of birth;
- salaries;
- **core benefits**;
- **flex benefits**;
- details of any **member** increasing or decreasing their level of benefit;
- dates of joining for any new **members**;
- date of leaving for any **members** who have left the **employer** or are leaving the **employer**; and
- **policy** category (if more than one category is covered).
- Occupations
- Workplace postcodes
- any other relevant information such as **members** who are located overseas

## 6 How are Claims made?

If **you** need to make a claim **you** must give **us** written notice as soon as possible after a **member's** death. **You** must provide **us** with any documents and information that **we** may need to process **your** claim.

### 6.1 How are claims submitted?

There are two ways **you** can submit a claim;

- by fully completing an on-line claim form at [aviva.co.uk/grouplifeclaim](http://aviva.co.uk/grouplifeclaim) or
- by fully completing a paper claim form.

#### Please note

**We** will not pay any claims made more than 2 years after the earlier of:

- the day the **scheme administrator** first knew of the **member's** death; or
- the day on which the **scheme administrator** could reasonably have known of the **member's** death.

### 6.2 What might be needed to assess a claim?

**We** may be able to validate deaths electronically in some circumstances. However, where this is not possible **we** will require the **member's** original death certificate or coroner's interim certificate.

**We** may also ask for:

- medical records of the **member**.
- any necessary employment records.
- a copy of any relevant authorisation showing who is empowered to sign for and act on behalf of the **trustees**.
- evidence of membership and earnings.
- evidence that a **lifestyle event** has taken place if the **member** has selected **flex benefits**.

### 6.3 To whom can payments be made?

**Lump sum benefits** can be paid to the **trustees** or a third party account. This includes bank accounts belonging to the beneficiary(s), company account, solicitors and client holding accounts. The account must be a UK bank account.

If **you** have any questions about making a claim email **us** at [grouplifeclaims@aviva.com](mailto:grouplifeclaims@aviva.com), or call **us** on 0800 1582714. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded.

**You** can also write to us at:

Aviva Group Protection  
PO Box 3240  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR1 3ZF.

## 7 When will the policy be cancelled?

### 7.1 When can you cancel the policy?

There is no cooling off period and **you** may cancel the **policy** at any time.

Cover for all **benefits** under the **policy** will stop on the agreed date, and a premium will be due for the time on cover.

**We** will not backdate cancellations.

If **you** cancel the **policy we** will produce a final account based on the cover **we** provided up to the date **you** cancel the **policy**. **We** will pay **you** a refund if **you** have made any overpayments or request payment for any premiums due.

If the provision of cover would cause, or be reasonably likely to cause, **us** to breach any law or regulation in the given territory **we** reserve the right to cease cover within that territory.

If **we** cancel the **policy we** will give **you** at least 30 days' notice.

### 7.2 When can we cancel the policy?

**We** can cancel the **policy** if:

- **you** do not provide **us** with membership data, other information or documentation that **we** need to administer the **policy**; or
- **you** do not pay **us** when premiums are due; or
- the number of **members** covered falls below five.

### Sanction Checking

In order for **us** to help manage **our** exposure to the risk of financial crime, **we** will, from time to time, undertake a sanction check of the company, its directors, its ultimate parent company and its ultimate beneficial owners, as well as the country in which the company/ultimate parent company is based. If, as a result of **our** investigations **we** reasonably believe that providing a group protection contract would place Aviva at a high risk to exposure of financial crime, **we** reserve the right to cancel or amend the **policy** as appropriate.

### 7.3 Does the policy have a surrender value?

There is no surrender value if the **policy** is cancelled.

### 7.4 What happens to premiums if the policy is cancelled mid-year?

If the **policy** is cancelled mid-year, **we** will produce a final account based on the cover **we** provided up to the date you cancel the **policy**. **We** will pay **you** a refund if **you** have made any overpayments or request payment for any premiums due.

### 7.5 What happens if the policy is cancelled before a claim is paid?

All valid claims for **members** who died whilst the **policy** was in force with **us** (and premiums paid up to the cancellation date) will continue to be assessed subject to the criteria detailed in Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3.

## 8 What is not covered?

All causes of death are covered under this **policy**. **We** may however, apply an **event limit**, **sub event limit**, and/or **travel limit** if there is an event that affects the **policy**.

If **we** have applied an **event limit**, **sub event limit**, and/or **travel limit** to **your policy** this will be shown in **your** illustration and **policy schedule**.

## 9 What are the tax considerations?

All references to taxation are based on **our** understanding of current tax law and practices. Tax law and practices could change in the future. **You** should get professional advice from **your** own tax advisers.

### 9.1 What are the tax considerations for payment of premiums?

An **employer** normally pays the whole premium for the **policy**. In this situation **HMRC** will generally agree to this being allowed as a business expense.

**Employer's** premiums are not normally treated as a 'benefit in kind' for **employees**.

### 9.2 What are the tax considerations for payment of benefits?

**Lump sum benefits** under Registered Group life Insurance Schemes are usually paid tax-free by the **trustees**.

However, the beneficiaries may need to pay a **lifetime allowance** charge if:

- the total benefits (excluding any death in service pensions) taken by the **member** from all registered pension schemes during their lifetime; plus
- any **lump sum benefits** paid on death;

are in total, above the **member's lifetime allowance**. Any tax payable will be collected by **HMRC**.

## 10 Is there a Continuation Option?

This option is not available under this product.

# Further information

Please contact your usual Financial Adviser or call us on 0800 051 3472.

However, if you feel it is specific advice that you need, we recommend that you speak to a financial adviser.

If you do not have a financial adviser, one can be found at [unbiased.co.uk](http://unbiased.co.uk).

## Third Party Rights

Only we and the trustees will have any rights under these policies. Any person or persons who are not a party to these policies shall have no rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any terms under this policy. Reference to, or the consent of, any person who is not a party to the policy is not required for any changes to it or its rescission.

## Compensation

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) may cover your policy. It will cover you if Aviva becomes insolvent and we are unable to meet our obligations under the policy.

For this type of policy, the FSCS will cover you for 100% of the total amount of an existing claim. The FSCS will also provide a refund of 100% of the premiums that have not been used to pay for cover whether you are making a claim under the policy or not.

For further information, see [fscs.org.uk](http://fscs.org.uk) or telephone 0800 678 1100.

## Currency and jurisdiction

The policies are issued in England and subject to English Law.

All payments made to or by us under this policy will be in pounds sterling.

## Insurer

The Registered Group Life Insurance Policies are underwritten by Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited.

Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited is a company registered in the United Kingdom.

The Head Office of Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited is Aviva, Wellington Row, York, YO90 1WR, United Kingdom. Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aviva plc.

## If you have any cause for complaint

Our aim is to provide a first class standard of service to our customers, and to do everything we can to ensure you are satisfied. However, if you ever feel we have fallen short of this standard and you have cause to make a complaint, please let us know. Our contact details are:

Group Protection Complaints  
Aviva Life & Pensions UK Ltd  
PO Box 3240  
Norwich  
NR1 3ZF

Telephone: [0800 1582714](tel:08001582714)  
Email: [gpcomplaints@aviva.com](mailto:gpcomplaints@aviva.com)

We have every reason to believe that you will be totally satisfied with your Aviva policy, and with our service. It is very rare that matters cannot be resolved amicably. However, if you are still unhappy with the outcome after we have investigated it for you and you feel that there is additional information that should be considered, you should let us have that information as soon as possible so that we can review it. If you disagree with our response or if we have not replied within eight weeks, you may be able to take your case to the Financial Ombudsman Service to investigate. Their contact details are:

The Financial Ombudsman Service  
Exchange Tower  
London  
E14 9SR

Telephone: [0800 0234567](tel:08000234567)  
Email: [complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk](mailto:complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk)  
Website: [financial-ombudsman.org.uk](http://financial-ombudsman.org.uk).

Please note that the Financial Ombudsman Service will only consider your complaint if you have given us the opportunity to resolve the matter first. Making a complaint to the Ombudsman will not affect your legal rights.

### **Solvency Financial Condition Report**

Every year we publish a Solvency and Financial Condition report which provides information about our performance, governance, risk profile, solvency and capital management. This report is available for you to read on our website at: [aviva.com/investor-relations/institutional-investors/regulatory-returns/](http://aviva.com/investor-relations/institutional-investors/regulatory-returns/)

### **Paper, braille, large font and audio material**

Our literature is available free of charge on paper or in Braille, large font and audio format. Just call 0800 051 3472 or email [groupprotection@aviva.com](mailto:groupprotection@aviva.com) and tell us:

- the format you want
- your name and address
- the name or code of the document.

The document code is in the bottom left hand corner of the back page.

Calls may be recorded/monitored for our joint protection.

### **Data Protection**

Aviva Life and Pensions UK Limited is the data controller responsible for processing any personal information you provide us.

As the policyholder our understanding is that you are not required to obtain individual consent from employees before providing us with any personal data we require to set up, administer and assess any claims under the policy. However you will need to ensure that you comply with data protection law and regulation and ensure that the appropriate information has been provided to data subjects to explain how the information will be processed and shared. If we need to obtain personal data from anyone covered under the policy, we will contact them and if necessary obtain their consent before collecting and using their information.

We will record and store any information provided to us accurately and securely.

Details of our full Privacy Policy is available at [aviva.co.uk/privacypolicy](http://aviva.co.uk/privacypolicy) or you can request a copy by contacting us at Aviva, Freepost, Mailing Exclusion Team, Unit 5, Wanlip Road Ind Est, Syston, Leicester, LE7 1PD. If you have any questions about how we use personal information, please contact our Data Protection Officer by writing to them at Data Protection Officer, Aviva, Level 4, Pitheavlis, Perth, PH2 0NH.

# Definitions

Some of the terms and expressions that **we** use in this Technical Guide have a specific meaning for this type of policy. Here are some of the terms explained:

## Actively at work

This means that a **member** is actively at work and not working against medical advice. The **member** must be:

- following their normal occupation;
- working their normal number of contracted hours; and
- working at their normal place of business or at a location where business needs them to travel.

## Anniversary date

An anniversary of the **start date**, unless another date has been agreed with **us**. This date is stated in the **policy schedule**.

## Cease age

Midnight on the day before the age at which cover for a **member** ceases, as set out in the relevant **policy schedule** applicable to that **member's** category. The maximum age can't exceed midnight on the day before a **member's** 75th birthday.

## Core benefit

The minimum amount of benefit provided by the employer for each **member** covered under the **policy**.

## Default benefit

The level of benefit that a **member** will receive on joining the **scheme**.

## Discretionary entrant

An **employee** who needs cover, but has joined the **scheme**:

- before the date they are first **eligible** to join; or
- 12 months or any time after 12 months they are first **eligible** to join, if their benefit (including any lump sum equivalent of a **dependant's** death in service pension) is above £250,000 or they were not **actively at work** on the date they want to join the **policy**.

## For auto-enrolment

Where membership of the policy is linked to an automatic enrolment pension, an employee will be considered a discretionary entrant if they have elected to join the qualifying pension scheme at any time other than;

- the first 12 months of being eligible to join the scheme, or
- at their auto enrolment or re-enrolment date.

## Eligible/Eligibility

The factor(s) **we** consider when assessing whether or not a person can be automatically covered by the **policy**. This will be detailed in the **policy schedule**.

## Employee

A person employed by the **employer** who is covered under the **policy**.

## Employer

A company, or other organisation that is participating in the **scheme**.

## Event limit

A monetary limit that applies to the total value of claims that can be made following an event.

Where an event limit is applied it will be shown and detailed in the **policy schedule**.

## Flex benefits

The benefit selected as a result of a **member** increasing or decreasing their benefit levels at a **qualifying period**.

A **member** may increase their benefit level one step at a time but reduce it any number of steps, subject to their benefit not reducing below the **core benefit**. The benefit steps will be detailed in the illustration.

Benefit level increases are limited to two per policy year;

- one at the **anniversary date**,
- one within two months following a **lifestyle event** taking place.

## Free cover limit

The level of benefit (as stated in **your** illustration and **policy schedule**) under which **medical information** is not needed.

## HMRC

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

## Lifetime allowance

This is the tax threshold above which benefits become subject to a lifetime allowance charge, and has the same meaning as given in the Glossary to the **HMRC** Pensions Tax Manual.

## Lifestyle event

A qualifying event allowing a **member** to increase their **flex benefits** level. The lifestyle events are detailed in the **policy schedule**.

## Long term absentee

A **member** who is not **actively at work** and has been absent from work for more than three continuous months immediately before the **start date** or **anniversary date**.

## Lump sum benefit

The total lump sum benefit that would be paid for a **member** in the event of a claim, as shown in **your** illustration and **policy schedule**.

## Medical Information

Information including but not limited to medical history and lifestyle factors required to fully assess the **member** and enable **us** to apply an underwriting decision.

## Member

A member of the **scheme** for whom death benefits will be provided under the **policy**.

## Overseas

Any country that is not part of the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.

## Policy

The Aviva Group Life registered flexible benefits **policy** (including the **policy schedule** together with any endorsements) which covers the **policy** benefits and forms the contract between **you** and **us**.

## Policy schedule

The current schedule (as issued from time to time) stating details of the **employer**, cover provided by the **policy** and any special terms (if applicable).

## Policy year

The period between:

- the **start date** and the first **anniversary date**; or
- the **anniversary date** and **rate guarantee date**.
- an **anniversary date** and the date of termination of the **policy** (if termination occurs before the next **anniversary date**)

## Pre-existing condition

A condition that is directly or indirectly linked to any medical and/or related condition or complication that the **member** was:

- aware of; or
- experienced symptoms of, or
- received medication, advice or treatment for,

in the previous five years before any cover is provided for under the **policy**.

## Qualifying period

- The **start date** or scheme **eligibility date** or;
- the **policy anniversary date** or;
- within two months following a qualifying **lifestyle event** which are shown on the **policy schedule**

## Rate guarantee date

The date until which rates and terms are guaranteed to apply, as shown in the **policy schedule**.

## Registered scheme

An occupational pension scheme set up under discretionary trust (including a stand alone life assurance trust) that is registered with HMRC in accordance with Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Finance Act 2004.

## Scheme

The Registered Scheme named as the scheme in the **policy schedule**.

## Scheme administrator

The person(s) appointed in accordance with the **scheme rules** to be responsible for the day to day running of the **scheme**, as detailed under Part 4 of Finance Act 2004.

## Scheme eligibility date

The earliest date a **member** is **eligible** to join the **scheme**.

## Scheme rules

The rules of the **scheme**.

## Single premium

The premium notified by **us** to **you** for each **member**.

## Standard Territories

All European Union (EU) countries, Andorra, Australia, Canada, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, UAE, USA and the Vatican City.

## Start date

The date the **policy** starts, and stated as commencement date in the **policy schedule**.

## State Pension Age

The earliest age at which the **employee** can start to receive the UK state pension. The maximum state pension age we will cover is 68.



## Sub Event Limit

A monetary limit that applies to the total value of claims that can be made following an **event**, which impacts **members** traveling to and from or located at a specified location. The **sub event limit** is included within the overall **event limit** and is not in addition to it.

## Travel Limit

A monetary limit that applies to the total value of claims that can be made following an **event**, which impacts **members** traveling together for work purposes. The travel limit is included within the overall **event limit** and is not added to it. Where a travel limit is applied it will be detailed in **your policy schedule**.

## Trustees/you/your

The trustees of the **scheme** as stated in the **policy schedule**.

## TUPE

Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

## Unit Rate

The rate of premium specified in the **policy schedule** as the unit rate as changed from time to time being;

- the amount payable for every £1000 of lump sum benefit covered under the **policy**.

## We/our/us

Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited.







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