

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Equity Pension Scheme

## Q16 WHERE IS THE MONEY INVESTED?

Initially your contributions will be invested in the Defensive Managed Series 2 Pension Fund. However, AVIVA has a wide range of funds and you may elect to invest in any of these. If you want any further information on these funds you should contact First Act.

## Q17 WILL I GET A STATEMENT SO I CAN CHECK ON MY FUND SIZE & PAYMENTS TO MY EPS?

Yes, every year a statement will be issued by AVIVA showing the fund details. Upon request First Act can provide a detailed premium history.

## Q18 WHEN CAN I BENEFIT FROM THE PENSION?

Currently at any age between 55-75. You don't have to actually retire, just be between those ages. You can take up to 25% of the fund as tax free cash and the rest is used to provide you with an income for life.

## Q19 WHAT HAPPENS IF I DIE BEFORE I RETIRE?

The fund you have built is paid to your Estate without penalty. If you wish, you can name specific beneficiaries.

## Q20 I PAY TAX AT THE HIGHEST RATE; DO I GET EXTRA TAX RELIEF?

Yes, under current rules, but these can change. Any queries relating to tax should be directed to your Tax Adviser or First Act if you don't have one. Please note that the Financial Services Authority does not regulate tax advice.

## Q21 I AM NOT A UK CITIZEN – CAN I STILL HAVE A PERSONAL PENSION?

Yes, as long as you are resident or ordinarily resident in the UK. In most cases, the benefits from the EPS can be paid directly to your bank account in your country of residence. Taxation of benefits may differ from normal. Please speak to your tax adviser for confirmation of these details.

## Q22 DO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRODUCTION COMPANIES INCREASE MY INCOME TAX?

Yes, all Production Company contributions are treated as an addition to your gross income and be subject to income tax at the rate applicable to you at the time. However, when the employer contribution is paid into the EPS it will receive tax relief at source.

e.g. A Production Company contribution of £100.00 will incur additional tax of £20.00. However, when applied to your EPS the £100.00 will be enhanced by 20% increasing the amount invested by £25.00 to £125.00.

## Q23 DO I NEED TO INCLUDE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO MY EPS ON MY TAX RETURN?

Yes, we recommend that when you or your accountant are about to complete your annual return, you contact First Act and request a contribution history for the required tax year. This will be sent to you with a letter of explanation to assist you or your accountant.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

Join over the telephone by calling 020 8686 5050 or

Complete the Personal Information Form in this pack and send, fax or e-mail it to:-

Hencilla Canworth (First Act)  
Simpson House  
6 Cherry Orchard Road  
East Croydon  
Surrey  
CR9 5BB

Fax on 020 8686 5559 or e-mail to [eps@firstact.co.uk](mailto:eps@firstact.co.uk)

## HOW TO COMPLAIN

If you have any complaints regarding the EPS please write to the above address or telephone us on 020 8686 5050.

If you have any or doubts regarding the EPS you should seek our expert advice. Because this investment may go down as well as up you may not get back the full amount invested. Levels and bases of, and reliefs from taxation are subject to change and depend on the individual's personal financial position.



### Q1 WHAT TYPE OF SCHEME IS THE EPS?

A Personal Pension Plan, which is also fully Stakeholder compliant.

### Q2 WHAT ARE 'STAKEHOLDER' PENSIONS?

Stakeholder Pensions were introduced in April 2001 and work in much the same way as Personal Pensions. They must have 100% of contributions allocated to investment, and the only charge allowed is up to 1.5% of the annual fund value for the first 10 years, thereafter no more than 1%.

There must be no penalties on transfer or if premiums stop, and the minimum contribution is £20 gross.

The EPS is significantly cheaper as the annual charge can be as low as 0.70%.

### Q3 WHO MANAGES THE EPS?

First Act is the Scheme Administrator; AVIVA is the Product Provider.

### Q4 WHY FIRST ACT & AVIVA?

First Act is an Independent Financial Adviser and researched the pensions market on Equity's behalf before selecting AVIVA. AVIVA has excellent past performance, low charges, a completely penalty free policy and are a financially strong company.

### Q5 HOW DOES THE EPS WORK?

The EPS works in a number of ways.

1. You can make contributions related to your engagements only, this way you pay in when you are working, with payments freezing automatically when you are not, and / or
2. you can make additional personal payments by direct debit on a monthly basis (£20.00 gross minimum), and / or
3. you can make additional personal payments by cheque on an ad-hoc basis (£20.00 gross minimum).

### Q6 DO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PRODUCTION COMPANIES INCREASE MY NI CONTRIBUTIONS?

Yes. As you are normally self employed for tax purposes, the Production Company contribution is treated as an addition to your gross income.

### Q7 WILL I HAVE AN EPS MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?

Yes, you will have a unique number starting with 'P5' and ending in an 'A'. This is to be used on all contracts to inform the Production Company of your EPS Membership. Documentation from AVIVA will display the actual pension policy number; starting with 'TK9', this should NOT be used on contracts.

### Q8 I'M NOT A MEMBER OF EQUITY, CAN I STILL JOIN?

Yes, although negotiated by Equity, the EPS is available to members and non-members alike.

### Q9 HOW DO THE CONTRIBUTIONS GET TO AVIVA?

Production Companies submit the contributions; theirs and yours; to AVIVA via First Act for processing.

### Q10 WHAT IF MY CONTRACT IS ONLY FOR 1 OR 2 APPEARANCES?

Unless you think you will make contributions in the future, or are likely to get another contract, the benefits will be so small it is probably not worth joining.

### Q11 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M NOT UNDER CONTRACT TO A PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER?

If you wish, you can start making payments as covered in Q5. If not your EPS simply waits until you have another contract or decide that you want to start paying in yourself.

### Q12 I'M ALREADY PAYING INTO A PERSONAL PENSION?

No problem, you can pay into as many Personal Pensions as you like, providing you are not paying in more than allowed by the Inland Revenue. You should also ask us to review your existing policies to make sure you are getting value for money. This review is offered at a cost of £75.00 for the first plan and £25.00 for each additional plan.

### Q13 CAN I PAY MORE THAN THE CONTRACT RELATED MINIMUM IF I WANT TO?

Yes, providing you do not exceed the Revenue's contribution limits (available on request). You can either ask the Production Company to deduct more than the minimum, remembering that this will not increase the Production Company contribution, or make personal payments as covered in Q5.

### Q14 CAN I STOP AND START MY CONTRIBUTIONS AT ANY TIME?

Yes, you have complete control and there are no charges or penalties for doing so.

### Q15 CAN I HAVE "PENSION CONTRIBUTION INSURANCE"?

Yes, this is a separate policy to protect any regular contributions you may be making in the event of ill health. It is very reasonably priced and covers you against not being able to do your job - most policies only cover you if can't do any job. If you would like a quote let us know.