

# Investing Your Retirement Savings

Your Future. Your Choice.

Your Options Target Date Funds. This brochure explains what that means for you now and when you retire.

# **Your Pension Fund**

Your pension contributions will be paid into the Options Target Date Funds, a series of investment funds, managed by experienced investment professionals, tailored to suit people with different expected retirement dates.

• Each Options Target Date fund has a three-year window date in its name—we call this the fund's "target date". The target date is the approximate year when you expect to begin to be paid a pension income. Your pension savings will be automatically invested in the fund that coincides with the year we anticipate that you might retire, based on the UK's state pension age.

Importantly you can change the fund you are invested in at any time at no cost. The Options Target Date Funds are shown in the table below:

Options Retirement Fund 2011-2013	Options Retirement Fund 2047-2049
Options Retirement Fund 2014-2016	Options Retirement Fund 2050-2052
Options Retirement Fund 2017-2019	Options Retirement Fund 2053-2055
Options Retirement Fund 2020-2022	Options Retirement Fund 2056-2058
Options Retirement Fund 2023-2025	Options Retirement Fund 2059-2061
Options Retirement Fund 2026-2028	Options Retirement Fund 2062-2064
Options Retirement Fund 2029-2031	Options Retirement Fund 2065-2067
Options Retirement Fund 2032-2034	Options Retirement Fund 2068-2070
Options Retirement Fund 2035-2037	Options Retirement Fund 2071-2073
Options Retirement Fund 2038-2040	Options Retirement Fund 2074-2076
Options Retirement Fund 2041-2043	Options Retirement Fund 2077-2079
Options Retirement Fund 2044-2046	

# Your Money Is Managed By Professionals

Your pension contributions are in the hands of a professional investment management team at AllianceBernstein and overseen by Options. AllianceBernstein taps into the deep and varied expertise of specialist managers who research each underlying investment exposure, covering investment opportunities all over the world.

#### A Simple And Effortless Way To Invest

When you save into one of the Target Date Funds, you are diversifying where your money is invested.

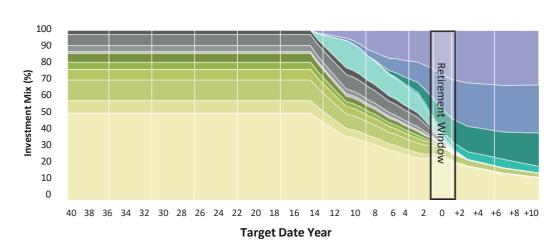
Your pension savings are invested, proactively managed, and overseen on a daily basis by an experienced fund management team at AllianceBernstein, a global asset management firm. It is their responsibility to review and adjust your investment mix so it is always appropriate for your age, being mindful of the time horizon that remains until your anticipated retirement age when you may wish to begin accessing your pension.

The graphic below is a point in time snapshot of the proactively managed asset mix, which will evolve over time.

As you move towards retirement the fund's management team automatically adjusts your mix of investments, by gradually shifting away from company shares ("equities") and towards interest paying debt securities issued by companies and governments ("bonds").

Funds that are furthest away from their target dates start out invested almost entirely in equities— from different countries and industries around the world, but a small amount in specialist property shares too. This mix emphasizes the growth potential you need to build your savings over the long term.

As you move closer to retirement, the fund's management team automatically adjusts the mix towards investments designed to give more stability, albeit with less growth potential. When your fund reaches its target date, its investment mix will be 20% equities and 80% bonds\*.



#### **Strategic Asset Allocation**

### Bonds (Cautious)

Index-Linked Gilts

- ESG Short Duration Global Credit
- UK Corporate Bonds
- ESG Global Corporate Bonds

#### Diversifiers

- Commodities
- Global
- Property
- Private Equity Sustainable Opportunities

### Equities ("Shares" - Adventurous)

- ESG Global Small-Cap Equities
- ESG China Equities
- ESG Emerging Markets Ex-China Equities
- ESG Global Multi-Factor Equities
- Global Climate Transition Equities
- ESG Global Developed Equities

For Illustrative Purposes Only. \*Subject to change over time. Source: AllianceBernstein (AB)

# A Mix That Changes With Your Needs

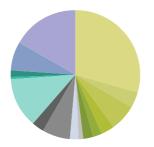
Your investment journey is split into three life stages; Early-Life, Mid-Life and Pre-Retirement. As you move through these stages your money is invested in a different mix of investments appropriate to your age and the time you have left until retirement. The reality however, as the graph on the previous page shows, is that your Target Date Fund is reviewed on a daily basis and your investment mix changes regularly as you move towards your target retirement age.

The approach tries to avoid "putting all your eggs in one basket". That's why each Target Date Fund blends a range of investments. By spreading your money across different investment types, your fund gives you access to a world of opportunities. This diversified approach can also help to spread risks: each asset is likely to perform differently, so a period of underperformance by one may be offset by better results (outperformance) from others, although this is not guaranteed.

Over time, the fund's management team gradually adjusts the investments for you, so your investment mix is appropriate for your life stage. All of this happens automatically—you don't have to do a thing.

#### **Multiple Investments In A Single Strategy**

Here is an example of the target of a Target Date Fund approximately 10 years before retirement



- ESG Global Developed Equities 28.9%
- Global Climate Transition Equities 3.2%
- ESG Global Multi-Factor Equities 6.4%
- ESG Emerging Markets Ex-China Equities 3.4%
- ESG China Equities 2.0%
- ESG Small-Cap Equities 2.5%
- Sustainable Opportunities 2.4%
- Private Equity 2.5%

- Global Property 5.3%
- Commodities 3.1%
- ESG Global Corporate Bonds 13.0%
- UK Corporate Bonds 0.4%
- ESG Short Duration Global Credit 4.2%
- Gilts 11.7%
- Index-Linked Gilts 11.1%

For Illustrative Purposes Only Source: AllianceBernstein (AB), as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (2032-2034 Target Date Fund)

#### **Risk Management**

A well-designed long-term investment strategy is crucial to the success of any investment programme. But even a thoroughly diversified portfolio is vulnerable to large losses, particularly when a financial-market shock occurs. The investment team have developed dynamic tools that can be used to adjust the investment strategy systematically as market conditions change.

The dynamic asset-allocation tools seek to measure short-term risks and returns more accurately in order to rein in risk and cut down on extreme outcomes, without giving up return potential. The fund manager believes such an approach can deliver a more consistent investment experience, regardless of the financial markets' environment. However, some of the risk to consider are:

Investments in Target Date Funds are not guaranteed against losses; at any time, the value of your savings can be more or less than the original amount you contributed—including at the time of the fund's target date. You should also be aware that investing in Target Date Funds does not guarantee that you will have sufficient income when you retire.

## The Options Target Date Fund

## 1. A Fund Tailored for your Journey to Retirement

The Target Date Funds are designed to manage how and where your contributions are invested at each step towards, and until you reach, retirement.

## 2. Appropriate Investing, Every Step Of The Way

As you move along your journey, your money will be invested in line with your age and the number of years left until your retirement.

### 3. There Is Room To Move

You are automatically given a Target Retirement Age of 66, but you can change this if you wish. The Target Date Funds also offer you the flexibility to change your retirement date further on in your journey.

## 4. The Best Of Both Worlds

The Target Date Funds take away the timeconsuming task of you having to manage your money whilst, at the same time, giving you confidence that your pension pot is being looked after by professionals.

## 5. You're In Safe Hands

Your Target Date Fund is invested and managed on a daily basis by an experienced fund manager (AllianceBernstein). It is their responsibility to review and adjust your investment mix so that it always remains appropriate for your age and time left until your chosen retirement age.

## 6. A Smoother Journey to Retirement

AllianceBernstein will manage and move your money around to help ensure that it is invested in both an appropriate and optimal mix of funds as your age and time until retirement change. The overall aim of your Target Date Fund is to provide a smoother journey for your money and maximise your pension income.

## 7. Value for Money

AllianceBernstein offers a hands-on approach to the management and oversight of the funds, as described above, at low cost. Transaction costs are minimised and transparent.

## **Contact Details**

## Options

Talk to us to find out more:

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## AllianceBernstein

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This document is designed to provide consolidated information in relation to the AllianceBernstein Target Date Funds only and does not constitute investment advice. If you have any question or wish to discuss your investment options, you should speak to the Scheme Administrator or Trustee of your pension scheme or seek financial advice.

#### INVESTMENT RISKS TO CONSIDER

The value of an investment can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the full amount they invested. Capital is at risk.

Some of the principal risks of investing in Target Date Funds include:

Market Risk: The market values of the Fund's holdings rise and fall from day to day, so investments may lose value.

Interest Rate Risk: Bonds may lose value if interest rates rise or fall—long-duration bonds tend to rise and fall more than short-duration bonds. Credit Risk: A bond's credit rating reflects the issuer's ability to make timely payments of interest or capital—the lower the rating, the higher the risk of default. If the issuer's financial strength deteriorates, the issuer's rating may be lowered, and the bond's value may decline.

Allocation Risk: Allocating to different types of assets may have a large impact on returns if one of these asset classes significantly underperforms the others.

Foreign Risk: Investing in non-UK assets may be more volatile because of political, regulatory, market and economic uncertainties associated with them. These risks are magnified in assets of emerging or developing markets.

Currency Risk: Currency fluctuations may have a large impact on returns and the value of an investment may be negatively affected when translated into the currency in which the initial investment was made.

Reinsurance Risk: The underlying fund(s) is accessed via an insurance provider, also known as a reinsurance arrangement; creating a direct counterparty exposure. In the event of default by an insurance provider, the value of the assets will likely fall, which will be reflected in the value of our Fund price.

#### Important Information

The Target Date Funds (the 'Funds') referenced above are only available for investment by the Scheme, which is a UK registered pension scheme. It has been designed for a typical pension fund member intending to retire in or around the years stated in the name of the Fund. As the Fund is intended to be a default pension savings vehicle which seeks to meet the requirements of a broad range of persons, it does not take into account an individual's personal circumstances and may not be suitable for a particular individual or group of individuals with complex financial or personal circumstances.

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