

10 Reasons to choose the Curtis Banks SIPP

Our SIPP is a 'full SIPP', taking advantage of all the flexibility and individual control available to self-invested pensions. Not all full SIPPs are the same, though. Our SIPP is designed to achieve high performance in all areas, and 10 reasons for choosing it over other SIPP products are:-

We will provide you with a high level of service

You will be allocated an account manager who will supervise the operation of your SIPP. They will be your main point of contact and will be familiar with your SIPP. As a result, you will not be shunted between departments without knowing who to speak to.

Our staff are experienced and knowledgeable and will be able to assist with your queries and carry out work for you effectively. Access to our staff is quick and direct – we do not operate telephone queues or 'service centres'.

Our levels of service are published and freely available for inspection (see our [Service Level Standards](#)). They are in line with the best standards in our industry and actively monitored.

We operate a fee structure under which you pay a fair rate for the actual work carried out

Many SIPP operators have high minimum fees, which will be excessive if your SIPP is straightforward – our basic annual fee of £245 p.a. for a simple SIPP is amongst the lowest in the industry for a full SIPP product.

Other SIPP operators have low basic fees but add on significant amounts for additional work. We have a simple scale of additional charges which reflects the extra work needed but keeps the overall level of fees reasonable.

In particular we do not charge for receiving standard transfer payments or contributions and we do not impose transaction charges, which can quickly result in high costs for products which at first sight seemed inexpensive.

Our fee structure is transparent and simple and enables you to understand clearly the cost of your SIPP. The SIPP [Schedule of Fees](#) sets out more details.

Online access to current SIPP valuations for you and your financial adviser

You will have secure online access to a range of information on your SIPP. This will include a current market valuation of the SIPP assets, updated daily, details of recent bank transactions and basic information from our database.

Other SIPP providers give online access, but the information available is often limited and may not include current financial information.

No need for you to be a trustee of the SIPP

We take care of the administration and carry trustee responsibility whilst you do not lose any control of the assets held as member.

We allow full flexibility on cash deposits

Our main SIPP bank account pays a competitive rate of interest. In addition, we allow you full flexibility to open other bank accounts to earn higher rates when you want to hold larger sums on deposit. Some SIPP providers only provide the option of the main SIPP bank account.

We allow a wide range of investment choice within HMRC limits

We provide as much flexibility as possible, both in the choice of investments available and the ways in which investments are made. Our **Investments** notes set out more details.

You can make investments yourself or appoint advisers to act for you. We record details of all investments on our database and arrange for the values to be updated daily, whenever possible.

Our SIPPs can invest in property and our staff have significant experience in this area and can carry out all the conveyancing work at competitive fees. We allow you to use your own advisers, e.g. solicitor, surveyor etc.

We also allow more unusual investments such as unquoted equities, gold bullion, contracts for difference and hedge funds and have the expertise to deal with these, and to decide when they may be inappropriate.

We allow significant flexibility on drawing benefits from the SIPP

A wide range of benefit options is available, including maximising tax free cash, drawing benefits in stages and income drawdown through Capped Drawdown and Flexi-access Drawdown (see our **Benefits** notes for more details). Pensions can be paid at a frequency to suit your requirements.

Some SIPP operators will restrict flexibility in the ways in which benefits can be drawn.

We have rigorous due diligence procedures

With increased regulatory scrutiny of pensions and investment, thorough due diligence procedures are essential, to provide you with reassurance that your SIPP and the company operating it will stand the test of time. We apply rigorous due diligence procedures in all aspects of our operations.

We are an established profitable SIPP provider

We are the second largest provider in the UK, with a strong book of existing clients and sustainable profitability. We have invested heavily in developing our systems and have built up internal capital levels to put ourselves in a strong position for the future.

Last but not least - we keep it simple

Pensions can be complex and not always the most interesting subject. SIPPs are simpler to understand than other pension products, but in itself this is not enough.

In our long experience in the pensions industry, our overriding aim has been to 'keep it simple' for our clients and their advisers. We avoid jargon and lengthy documents which no-one will read. Our aim in all communications is to provide clear information which enables our clients to have all the relevant information available, to understand it and to make informed decisions.