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|  | **Alpha Independent Financial Planning Ltd**  **Planning Ltd, 1st & 2nd Floor, 80 High Street, Yarm TS15 9AP** | | Telephone: 01642226007  Facsimile: 01642226007  Email: johnmurphy@alphaifp.co.uk |

**Member company details**: - Co. Registered No 5247512 Registered in England

Registered office as above

**Client Agreement**

1. This document sets out the basis on which we will conduct business with you and on your behalf. **It is an important document and we would ask you to read it carefully and if you are unsure of any of its terms please ask.**
2. The terms of this Agreement come into force immediately on acceptance (implied or actual) of its terms by you and will remain in force until cancelled by us or you, or replaced by a later version.
3. **Alpha Independent Financial Planning Limited is authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under number 711124. Alpha Independent Financial Planning Limited (‘the Firm’) has an FCA number of 711124.**

You can check this on the Financial Services Register by visiting [www.fca.org.uk/register/](http://www.fca.org.uk/register/) or by contacting the **FCA at 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HS or telephone 0800 111 6768 (freephone)**

**Whose products do we offer?**

**Investment/Pensions/Savings**

**Which service will we provide you with?**

**Investment/Pension**

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| --- | --- |
| **☑** | **Independent advice** – We will advise and make a recommendation for you after we have assessed your needs. Our recommendation will be based on a comprehensive and fair analysis of the market. |
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| **□** | **Restricted advice** – We will advise and make a recommendation for you after we have assessed your needs, but we only offer advice on limited types of products, or products from one company or a limited number of companies. |
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| **□** | **No advice** - You will not receive advice or a recommendation from us. We may ask some questions to narrow down the selection of products that we will provide details on. You will then need to make your own choice about how to proceed. |

**the Range of our Advice and Financial Planning Objectives**

1. Your adviser is **Independent** and acts on your behalf as your agent. Your Adviser is therefore able to provide unbiased unrestricted advice on retail investment products based on a comprehensive and fair analysis of the market.
2. We are permitted to give advice on retail investments, pensions, mortgages and general insurance and arrange transactions in these products. For retail investment products, this will include not just packaged products, but also structured products, all investment trusts and any other investments that offers exposure to underlying assets, but in a packaged form which modifies that exposure compared with direct holding in the financial asset.
3. In order to provide you with personal financial advice and recommendations suitable for your particular circumstances we will undertake a ‘fact find’ to gather the appropriate information to assess your needs. We will then be able to set out clearly your financial planning objectives based on your stated objectives, acceptable level of risk and any restrictions you wish to place on the type of policies you are willing to consider. Details of your stated objectives will be set out in a Suitability Report we will issue to you to confirm our recommendation. 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.
4. You hereby acknowledge that in the event of the firm assisting you in the completion of any investment or insurance application or policy proposal forms that you will in any event continue to bear full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information entered on such forms. Therefore you understand that inclusion of incorrect information or omission of any material facts may result in the insurance, investment or policy to which the application or proposal relates to being adversely adjusted, made void and/or any claim(s) made against it being refused.

The advice we give you will be based on the information you have given us and your stated investment objectives including the degree of risk you will accept. It is your responsibility to advise us on any changes.

1. We will forward to you all documents showing ownership of your investments/contracts as soon as practicable after we receive them. All such documents may be sent by post and this would be at your risk.
2. We will outline from the outset whether our advice will cover your entire financial planning needs or focus on specific areas giving consideration to any restriction you place on our advice.
3. We require our clients to give us instructions in writing, or we may confirm our understanding in writing (by post or by email) in order to avoid possible disputes. This will usually be in the form of a proposal or application form. We will, however, accept oral instructions in certain instances provided they are subsequently confirmed in writing.
4. Where there is a recommendation for a discretionary service, you may appoint us as your agent for the purposes of procuring and entering into an agreement for a Discretionary Investment Manager (“DIM”) to provide services to you, the Client.

In the event of an unresolved dispute where we have acted as agent on your behalf, you will not have a right to refer the DIM

to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

**Customer Classification**

1. The type of client category will determine the levels of protection afforded to you under the Financial Services and Market Act 2000. The firm proposes to classify you in accordance with FCA rules as a **Retail Client** and the regulatory protection available to you will be the highest available. This agreement is personal to you and not assignable. We may accept instructions from and give information to third parties or your other advisers on your behalf where you have confirmed in writing we may do so. We cannot accept any responsibility for errors in information supplied by such persons. Where you are a trustee, director or officer of any trust, corporation or LLP requiring advice you warrant to us that you have full authority to act on behalf of the same and there are no restrictions on the limits of our advice of which we have not been made aware. We will not be responsible for advising on compliance with your trust, trustee, director or officer obligations.

**The cost of our Services**

1. You will pay for our services by either a fee or a combination of fee and/or fee by payment facilitation through product charging. We will discuss your payment options with you and answer any questions you have. We will not charge you until we have agreed with you how we are to be paid. For payment options relating to investment advice, please refer to paragraph 13. For payment options relating to insurance advice, please refer to paragraph 14. Value added tax may be payable on some or all of the work we do. We will inform you if VAT is applicable.

**Investment advice**

1. When **paying by fee**, you will pay us for our advice and services (whether you buy a product or not) at an amount or a rate agreed before we commence any work. Our fees may include VAT. Where this is the case you will be informed and invoiced accordingly.

Our standard charges are broken down as follows:

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| **Service** | **Adviser Charge** | **Note** |
| Initial meeting to explain what it is we do and to obtain information about you that will allow us to establish if we can assist you and indeed that you want our assistance. | No charge | At the end of the meeting we will agree how you wish to proceed. |
| A financial review report containing a full analysis of your current financial, personal and other circumstances and identification of any shortfalls in your financial plans. | £150 | The value of any implementation fee will be used to offset these fees.  VAT may apply in circumstance. We will tell you if VAT is to be paid. |
| Provision of a detailed specific recommendation or recommendations report on how best to address any shortfalls in your financial plans, and identify the terms of an appropriate financial product. | We charge £150 per hour for this work  A typical recommendation may take four hours which equates to £600 |
| Implementation of any agreed personal recommendations | Charged at 3% of Lump Sum Investments  A minimum charge of £500 applies  For regular premium investments we charge 50 % of 1st years regular premiums, | For investments up to £16,667 the fee will be £500 the minimum.  For investments of £100,000 charged @ 3% = £3,000 initial fee.  E.g. £100 per month contribution x 12 months = £1,200 x agreed fee of 50% = £600 |
| Ongoing review service to monitor your policies and products to make sure that they continue to meet your requirements and needs. | Engaging us to provide you with an ongoing service is OPTIONAL. If you wish to receive an ongoing service there will be an additional charge. Please see the “Payment for ongoing services” section of this document for more details and before making a decision. | |

These fees are indicative only and in any event are subject to review annually on 1st January each year. In cases that we deem to be complex in nature, our fees may be higher than our stated rates. However we will always provide you with a breakdown of our estimated fee and agree this with you prior to undertaking any work.

**13.1** Our fees as a percentage of the funds invested are:

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| --- | --- |
| Amount Invested | % Fee |
| Up to £10,000 | 3 |
| £10,001-£30,000 | 3 |
| £30,001-£100,000 | 3 |
| Above £100,000 | 3 |

For example: A £100,000 investment would cost £3,000.

You may wish to set a fixed amount of fees that cannot be exceeded without further reference to you, in which case please speak with your Adviser. Where charging a fixed fee we will provide you with a fee agreement showing the actual fee that will be payable for the agreed service being provided. Where charging an hourly rate we will provide a letter of engagement to indicate how much we might charge in total.

**You’re Payment Options**

**Settling your adviser charge through a single payment**

You will be required to settle the payment of our fees on completion of our work payable by yourself or the investment/pension. We accept cheques only payable to Alpha IFP Ltd. We do not accept payment by cash.

**Settling your adviser charge by instalments**

**Paying by instalments through your recommended product**

If you buy a financial product, you can choose to have your adviser charge deducted from the product through instalments. Although you pay nothing to us up front, that does not mean that our service is free. You still pay us indirectly through deductions from the amount you pay into your product. These deductions will pay towards settling the adviser charge. These deductions could reduce the amount left for investment.

**Settling your adviser charge by instalments**

In the case of regular premium products, you may have the option of paying our adviser charge over an agreed period of time but within 12 months of our advice. We will agree with you the amount and timescale of payment that is best for you. The instalments only cover the adviser charge, and will not cover the cost of any ongoing service, which will be agreed with you separately.

1. **Paying by instalments through your recommended product**

Some regular premium product providers will accept your specific instruction to pay our adviser charge from the product you have purchased. They will require you to instruct them of the amount to be paid for each instalment and the number of instalments to be made.

While this option means that you will not pay us up front, it does not mean that you are not paying us. Our adviser charge will be paid indirectly through the product deductions. These deductions could reduce the amount left for investment.

1. **Paying by other arrangements**

We can facilitate payment by instalments through a direct debit or standing order agreement.

**Keeping up with your payments**

If you fail to keep up repayments of the adviser charge we will terminate our relationship.

**13.2** You may elect that we are remunerated **by fees and offset fees (paid by a product provider)** the actual amounts will depend on the service provided to you but will be in line with the arrangements set out above in section 13 headed “**investment advice**”.

The fee will not exceed the rates shown in this document. We will agree the rate we will charge before beginning work and we will tell you if you have to pay VAT. The fee will become payable on completion of our work. You may ask us for an estimate of how much in total we might charge. You may also ask us not to exceed a given amount without checking with you first.

**Pure Protection Products**

**13.3** If you buy a protection product you may elect that we are remunerated **by commission**. The commission is paid directly by the provider. Although you pay nothing up front that does not mean our service is free. The commission paid to us forms part of a ‘product charge’ which you pay when you purchase the product. Product charges pay for the product provider’s own costs and any commission payable to third parties.

You may elect that we arrange for the protection premium to be discounted by the commission that otherwise might have been payable under the policy recommended. In this instance you will need to pay a fee appropriate to cover our advice and work, in accordance with paragraph 13.1 above.

The amount of commission we receive will vary depending on the type of policy and (sometimes) the term of the policy or your age, as in the following example:

If you were to pay £13.04 per month towards a Life with Critical Illness policy we may receive commission of 0.004% of the sum assured £72,000, and a roughly £3.96 every month after 4 year of the cover being in force.

**Payment for Ongoing Services**

**13.4**

1. Any ongoing service is optional.
2. We provide two levels of ongoing service. Where you request and we agree to provide an ongoing service to you there will be an additional charge for this. We will confirm the rate, frequency and length of this ongoing service before it starts.

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| **Service Level** | **Payment Direct from Client or paid through product funds** | **Minimum payment** | **Notes on payment though product funds** |
| **Financial Advice** | 1% of investable assets on which the ongoing service is being provided | £150 per year | For investable assets up to £15,000 the fee would be  £150 (the minimum)  For investable assets of £100,000 the fee would be £1000 |
| **Financial Planning** | 0.75% of investable assets on which the ongoing service is being provided | £300 per year | For investable assets up to £40,000 the fee would be  £300 (the minimum)  For investable assets of £100,000 the fee would be £750 |

1. Please note that if you pay for ongoing services on a percentage basis, that the amount we receive may increase as the fund value increases and conversely reduce if the fund value falls.
2. The ongoing service charge can be paid by way of a deduction from your investments or by direct payment from you under a bank transfer, direct debit or standing order as a single payment or instalments. Any payments will be payable in advance of us providing the review service in each period.
3. An ongoing service can be cancelled by either party by providing 30 days written notice of cancellation. This will be subject to the delivery of any outstanding items by us, and any settlement of monies due for the ongoing service by you.
4. Please note that VAT may apply to our ongoing service fees. We will tell you if VAT is to be paid.

**General Insurance**

1. For general insurance advice we do not charge a fee. We will receive commission from the insurance provider.
2. We may also receive commission or other form of benefit from working with the issuer of a security, a product provider or from another intermediary. We will inform you before the transaction if we are likely to receive such commission or form of benefit from recommending any product to you.
3. In respect of any regular premium policy which we may recommend, should you subsequently cease to pay premiums on the policy and as a result of your cancellation we are obliged to refund product charges or other commission that has been paid to us we reserve the right to charge you a fee representing the amount we have to repay, for a period of up to four years after commencement of the policy. We will not charge such fee if you exercise your right to cancel in accordance with the cancellation notice sent to you by the product provider.

**Client Money**

1. For your additional security **we do not handle client’s money**. We never accept a cheque made out to us (unless it is a cheque in settlement of our fees or other charges or disbursements for which we have sent you an invoice). We do not handle cash. Cheques for payment will be required to be paid direct to the insurance provider.

**Accounting to You**

1. We will make arrangements for all your investments/contracts to be registered in your name unless you first instruct us otherwise in writing. You have a right to inspect copies of contract notes and entries in our records in relation to transactions on your behalf. In that request we reserve the right to give you copies of such documents rather than access to the original records.

We will forward to you all documents showing ownership of your policies 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.

**Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)**

1. We subscribe to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). You may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if we cannot meet our obligations. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. You will find up-to-date details of the FSCS’s compensation limits, eligibility and details of how to make a claim on its website [www.fscs.org.uk](http://www.fscs.org.uk)., the limits are:-

**Investment**

Most types of investment business are covered for 100% of the first £50,000.

**Insurance**

Insurance advising and arranging is covered for 90% of the claim with no upper limit.

Further information about compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS.

**Complaints**

1. If you should have any complaint about the advice you receive or a product you have bought please write or call the **Compliance Director at Alpha IFP Ltd, 2 Kings Road, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, TS3 6NF, 01642226007**

If following our subsequent investigation and response you are still not satisfied you may contact the Financial Ombudsman Service ([www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk](http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk); South Quay Plaza, 183 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SR). Full details are contained within our internal complaints procedure, which is available to you on request at any time.

**Cancellation Rights**

1. The cancellation rights for each individual policy you have been advised on will be explained to you in your suitability report which we will give you before or at the time you confirm or carry out the transaction. Where the provider is already in receipt of the investment proceeds and cancellation is requested within the cancellation period we will instruct the provider to refund the proceeds net/gross of the adviser charging agreed.

**Material Interests**

1. We are not connected to any product provider, but occasions can arise where we, or one of our other customers, will have some form of interest in business, which we are transacting for you. If this happens, or we become aware that our interests or those of one of our other customers conflict with your interests, we will inform you in writing and obtain your consent before we carry out your instructions. There may be occasions when we will be unable to act for one of the parties.
2. As a consequence of such potential conflicts arising, we have put arrangements in place to ensure our clients are treated fairly. We have also implemented a conflicts of interest policy to help us manage such risks, which you may access on request.

**Risk Warnings**

1. Relevant risk warnings will be advised to you throughout the financial planning process and in your suitability report.

**The value of investments may go down as well as up, and you may not get back the amount invested.** Levels of income from investments may fluctuate. We cannot be held liable for any depreciation in the value of investments arranged for you. Non-readily realisable investments will generally have a restricted market, and therefore it may be difficult to deal in that investment or to obtain reliable information about its value.

**For insurance products, your insurance policy may lapse if you do not keep up to date with regular premium payments and you may not be covered if a claim is made.**

**Termination of Authority**

1. You or we may terminate our authority and/or this agreement 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 transactions already initiated which will be completed according to this client agreement unless otherwise agreed in writing. You will be liable to pay for any transactions made prior to termination and any fees which may be outstanding.

**Anti Money Laundering**

1. We are required to verify your identity in accordance with the Criminal Finances Act 2017 and the Sanctions and Money Laundering Act 2018. We reserve the right to approach third parties and to delay any applications until adequate verification of identity has been obtained.

**Governing Law & Jurisdiction**

1. **LIABILITY**

You agree to indemnify us in relation to any acts, proceedings or claims which we incur directly or indirectly as a result of our acting under this agreement save that this indemnity shall not apply to the extent it arises out of our negligence, fraud, breach of this agreement or our regulatory responsibilities.

1. We reserve the right to amend this agreement at our discretion where changes in regulation or law necessitate by giving you notice in writing. You will also be given the option to accept our new agreements or terminate our authority. This agreement shall be governed by and construed according to English law. Any disputes shall be determined in the jurisdiction of the English Courts.
2. Where a formal written notice is required by this agreement then it shall be in writing (not email unless agreed in advance by the parties) and sent by first class post and deemed effective two business days after posting.

**Client’s Consent**

1. **This is our client agreement upon which we intend to rely. For your own benefit and protection you should read these terms carefully before signing them. If you do not understand any point please ask for further information.**

I/We understand and consent to the terms of this client agreement and I/We hereby authorise the transfer of information, as described above, on a confidential basis when warranted between such third parties.

I/We authorise you to liaise with My/Our other professional advisers in exchanging relevant personal information pertinent to my/our financial planning requirements and to rely on any such information provided.

I/We agree that this Client Agreement will come into effect from the date below.

 Please tick this box if you do not wish for us or any company associated with us to contact you for marketing purposes by e-mail, telephone, post or SMS.

Client Name(s) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

Client signature(s) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

Date .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

Signed for and on behalf of the firm:

Adviser .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

Signature .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

Date of issue .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. ..

**DATA PROTECTION & ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING**

1. We are registered under the Data Protection Act 2018 .
2. The Data we collect is subject to active consent by you and you can revoke this consent at any time.
3. By signing below this section, you are explicitly consenting that we keep personal and financial information relating to your circumstances on file (electronic and/or paper based) as required to be able to advise you as to your financial planning needs.
4. Any Data you consent to us handling or processing is governed in accordance with our Data Protection Policy, which is attached.
5. Where business services are provided to us by third parties then circumstances may arise which warrant the disclosure of more than just your basic contact details. On these occasions, such as processing business, and obtaining compliance and regulatory advice you agree that personal information held by us may be disclosed on a confidential basis, and in accordance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), to such third parties. You agree that this information may be transferred electronically, (e.g. e-mail). You also agree that we or any such third party may contact you in future by any means of communication which we or they consider appropriate at the time.
6. We are required to verify your identity in accordance with the Criminal Finances Act 2017 and the Sanctions and Money Laundering Act 2018. We reserve the right to approach third parties and to delay any applications until adequate verification of identity has been obtained.
7. You agree to us recording telephone calls for your security and to avoid misunderstanding
8. Under Data Protection Regulations you have a right to obtain a copy of the personal information that we hold about you. We are obliged by law to provide this information in a structured format within 30 days of your requesting it without charge.
9. If you believe that any information held is incorrect or incomplete, you should contact us at our usual address. Any information that is found to be incorrect or incomplete will be amended within one month (this can be extended by an additional two months where the request for rectification is complex).
10. Personal data will be retained no longer than is necessary for the purpose obtained for. We keep records of our business transactions with you for at least six years.

I/We hereby consent to the transfer of information, as described above, on a confidential basis when warranted between such third parties.

I/We authorise you to liaise with My/Our other professional advisers in exchanging relevant personal information pertinent to my/our financial planning requirements and to rely on any such information provided.

**By signing below, you are consenting to us retaining your data for the purposes outlined above.**

**Signature**

□ Please tick this box if you give consent for us or any company associated with us to contact you for marketing purposes by e-mail, telephone, post or SMS.