

# Optimum Independent Financial Advisers

## Client Agreement

### INVESTMENT SERVICES

Optimum Independent Financial Advisers (3 St Peters Court, Colchester, CO1 1WD) is permitted to advise on and arrange (bring about) deals in investments.

Optimum Independent Financial Advisers does not handle clients' money. We never accept a cheque made payable to us or handle cash (unless it is payment in settlement of adviser charges or disbursements for which we have sent you an invoice). If you do send us money, this may delay your transaction as we may have to return this money to you.

### CLIENT CATEGORISATION

In providing investment services to you, we will categorise you as a 'retail client'. The type of client category will determine the level of protections afforded to you under the regulatory system. As a retail client the regulatory protections available to you are determined by this category and will be the highest available.

Where we have categorised you other than as a 'retail client' (see above), you may request re-categorisation under a client category which benefits from a higher degree of protection. However, we reserve the right to agree to such a re-categorisation on a case-by-case basis, and where we agree to do so it does not necessarily mean that you will have a right of access to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Optimum Independent Financial Advisers offers advice in accordance with that disclosed to you in our Initial Disclosure Document. Occasions may arise where we or one of our other clients have some form of interest in business being transacted for you. If this happens or we become aware that our interests or those of one of our other clients conflicts with your interests, we will write to you and obtain your consent before we carry out your instructions, and detail the steps we will take to ensure fair treatment.

### TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

You or we may terminate our authority to act on your behalf at any time, without penalty. Notice of this termination must be given in writing and will take effect from the date of receipt. Termination is without prejudice to any services already provided/transactions already initiated, which will be completed according to the Client Agreement unless otherwise agreed in writing. You will be liable to pay for any transactions made and/or services carried out prior to termination and any adviser charges or other fees which may be outstanding.

### RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

In the case of many retail investment products; such as life assurance contracts, personal pension schemes, investment bonds, and collective investment arrangements (e.g. unit trusts), a right to withdraw or cancel the contract within a specified period is normally provided. Details of such rights are ordinarily contained in the product literature (e.g. Key Features document) and/or we may provide details of such rights in a separate communication.

In the case of any non-retail investment products e.g. an ISA wrapper, we will inform you in writing of any right to withdraw or cancel you may have or, if it is the case, we will inform you in writing that no such rights will apply.

## **CLIENTS RISK**

You are advised that because investments can fall as well as rise, you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

## **HOW WE CHARGE YOU FOR OUR SERVICES**

The method of paying for our services will depend on the type/level of service(s) provided. We will discuss your payment options with you and answer any questions you may have.

### Advised services

For advised services, you will be charged an adviser charge. The actual amount will depend on the service(s) provided to you and the amount will be agreed with you before we carry out any work that we will charge you for.

Our 'Services and Payments Agreement' that we will issue to you, will contain details of how much you will be charged and how payment is to be made.

Examples of the costs of our services are included within the 'Services and Costs Disclosure Document'.

We will inform you if you have to pay VAT.

## **ACCOUNTING TO YOU**

We will confirm to you in writing the basis or our reason for recommending the transaction executed on your behalf.

We will also make arrangements for all your investments to be registered in your name unless you first instruct us otherwise in writing. We will forward to you all documents showing ownership of your investments as soon as practicable after we receive them; where a number of documents relating to a series of transactions is involved, we will normally hold each document until the series is complete and then forward them to you.

## **NOMINEE & SAFE CUSTODY SERVICES**

Optimum Independent Financial Advisers does not safeguard or administer client assets but we may arrange business through platforms, which will provide custody services for your assets. Where this is the case, the legal title of investments will be registered in the name of the third party's nominee.

Transactions will be transmitted to the fund supermarket, investment wrap platform, or similar third party investment institution for them to execute. Money or transferred assets will be placed immediately with that third party for investment; we will never hold the assets for you. We will provide you with the relevant account opening details for the identified third party such as their Terms & Conditions, Nominee and Safe Custody Service, Best Execution Policy, Execution Venues and Conflicts of Interest Policy (or equivalent documents). The legal title of investments will be in the name of the third party's nominee.

For non platform business we will make arrangements for your investments to be registered in your name unless you first instruct us otherwise in writing.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES & RESTRICTIONS**

Following the issue of this document, any subsequent advice or recommendation offered to you will be based on your stated investment objectives, agreed level of risk you are prepared/able to take and any restrictions you wish to place on the type of investments or policies you are willing to consider. Details of your stated investment objectives will be identified during our discussions with you and confirmed within the suitability report that we will issue to you to confirm our recommendation(s). Unless confirmed in writing, to the contrary, we will assume that you do not wish to place any restrictions on the advice we give you.

**BEST EXECUTION POLICY**

It is in the interests of our clients and Optimum Independent Financial Advisers that we obtain the best possible result when placing orders with other firms (e.g. third party brokers) for the execution of client orders or when transmitting orders on behalf of clients for particular investments; e.g. shares. We are required under the Rules of the Financial Conduct Authority to take all reasonable steps to provide 'best execution' when carrying out such transactions.

Where we place or transmit orders for such investments on behalf of our clients, we may utilise the services of a third party broker and base our decision to place or transmit an order on the price and cost of execution of the order. For orders in collective investment schemes (e.g. unit trust), however, the price of units or shares in the scheme is normally set by the scheme operator or manager and as such we have little influence over the price available.

Full details of our best execution arrangements are provided in our Best Execution Policy, a copy of which can be provided on request.

**MODE OF COMMUNICATION**

We will enter into communication with you through whatever means are convenient to you and us, including face-to-face, telephone, e-mail and other acceptable electronic communication methods.

**DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT**

Please refer to the separate Data Protection Statement that we have issued to you that sets out how we collect and use data about you.

**CLIENTS CONSENT**

This is our standard client agreement upon which we intend to rely. For your own benefit and protection you should read the terms carefully before signing, as by signing you consent to the terms contained within. If there are any terms within this agreement that you do not understand, please ask for further information. The Client Agreement will come into effect from the date of acceptance of this agreement, which will be confirmed by the date provided in the 'date signed box' below, unless otherwise stated.

Client name \_\_\_\_\_

Client signature \_\_\_\_\_

Client name \_\_\_\_\_

Client signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date signed \_\_\_\_\_