



**Key features**

# **Pension pot**

**keyfacts**®



# What's this document for?

This document is for you, a potential Beach customer, and is to give you an overview of the most important details of a Beach pension, to help you decide if it's right for you.

Hopefully you'll find it easy to read and understand, and it's here to help you make an informed decision.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which is a financial services regulator in the UK, asks that Beach provide you with this document – it's important, so please read it carefully and ensure you understand everything about our pension before opening an account.

We encourage you to keep a copy yourself, and we'll keep a copy of it on our website ([beach.org](https://beach.org)) for you to refer back to whenever you like. If there's any questions, get in touch with our friendly team via [support@beach.org](mailto:support@beach.org).

## Pension scheme administration

We partner with WealthKernel to provide you with our pension (WealthKernel Limited, company no. 09686970). They manage things behind the scenes, and are the pension operator and administrator. The trustee of the pension is Wealthkernel Trustees Limited (company no. 12685292).

They are fully authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority to provide pension services, and you are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) – more on that below.

More information about them and the pension scheme can be found in our [terms and conditions](#), or get in touch with us via [support@beach.org](mailto:support@beach.org).

**Note:** we don't provide any form of financial, investment or tax advice, and neither does WealthKernel. This information is to help you make the right decisions for yourself.



## Aims of the Beach pension

- Save for your retirement in a tax-efficient way (we'll cover tax in more detail below).
- A flexible way to save – either a regular savings plan (e.g. monthly), and/or one-off contributions (top ups).
- The opportunity to grow your pension savings by investing them within investments designed for pension savings.
- Transfer (combine) relevant existing pensions you may have to your Beach pension.

## Your commitment

- You understand the features, benefits and risks (we'll outline these below), and are happy a Beach pension is what you expect and need.
- You understand that ordinarily you won't be able to withdraw money from your pension until you are at least 55 years old (rising to 57 from 2028). And currently you cannot withdraw money from your Beach pension after 55, you will need to transfer it to a new provider to do so (more info below).
- You manage your pension and decide how it is invested (within the investment options with Beach).
- You ensure you are saving enough to meet your needs in retirement.
- You ensure that Beach always has up-to-date information about you, and you update your account if things change (e.g. a new address).
- You ensure your total contributions to your pension over a tax year (April 6th to April 5th the following year) won't exceed your annual pension contribution allowance (more on that below).
- You will notify Beach if you are no longer entitled to tax relief on your contributions to this pension, or any other pensions.
- When the time is right to withdraw money from your pension, you will make sure you are doing so in a way that is allowed under the pension and tax rules at the time.
- You agree to the Beach terms and conditions and charges, which may change in the future.



## The risks

- How much you save into your pension will affect its value when it comes time to retire. Saving less, or delaying saving until later in life, will typically see a lower value.
- Pension investments should be held for the long term – your pension pot (the balance in your pension account) will go up and down in value – this depends on the performance of the underlying investments. This means you could get back less than you put in.
- Past performance, projections, and illustrations of any investment doesn't predict how they'll perform in the future. This means how much your pension could be worth in future is not guaranteed.
- Your pension value can also be affected by things outside our control, such as interest rates, exchange rates, and inflation.
- Tax rules relating to pensions may change in future. This could affect the value of your pension and retirement income in future.
- Beach does not provide investment or financial advice. Our service is 'execution only', which means we act on your instructions. We provide information about investment options, and investing and saving in general, but this is to help you make your own decisions, and should not be treated as a recommendation or advice.
- When transferring a pension, depending on the pension, you may be giving up certain benefits and guarantees linked to that pension. It's important to check this and assess if a transfer is right for you. If in doubt, check with a qualified financial advisor.
- A personal pension could affect your entitlement to means-tested state benefits.
- It's not currently possible to withdraw money from your Beach pension (we're working on this feature). When you want to start taking money from it (from the age of 55, but rising to 57 in 2028), you'll be able to transfer it to another provider that allows withdrawals (for free).

If you are unsure about the risks involved with a pension, and have questions, contact our friendly team via [support@beach.org](mailto:support@beach.org), and check out helpful guides on pensions with [MoneyHelper](#) (a free government service). Remember, we are not able to offer financial advice, but we can explain the features and risks.



## Features, benefits and more information

### General questions

#### What is a pension?

A pension is a type of savings and investment account which allows you to save for retirement in a tax-efficient and flexible way.

You typically won't pay tax on your contributions into your pension, you'll get something called tax relief. With a personal pension (like Beach), the government will give you the tax back you've paid on your income (or will pay in future) as a 25% top up (we call this a bonus) when you add money to your Beach pension. This is to refund any tax paid on your income at 20%.

This will be automatically added to your pension pot, typically at the end of the following month.

And if you pay 40% or 45% tax on your income, you can get this extra tax back from the government, typically by claiming it back on a Self Assessment tax return at the end of the tax year (April 5th).

On top of tax relief, your pension also grows tax-free (so no tax on any increase in the value of your pension). You may pay tax when you later withdraw money, it depends on your income and the tax rules at the time.

As pensions are intended for retirement, you'll only be able to withdraw from your pension from age 55 (57 from 2028), unless in special circumstances.

#### Who can open a Beach pension?

A Beach pension is for people who want to save for retirement in a straightforward, tax-efficient way. And make decisions themselves from a single pension plan option (investment range) designed for long term investing.



You'll need to be over the age of 18, and under 75. And be a UK tax resident.

## **Can Beach provide financial advice?**

No, we cannot offer you advice based on your personal circumstances, which includes investment, tax and any money related matters. You will need to make your own decisions. If you think you'd benefit from advice, you should speak to a suitably qualified financial advisor.

## **What are the fees?**

You'll pay an annual fee to Beach of 0.5% of the value of your pension balance per year.

A minimum fee applies across the total balance of your Beach account (for instance if you have money in your easy access pot, this is included, which reduces the likelihood of this fee being applied). This is £3.99 per month.

You will either pay 0.5% or the minimum fee of £3.99 per month, not both, depending on the balance across your whole Beach account.

This covers all the costs associated with your pension, such as payments (adding money), trading (buying the investments on your behalf) and custody (holding your investments safely and securely). Plus all the admin behind the scenes.

This will be collected from your Beach account balance in monthly instalments, based on the daily value of your balance. You don't need to make a payment from your bank account.

As an example, if you have a total Beach balance of £10,000, you'd pay 0.5% of the value across the course of a year, which is £4.17 per month (£50 per year). If instead, you had a total Beach balance of £5,000, your monthly fee would be £2.09 per month (£25 per year), and so you would instead pay the minimum fee of £3.99 per month.

You will also pay a fee within the investment itself, within your pension pot (called an investment fund), which is 0.23% per year of your investment value. This is a fee to the



investment fund manager (not Beach), and is taken automatically from the fund itself. Although unlikely, this fee could vary slightly.

## How safe is my pension with Beach?

Beach (Beach Finance Ltd) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which means we've been reviewed against strict criteria, and approved to arrange your pension and investments, ensuring that your money is safe and secure, and we are continually reviewed.

Our custodian partner, WealthKernel, who holds your money and investments securely, is also authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Your investments are held all in your name, and can only be returned to you. Nobody, not even us, can access your money and investments within your account. Should anything happen to an investment manager, our custodian partner, or Beach (such as going out of business), your account and money would still exist, and would be returned to you (or transferred to a new provider).

For added security, you may also be protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). This can provide compensation up to £120,000 for any cash held within a qualifying account and up to £85,000 for investments. Eligibility rules apply. You can learn more about this on the [FSCS website](#).

However, it's important to understand your pension can fall in value as well as rise due to investment performance. This is part of how investments work over time and ups and downs should be expected.

## Pension plans

### What is the pension plan?

For your pension with Beach, the pension plan (investment option) available to you is based on your date of birth, and therefore expected retirement age.



## Here is our full range:

Date of birth	Investment fund
In or after 1998	LifePath Target Date Fund 2065 (managed by BlackRock)
1993 - 1997	LifePath Target Date Fund 2060 (managed by BlackRock)
1988 - 1992	LifePath Target Date Fund 2055 (managed by BlackRock)
1983 - 1987	LifePath Target Date Fund 2050 (managed by BlackRock)
1978 - 1982	LifePath Target Date Fund 2045 (managed by BlackRock)
1973 - 1977	LifePath Target Date Fund 2040 (managed by BlackRock)
1968 - 1972	LifePath Target Date Fund 2035 (managed by BlackRock)
1963 - 1967	LifePath Target Date Fund 2030 (managed by BlackRock)
In or before 1962	LifePath Retirement Fund (managed by BlackRock)

As a summary, this is an investment designed for long term, continual growth over time, in a risk-managed way, in order to build up a pension pot as you go through life, and to continue to grow and provide an income in retirement.

The plan also has a focus on improving the world where possible, such as fighting climate change through lower carbon emissions (alongside long term growth).

The investment manager is authorised by The Financial Conduct Authority, and will manage the investments in line with the objectives of the fund (aim to grow your retirement savings over time in a suitable, risk-managed way).

We have provided information on the relevant pension plan within the app during the sign up process (such as a factsheet and other documents and information provided by the investment manager), please ensure you review and understand these as it is your responsibility to decide if the plan is right for you. These documents will be saved within your Beach account to review at any time too.



## Monitoring your pension

To check the value of your pension, you can log into the Beach app at any time to get an up-to-date overview of your pension balance.

You'll also receive an annual statement each year, which will give you a projection of your pension in the future, to help you manage your retirement savings and current savings strategy.

A number of things can alter this projection, some key factors include a change in the regular savings amount into your pension, the performance of the investments within your pension, a change in fees, inflation and interest rates.

## Contributing to your pension

### Who can pay into my pension?

As this is a pension just for you, only you can pay into your account. You can continue to pay into your pension until you turn 75 years old.

### Is there a minimum top up amount?

Yes. Each time you top up your account, it will need to be a minimum of £25.

### Is there a maximum amount?

Yes, for a pension, and with Beach, you can only add money that is eligible for tax relief.

The most you can contribute per tax year is the total of your yearly income (e.g. your salary. Technically called your 'annual relevant UK earnings'), or £60,000, whichever is lower.

So, if you earn £40,000 per year, you can contribute £40,000 per year into your pension. If you earn £100,000, your limit is £60,000.



This figure includes tax relief, so to save £40,000 into your pension, you would only need to contribute £32,000 (25% bonus (£8,000) from the government automatically added).

This total applies as a combined total across all of your pensions, for instance, this also includes a pension from work if you have one.

If you don't have any income, you can still save into a pension, but your limit would be £3,600 per year (which means adding £2,880 and receiving the tax relief bonus of £720).

If you earn above £260,000 per year, your annual allowance will reduce by £1 for every £2 earned above £260,000, down to a lower allowance limit of £10,000 (so if you earn above £360,000, your allowance will be £10,000).

You may be able to add more than your current year's annual allowance if you haven't made use of your full annual allowance for any of the previous 3 tax years, whereby you can backdate your contributions up to your annual allowance for that specific year, this is called the 'carry forward' rule. You must have been a member of any registered pension scheme during those years (for instance have a pension from work open).

If you've already withdrawn money from a pension elsewhere, your limit may be reduced to £10,000.

This is not a complete overview of the annual allowance for every circumstance. If you think your circumstances are complex, you should seek advice from a financial advisor.

These tax rules could change in the future.

## **Withdrawing from your pension**

### **Can I withdraw money from my pension?**

You can't currently withdraw money from your Beach pension, although we're working on this right now.



There are special circumstances where you are able to (before the age of 55), such as if you are terminally ill.

When you are ready to withdraw from your pension (from the age of 55, but 57 in 2028), you will be able to transfer your pension to another provider who will allow you to withdraw from it.

There are several options available to withdraw money from your pension, so you'll want to seriously consider what is best for you.

25% of your pension will be tax-free (up to a total of £268,275), and you can take this as a tax-free lump sum if you want to. How much tax you pay on the remaining portion will depend on your income and tax rules at the time.

You can withdraw from your personal pension(s) regularly (e.g. monthly), or you can use your pension pot to buy an annuity, which is a guaranteed income for a set amount of time (e.g. 20 years), or the rest of your life.

## **Transferring your pension to Beach**

### **Can I transfer an existing pension to Beach?**

Yes, you can transfer most types of personal pensions – as long as they are a ‘defined contribution’ pension, which are pensions where you typically have a pension pot that you add money to and it builds up, which can be directly yourself, or through your job. These are common in lots of workplaces, and most pensions you set up yourself.

The alternative is a defined benefit pension, which can also be called final salary pensions, and these are where you have set benefits at retirement, such as a guaranteed income. These are more common in public sector jobs (such as the NHS or government) and older workplaces. We can't accept these pensions as the benefits can be great, and can be worth keeping where they are.

You also can't transfer a pension from your existing job, you'll need to wait until you leave.



You can't transfer your pension if you have already started taking money out of it (often called drawdown), or if it's subject to a court order (for instance following a divorce).

## How do I transfer a pension?

Transferring a pension is straightforward – all you need to do is open your Beach account, head over to “Settings”, then “Transfer a pension from a previous job to Beach”. From there, fill in a few details such as which pension provider it's with, and that's it, we'll arrange the transfer and your pension will arrive within your Beach pension pot after a few weeks (it could be longer depending on the existing provider's processes).

Before you transfer, make sure you check if there's any valuable benefits you might lose out on by transferring it, and if there are any charges from your old provider.

Your pension will be transferred as a cash amount (for example £10,000), and then invested into the Beach pension plan associated with your account.

## Can I transfer it to another provider after?

Yes. You can transfer your Beach pension to another provider if you want to. You'll need to get in touch with your new provider, and they'll contact us to transfer it. We don't charge any fees for this.

We'll transfer your pension as a cash amount (e.g. £10,000), which means your investments will be sold before transferring. This should take a few weeks, but can be a few months depending on the circumstances.

## Good to know

### What happens to my pension if I die?

Within your Beach account you can set your beneficiaries, who are people or charities you'd like to receive your pension if you sadly pass away. You can add up to 4 and these can be updated any time you like.



Ultimately it is your pension provider's decision who receives your pension, but your wishes are typically honoured unless there are special circumstances such as family matters (for instance a divorce has happened).

## **If you're over 50, you can get free pension advice**

With Pension Wise (a government scheme), if you're over 50, you'll be able to speak to a pension expert for free. They can run through all your pension options moving forward, and answer any questions you might have too.

The advice is completely impartial, and there to simply help you make the best decisions for your future.

You can learn more about this on the [MoneyHelper website](#).

## **Cancellation and complaints**

### **Can I change my mind after opening an account?**

Yes absolutely. We'll be sorry to see you go, but you can cancel your pension within 30 days of opening your pension (pension pot), which you can do within the app, or contact us at [support@beach.org](mailto:support@beach.org). No fees will be charged.

Any money you have added will be returned to you, this may involve selling your investments, which could have a different value than when you initially added money and invested. Meaning you may get back more or less than you added.

After 30 days, you won't be able to cancel and withdraw your money from your pension. You'll still be able to close your account, but you'll need to transfer your pension to a new provider.

If you've made a request to transfer your pension to Beach, but have changed your mind, you also have 30 days to cancel the transfer after we've received your pension (a transfer can be any time after you have opened a pension pot, and you don't need to close your pension pot unless you want to).



We'll ask your previous pension provider to cancel the transfer if it's still in progress, or if we've already received it, ask if they are able to receive the pension back (we'll let you know if they are unable to).

## Making a complaint

We pride ourselves on providing the best service possible, and your satisfaction is incredibly important to us – so if you're not happy with any aspect of Beach, please get in touch with us at [support@beach.org](mailto:support@beach.org) and we'll aim to put things right as soon as we can.

### If you'd like to make a complaint, please contact us by:

- Sending us a message through the app  
(within the app go to Settings > Contact us > Message us)
- Emailing us at [complaints@beach.org](mailto:complaints@beach.org)

### After you make a complaint:

1. We'll email you to let you know we've received your complaint
2. We'll start looking into it as soon as we can
3. We may ask you for more information
4. We'll resolve the problem if we can
5. We'll let you know the outcome, actions we've taken, and the reasons why

We aim to resolve most complaints within 3 working days where possible. If it's a bit more complicated that requires more investigation and time, we'll let you know.

If you're not happy with the outcome of our investigation, you can make a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). The Financial Ombudsman Service is a free service to resolve complaints fairly. Here's how to contact them:

Online: [financial-ombudsman.org.uk](https://financial-ombudsman.org.uk)

Email: [complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.co.uk](mailto:complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.co.uk)

Letter: The Financial Ombudsman Service Exchange Tower, London, E14 9SR

Phone: 0800 023 4 567 (free), weekdays from 8:00am–8:00pm, and on Saturday from 9:00am–1:00pm



You'll have 6 months to make a complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service after you've received the outcome of our own investigation.

You can find further information about making a complaint on our website [beach.org/complaint](https://beach.org/complaint).

## **Pension administration**

Our pension administration and operator partner, Wealthkernel (WealthKernel Limited), is the scheme administrator of the Beach pension, and it is their responsibility to handle administrative tasks behind the scenes. This includes (but not limited to), processing new joiners, contributions, transfers and withdrawals. Alongside processing tax relief claims and reporting to HMRC. They are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Pension is registered with HMRC under Chapter 2 of Part 4 of Finance Act 2004.

The pension is governed by a trust deed and rules (may be amended from time to time). These are available on request. The trustee is Wealthkernel Trustees Limited, and is a bare trustee, with responsibility for securely holding the investments within your Beach pension, and separately from its own assets.

## **Important information**

The information provided in this key features document is based on our understanding of the current law, practice and taxation, which may be subject to change. The law of England and Wales will apply in all legal disputes.