Standard Life
There's a lot to look forward to

Your guide to transferring your UK pension to Ireland

Contents

Transferring your pension from the UK to Ireland.

The basics.

If you've worked in the UK at some stage of your career, you may have a UK pension. Now you're living in Ireland, you may wish to bring your pension here. Here's how it works...

Your UK pension is with an existing UK pension provider.

To transfer that pension to Ireland, you will need to transfer it to a qualifying recognised overseas pension scheme (QROPS).

A QROPS is a type of pension product which has been registered with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the UK and can accept pension transfers from the UK without the potential for triggering a tax charge.

Standard Life's Synergy Buy Out Bond is registered with HMRC (QROPS 500126) and can accept pre-retirement transfers from a UK pension scheme.

A buy out bond (sometimes known as a personal retirement bond) is a policy that's used as a new 'home' for certain types of old pensions. Transferring a pension into a buy out bond gives you more control over how and where it's invested.

There's lots to think about if you're considering transferring your pension from the UK. Your financial adviser can help you with this decision.

Warning: If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest.

Warning: If you invest in this product you will not have any access to this money until you retire.

Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.

What type of pension can I transfer?

You can transfer most private sector pensions but most public sector pensions cannot be transferred.

What are the benefits of transferring a UK pension to Ireland?

Convenience

Transferring your pension may make sense if you want to retire here in Ireland because it's convenient and it will be in euro.

Tax

A QROPS can accept pension transfers from the UK without the potential for triggering a tax charge.

Standard Fund Threshold

Any pension savings you transfer to a QROPS in Ireland does not count towards the €2 million Standard Fund Threshold, which is the maximum pension amount you can save for in Ireland without heavy tax charges. The Standard Fund Threshold only takes into consideration pension savings in relation to Irish earnings.

Inheritance planning

If the beneficiaries of your will or your dependants aren't living in the UK, leaving your pension there may be more complicated to deal with, so it may make more sense to transfer your pension to Ireland.

There may be other considerations, such as tax benefits, so it's important to discuss these with your financial adviser before making a final decision.

To find out if you can transfer your pension, simply contact your UK pension provider.

If you've settled back in Ireland but haven't set up a new pension yet, talk to your financial adviser today and start saving again. On top of the money you will transfer from the UK through your QROPS, you can save up to €2 million into a pension in Ireland.

What should I consider before transferring my pension?

1. Tax charges on transfer

First of all, make sure to transfer your pension to a scheme that's been registered with HMRC as a QROPS. Otherwise, it could result in UK tax charges of up to 55% of the amount transferred.

2. Pension age

The minimum retirement age on a QROPS is 55. You can only access your benefits before age 55 on the grounds of ill health.

3. Tax residency

If you've been resident in the UK anytime within the last 5/10 UK tax years* you may be liable to UK tax on your QROPS at retirement.

Payments from your QROPS within five years of the transfer will be subject to UK tax rules, regardless of where you are resident.

You'll have to declare how long you've been out of the UK when making a claim on your policy. We'll inform you if you're liable for UK tax charge before processing your request.

* the UK tax year is from 6 April to 5 April

4. Accessing your pension

For all transfers received into a QROPS after 6 April 2017, benefits can be paid if you

- are age 55 or over and,
- have not been a UK tax resident for at least 10 UK tax years**

If the transfer was received into a QROPS before 6 April 2017, benefits can be paid if you

- are age 55 or over and,
- have not been a UK tax resident for at least 5 UK tax years**

** If benefits are paid outside of these rules, UK tax rules will apply and you may be subject to UK tax on your QROPS.

5. Overseas transfer charge

There is a 25% overseas transfer charge on a QROPS transfer unless the transfer is:

- to your employer's occupation pension scheme, or
- to your country of residence, or
- within the European Economic Area (EEA).

And, if your status changes within five years of the transfer, the 25% overseas transfer charge **will** apply. So, if you move outside of the EEA within five years of the transfer and don't transfer your pension to a new provider in your new country of residence, then we need to deduct 25% of your QROPS value and pay it to HMRC.

6. Pension limits

There are limits in both the UK and Ireland as to how much you can save into a pension, outside of which you may be liable to tax. In the UK this is known as the Lifetime Allowance.

Your transfer to an Irish pension will be checked and if it's higher than the Lifetime Allowance, you will have to pay tax. This would be deducted from your UK pension before the transfer is made.

7. Check your policy's benefits

If you transfer your pension, you may be giving up valuable guarantees.

8. Your options at point of retirement

You can check with your UK provider on what type of pension you have and how you can access your money at retirement from that scheme.

Your options at retirement may change if you transfer your pension to Ireland. It's important to consider your options with your financial adviser to see what's best for you.

Reporting to HMRC

If a payment is made within 10 years of the start date of your QROPS, Standard Life must report the transaction to HMRC within 90 days. If a payment is outside the 5 or 10 year tax residency period or before you turn 55, Standard Life must still report the payment.

Defined Contribution schemes in the UK and Ireland are different. Here are some of the key differences:

Defined Benefit (DB) pensions are more restrictive than Defined Contribution (DC) pensions.
Some of the DC benefits here may not be available on your UK pension, so check with your UK provider.

Ireland DC		UK DC
100% of policy value (subject to Capital Acquisitions Tax (CAT))	**Death before retirement**	**Under age 75:** 100% of policy value paid tax free (within Lifetime Allowance) **Age 75 and over:** pension and lump sum taxed at recipient's marginal rate of income tax
€	**Currency**	£
25%*	**Tax free retirement lump sum (subject to limits)**	25%
Yes	**Taxable lump sum (subject to limits)**	Yes
Yes via Approved Retirement Fund	**Drawdown**	Yes
Yes (imputed distribution)	**Forced withdrawals in retirement**	No
Yes	**Approved Minimum Retirement Fund**	No
Income Tax or CAT (depends on beneficiary of Approved (Minimum) Retirement Fund)	**Death in retirement**	**Under age 75:** tax free (within Lifetime Allowance) **Age 75 and over:** pension and lump sum taxed at recipient's marginal rate of income tax
€2m	**Standard Fund Threshold/ Lifetime Allowance from 6 April 2019 (before chargeable excess tax)**	£1,055,000**

* If you bring your UK pension to Ireland then your ability to fund the lump sum in Ireland is diminished. The maximum tax free lump sum from all pensions is €200,000 and therefore the optimum fund is €800,000. If your UK fund brings you over this maximum then the part of the lump sum in excess will be taxed in Ireland, whereas it could be tax free in the UK

** You may have transitional protection giving you a higher personal Lifetime Allowance. Your UK adviser will be able to confirm if this applies to you. The Lifetime Allowance will increase in line with the UK's Consumer Price Index each year.

Step-by-step guide to transferring your pension

So, if I decide that I want to transfer, what do I need to do?

Step 1: Discuss the transfer with your financial adviser in Ireland. They'll give you a Synergy Buy Out Bond application (SYBOB30) to complete.

Step 2: Request a transfer options form from your UK provider that **includes the option to transfer overseas**.

Step 3: You'll also need the Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes Member information form (APSS263) which can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Step 4: Once you've completed these, give them to your financial adviser with the Synergy Buy Out Bond application (SYBOB30).

Step 5: Your financial adviser submits the forms to us in Standard Life.

Step 6: Once we receive the transfer amount from your UK provider, we'll convert it to euro and set up your QROPS Synergy Buy Out Bond.

Step 7: Now you can work with your financial adviser to choose an investment option to suit your needs and help you to fund the lifestyle you want in retirement.

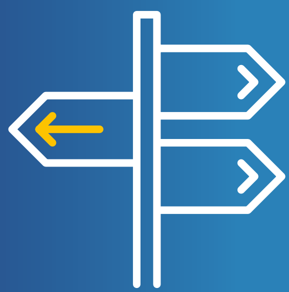
Remember

Transferring a pension from the UK to Ireland is not suitable for everyone.

We recommend that you get financial advice.

Your personal circumstances also have an impact on tax treatment.

Laws and tax rules may change in the future. The information here is based on our understanding in February 2019. You should not base your decision solely on the information in this guide.



Glossary

Transferring your pension from the UK to Ireland doesn't need to be complicated. But some of the terms used in the process might be. This glossary explains some of the terms you may come across.

Approved Retirement Fund (ARF)

An approved retirement fund (ARF) is a retirement product that allows you to leave your pension invested and you can withdraw an income from it as you need to. You must withdraw a certain percentage each year from your ARF:

- 4%, if you're 60 years of age or over for the full tax year, or
- 5%, if you're 70 years of age or over for the full tax year, or
- 6%, if you've a combined ARF and vested PRSA assets of €2 million or more, and aged 60 or over for the full tax year

Approved Minimum Retirement Fund (AMRF)

You must have a guaranteed income for life (for example, State pension and pension annuities) each year of €12,700 or more to invest in an ARF. If you don't then you may have to invest up to €63,500 of the balance of your pension money in an approved minimum retirement fund (AMRF) before you can invest in an ARF. You can only withdraw a single payment each year of up to 4% of your AMRF.

Any withdrawals from an AMRF or ARF are treated as income and are taxed under the PAYE system.

With an AMRF and ARF, you can leave the funds to your dependents subject to tax.

Annuity

An annuity converts the money in your pension into a guaranteed income for the rest of your life. You can choose to have your annuity income stay the same or automatically increase each year.

You can also choose for your spouse or civil partner to carry on being paid some or all of the income after you die.

The choices you make will affect the income you get, for example, the more you want your spouse or civil partner to be paid after your death, the lower your income will be.

Defined Benefit pension scheme

Defined benefit (DB) schemes are occupational pension schemes that provide a set level of pension at retirement, the amount of which normally depends on your service and your earnings at retirement or in the years immediately preceding retirement.

Defined Contribution pension scheme

Defined contribution (DC) schemes are occupational pension schemes where your own contributions and your employer's contributions are both invested and the proceeds used to buy a pension and/or other benefits at retirement. The value at retirement depends on the amount of contributions paid, the investment return achieved less any fees and charges, and the cost of buying the retirement benefits.

Drawdown

Drawdown is a way of using your pension pot to provide you with a retirement income.

HMRC

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. HMRC has established rules that allow some UK pensions to be transferred to another country.

Lifetime Allowance

In the UK, the Lifetime Allowance is a limit on the amount of pension benefit that can be drawn from pension schemes – whether lump sums or retirement income – and can be paid without triggering an extra tax charge.

Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme (QROPS)

A QROPS is a type of pension product which has been registered with HMRC in the UK and can accept pension transfers from the UK without the potential for triggering a tax charge.

Standard Fund Threshold (SFT)

In Ireland, the Standard Fund Threshold is the maximum pension fund an individual is allowed at retirement for tax purposes.

Why Standard Life?

There’s a lot to look forward to

Standard Life is a life savings company. That means we provide pensions, retirement solutions, savings, investments and funds for each stage of your life journey.

We’ve been working in partnership with financial advisers helping people plan and enjoy their futures for more than 180 years in Ireland.

Operating internationally, our team of 400 people in Ireland delivers products and services to support customers and advisers.

It’s all about choice

We work with our strategic partners in Aberdeen Standard Investments, as well as other carefully selected fund managers, to offer you a choice of investment funds to suit your needs.

We’re here to help

Our customer service team is only a phone call away on (01) 639 7000.

Find out more

Talk to your financial adviser about how to plan for your future, they'll give you the information you need to get you started. Also, you can call us or visit our website.

(01) 639 7000

Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded to protect you and us, and help with our training. Call charges will vary.

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