

Your retirement planner, made simple

Customer guide · Future Freedom Planner v20.11

Start with a few figures, then explore more detail when you need it. No financial training is needed. The welcome page also links to a fictional retiring-earlier example and its sample report.

Check the planner fits first

This release supports people resident in England, Wales or Northern Ireland throughout their plan, using UK pension and savings rules and GBP. Scotland, overseas residence and moves between tax regions are outside its after-tax, Silver and Gold scope. A public pension's country identifies its source; it does not select your tax residence.

Your first five minutes

1. Open **Basic inputs**. Choose your tax residence, current age, retirement age and pension access age.
2. Add your current pension total and monthly payments from you and your employer. Include tax relief already paid into the pension.
3. Enter your monthly income target in today's money. Select **net** for income after modelled pension tax.
4. Add optional cash savings and your own UK State Pension forecast. Check its annual amount, start age and price basis.
5. Select **Update Plan** to see your retirement overview and projection.

Detailed inputs opens seven optional groups, including ISAs, other pensions, spending, investments and tax. Switching views keeps your figures. On a phone, select **Edit your inputs** to open the form.

Keep these three points in mind

- **An estimate is not a promise.** Markets, prices, fees and pension rules can change.
- **Retirement and pension access are different dates.** You may need separate savings before pension withdrawals begin. Silver and Gold calculate this bridge.
- **Save before leaving.** Use **Plan & help** → **Save plan**. Your inputs are not saved online.

Enter numbers and selected options, not names, addresses or account numbers. For help with a field, open **Plan & help** → **FAQ & input guide**, or the input reference later in this manual.

Understand your result, then compare a change

Your plan in 60 seconds

Start with the short explanation on Summary. It tells you the spending budget at retirement and when an income gap appears after pension withdrawals can start. Silver and Gold also show any extra savings needed for the earlier bridge.

The six detailed headline figures remain at the top for Silver and Gold. Free keeps its overview and central projection, without cashflow detail.

Choose pounds you can understand

Use **Show amounts in → Today's money** to see buying power at your current age, or **Future pounds** to see the projected pounds at the dates shown. Today's money is the default. The switch affects the overview, its graph, scenario comparisons and the one-page PDF. It does not change contributions, spending assumptions or when an income gap appears.

Cashflow and Investments keep the money bases shown in their labels. The longer reports explain their own bases. Open the early-retirement bridge or annual cashflow section only when you want that detail.

Three changes to explore with Gold

Compare the latest plan with **£100 more gross monthly pension saving, retiring one year later**, or **£100 less monthly spending today**. Each is a separate example. Your actual inputs stay unchanged. Pension saving still stops at retirement and cannot cover years when the pension is inaccessible.

Compare your own two plans with Gold

1. Update your plan and open **Scenarios**.
2. Select **Keep this plan as Option A**.
3. Change an input, such as retirement age, spending or an investment strategy, then select **Update Plan**.
4. Select **Compare A with current plan**. Option B is the new result.

Keep the same current age, final age, tax residence and income tax basis. Each option uses its own inflation assumption for today's money. The graph and cards compare central projections, not promises. Save both plans as files if you want to keep them: refreshing, loading a plan or changing access clears Option A.

Save and reopen your plan

Save plan and **Load plan** are in **Plan & help**. Both are included in every version, even free. You do not need an online customer account.

Keep a copy before you leave

1. Select **Save plan**. A file called `future_freedom_plan_YYYY-MM-DD.json` is downloaded.
2. Check that it is in your downloads. Move it to a private folder if you prefer.
3. Save a new copy whenever you change figures you want to keep. There is no automatic online save.

The file contains your main inputs and your separate Pension target settings, including its spending and tax choices. It does not contain calculated results, purchase references or browser credentials. You can save an unfinished plan with blank inputs.

Come back later

1. Open the planner and select **Load plan**.
2. Choose your saved JSON file. Review the age summary.
3. Select **Replace current plan**. Save any current work first if you want to keep both versions.
4. Select **Update Plan** to recalculate. Pension target uses its own **Calculate pension target** button.

A rejected file leaves the current inputs unchanged. Files must come from Save plan, use supported inputs and be smaller than 64 KB. Loading reads the file on your device; figures go to the calculation server only when you calculate or request a report.

File	What it is for
Plan JSON	Reopen your inputs and goal settings
Purchase-reference text file	Request an email code to restore Silver or Gold access
PDF report	Read or share the calculated explanation
Target CSV	Review the separate target calculation in a spreadsheet

Keep plan files private. They are not encrypted and contain financial figures. Do not put your name, account numbers or other identity information into a plan file. Only a plan JSON can be loaded as a plan. Only older schema 1 files load with residence unconfirmed. Schema 2 and new files preserve it. Old ISA/GIA balances keep following the pension; the new Cash ISA balance starts at zero.

Understanding the inputs

Input	What it means
Tax residence for this plan	Where income-tax rules apply throughout the plan, including retirement; required for Net and for Silver or Gold purchases
Current pension total	The combined balance of the pension pots you want to model
Retirement age	When regular contributions stop and retirement spending starts
Pension access age	The earliest age your own pension permits withdrawals
Start pension withdrawals	When you choose to start taking private-pension money
Employee / employer gross	The amount actually invested, including any relief already credited
Desired income today	Your monthly spending budget at today's prices
Plan horizon age	The final birthday to reach, such as 100

Do not add pension tax relief twice. If £1,000 reaches the pension each month, enter £1,000. Further relief is not added automatically.

An **ISA** is a tax-protected savings or investment account. A **GIA** is an ordinary investment account. **Cash** means separate cash savings. Tax on GIA gains, dividends and cash interest is not calculated.

For public and defined benefit pensions, enter your own annual forecast, start age and annual increase. **Country paying this public pension** selects a label, not your tax residence. Changing it does not change the amount, start age or increase. Enter the gross GBP equivalent from your forecast; local tax, treaty relief and exchange-rate changes are not calculated.

Today's prices or pounds at the start date?

Choose **today** if the forecast is expressed at today's prices. Choose **at start** if it already shows the pounds expected when payments begin. The wrong basis can count inflation twice.

Contributions increase with inflation by default. Salary growth, a custom increase or fixed contributions are alternatives. Public pensions have their own increase settings.

Choose investments for each account

Start with the default **Use pension settings** checkboxes if the same strategy and fee are a reasonable illustration for your investments. Clear a checkbox only when you want to give that account different choices.

Account	How it grows
Private pension	Starting mix, retirement mix, transition and fee
Stocks and shares ISA	Follows the pension, or its own strategy and fee
General investment account	Follows the pension, or its own strategy and fee; investment taxes are excluded
Cash ISA	Its own interest assumption, with no investment fee
Cash & savings	The cash growth assumption, with no investment fee; ordinary interest tax is excluded

Choose a retirement mix and its timing

The starting mix is where your investment plan begins. The retirement mix is where it is heading. Choose each separately from the transition date.

Retirement mix	Shares	Bonds	Cash
Conservative	25%	65%	10%
Balanced	50%	45%	5%
Growth	70%	25%	5%
Keep the same mix	Your starting allocation	Unchanged	Unchanged

The default is a gradual change over ten years, ending when pension withdrawals begin. If work stops at 53 and pension withdrawals begin at 57, the pension transition normally ends at 57. You can choose stop-work age or another age instead. ISA and GIA can have separate dates for bridge savings.

More shares can mean higher assumed growth and larger losses. The screen flags a transition that increases shares. These are illustrations, not recommendations of a suitable mix.

Review the growth assumptions

The reviewed preset uses 6.5% for shares, 5% for bonds and 3.5% for cash, before fees and inflation. Dividends and interest are included. The previous 5.5% share preset and custom rates remain available. Fees default to 0.5% once a year. Inflation defaults to 2.5%.

Old plan files keep their entered rates and previous transition rules. Choose a new preset or transition only when you want to update those assumptions.

See the effect of a market fall

Gold's actual-plan investment comparison keeps the income target the same for every choice. It shows the central income result and the result after shares fall 40% and bonds fall 10% when pension-income spending starts. Cash is unchanged by this extra fall. The normal growth assumptions then resume. This replaces any selected one-off crash for this comparison only.

This stress is not a forecast or a worst case. The fixed £10,000 charts are separate: they compare constant mixes without your spending or saving.

Understand the cash allocation

Cash inside investments stays in its account, including the pension's access restrictions and fee. Ordinary cash and Cash ISA are separate balances. The combined chart counts them once. Automatic creation or replenishment of a spending reserve is not modelled.

A simple example

You could model a Growth pension, a Defensive stocks and shares ISA with a 0.3% fee, and a Cash ISA earning 4%. All figures are assumptions you choose. The planner applies each account's own growth and charges.

Enter a balance once. If you previously put Cash ISA savings under Cash & savings, move that amount between the input fields yourself; do not leave it in both. Savings left in an account keep growing. Dividends are already part of investment returns.

See what happens to your money

In **Investments**, read **Growth and fees for each account** and use **Account mix to show**. The combined chart weights each account by its balance. In **Cashflow**, expand the account details for growth, fees, withdrawals and closing balances. Reports and the target CSV retain the account settings.

Income uses public/workplace pensions first, then ordinary cash, Cash ISA, stocks and shares ISA, GIA and accessible private pension. This order is fixed; it does not search for the most tax-efficient combination. Cash ISA assumes accessible adult savings. Eligibility, fixed-term access and future ISA rules need a separate check.

The shorter cashflow table

The cashflow begins with key ages, five savings totals and the income section. Open the details you want without losing the main picture.

Main row	Meaning
Savings at the start of the year	What you have at that birthday
+ Money invested	New contributions during the year
+ Net investment gain / loss	Growth and interest after fees and any modelled crash
– Money taken from savings	Withdrawals from your accounts
= Savings at the end of the year	What remains at the next birthday

Start + contributions + net investment change – withdrawals = end. Figures are rounded to £1, so small rounding differences can appear.

Open only the detail you need

- **Income you need and receive:** budget, available income and any amount still to fund.
- **Where your income comes from:** pensions and withdrawals from each account.
- **Investment growth and charges:** growth before fees, fees and market falls.
- **Tax and tax-free pension cash:** amounts already included in withdrawals and available income.
- **What the money could buy:** values expressed in today's money.
- **Growth assumptions:** the rates used for each year.

Hide all-zero detail rows starts on. A row is hidden only if it is zero throughout the entire plan, including years not currently visible. Each section tells you how many zero rows are hidden. Use its **Show zero rows** button, or switch off the global filter.

Choose **Every year** for the full timeline. Key ages show individual years, not totals between those ages. **Simple view** restores the shorter layout. Extra charts and account details have their own expandable section.

Inflation, fees and dividends

Future pounds are the projected pounds in an account or budget at a future date. **Today's money** shows what those pounds could buy now. Inflation changes buying power; it is not a second fee deducted from the pension.

A £2,500 monthly budget today becomes about £3,446 at age 57 if you are 44 now and inflation averages 2.5% over those 13 years.

Spending choice	What happens after income starts
Increase with inflation	The pounds rise to preserve planned buying power
Keep the same pound amount	The pounds stay flat; buying power falls when prices rise

In the main plan, the flat-spending start is the latest of current age, retirement age and pension withdrawal age. In Pension target it is the goal start age. Earlier bridge spending still rises with inflation.

Fixed spending does not guarantee falling bills. Mortgage repayment is not calculated automatically. Selected age-based spending stages still apply; an extra care budget stays inflation-linked.

Fees are charged once

The pension default fee is **0.5% each year**. ISA and GIA follow this unless you give them separate fees. Cash ISA and ordinary cash savings have no investment fee. With 6.5% gross growth, the net rate is $(1.065 \times 0.995) - 1 = 5.9675\%$, before inflation. The percentage is applied to invested assets after growth.

Dividends are already included

Return assumptions are **total returns**, including reinvested dividends and interest. Do not add a dividend yield on top. The planner does not separately model paying cash dividends to you or the tax on those dividends.

Growth assumptions are editable illustrations. They are not promises about what any fund will return.

How much pension might you need?

Open **Pension target** to work backwards from an income goal. Enter the monthly budget in today's money, start age and final birthday. Select **Calculate pension target**.

It compares the pension needed at the start age with the pension your saving plan could produce. Age 57 to 100 means 43 annual periods, ending at the 100th birthday.

One illustration

Spending after 57	Illustrative pension needed at 57
Increase with inflation	£1,188,503
Keep the same pound amount	£587,797

Both assume England/Wales/Northern Ireland tax residence throughout and begin with a £2,500 net monthly budget in today's money. This example uses age 44, retirement at 53, a £245,000 pension, £1,000 monthly gross contributions rising with inflation, 2.5% inflation, 0.5% fees, High growth then Balanced income, no tax-free cash, fixed tax thresholds, no other savings and £12,547.60 annual public pension in today's money from 68. It uses this release's 6.5% share, 5% bond and 3.5% cash returns, with a ten-year gradual pension transition ending at 57.

With fixed pounds, the budget falls to about **£886 a month in today's buying power at age 99**. The smaller target therefore funds a different later lifestyle. These are not personal recommendations or guaranteed minimums.

The early-retirement bridge stays separate

If work stops at 53 and pension withdrawals begin at 57, those four years need accessible savings or income. An unfunded bridge is a savings requirement. It never becomes a deduction from the inaccessible pension or a debt carried into it.

Gold compares six starting strategies with four later strategies. Higher projected returns come with different investment risk. Targets assume steady returns, no inheritance target and no reserve for poor markets.

Reports, checks and common questions

After **Update Plan**, open **Reports**. Update again if you change an input.

Report	Best use
One-page summary	Keep the main outcome, bridge, graph and assumptions on one page
Essential plan	Understand the result, income sources and selected investments
Visual guide	Explore investment mixes and market/cost scenarios
Decision workbook	Compare retirement dates, contributions and setbacks

Silver and Gold include the One-page summary and Essential plan. Gold adds the other reports and an optional detailed appendix for the longer reports. The one-page summary uses the money display chosen on Summary and has no appendix. Reports contain no customer-name field.

Pension target has its own goal settings. Changing that goal does not change the main plan or its PDF reports. Gold can export the goal calculation as CSV.

Does the result look surprising?

Check net versus gross income, gross contributions actually invested, retirement and access dates, forecast price basis, and whether you are reading future pounds or today's money. Check whether the gap relates to the bridge or the years after pension withdrawals begin.

Simulation coverage assesses income after pension withdrawals start; the bridge is separate. Higher and lower chart lines illustrate different returns, not probabilities or guarantees.

The model covers one person's England/Wales/Northern Ireland pension-income tax assumptions. Scottish tax, overseas residence, investment gains, interest tax and household planning need separate assessment.

If a feature or connection is missing

Check **Plans & access** for your current version. Verify your browser or refresh access status. For a local connection problem, keep both terminal windows open and check <http://127.0.0.1:8000/health>. The README and technical manual give the installation commands. A missing historical screenshot does not stop the planner.

Independent help: <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement> and <https://www.gov.uk/check-state-pension>.

Free, Silver and Gold

Free is your Retirement Snapshot, Silver is your Retirement Plan, and Gold is the Complete Planner. This guide covers all three. The local owner preview opens every feature with payments off.

Version	Main features and duration
Free · £0	Retirement overview, central projection graph, standard assumptions and Save/Load. No cashflow table or reports
Silver · £29 once	90 days: detailed plan, bridge, pension target, spending/tax comparisons, cashflows, one-page summary and Essential PDF
Gold · £49 once	365 days: all above, 24 strategy combinations, retirement/contribution comparisons, stress scenarios, all PDFs/appendices and target CSV

These are proposed launch offers in the owner preview. Check the live pricing screen before buying. There is no automatic renewal or setup appointment.

Buy and verify your browser

Use **Plans & access**, accept the terms and open Stripe checkout. Return to the original tab to keep your figures. Keep the purchase reference in your confirmation email.

Select **Email me a verification code**. Enter the 8-digit code in the same browser within 10 minutes. Codes go only to the checkout email. Never share them. If payment succeeded, refresh access status before buying again.

Two browsers, one active at a time

Register two browsers for personal use. Different browsers, profiles and private windows count separately. Select **Use this browser** to switch. On a third browser, verify the email code and choose a browser to replace. Switching keeps figures in open tabs.

Verification lasts up to 30 days, capped by pass expiry. Clearing cookies requires verification again. This never extends the access period. Older access keys work as recovery references but still need an email code. Use a saved plan JSON to restore figures.

Refunds and privacy

Paid online access has a statutory cancellation period. No additional unconditional satisfaction guarantee is offered. A lawful proportionate deduction for service supplied may apply only with the required prior information and express early-start request. Cancellation ends the selected access; statutory rights remain. Read the full Cancellation and Refunds policy before buying. Save your plan before closing or refreshing.

The planner keeps minimal purchase and browser-access records, not names, addresses, emails or pension figures. Stripe and the email provider process customer information. Read **Help & privacy** for details; zero data-loss risk is not promised. The FAQ below covers missing codes and recovery.

Upgrade from Silver to Gold

You can start with Silver and add the extra Gold tools later. Your original purchase reference and browser access stay the same.

Step	What happens
Buy Silver for £29	New Silver purchases give 90 days to build your plan
Request an upgrade while Silver is active	Pay the £20 difference; your £29 payment is credited
Gold access	Ends 365 days after the original Silver payment

How to upgrade

1. Verify your original purchase in **Plans & access**.
2. Check the **Upgrade to Gold · £20** offer and its expiry date.
3. Accept the terms and planning scope, then complete checkout before it expires.
4. Return to the original tab and select **Refresh access status**. Your figures stay in that tab.

For example, buy Silver on 1 October 2026 and upgrade on 1 December 2026: Gold ends on 1 October 2027. It does not restart a fresh year in December.

The offer applies to an active Silver purchase originally paid at £29. Earlier 30-day purchases keep their original period and can upgrade while active. One completed upgrade is available per Silver purchase. Other new passes remain separate purchases.

If you request a refund

- **Refund the £20 upgrade within 14 days:** any remaining Silver access continues until its original expiry. If it has ended, you return to Free.
- **Refund the original Silver purchase within its 14-day window:** both versions end and the linked upgrade payment is also refunded.
- **Original payment disputed:** the linked upgrade ends and its payment is refunded.

Each payment has its own cancellation period. The displayed estimate explains any lawful deduction. Upgrading does not restart the Silver window, and a refunded upgrade cannot be repeatedly repurchased. Statutory rights remain. Bank processing may take time; contact support with your purchase reference if an interrupted refund needs attention.

Download both purchase confirmations from **Plans & access**. Use your original Silver checkout email for browser verification, including after its original access period has ended.

Invited owner or tester access

Open **Plans & access > Use invitation**, enter the complete private FFP- code supplied by the owner, and select **Activate invitation**. No payment, card or email is needed. Your complimentary version and expiry appear on that page. Tester access normally lasts 30 days from issue; owner access has no scheduled expiry.

Keep the code private: it also restores access after signing out, clearing cookies or the 30-day browser session ending. Two browsers can be registered, with one active at a time. The owner can extend or revoke a tester invitation, or replace a lost code. Save your financial plan separately; the invitation does not save your figures.

Find an answer

The following FAQ explains every customer input and the main controls. Read only the topic you need. In the planner, select **Plan & help → FAQ & input guide** to search these same answers. In this PDF, use Find to search the exact field label.

Topic	What you will find
Getting started	What to prepare and how to read your first result.
Who this release supports	Tax residence, country labels, currencies and eligibility before buying.
Your planning ages	When saving stops, withdrawals can start and the plan ends.
Balances and salary	What you own now and which account each amount belongs in.
State and public pensions	Your forecast amount, its price basis and annual increases.
Defined benefit pensions	An employer pension that pays an annual income.
Contribution amounts	How much goes into each account and how often.
Contribution increases	How future payments rise and what the monthly total includes.
Retirement spending	Your budget, inflation choice and later-life changes.
Investment strategies	The selected asset mix before and after retirement.
Income and tax settings	Before-tax versus after-tax income and simplified allowances.
Investments for each account	Separate strategies, charges and interest for your savings accounts.
Fees and inflation	Annual charges, buying power and avoiding double counting.
Asset growth and volatility	What each return assumption includes and how risk is modelled.
Market-fall scenarios	A one-off shock and which assets it affects.
Pension target inputs	Work backwards from income to the pension needed at its start.
Understanding the results	Income gaps, the bridge, returns and simulated outcomes.
Tables, charts and reports	Display controls, recalculating and downloading your work.
Access, privacy and help	Versions, browser verification, payments and practical limits.

FAQ: Getting started

What to prepare and how to read your first result.

What do I need before I start?

Have your latest pension and savings balances, gross contributions actually invested, intended retirement dates and your own public pension forecast. Decide on a monthly spending budget at today's prices. Use ages and amounts only; do not enter identifying details.

Enter the main figures, choose your assumptions, then select Update Plan. Start with Summary; open the detail when you need it.

Which units should I enter?

Enter pounds, whole ages in years, and percentages as shown on the screen. Monthly means each month; annual means each year. Do not type a monthly pension forecast into an annual field.

Example: Enter 2500 for £2,500, 0.5 for a 0.5% annual fee, and 2.5 for 2.5% inflation. A forecast of £200 a week is £10,400 a year using 52 weeks.

Can I leave an input blank?

Enter your current age to run a plan. Leave an unused money field blank or enter 0; both mean no amount. Keep a valid start age for a pension even if its amount is zero, or remove an unused public pension card. Blank money fields do not estimate missing income for you.

The prefilled ages, rates and strategies are assumptions to review, not facts about you. A blank optional crash age means no extra crash in the central plan.

What is the difference between today's money and future pounds?

Future pounds are the amounts projected in accounts or paid in a future year. Today's money expresses their buying power at today's prices. The model calculates future amounts, then converts selected results for comparison. Inflation is not a second cash deduction from the pension.

Use Show amounts in on Summary or Scenarios to switch the overview, retirement projection and scenario comparisons between Today's money and Future pounds. The default is today's money. The one-page summary PDF follows this choice. This does not edit inputs, rerun the model or change income coverage. Cashflow and Investments keep their own clearly labelled money bases; the longer reports label theirs separately.

Example: At 2.5% inflation, £2,500 a month today needs about £3,446 a month in 13 years to buy the same things.

Is this a recommendation or a guaranteed pension forecast?

No. It is an illustration of the numbers and assumptions you choose. It does not select suitable investments, verify your pension entitlement or promise that money will last. Review different assumptions and use appropriate qualified advice before making financial decisions.

How do I save and reopen my plan?

Select Save plan to download a JSON file containing your main inputs and separate pension-target settings. This works in every version, including free, and can save an incomplete draft. Confirm the file is in your downloads before closing the tab.

Select Load plan, choose that file, review the summary and select Replace current plan. Loading clears old results. Select Update Plan, or Calculate pension target for that goal, to calculate again. Loading itself does not send figures to the server. An invalid file leaves your current inputs unchanged.

Plans are not saved online or automatically saved in browser storage. The file is not encrypted and contains financial figures: keep it private. It does not contain results or your browser-access credential. A PDF, CSV or purchase-reference file cannot be loaded as a plan.

Files saved by versions using schemas 1, 2 or 3 keep their original investment rates and retirement-based transition. New schema 4 files also store your independent transition choices. Loading does not automatically apply the new return preset.

FAQ: Who this release supports

Tax residence, country labels, currencies and eligibility before buying.

What does Tax residence for this plan mean?

Choose where income-tax rules apply to you now and throughout the period you are modelling, including retirement. This is different from nationality or the country paying a pension. No address or identity document is requested.

Choose England, Wales or Northern Ireland throughout only if that describes the whole plan. Choose Scotland, Outside the United Kingdom, or Moving between tax regions or unsure otherwise. Do not choose a supported region just to unlock results. Net calculations are available only for the supported choice. If unsure, establish your tax residence separately.

Can I use this as a retirement planner for Poland, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, France or Spain?

This release does not implement those countries' tax, pension eligibility or savings rules. Their public pensions can be added as manual gross GBP income streams within the supported UK planning model. Choosing a pension country does not make a plan suitable for a resident there.

People outside the supported scope can explore a clearly labelled before-tax GBP illustration. New access passes are limited to supported England, Wales and Northern Ireland planning.

Why is Scotland outside the supported after-tax model?

Scottish pension-income tax calculations are not implemented. A UK pension or a UK address alone does not make the England, Wales and Northern Ireland model appropriate. Gross exploration does not deduct tax; Silver and Gold planning is not offered for Scotland in this release.

What if I live in the UK now but plan to retire abroad?

Choose Moving between tax regions or unsure. The planner cannot change tax systems part-way through a plan or calculate tax-treaty relief. After-tax results and new purchases are unavailable for that scope. Moving between England, Wales and Northern Ireland stays within the same supported model; a move into or out of Scotland or the UK does not.

Can I enter euros or Polish zloty instead of pounds?

No. All balances, spending, contribution amounts and reports are in GBP. A euro or zloty number entered directly is treated as pounds. Convert a foreign public pension forecast to a gross GBP equivalent yourself. The conversion stays fixed; future exchange-rate changes are not forecast.

Investment assumptions include GBP cash and GBP or GBP-hedged bonds. Changing the currency symbol would not create a suitable local-currency model.

What must I confirm before buying a pass?

Choose the supported tax residence and confirm that you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, assume that tax residence throughout the plan, use UK pension and savings assumptions, and plan spending in GBP. Then accept the terms and request immediate access. All three confirmations are required.

The server checks this declaration before creating checkout and includes it in your purchase confirmation. It is a customer declaration, not an independent check of residence. Selecting a foreign public pension does not make someone ineligible by itself; local tax and treaty treatment still need checking separately.

Why must I choose tax residence again after loading an older plan?

Schema 1 files did not include residence, so they load with residence unconfirmed. Schema 2 and new files keep the declared residence. Older files have no separate account settings: their ISA/GIA continue following the pension and Cash ISA starts at zero. Existing balances and goal settings are preserved; nothing is moved automatically between accounts.

FAQ: Your planning ages

When saving stops, withdrawals can start and the plan ends.

What does Current age mean?

Your age now, as a whole number. This is the starting birthday for the annual model. Enter an age of at least 18, not your date of birth. The planner does not calculate partial years between birthdays.

What does Retirement age change?

The age you expect to stop work. Regular contributions stop at this age and retirement spending begins. If your private pension starts later, accessible savings or other income must cover the gap.

Your investment transition has its own date. By default, the pension reaches its retirement mix when pension withdrawals begin, even if you stop working earlier.

What should I enter for Pension access age?

The earliest age your own pension scheme permits access. Confirm this with your provider; the default 57 is a planning assumption, not a check of your entitlement. Cash, ISA and GIA savings can provide a separate bridge before private pension withdrawals.

How is Start pension withdrawals different?

This is when you choose to begin using private pension money. It cannot take effect before pension access age. The model only draws pension money when retirement spending needs it, so retiring later can delay the first withdrawal further.

Example: Retirement at 53, access at 57 and withdrawals from 60 creates a bridge from 53 to 60, even though access is possible at 57.

What does Plan horizon age include?

The final birthday you want the plan to reach, up to age 120. The last cashflow year ends on that birthday. Choose a horizon after both your current age and retirement age.

Example: Income from age 57 to a horizon of 100 covers 43 years: 57-58 through 99-100. It does not include spending during age 100-101.

FAQ: Balances and salary

What you own now and which account each amount belongs in.

What belongs in Current pension total?

The current combined value of the defined contribution pension pots you want to model. These are pensions with an invested balance. Do not include State Pension, a defined benefit annual income, or ISA, GIA and cash balances; those have separate fields.

What is Stocks and shares ISA balance?

The money in your stocks and shares ISA that you plan to use for retirement. It earns investment returns and can fund spending before pension access. By default it follows the pension strategy and fee. In Investments for each account, clear Use pension settings for ISA to choose separate settings. Enter cash ISA savings in Cash ISA balance, not here. Count each balance once.

What belongs in Cash ISA balance?

Accessible adult Cash ISA savings intended for retirement. They earn your Cash ISA interest rate without an investment portfolio fee or equity/bond crash. Do not also enter them under stocks and shares ISA or Cash & savings. Fixed-term access restrictions, Junior ISAs and Lifetime ISA bonuses or withdrawal charges are not modelled.

What is GIA balance?

Money in a General Investment Account outside pensions and ISAs. It follows the pension settings unless you choose separate GIA investments and fees. It can fund the bridge. Capital gains tax and dividend tax are not deducted, so spendable proceeds may be overstated.

What belongs in Cash & savings?

Accessible ordinary cash savings outside an ISA. These earn the cash growth assumption without an investment portfolio fee; tax on savings interest is not calculated. Cash ISA savings belong in Cash ISA balance. Enter only funds you intend to use for retirement, excluding money reserved for another purpose.

Does Annual salary (reference) calculate my contributions?

No. This is a reference figure for annual pay before tax. It does not calculate contributions, take-home pay or retirement income. Enter the amounts actually invested in the contribution fields. Selecting salary-linked contribution growth uses the separate Salary growth percentage.

FAQ: State and public pensions

Your forecast amount, its price basis and annual increases.

What does Country paying this public pension select?

It labels where this public pension comes from, such as UK State Pension, Dutch AOW or Polish ZUS. It does not select your tax residence or add local tax, eligibility or pension rules.

Changing country keeps the amount, start age and annual increase you entered. Check all three against your official forecast. The list of countries is not a list of supported customer markets.

Which Forecast amount basis should I choose?

Choose Today's money if the forecast is quoted at current prices. The model increases that amount from now using the selected Annual increase rule. Choose Amount at pension start if the amount already represents the pounds at the start age; increases then begin from that age.

The selected increase rule also controls the years before the start when you choose Today's money. Fixed means no increase even during that waiting period. Check your forecast's wording to avoid counting increases twice.

What should Annual amount (GBP, before tax) contain?

Your own forecast annual public pension, before tax, expressed in pounds. No full entitlement is assumed. Convert a monthly figure by multiplying by 12, or a weekly figure by 52. For overseas pensions, enter a GBP equivalent; the model holds the exchange rate fixed.

What is Starts at age?

The age at which this public pension begins. Use your official forecast's start age. The model includes a full year's payment from that birthday and no payments before it. This age is separate from private pension access and retirement.

What are the public pension Annual increase options?

Inflation uses your main inflation assumption. Custom uses the Indexation rate you enter. Fixed keeps the same pound amount. This is a modelling choice; inflation-linked does not reproduce the UK triple lock or another country's benefit rules.

What does Indexation rate mean?

The annual percentage increase applied to this public pension when Custom is selected. It compounds each year. It applies from the current age for a Today's money forecast, or from the pension start age for an Amount at pension start forecast.

Example: A £10,000 annual amount growing at 2% becomes £10,200 after one increase.

FAQ: Defined benefit pensions

An employer pension that pays an annual income.

What is Defined Benefit annual?

The annual pension income before tax promised by a defined benefit scheme, often called a final salary or career average pension. Use your scheme's forecast for the planned start age. Enter income, not a transfer value or a pension pot. Leave zero if you have none.

What does DB amount basis mean?

Today's money increases the entered income from now using DB annual increase. Amount at pension start treats it as the income at DB start age, with increases from then. The model uses one increase rate; it cannot separately reproduce pre-retirement revaluation and different post-retirement caps.

What should I enter for DB start age?

The birthday when this pension starts paying. The model includes a full year's payment from that age. If taking it early changes the amount, obtain the appropriate forecast first; the planner does not calculate early-retirement reductions.

What is DB annual increase?

The assumed yearly percentage increase in the defined benefit income. Enter 0 for a fixed amount. This is separate from the main inflation input and stays at your entered rate when inflation changes. Use an assumption consistent with your scheme's terms; detailed caps and separate benefit sections are not modelled.

FAQ: Contribution amounts

How much goes into each account and how often.

What does Employee gross mean?

The monthly amount actually invested in your pension from your own contribution, including any tax relief already credited to the pension. Use the provider's contribution record where possible. The planner does not add further relief or calculate the cost to your take-home pay.

What should I put in Employer gross?

The monthly amount your employer pays into the pension, separately from Employee gross. Include only money reaching the pension. Do not enter a percentage of salary here or count the same payment in both fields.

Example: If £600 of your contribution and £400 from your employer reach the pension, enter 600 and 400. The model invests £1,000 a month.

What is Additional amount per payment?

An extra amount invested on each occurrence of the selected Additional payment frequency. It is added to your other contribution fields, so enter only genuinely additional money. It can go to a pension, either ISA type, GIA or ordinary cash.

Example: Enter 300 with Quarterly for £300 four times a year, not £300 every month.

How does Additional payment frequency work?

Weekly means 52 payments a year; fortnightly 26; monthly 12; quarterly 4; annually 1. One off adds the amount once at the start of the current model year, with no annual increase. Recurring amounts receive the selected annual contribution increase.

Contributions, including the one-off amount, are only added while current age is before retirement age. If already retired, include existing savings in opening balances instead.

What does Additional payment goes to change?

Choose pension, stocks and shares ISA, GIA, ordinary cash or Cash ISA as the destination for each additional payment. Pension access rules still apply. This adds new money; it does not transfer existing balances between accounts.

What is ISA monthly savings?

New money invested in the stocks and shares ISA each month. It uses that account's investment choices and fee, increases using Annual contribution increase, and stops at retirement. Cash ISA monthly savings is separate. Both count towards the combined ISA contribution warning.

What is GIA monthly savings?

New money invested in the general investment account each month. It uses the GIA investment choices and fee, follows Annual contribution increase, and stops at retirement. Investment taxes are not deducted.

What is Cash monthly savings?

New money added to separate cash savings each month. It follows the contribution increase setting and stops at retirement. It earns the cash growth rate without the portfolio fee; tax on interest is not calculated.

What is Cash ISA monthly savings?

New deposits into your Cash ISA each month, separate from its existing balance. Deposits earn interest from their modelled payment dates, follow Annual contribution increase and stop at retirement. They are combined with stocks and shares ISA contributions when checking the illustrative annual allowance.

FAQ: Contribution increases

How future payments rise and what the monthly total includes.

What does Annual contribution increase control?

It applies one yearly increase rule to all regular pension, both ISA types, GIA and ordinary cash contributions, including recurring additional payments. Inflation uses the main inflation rate; Salary uses Salary growth; Custom uses Contribution increase; Fixed keeps the same pounds. Payments stop at retirement. One-off payments are excluded.

Example: £1,000 monthly with 2.5% annual growth becomes £1,025 monthly in the next model year.

What does Salary growth mean?

The assumed annual percentage increase in contributions when Salary is selected. It does not calculate contributions from your salary amount. Enter the increase you expect in payments reaching the accounts, including assumed pay rises if relevant. It is a nominal rate, before any comparison with inflation.

What is the custom Contribution increase?

Your chosen annual percentage increase in regular payments when Custom is selected. Enter 0 to keep them flat, or use the Fixed option. This setting changes saving amounts, not investment returns.

Why is Total monthly invested now different from an actual payment?

It adds the regular monthly contributions and converts other recurring payments to a monthly average. One-off contributions are excluded from this displayed total but included in the calculation when eligible. Future contribution increases are not included in the current total.

Example: £1,200 paid annually adds £100 to the displayed monthly average.

FAQ: Retirement spending

Your budget, inflation choice and later-life changes.

What should I enter for Desired income today?

Your total monthly retirement budget at today's prices. It is not just the amount needed from the private pension. Public pensions, defined benefits and withdrawals all help meet it. Select Net if it is the amount you want available after modelled pension-income tax.

What does Spending after income starts change?

Increase with inflation raises your budget to maintain buying power. Keep the same pound amount first increases today's budget up to the income start age, then holds those pounds flat. In the main plan, that start is the latest of current age, retirement age and pension withdrawal age. Earlier bridge spending still follows inflation.

Fixed pounds buy less as prices rise. Contribution and pension-income increases keep their own settings. A mortgage payoff is not calculated automatically. Spending stages still apply, and extra care costs remain inflation-linked.

What are the Spending pattern choices?

Constant uses the base budget without age-based adjustments; the inflation/fixed-pounds setting still applies. Go go slow go no go applies 115% of that budget during the first ten retirement years, then 95%, with 105% from age 80 taking priority. Despite its name, the last stage increases this model's budget.

Care cost later adds the Annual care budget today from age 85. These are illustrative patterns, not forecasts of your bills. The separate Pension target calculator uses its own flat or inflation-linked budget, without these stages or an extra care budget.

What is Annual care budget today?

An extra yearly care budget in today's pounds, added from age 85 when Care cost later is selected. It rises with inflation even if base spending stays flat. Enter 0 for no extra care cost in the main plan. The separate Care costs later stress scenario uses £20,000 if this budget is zero.

Example: Enter 12000 for an extra £1,000 a month at today's prices, not 1000.

FAQ: Investment strategies

The selected asset mix before and after retirement.

What is Starting investment mix?

The starting split between global shares, bonds and cash. Choose a mix to explore its possible effect on growth and losses. It is not a recommendation or a specific investment fund.

The retirement mix and transition controls decide whether and when this starting mix changes. If you are already within a gradual transition, the mix at your current age is partway towards its target.

Strategy	Equities	Bonds	Cash
Cash	0%	0%	100%
Defensive	30%	60%	10%
Balanced	55%	40%	5%
Growth	75%	23%	2%
High growth	90%	9%	1%
100% shares	100%	0%	0%

What is Retirement investment mix?

Choose Conservative retirement (25% shares, 65% bonds, 10% cash), Balanced retirement (50%, 45%, 5%) or Growth retirement (70%, 25%, 5%). Keep the same mix retains your starting allocation.

Choose the timing separately: gradual change or a change at a selected age. Moving from Cash or Defensive to a higher-share target increases share exposure; it does not necessarily reduce risk.

An older saved plan can retain Previous Lifestyle (45% shares, 50% bonds, 5% cash). Its old transition rules remain until you change them.

What are Years to change the mix?

The number of years used for a gradual change from the starting mix to the target mix. The selected transition date is when the target is reached. Zero years changes the mix at that date.

For example, ten years ending at pension withdrawals at 57 begins at 47. Stopping work at 53 does not bring the pension transition forward unless you select Stop-work age. A transition can also continue after withdrawals begin.

What does Investment transition mean?

Gradual change blends the starting and target mixes over your chosen number of years. Change at selected age keeps the starting mix until that date, then changes it in one step.

Previous transition rules appears only for older settings: Previous Lifestyle changes gradually before stop-work age; other targets switch at that age. Select a new transition explicitly to change this.

What are Transition timing and Transition age?

When pension withdrawals begin uses the later of your stop-work age, pension access age and selected withdrawal age. Stop-work age uses retirement age. Choose an age uses the whole age you enter.

For ISA/GIA you can choose a separate date to reflect when accessible savings may be needed. These dates are modelling assumptions; the planner does not execute investment changes.

FAQ: Income and tax settings

Before-tax versus after-tax income and simplified allowances.

Should Calculation basis be Gross or Net?

Gross treats your target as income before tax and deducts no modelled income tax. Net treats it as the amount available after modelled pension-income tax, so a larger pension withdrawal may be needed. Net is the relevant choice for a spending budget after tax.

Net requires confirmed England, Wales or Northern Ireland tax residence throughout the plan. Select it in Tax residence for this plan. Scottish tax, overseas residence and moves between tax regions are not supported. Gross remains a before-tax GBP illustration using UK pension and savings assumptions; it is not a local retirement forecast.

How does Pension tax-free cash work?

In Net mode, None treats private pension withdrawals as taxable. Phased makes 25% of each eligible withdrawal tax-free, limited by the remaining lump-sum allowance. The rest is taxable alongside public and defined benefit pensions. Once the allowance runs out, further withdrawals are taxable.

This is part of the money withdrawn, not an extra payment added to the pot. The model does not take a full tax-free lump sum at the start.

What is Remaining lump-sum allowance?

The remaining pound limit for tax-free pension cash in the model. It appears when Phased is selected. Enter the amount still available to you, accounting for cash already taken and any applicable protections. The prefilled figure is not a verification of your entitlement; check your provider's records.

What is Annual tax-band growth assumption?

The annual increase assumed for the model's tax thresholds and personal allowance from now. Zero holds them fixed in pounds. A positive rate increases them over time. Frozen thresholds can mean a larger tax share when nominal income rises. This is an assumption, not a prediction of future tax policy.

FAQ: Investments for each account

Separate strategies, charges and interest for your savings accounts.

What does Use pension settings for ISA or GIA do?

When checked, ISA or GIA follows the pension's starting mix, retirement mix, fee and transition timing. Changes to the main settings apply to that account.

When you choose separate account settings, the current mix and fee are copied, and the default transition date becomes the stop-work age. Review this date if the savings will fund the years before pension withdrawals. Rechecking removes the custom choices. It does not move money.

What are ISA starting mix and GIA starting mix?

The account's starting split between shares, bonds and cash. This choice is independent when Use pension settings is unchecked.

What are ISA later investment mix and GIA later investment mix?

The target mix for that account. The account's transition controls choose how and when it reaches this allocation. Keep the same mix retains its own starting allocation.

Custom ISA/GIA choices stay unchanged when a strategy comparison varies the pension. Accounts following the pension change with it.

What are ISA annual fee and GIA annual fee?

Your estimate of all annual investment charges on that account, entered as a percentage. Enter 0.5 for 0.5%, not 0.005. This replaces the pension fee for that account; both fees are not charged. It includes charges on any cash held inside the chosen investment mix.

What are ISA and GIA transition years?

The years over which that account gradually changes its mix, ending at its selected transition date. Zero changes at that date. You can choose stop-work age, pension withdrawals or a specific age independently for ISA and GIA.

What is Cash ISA annual interest?

An editable annual compound interest assumption, before inflation. The default is 3.5%. No investment fee is charged. Interest stays in the Cash ISA balance until withdrawn; it is not added again as separate spending income. The central rate is steady, while market simulations use the cash volatility assumption. Lower-return scenarios also reduce this rate.

What does Account mix to show change?

It changes the chart display, not your plan inputs. All accounts combined weights every account by its balance and includes Cash ISA and ordinary cash once. Individual account views show that account's chosen allocation. Combined proportions change as accounts grow or are spent; with no assets the combined mix is zero.

In which order are the accounts spent?

Public and defined benefit income meet spending first, allowing for modelled pension income tax in Net mode. Remaining spending uses ordinary cash, Cash ISA, stocks and shares ISA, GIA, then accessible private pension. Money left in each account keeps growing. This fixed order is not a tax optimisation and cannot currently be customised.

Does the planner check all ISA rules and future limits?

No. It flags combined ISA contributions above the current £20,000 annual allowance and highlights Cash ISA contributions above £12,000 in a modelled year below age 65. The latter is a prompt to check the announced April 2027 reform, not an exact tax-year eligibility calculation. Contributions are projected as entered, not capped.

Announced future restrictions, including charges on uninvested cash interest inside a stocks and shares ISA, are not calculated. Confirm limits, access and eligible holdings with your provider. HMRC source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fiscal-events-2026-factsheets/isa-reform-2027-anti-circumvention-rules-factsheet>

Is portfolio cash the same as an emergency cash reserve?

No. Cash inside an investment mix belongs to that account, bears its fee and follows its access rules. Cash in a pension is still inside the pension. Ordinary cash savings and Cash ISA are separate accessible balances with their own interest.

The combined allocation counts each balance once. The planner has a fixed withdrawal order; it does not automatically create or refill a multi-year spending reserve.

FAQ: Fees and inflation

Annual charges, buying power and avoiding double counting.

Is Fees charged only once each year?

The percentage charged each year on invested assets, including cash held inside an investment mix. The default pension fee is 0.5%. ISA and GIA inherit it unless you set their own fees. Ordinary cash and Cash ISA have no portfolio fee.

The model applies the annual fee once after investment growth. Monthly contributions receive proportionate growth and fees for the time invested. The combined total does not receive another fee.

Example: With 6.5% gross growth and a 0.5% fee, the annual net rate is $(1.065 \times 0.995) - 1 = 5.9675\%$, before inflation.

What does Inflation affect?

The assumed annual increase in prices. It changes inflation-linked spending, contributions and public pensions, and the conversion to today's buying power. Custom and fixed increases retain their own rules. The default 2.5% is an editable assumption, not a forecast.

Why allow for inflation before I start spending? Is that NPV?

Inflation before retirement determines how many future pounds you need to buy the lifestyle described by today's budget. The account projection itself remains in future pounds. A today's-money display divides by accumulated inflation to make amounts comparable; it does not remove money from the account.

That buying-power conversion is not a full investment valuation or a discount for investment risk. Do not subtract inflation again from both the projected balance and future spending.

Why might the growth figure say only about 2%?

Growth after fees and inflation describes the change in buying power. It is calculated as $(1 + \text{growth after fees}) / (1 + \text{inflation}) - 1$. Inflation is not deducted again from the projected account balance.

Example: 6.5% gross growth, a 0.5% fee and 2.5% inflation give 5.9675% after fees and about 3.38% after inflation: $1.059675 \div 1.025 - 1$.

FAQ: Asset growth and volatility

What each return assumption includes and how risk is modelled.

What is global equity growth?

The assumed annual total return from worldwide company shares, measured in pounds, before fees and inflation. The reviewed default is 6.5%. It includes reinvested dividends and currency movements in unhedged global shares.

This is a planning choice informed by a range of forecasts, not an industry consensus or promised return. The previous 5.5% preset and your own rates remain available. Older saved plans keep their entered rates.

What is bonds growth?

The assumed annual total return from the bond part of the portfolio, before fees and inflation. The default is 5%. It represents high-quality GBP or GBP-hedged bonds and includes reinvested interest. Bonds can lose value; this is not a guaranteed deposit rate.

What is cash growth?

The assumed annual return for cash inside investment strategies and for ordinary Cash & savings. Cash inside a portfolio pays that account's fee. Ordinary cash savings pay no portfolio fee. Cash ISA uses its separate Cash ISA annual interest input. Interest on ordinary cash savings is shown before any tax.

What is global equity volatility?

How widely annual equity returns can vary in the simulations. The default is 17.8%. A larger value creates more variation around the growth assumption. It is not a fee, a guaranteed annual loss, or a maximum loss. It does not reduce the central steady-return assumption.

What is bonds volatility?

The assumed variability of annual bond returns in the simulations, initially 6%. Higher volatility creates a wider range of possible paths. The model combines asset volatilities with assumed relationships between asset returns; it does not simply add them together.

What is cash volatility?

The simulated variability of cash returns, initially 1.2%. It allows the assumed cash return to vary between simulated years. It is not a withdrawal penalty or a prediction of a particular savings provider's rate.

Should I add dividend income on top of equity growth?

Do not add dividend income to these growth rates. They are total returns, including reinvested dividends and interest. A 6.5% share return already includes dividends; adding a yield on top would count them twice. The planner does not separately model dividends paid out or dividend tax.

Are the default returns historical averages or recommended forecasts?

They are editable planning assumptions, not a historical backtest or personalised forecast. A historical return depends on the index, period, currency, dividends and costs. Compare like with like before substituting a figure, and consider lower-return outcomes as well. Higher assumed growth alone does not make a strategy suitable.

What are the investment return presets?

Reviewed October 2026 uses 6.5% shares, 5% bonds and 3.5% cash. Previous September 2026 uses 5.5%, 5% and 3.5%. Both use annual volatility assumptions of 17.8%, 6% and 1.2%.

Choosing a preset updates asset return and volatility inputs only. Your fees, inflation, balances and investment mixes stay as entered. Editing a rate labels the assumptions Custom. Expected returns are uncertain; use lower-return and market-fall comparisons as well.

FAQ: Market-fall scenarios

A one-off shock and which assets it affects.

What does One-off crash age (optional) do?

Leave it blank for no extra one-off crash in the central plan. Enter an age within the plan to apply the selected equity and bond falls at the start of that year, before withdrawals and annual growth. This shock is additional to normal investment assumptions.

The Market crash comparison uses that age if entered; otherwise it tests a crash at retirement, or now if already retired. To remove the central shock, clear this age and select Update Plan.

What is Equity fall in crash scenario?

The one-off percentage loss applied to the equity portion of the invested accounts in the crash year. Enter a positive size such as 30 for a 30% fall. It is not a 30% loss on the whole pot unless the whole pot is in equities. It is not deducted every year.

What is Bond fall in crash scenario?

The separate one-off percentage loss on the bond portion in the same crash year. Zero leaves bonds unaffected by the explicit shock. Portfolio cash and separate cash are unaffected by these equity/bond shock settings.

Example: A 50% equity / 45% bond / 5% cash mix with a 30% equity fall and 10% bond fall loses 19.5% before that year's other movements.

What does the market-fall strategy comparison show?

For each choice, shares fall 40%, bonds fall 10% and cash is unchanged at the start of pension-income spending. The model then resumes the normal assumed returns and spending. The income target is the same across choices.

This replaces any one-off crash you entered for this comparison only. The main projection is unchanged. It shows the loss in the pension and the first resulting income gap; losses also affect invested ISA/GIA balances according to their own mixes.

It is an illustration, not a worst case, forecast or probability. Actual market losses can be larger and occur in several years.

FAQ: Pension target inputs

Work backwards from income to the pension needed at its start.

What is Monthly income today (£) in Pension target?

The total monthly income goal at today's prices for this separate calculation. It initially shows £2,500; change it to your own amount. Public and defined benefit pensions entered in the main plan reduce what private savings must provide. Changing this goal does not change Desired income today in the main plan.

What does Start this income at age mean?

The birthday when this income goal and its pension funding period begin. Use an age no earlier than now, retirement or pension access. This goal sets its own withdrawal start and does not copy the main plan's Start pension withdrawals setting. Earlier bridge needs remain separate.

What does Fund it to birthday mean?

The final birthday for this goal, later than the goal start and no greater than 120. It can differ from the main plan's horizon. The target covers spending up to that birthday, with no extra inheritance target or reserve for poor markets.

What is Income basis in the target calculator?

Net means the goal after modelled pension-income tax; Gross means before tax. This choice belongs to the goal and can differ from the main plan. For a £2,500 spending budget after tax, use Net. The same limits to tax coverage still apply.

Does the target's Spending after income starts switch change my main plan?

No. It applies to this goal. The starting budget is increased from today's prices to the goal start age. It then either rises with inflation or stays at that pound amount. It initially follows the main spending choice until you choose an option here. Main-plan spending stages and extra care costs are not added.

What does Use both ISA types, cash and other savings include?

It includes the Cash ISA, stocks and shares ISA, ordinary cash and GIA balances actually left after any early-retirement bridge, using each account's own growth and fee. Savings already spent are not reused. If unchecked, these balances are excluded from both the required-pension calculation and the projected path after the goal starts.

What are Pension tax-free withdrawals in the goal?

A goal-only choice between no tax-free withdrawals and phased 25% within the allowance. It initially follows the main plan's setting. The remaining allowance comes from the main planner; edit it there if needed. This control is disabled for Gross income, where tax is not deducted.

What does Tax thresholds increase each year (%) change?

The yearly growth assumption for the tax thresholds used by this goal. It initially follows the main plan, but you can set a separate rate here. Zero freezes thresholds. It does not change the main plan and is disabled for Gross income.

FAQ: Understanding the results

Income gaps, the bridge, returns and simulated outcomes.

Does an unfunded bridge reduce my pension?

No. It illustrates extra accessible savings or other income needed before pension withdrawals. It does not become a pension deduction or a debt carried forward. The pension remains invested. The plan can therefore show an early income gap while still showing a substantial pension at 57.

Why can a growing pot still run out?

Withdrawals can exceed investment gains. Tax can also make the pension withdrawal larger than the spending budget, and inflation can increase the future budget. Check the cashflow's opening balance, net investment gain, withdrawals and closing balance together. A positive return does not guarantee sustainable income.

Does a zero pot always mean no income?

No. Public or defined benefit pensions may still meet some or all of the budget. An income gap means available income is below the spending need; a zero savings balance alone does not establish that. Check the income rows and the first-gap result, with bridge and later years considered separately.

What does simulated income coverage mean?

The share of simulated return paths that meet the modelled income goal over the stated period after pension withdrawals can start. It depends on the growth, volatility, costs, spending and income assumptions. It is not a personal probability backed by a guarantee. The bridge is assessed separately; read the period shown beside the result.

Are the higher and lower projection lines probabilities?

No. They rerun the plan using higher or lower assumed asset returns, normally 1.5 percentage points either side of the central assumptions. They are not best/worst possible outcomes or statistical confidence limits. Birthday balances are shown before that year's spending; cashflow rows cover the following year.

Is Pension needed a safe amount to retire with?

It is the minimum found under the selected steady-return assumptions, with no inheritance goal or additional safety reserve. It is not a guarantee. A lower target from fixed spending funds less later buying power. Compare the assumptions, income period, tax basis and included savings before comparing two target amounts.

How does an asset mix produce its growth rate?

Each asset's assumed return is multiplied by its share of the portfolio, then the results are added. The annual account fee is applied once. The buying-power view then adjusts for inflation.

A gradual transition changes these weights each year. The Cash ISA and ordinary cash savings earn their own interest without the investment fee.

Example: 50% in shares growing at 6.5% contributes 3.25 percentage points to portfolio growth before fees.

What does Your plan in 60 seconds tell me?

It explains your latest central projection: the spending budget at retirement and whether your entered income target is met after pension withdrawals can begin. An income gap is a budget shortfall, not necessarily an empty pension. A zero target or a plan ending too early is shown as not assessed, not success.

Silver and Gold also show the savings bridge before pension withdrawals. An unfunded bridge is a separate saving need; it never becomes a debt deducted from your pension.

What do the three practical changes compare?

Gold compares three separate alternatives with your latest calculated plan: add £100 gross monthly pension saving, retire one year later, or reduce your base spending target by £100 a month in today's money. Other entered assumptions are retained. The cards do not change your inputs and do not rank or recommend the options.

Contribution increases still apply, and saving stops at retirement. Investment timing follows your selected rule: it changes only if the stop-work or pension-withdrawal date used by that rule changes; a custom age stays fixed. Spending stages and extra care costs still apply. Extra pension saving cannot fund a bridge while the pension is inaccessible. Options that cannot apply to your ages or target are explained instead of calculated.

How do I compare my current plan with a different option?

With Gold, update your plan and open Scenarios. Select Keep this plan as Option A. Change the main inputs, select Update Plan, then Compare A with current plan. Option B is your new plan. The cards and graph use the same central calculation as Summary.

Keep the same current age, final age, tax residence and before/after-tax income basis. If you want to change those, replace Option A first. Each option uses its own inflation assumption when shown in today's money. The table lists key choices; all entered inputs are used in the calculation.

Option A is kept in this tab only. Refreshing, loading a plan or changing access clears it. Save each option as a plan file before leaving. These comparison copies are not stored in an online database.

Does First income gap mean every savings account is empty?

No. It means modelled income in that year falls below the spending target. Some money may still be inaccessible, or tax and withdrawal timing may affect how much can be spent. The bridge before pension withdrawals is assessed separately. Open Cashflow to see each income source and the unfunded amount.

FAQ: Tables, charts and reports

Display controls, recalculating and downloading your work.

How do I hide zero rows and expand the cashflow?

Hide all-zero detail rows hides a row only if it is zero throughout the whole plan, including years not currently shown. Open a section heading for its detail, or choose Expand all sections. Use a section's Show zero rows control or switch off the global filter to restore zero rows. Simple view resets the shorter layout. None of these controls changes calculations.

What do Years to show and Key ages mean?

Key ages shows selected individual years to shorten the table. It does not add together the years between them. Every year displays all annual rows across the timeline. Scroll within the table to see later years. The main savings totals stay visible when detail sections are collapsed.

Should I add the investment gain or tax-free cash again?

No. Net investment gain / loss already includes growth, fees and any one-off crash. Tax-free pension cash is already part of the pension withdrawal and delivered income. These detail rows explain totals rather than add a second cashflow. Opening savings + contributions + net investment change - withdrawals = closing savings, subject to rounding.

Do Starting mixes, Retirement mixes and Chart value change my strategy?

Starting mixes and Retirement mixes choose which fixed allocations to show; they do not edit your plan. The £10,000 illustrations keep each mix constant, with no contributions or withdrawals, so their growth can be compared.

The actual-plan comparisons include your cashflows and selected transition. They hold the income target constant and show both the central result and a defined market-fall illustration. Separate ISA/GIA settings remain as entered.

Do Future pounds and Today's money change the pension target?

They show the same calculation in different money units. They do not change the income goal, investments or solved target. Read each chart's label: a capital target is at the start age, while a balance path shows values at each later birthday. Download calculation CSV exports the goal's detail in the labelled units when your version includes it.

Which report should I choose, and what does Add the detailed appendix do?

One-page summary gives the main outcome, a graph, the bridge and key assumptions on one page. It follows the money display chosen on Summary and never has an appendix. Essential plan explains income sources and selected investments in more detail. Both are in Silver and Gold. Gold adds Visual guide, Decision workbook and detailed appendices for the longer reports.

Update the main plan before reviewing its results. Reports use the main planner inputs, not a separately edited Pension target goal. Use the target CSV for that goal where available.

When should I use Update Plan or Calculate pension target?

Use Update Plan after changing main inputs to refresh Summary and the main comparisons. Pension target uses Calculate pension target, reading its own goal and the latest main inputs. An Inputs changed message means displayed results are from the previous calculation. Light and Dark only change appearance. Opening FAQ & input guide keeps your figures in the same tab.

FAQ: Access, privacy and help

Versions, browser verification, payments and practical limits.

Which version includes what?

Free includes basic inputs, a retirement overview with headline figures, and a central retirement projection graph using standard assumptions. Annual cashflow tables, pension targets and reports need access. Assumptions, help and Save/Load remain available for free.

Silver (Retirement Plan) is £29 once for 90 days. It unlocks detailed inputs for ISAs, cash, other pensions, spending and investments; annual cashflows; the early-retirement bridge; the required pension pot; spending/tax comparisons; and the one-page summary and Essential PDF reports. You can choose and edit your investment strategy before and after retirement.

Gold (Complete Planner) is £49 once for 365 days. It includes Silver plus automatic comparisons of all 24 before/after strategy combinations, retirement ages and contributions; ready-made market, inflation and care-cost scenarios; all four PDF reports, the three practical changes, your own side-by-side comparison and detailed appendices; and the pension-target calculation CSV.

Silver and Gold allow unlimited edits during their access period. There is no automatic renewal or setup appointment. An active £29 Silver purchase can be upgraded to Gold for £20. Gold ends 365 days after the original Silver payment. Request checkout while Silver is active and complete it before checkout expires. One completed upgrade per Silver purchase; other new passes are separate purchases. These are proposed launch offers while purchasing is closed. Owner preview opens all features with payments off. Use Plans & access for the current offer.

Can I upgrade from Silver to Gold without paying twice?

Yes. If your original Silver purchase cost £29 and its access is still active, verify that purchase and open Plans & access. Gold will show an upgrade price of £20, applying your £29 credit. Complete the terms and scope confirmations, then open checkout.

Gold ends 365 days after your original Silver payment, not a year after upgrading. The exact expiry is shown before checkout. One completed upgrade is available per Silver purchase. Your purchase reference, original checkout email and two-browser allowance stay the same. Existing 30-day Silver purchases keep their original period and qualify while active; other historical prices do not receive this credit.

What happens if I refund an upgrade?

Each payment has a separate 14-day cancellation period. Refunding the £20 upgrade restores Silver only until its original expiry. If Silver has already expired, access becomes Free. A refunded upgrade cannot be bought repeatedly on the same Silver purchase.

Refunding or disputing the original Silver payment ends both versions; the linked £20 upgrade payment is also refunded. Upgrading never restarts the original Silver cancellation period. Statutory rights remain. If a payment-provider error interrupts a refund, contact support with your purchase reference.

How do I activate or restore access?

Open Plans & access. Enter the purchase reference from your confirmation email, request a code, and enter the 8-digit code in the same browser within 10 minutes. The code is sent only to the original checkout email. Older 64-character access keys work as recovery references; a key alone no longer unlocks your plan tools.

Verification restores access, not your financial inputs. Use Load plan with a separately saved plan JSON to restore your figures. If payment has succeeded, refresh access status before buying again. If you cannot use the original email, contact support for ownership checks.

If you received an invitation instead of buying a pass, use Use invitation and your private FFP-code. The purchase-reference email steps do not apply to invitations.

How do I use a free owner or tester invitation?

Open Plans & access, choose Use invitation, paste your complete private code beginning FFP-, and select Activate invitation. No card, payment or email is needed. The owner sets Free, Silver or Gold permissions; you cannot select them by editing the code.

Owner invitations give Gold without a scheduled expiry. Tester invitations normally last 30 days from issue; the date supplied by the owner is shown under Your complimentary access. There is no automatic charge. The owner can extend or revoke tester access. All planning limits still apply.

Keep your private code: it is reusable to sign in after signing out, clearing cookies or the browser session ending after at most 30 days. Anyone holding it can use your pass, so do not share it. Up to two browsers can be registered, with one active at a time. A third requires you to choose a browser to replace. Ask the owner to replace a lost or exposed code; replacement ends all old browser sessions.

The pass reference shown on screen is only a support reference; it cannot sign you in. An owner invitation unlocks planner features only and does not provide server administration. Access does not restore financial figures: use your separately saved plan file.

How do payments and refunds work?

When sales are enabled, Plans & access shows the price, period and terms. Confirm them and the immediate-access choice before proceeding. Checkout opens separately so the plan tab stays open. The cancellation control shows a refund estimate before confirmation. Any permitted service deduction is explained in the policy. There is no additional satisfaction guarantee; statutory rights remain. Bank processing may take time, and statutory rights remain after 14 days.

After payment, the purchase confirmation and accepted terms are sent to your checkout email and can also be downloaded from Plans & access. Keep the confirmation and purchase reference. Use an email code to verify each new browser. The saved contract records the offer accepted at purchase even if later prices or wording change.

Do you store my name, address or pension figures?

The calculator has no name, address, date-of-birth or account-number fields. Planning figures and generated reports are processed without saving them to an application database. Downloads remain on your device. Save plan creates an unencrypted input file on your device; no plan file is saved to an online account.

Stripe may collect billing identity, which the operator may see there. The planner retains purchase references, a hashed recovery key, the original offer/terms and minimal browser-access records: random browser IDs, hashed credentials and codes, dates, active-browser state and attempt/send counters. It reads your checkout email from Stripe to send confirmations and verification codes, without saving another copy in its database. Hosting, email-provider and support records can contain personal data. These records are not anonymous; read Help & privacy for details.

Complimentary invitations store a random pass reference, a hashed private code, the granted version, owner/tester category, dates, status and minimal browser-session records. They do not collect a name, email or postal address. Browser credentials expire within 30 days; pass records are normally removed 180 days after expiry or revocation, subject to the configured retention period. Private invitation files held by you or the operator are outside this automatic cleanup. These security records are not a promise of anonymity.

What is outside the model?

It does not verify public pension entitlement, model a whole household, select suitable investments, calculate mortgage repayments or enforce contribution allowances. Net tax covers one person's England/Wales/Northern Ireland pension income; investment taxes, Scottish tax and overseas tax need separate assessment. Surplus public/defined benefit income above spending is not automatically reinvested.

The defined benefit model uses a single increase rate. Overseas pensions use a fixed GBP conversion. A separate Pension target goal has no extra care budget or age-based spending stages. These limits can materially affect a real plan.

What if Update Plan fails or I cannot open a feature?

Check whole-number ages, non-negative amounts, percentage units and the error shown. Check Plans & access if a feature is locked. For a local installation, keep both frontend and backend terminals open and follow README.md or the technical manual. A missing old screenshot does not stop the planner. Use Save plan before refreshing. If loading a file fails, choose the JSON downloaded by Save plan; files must be under 64 KB and use supported inputs. Your current inputs are retained if a file is rejected.

How many devices or browsers can I use?

You can register two browsers and use your plan tools in one at a time. The same browser can have multiple tabs. A different browser, browser profile or private browsing window counts separately. On a third browser, verify the email code and choose an existing browser to replace. The removed browser loses access.

If your other browser is active, select Use this browser. Switching keeps the figures in each open tab. This is a personal-use pass; sharing or reselling access is not permitted.

For an owner or tester invitation, enter your private invitation code instead of requesting an email code. The same two-browser and one-active-browser limits apply.

Does verification change my 90-day or 365-day pass?

No. Silver costs £29 for 90 days; Gold costs £49 for 365 days, starting at confirmed payment. Each browser verification lasts up to 30 days and ends earlier if the pass expires or is refunded. When needed, request a new code. Verification never extends the access period. Clearing cookies also means verifying again.

What if my verification code does not arrive or work?

Check the inbox and spam folder for the email used at checkout. Enter the code in the browser that requested it within 10 minutes. You can request a new code at least one minute apart, up to five per hour. Five wrong entries lock that code; request another after the waiting period.

A successful verification cancels other outstanding codes for that purchase. If email delivery fails, try later or contact support with your purchase reference. Do not send pension figures, card details or verification codes.

FutureRetire Planner - Cancellation and refunds

Version 2026-10-03-cancellation-v1 | Pre-launch draft | 3 October 2026

Try Free and the sample reports before buying. Paid access has a 14-day cancellation period. Where you expressly request an early start, a proportionate charge may apply for service supplied. Statutory rights are unchanged; there is no additional satisfaction guarantee.

Try the planner before buying

Use Free and the sample reports to decide whether the planner suits you. Silver and Gold are fixed-term online-access purchases with no automatic renewal. We do not offer an additional unconditional satisfaction or money-back guarantee. This does not restrict your statutory rights.

Your right to cancel

You can cancel the online-access purchase without giving a reason during the 14-day period starting the day after the contract is made, when payment is confirmed. The deadline is the end of the fourteenth day, extended to the next working day where required for weekends or public holidays. The confirmation gives the relevant dates. Any longer period or other right required by law also applies.

Tell us by using Plans & access, sending a clear email to the support address shown on this page and your confirmation, or writing to the supplier address. You do not have to use our form or log in to cancel. A cancellation sent before the deadline is in time, even if support processes it later. Include your purchase reference where available; do not send card details or financial-plan figures.

When you request immediate access

If you expressly request that the service starts during the cancellation period and receive the required information, we may deduct only a proportionate amount for service supplied before you cancel. Logging in or downloading a report does not, by itself, remove the cancellation right for this ongoing-access purchase.

Where a deduction is permitted and applies to your purchase, the time-based calculation is: price actually paid multiplied by the duration of completed 24-hour periods since the first successful paid-feature response, divided by the full purchased access duration (using the same time units). Part-days and fractions of a penny are not charged. The charge is capped at the amount paid; no activation, report-download, administration or payment-processing fee is deducted. The online tool shows the calculation before confirmation.

No service deduction is made without the recorded early-start request, required information and confirmed delivery of the accepted terms before the recorded service start. If access has not started, there is no service deduction. A service failure, outage, misleading description or other statutory claim is assessed separately and may require a larger refund; the ordinary time-based calculation is not a limit on those rights.

Silver-to-Gold upgrades

The upgrade has its own cancellation period; it does not restart the original Silver period. If only the upgrade is cancelled, any remaining Silver access keeps its original expiry. A proportionate upgrade deduction, where permitted, uses only the upgrade price and the remaining upgrade period from its payment to the disclosed Gold expiry, not a new 365-day period.

Cancelling the original Silver purchase ends its linked Gold upgrade as well. For that dependent upgrade, this policy refunds the upgrade payment in full to avoid charging twice for the same supplied period. No cancelled or refunded pass can be restored using an old browser or recovery link.

How refunds are handled

We acknowledge online cancellations without delay in a form you can save. We make any refund due without undue delay and within the applicable legal deadline, normally 14 days after being informed of cancellation, using the original payment method unless you expressly agree otherwise. Your bank may take additional time to display it.

Paid access under the cancelled purchase ends when cancellation is recorded, even if the payment provider is still processing the refund. Free remains available. Cancellation does not erase an ordinary plan or report already downloaded to your device. A pending or failed payment-provider response is not confirmation that money has reached you.

Faults, non-delivery and other legal rights

If access is not supplied, does not work as described, or has a material defect, contact support. Depending on the circumstances, the applicable remedy may include correction, repeat performance, a price reduction or a refund. These rights do not disappear after 14 days or after use. Any rights that cannot lawfully be excluded remain unaffected.

After the ordinary cancellation period, a change of mind alone does not attract an additional voluntary refund guarantee. That does not prevent claims about faulty, misdescribed or unsupplied services or digital content, service termination before the agreed end date, or any other entitlement under law. Nothing in this policy is a blanket no-refunds term.

Optional cancellation form

To: the supplier name, geographical address and support email shown above. I/We hereby give notice that I/We cancel my/our contract for the supply of the FutureRetire Planner service. Ordered on: [date]. Purchase reference, if available: [reference]. Name of consumer(s): [name]. Address of consumer(s): [address]. Date: [date]. Signature of consumer(s), only if this form is sent on paper: [signature]. Delete whichever alternatives do not apply. You may instead send any clear cancellation statement.