

nucleus^o platform

Key features of the Nucleus Modular iSIPP

 20 minute read

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is a financial services regulator. It requires us, Nucleus Financial Platforms Group, to give you this important information to help you to decide whether our Modular iSIPP is right for you. You should read this document carefully so that you understand what you are buying, and then keep it safe for future reference.



What you should know before you invest

What is the Modular iSIPP?

The Modular iSIPP is a type of registered pension scheme known as a Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP). It's a long-term, tax efficient savings plan designed to help you invest for your retirement.

It offers a wide choice of investments such as a range of platform funds, fixed term deposits and notice accounts, an integrated stockbroking service, model portfolios and more. It also offers a variety of options for taking retirement benefits.

Is the Modular iSIPP a Stakeholder Pension?

No. Stakeholder Pensions are low cost pension plans with limited investment options. The Government sets minimum standards, for example, in relation to costs and contribution levels, which Stakeholder Pensions are required to meet. A Stakeholder Pension may meet your needs at least as well as the Modular iSIPP.



Key features

Its aims

The aim of a pension product is to build up a pension fund in a tax efficient way for your retirement.

The aim of the Modular iSIPP is to provide a flexible pension arrangement that can be tailored to suit changes to your lifestyle, such as your employment status, your income needs and your family circumstances.

The Modular iSIPP offers you complete control over where and when you invest, with instructions made by you or your FCA regulated financial adviser (adviser).

Your commitment

With the help of your adviser, you should consider whether you have sufficient investment experience and are prepared to be responsible for making decisions about how your money is invested during the time that your SIPP is open.

You'll need to:

- make at least one payment into your Modular iSIPP, which could be a transfer from an existing pension you hold, or a contribution from you or your employer
- be prepared to keep your money invested and not have access to it until reaching normal minimum pension age (NMPA) in the UK
- pay the charges set out in the relevant **Charges Schedule**, as well as any third party charges that may arise
- regularly review your investments and financial goals, and manage your product's assets accordingly.

Nucleus products are designed to be managed with the support of an adviser. If you remove your adviser from your plan, or end your relationship with them, your service experience with Nucleus may vary due to the different ways we must interact with direct customers.

For more information, please refer to the **Platform Services Terms and Conditions**, a copy of which is available on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).





Understanding the risks

Below are some of the risks associated with investing your money through a Modular iSIPP, which could affect the level of pension withdrawals you'll be able to take in the future. You may be able to reduce the impact of some of the risks, as you're able to control:

- the amount you put in
- the investments you select
- when you choose to take benefits (pension withdrawals) and how often
- the way in which you take benefits.

However, there may be other risk factors outside of your control. For example, the Government may change the tax rules applicable to SIPPs and this could affect:

- the level of tax relief you receive on your contributions
- the amount of tax you pay on your investments
- the taxation on the benefits you take from your pension.

Your right to cancel

If you open a Modular iSIPP and later change your mind, you may choose to cancel your application. Doing so could mean you get back less than you paid in if your asset values have fallen during this time.

Please refer to the **Platform Services Terms and Conditions** for more information. This is available on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).



Transferring in

If you transfer an existing pension into your Modular iSIPP from another registered pension scheme:

- you may give up valuable pension rights or guarantees that are not offered by the Modular iSIPP, and
- the existing pension provider may apply a charge which could reduce the value of your pension fund.

If you sell your assets in an existing pension and transfer cash into your Modular iSIPP, you'll be 'out of the market' and may not get the benefit of any asset growth while the transfer is being processed.

Investing your money

The value of your investments can fluctuate up and down and it's possible that you may get back less than the amount you originally invested.

Depending on the type of assets you choose to hold, there will be different risks that will affect their value. For example:

- foreign investments are affected by changes in the rate of currency exchange
- investments in stocks and shares, or funds that invest in stocks and shares, are affected by fluctuations in the stock market
- cash deposits are affected by changes in interest rates.

For further information on the risks that are specific to different types of investments, please read our **Guide to Investment Risk** on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com), or speak to your adviser.



Charges

If the returns on your Modular iSIPP investments are poor, they may not cover the level of charges you're paying, and the value of your Modular iSIPP could significantly reduce in value over time. You should regularly review the performance of your chosen assets to check that they remain suitable for providing you with the benefits you want in the future.

Compensation

Not all of your investments may be protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The FSCS provides financial compensation to investors in the event of the failure of a financial institution. To understand how this may affect your Modular iSIPP, please see the 'Other Information' section of this document.

Taking benefits

The value of your Modular iSIPP and the benefits it provides are not guaranteed. Its value will depend on a number of factors including:

- what you have paid in
- how your investments have performed
- the charges that have been deducted.

The amount you can withdraw from your pension will depend on:

- the value of your Modular iSIPP
- whether you're able to sell your investments at the time you need to
- how much tax you have to pay on your income
- current annuity and interest rates if you decide to buy a lifetime annuity.

High levels of inflation could also reduce the value of your pension in real terms.

Withdrawing high proportions of money from your Modular iSIPP is unlikely to be sustainable. You should carefully plan your withdrawal strategy and regularly review it to ensure your pension can provide you with the income you need throughout retirement.

Any pension withdrawals you make may be liable to income tax. For further information on the taxation of withdrawals, please refer to the relevant **Technical Guide** which is available on our website at [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).



Questions and answers

Is the Modular iSIPP the right product for me?

The Modular iSIPP may be right for you if you're looking to build a pension fund for retirement in a tax efficient way, and access a wide variety of investment options to achieve this.

Who can take out a Modular iSIPP?

With the help of an FCA regulated adviser, you can open a Modular iSIPP if you're:

- over 18,
- not a US Person or resident of the US for tax purposes, and
- not an undischarged bankrupt.

You can take out a Junior SIPP for a child under the age of 18 if you are their parent or legal guardian.

Who can pay contributions into the Modular iSIPP?

You, your employer or another third party (such as a parent or spouse) can pay contributions into your Modular iSIPP on your behalf.

The Modular iSIPP can also accept transfers from other pension arrangements you may have.

How much can I contribute?

There is no minimum or maximum contribution level, although you may have to pay a tax charge on contributions over a certain limit. For further details please refer to the relevant **Technical Guide**.

You can pay regular or occasional contributions at any time, and you can vary the amount and frequency of your contributions.

Payments can be made by bank transfer or Direct Debit. Your SIPP cash account details, including the required payment reference, can be found within your online platform account.

You can make contributions at any age, although contributions made after your 75th birthday will not receive any tax relief.

? Questions and answers - continued

Will I get tax relief on my contributions?

Provided you meet certain criteria set by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), you will receive tax relief at your marginal rate on contributions paid by you, up to £3,600 or 100% of your relevant earnings (whichever is higher).

However, if you contribute more than the annual allowance (or money purchase annual allowance, if applicable), you will be subject to a personal tax charge that could outweigh any tax savings. For further details on allowances, please refer to the relevant **Technical Guide**.

We will claim basic rate tax relief on your behalf from HMRC. For example, if you pay in £80, we'll reclaim £20, meaning your Modular iSIPP receives a total of £100.

If you pay higher rate tax, you may be able to claim extra tax relief through your self-assessment tax return.

Can I transfer pension benefits from another pension to the Modular iSIPP?

You can transfer pension benefits from other registered pension schemes or Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes (QROPS) into your Modular iSIPP. Transfer payments in the form of assets other than cash (known as in-specie transfers) may also be accepted, depending on the assets held.

There's no guarantee that transferring another pension arrangement to your Modular iSIPP will increase your total retirement benefits. There could be a number of reasons why it might not be appropriate to transfer in existing pension benefits and we strongly suggest you take financial advice before considering this option.

Please note that we are unable to accept any transfer from a defined benefits (final salary) scheme, or a defined contribution (money purchase) scheme that contains safeguarded benefits, unless you have received advice from a suitably qualified adviser and they have recommended that you proceed with the transfer.

What is the SIPP bank account?

Any money you pay into your Modular iSIPP is held in a pooled bank account in the name of our trustee company, until we receive instructions to invest from you or your adviser. This account also holds money for other SIPP customers. Your Modular iSIPP's individual balance is recorded in our internal records and referred to as your product's cash balance.

For more information on our banking arrangements, including details of any interest payable, please visit the banking page of our website nucleusfinancial.com.

Questions and answers - continued

What can I invest in?

You can invest in a wide range of assets, including platform funds, stocks and shares, fixed term deposit and notice accounts, model portfolios, structured products, National Savings & Investments (NS&I) investments and Trustee Investment Plans.

You can change your investments at any time, subject to any restrictions. These will be covered in the terms and conditions and supporting literature for the assets you have chosen.

For more information on the investment options available to you under the Modular iSIPP, please see the **Modular iSIPP Permitted Investments List** and the relevant **Technical Guide**, which are available on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).

What are the charges?

Full details of our charges are found in the relevant **Charges Schedule**, which is available on our website. You may pay charges to other parties depending on the investments you select. You may also pay charges to your adviser.

Our charges are normally deducted from your cash balance. You can set up disinvestment preferences to ensure that sufficient cash is always available to settle any charges. Alternatively, our auto-disinvestment rules let us sell certain asset types to ensure your payments remain up to date. For more information, please see our **Auto-Disinvestment Policy** on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).

How can I obtain an illustration?

If you have an adviser, they'll provide you with an illustration. If not, you can generate one using your online platform account.

When can I take benefits?

You can normally start making pension withdrawals from the NMPA in the UK, even if you are still working. The amount you can take will depend on the value of your Modular iSIPP.

Please see the next page, and the relevant **Technical Guide**, for more information on the various ways you can make withdrawals from your SIPP.

? Questions and answers - continued

What types of benefits can I take?

You can take your retirement benefits in a number of different ways.

- **Flexi-access drawdown**

You can take one or multiple tax free lump sums (known as a Pension Commencement Lump Sum or PCLS) of up to 25% of your pension value. You can then draw a regular income from the remaining pension value that you requested. The income you draw will be subject to tax at your marginal rate. You can vary the level and frequency of the income at any time.

- **Uncrystallised Funds Pension Lump Sum (UFPLS)**

You can take lump sums (called Uncrystallised Funds Pension Lump Sums or UFPLS) out of your pension on an ad-hoc basis, subject to a minimum individual withdrawal level of £1,000. If you do this, 25% of the UFPLS payment will be tax free and the remaining 75% will be subject to tax at your marginal rate.

- **Lifetime annuity**

You can take a tax free lump sum (known as a Pension Commencement Lump Sum or PCLS) of up to 25% of your pension value. You can then use your remaining pension value to purchase a lifetime annuity from an insurance company. This is where the insurance company agrees to pay you a regular income until you die. The income is taxed at your marginal rate. Please note that Nucleus is not an annuity provider.

For further details of the options and rules for taking benefits from your Modular iSIPP, please refer to our [Accessing Your Pension](#) guide.

Pension Wise



Deciding what benefits to take from your pension is an important decision. We recommend that you seek appropriate guidance or advice to understand your options at retirement.

You are able to receive free and impartial guidance through the Government backed service called [Pension Wise](#), which is provided by [MoneyHelper](#). This service aims to empower you to make informed and confident decisions on how you use your pension savings in retirement.

For details of how to access this service, please see the 'Other Information' section of this document. Please note that this free guidance does not replace advice given by regulated financial advisers.

Questions and answers - continued

What if I become ill before I retire and cannot work?

Subject to acceptable medical evidence, we may pay ill health early retirement benefits, or serious ill health retirement benefits, in the form of a pension income or lump sum from your Modular iSIPP.

Full details of ill health benefit options are given in the relevant **Technical Guide**.

What happens to my SIPP when I die?

Your Modular iSIPP is held within a trust. This means it doesn't usually form part of your estate and therefore isn't subject to inheritance tax.

You can provide us with details of anyone you would like to receive any benefits payable from your Modular iSIPP on your death by completing an **Expression of Wish**. This does not bind us, but will help us decide to whom we'll pay out benefits. You may wish to regularly review it as your circumstances change.

These benefits can be paid either as a lump sum or as a beneficiary's pension.

Full details of the benefits payable on death are given in the relevant **Technical Guide**.

Can I change my mind?

You have the right to cancel your Modular iSIPP. On receipt of your Modular iSIPP application, we'll send you a cancellation notice. You'll then have 30 days from receipt of this notice to tell us that you have changed your mind and wish to cancel your application. For full details, please see the cancellation section of the **Platform Services Terms and Conditions** which is available on our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).

Questions and answers - continued

What correspondence will I receive?

We will issue:

- a cancellation notice that gives you the right to cancel your Modular iSIPP (unless you've waived these rights in your application)
- information to allow you to set up your access to our online portal, where you can view and manage your Nucleus products with the help of your adviser
- regular valuation statements for your Modular iSIPP including an illustration of projected future benefits, and
- other necessary correspondence depending on the day-to-day operation of your Modular iSIPP.

We'll speak directly with your adviser in most instances, unless we need to confirm something with you. This may be through the platform's online messaging system or by telephone.

All written correspondence regarding your Nucleus products will be saved in your online account, with a notification sent to you/your adviser. We may also contact you directly, for example when issuing a cancellation notice.

We don't consider standard email to be secure and so we won't normally communicate in this way if the communication includes personal information or instructions relating to your Modular iSIPP.

What other documents should I read?

You should also read the:

- **Key Features Illustration** provided to you prior to your application
- relevant **Charges Schedule**
- **Modular iSIPP Permitted Investments List**
- **Platform Services Terms and Conditions**, and
- relevant **Technical Guide**.

These documents provide you with more detailed information on the Modular iSIPP, and are available from our document library at nucleusfinancial.com.

If after reading the documentation you are unclear about any aspect of the Modular iSIPP, or you are unsure whether it's right for you, we strongly suggest you speak to your adviser.

Other information

Pension Wise

The Government backed service [Pension Wise](#) is provided by MoneyHelper. You can receive this guidance online, by telephone or in person.



You can access Pension Wise on the [MoneyHelper website](#) or call either 0800 138 3944 or 0300 330 1003 (from outside the UK +44 20 3733 3495), if you wish to use this service.



Making a complaint

If you wish to complain about an aspect of our service, please contact the Complaints Manager using the 'How to contact us' section on the following page.

Complaints about this product that we can't address may be referred to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

For details of our formal complaints procedure or contact information for the organisations named above, please see our [Guide to our Complaint Procedure](#), a copy of which can be obtained from our website [nucleusfinancial.com](https://www.nucleusfinancial.com).

Making a complaint will not affect your right to take legal proceedings.

Law

The information in this document is based on our current understanding of pension and financial services regulations, and can be subject to change as tax laws and legislation may change over time.

In the event of a dispute, the law of England and Wales will apply, and by completing a Modular iSIPP application you will be agreeing to this.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

The FSCS is the compensation scheme for customers of UK authorised financial services firms. It provides protection to customers if these firms fail or go bust, and can compensate them if a firm ceases trading or can't pay claims made against it.

The Modular iSIPP is covered by the FSCS in the event that we are unable to meet our obligations to you regarding administration of the product. The SIPP bank account is also separately covered by the FSCS in the event of the failure of the relevant bank.

Similarly, the underlying investments within your SIPP may be subject to their own FSCS protection in the event of the failure of the relevant investment provider. However, this will depend on the investments you select and you should seek further clarification from the investment provider or your adviser regarding the cover applicable to your chosen investments before investing.

For details on how we hold any money and/or investments, and the level of protection available, please read the document available on our website called [How your Money and Investments are held](#).

For further information on the FSCS, please visit their website www.fscs.org.uk.

How to contact us

We can't provide financial advice, and so your adviser will normally be your first point of contact.

However, if you need help or information regarding the administration or features of your Modular iSIPP, you can contact us via the following:



Nucleus

Suite 202 Warner House
123 Castle Street
Salisbury
SP1 3TB



Website: nucleusfinancial.com



Telephone: 03455 212 414
Lines are open from 8:30am to 5:30pm
To help us improve our service, we may record or monitor calls.

For literature in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audio or E-text, please call us on 03455 212 414, or via the Typetalk service on 18001 03455 212 414.

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