



COUNTRYWIDE
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Important Information About Our Services

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Email: financial@countrywidelfa.co.uk

Website: www.countrywidelfa.co.uk

Address: 19a Clifton Street, Lytham, FY8 5EP

Welcome to Countrywide Financial Solutions LTD

Who are we and what do we do?

We are a firm of independent financial advisers and have been helping our clients to meet their financial goals for over 20 years. As Financial Planners we believe in establishing and maintaining long term relationships so we can navigate our clients through their financial journey.

Through an holistic approach to financial planning the aim is to help clients achieve their financial goals and guide them through the complex issues of tax planning strategies, investing money providing for retirement and providing financial security in a straight forward understandable format.

Our financial advisers believe that the client's financial objectives should be reviewed regularly to ensure the plan is on track and adapting to changes in the circumstances that inevitably occur throughout life.

We are an appointed representative of TenetConnect Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA is the independent regulator of financial services in the United Kingdom. TenetConnect Limited is entered on the Financial Services Register (www.fca.org.uk/register) under reference **149826**.

Who is TenetConnect Limited?

TenetConnect Limited is wholly owned by Tenet Limited, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tenet Group Limited ('TGL'), a leading distributor of financial products and services in the UK. TGL is majority owned by the following corporate shareholders; AEGON UK Distribution Holdings Ltd (22%), Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited (23%), Friends Life Limited (24%) and Standard Life PLC (25%). Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited and Friends Life Limited are both companies within the Aviva plc group.

Their address is: TenetConnect Limited, 5 Lister Hill, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5AZ. Tel: 01132 390011.

To find out more about TenetConnect Limited and the support and backing they provide us with, please visit their website www.tenetgroup.co.uk/consumer

What can we do for you?

Our mainstream service is to act on your behalf for the purpose of arranging and advising on the following:

- **Investments & Pensions, for example an ISA or Personal Pension Plan;**
- **Personal & Family Protection, for example a Life Assurance or Critical Illness Plan;**
- **Mortgages, including Buy-to Let;**
- **Releasing equity from your home (Equity Release);**
- **General Insurance, for example Buildings, Contents or Private Medical.**

For all the services described above we will complete a detailed fact find so we can understand your circumstances, specific needs and objectives. Following our research we will provide a personal recommendation(s) for you to consider. With your agreement we will then implement our recommendation(s) and arrange any products on your behalf.

Once your financial plans are in place it is important to keep them under review. Subject to the type of services you require from us, we can continue to act on your behalf through one of our service packages. Alternatively, for

those who prefer a more transactional or ad-hoc 'pay as you go' service, we are also happy to provide our services as and when you need them. Ultimately, whichever type or level of service you require from us we will act in your best interests at all times.

Further details about these and other related services we provide are contained in the pages below. This also confirms the typical cost of our services and how we get paid for them.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Before you consider our services in more detail we would like to draw your attention to the following important information:

When we have discussed and agreed with you the services that we are to provide we will confirm this to you in a Client Agreement. This will describe the scope and specific services to be provided including any on-going services, the cost and how it can be paid for. It will also confirm how we use and store personal information that we collect from you in the course of providing our services. A copy of our standard Client Agreement is available on request.

From time to time it may be necessary for us to collect personal information from you, prior to concluding a written Client Agreement, to assess whether we are able to meet your needs. In this event we will clearly identify the data to be collected and will use it only for the purpose of assessing our ability to provide services to you.

Under the terms of Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulations we will classify you as a retail client for investment and pensions business. As a retail client you have the right to request re-classification as an elective professional client. This may be generally or in respect of a particular service, type of transaction or product, and is subject to the following:

- All requests for re-classification must be made in writing;
- We will consider such requests on a case by case basis against the criteria set out in FCA rules.
- We will confirm the scope of any re-categorisation along with the consumer protections you will lose as a result.
- You must keep us informed of any change to your circumstances that could affect your classification

We will not advise you if you are experiencing difficulties managing debts. Free help and advice about managing your debts is available by contacting the Money Advice Service via its website:

www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/where-to-go-to-get-free-debt-advice

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INVESTMENT & PENSION SERVICES

We offer a range of services to help you meet your investment and retirement objectives. We provide independent advice, which means that our recommendations to you will be unbiased, unrestricted and based on a comprehensive and fair analysis of the market. The amount we charge and the basis of the payment will depend on the service you choose and your individual circumstances.

We will discuss your payment options with you and answer any questions that you may have. We will let you know if you have to pay VAT on the cost of our service.

It is possible that other costs, including taxes related to the business we conduct and products we arrange for you, may arise. These costs will not be paid by our firm but borne by you.

We may recommend investments in the IFSL Sinfonia Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC). This investment company has been jointly developed between BNP Paribas and Sinfonia Asset Management Limited, a subsidiary of Tenet Group Limited.

We may recommend that you hold and trade your investments via Tenet Platform Solutions, a subsidiary of Tenet Group Limited.

We may also recommend products or services related to your investment and pension needs which are not regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. For example, cash ISAs, National Savings & Investment Products (NS & I) or Inheritance Tax Planning (IHT). A description of our initial and ongoing services, their associated costs and payment terms, is provided below.

What can you expect to pay for our investment and pension advice?

Our typical fees for advice and arranging an investment or pension on your behalf are set out below. Where hourly rates are stated, these are the actual hourly rates that will apply. There is an additional charge should you purchase one of our on-going service packages. The typical cost of our ongoing services and what they include is also set out below. You can cancel our on-going services at any time.

Service	Initial Charge	Ongoing charge for periodic reviews and servicing work
A holistic review of your existing protection, pension and investment plans summarised in a financial report. This would involve reviewing the suitability of your existing plans, including charges and whether the plan matches your current requirements.	Our typical fee will be £2,000 (exc. VAT). If this report recommends making changes to your investments or pension arrangements, any fees charged from the sections shown below will be offset against this report fee. In addition there may be additional charges for a Transfer Value Analysis report, which is required for final salary pension plans and these cost £240 per plan.	N/A
Advice on using your Pension funds to purchase an income at retirement (your retirement income options).	<p>Guaranteed Annuity – 1.5% of the amount used to buy the annuity if you go ahead with our recommendations. For example, if the purchase price is £50,000 your adviser charge would be £750 (exc. VAT).</p> <p>Enhanced Guaranteed Annuity – 2% of the amount used to buy the annuity if you go ahead with our recommendations. For example, if the purchase price is £50,000 your adviser charge would be £1,000 (exc. VAT).</p> <p>Investment Linked Flexible Annuity – 2% of the amount used to buy the annuity if you go ahead with our recommendations. For example, if the purchase price is £100,000 your adviser charge would be £2,000 (exc. VAT).</p> <p>Capped and Flexible Drawdown –3% of the amount you invest if you go ahead with our recommendations. For example if you invest £150,000 your adviser charge would be £4,500 (exc. VAT).</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Service available for 0.5% of your annuity investment fund per year: service provided once per year. For example, if your investment is worth £100,000 your adviser charge would be £500 (exc. VAT).</p> <p>For on-going service and to provide regular reviews advice and implementation of fund switches and changes to asset allocation we will charge 1% of your investment per year.</p> <p>For example , if your investment is worth £100,000 your Adviser Charge would be £1,000 (exc. VAT).</p>

<p>Where to put your savings / investments / pension investment.</p>	<p>3% of the first £250,000 you invest plus 2% of the next £250,000 you invest plus 1% of the balance you invest, if you go ahead with our recommendations.</p> <p>For example if you invest £50,000 your adviser charge would be £1,500 (exc. VAT).</p> <p>If you invest £300,000 your adviser charge would be £8,500 (exc. VAT). (7500 + 1000)</p> <p>If you invest £600,000 your adviser charge would be £13,500 (exc. VAT). (7500+5000+1000)</p>	<p>For on-going service and to provide regular reviews advice and implementation of fund switches and changes to asset allocation we will charge 1% of your investment per year.</p> <p>For example , if your investment is worth £100,000 your Adviser Charge would be £1,000 (exc. VAT).</p>
<p>Where to save your money on a regular basis .</p>	<p>30% of the first years premium if you go ahead with our recommendations.</p> <p>For example if you invest £300 per month (£3,600 per annum) your adviser charge would be £1,080 (exc. VAT).</p>	<p>For on-going service and to provide regular reviews advice and implementation of fund switches and changes to asset allocation we will charge 1% of your investment per year.</p> <p>For example , if your investment is worth £10,000 your adviser charge would be £100 (exc. VAT).</p>

What are your payment options?

- We accept direct payment by cheque, debit card, or bank transfer.
- We do not accept cash or credit cards.
- We will tell you if it is possible to settle our fees through a deduction from your investment/pension.
- For new investments and pension plans funded by regular contributions only, you can choose to pay our fees by instalments.
- We will allow you to settle our fee in up to 12 monthly instalments over a maximum term of 12 months.
- If you choose this option we will not provide you with any further services until all the instalments have been paid in full.
- If you choose to pay instalments as a deduction from your investment/pension, although you pay us nothing up front this does not mean our service is free. You are still paying us indirectly through deductions from the amount you pay into the product.
- These deductions will go towards settling our fee and will reduce the amount left for investment. An example of how this payment plan works in practice is set out below.

Example

You choose to accept our recommendation to invest **£300 per month** into an investment product. Our fee for advice and arranging this on your behalf is **£1080**. You choose to settle our fee in 4 equal monthly instalments deducted from your first 4 monthly contributions to the product, as follows:

Investment Frequency	Contribution Amount	Fee Deduction	Amount Invested
Month 1	£300	£270	£30
Month 2	£300	£270	£30
Month 3	£300	£270	£30
Month 4	£300	£270	£30

Month 5+	£300	N/A	£300
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- You can also choose to pay the fee instalments due to us directly from your bank account by standing order. For example a fee of **£540** paid over 4 months would mean 4 monthly instalments of **£135** are collected from your bank account. Standing orders are normally collected on or around the **15th** day of the month.
- Please note that if you cancel your investment or pension product before our fee is settled in full, including cancellation during a statutory cooling off period, you will need to make alternative arrangements to pay our fee.**

Other benefits we may receive

If we take over the servicing rights of your existing arrangements that were arranged by another firm, we may be entitled to receive an on-going payment as a result. This is commonly referred to as 'trail commission'. Where this is the case we will offset the amounts received against our on-going service fees. For example, if our on-going service fee is **£500** and we receive **£200** trail commission from existing arrangements retained as part of your portfolio, the net fee due to us would be **£300 (exc. VAT)**.

Some of the firms whose products we recommend provide us with access to training and software which allows us to offer you a better service. Some of the costs of these benefits may be passed onto you as part of the total charges you pay, should you choose to purchase a product from one of these firms. Further information regarding these arrangements is available on request.

Other Specialist Services

As part of the TenetConnect Limited Network of Financial Advisers we have access to support services and specialist expertise you would normally expect from a large organisation. Where it is in your best interest we may offer to refer you to another firm within the same Network for specialist services.

With your permission, the other firm may carry out research on our behalf or alternatively advise you directly. The total cost of this service, including our fees for any preparatory work the other firm relies on, will be no higher than our standard tariff of fees and charges stated above.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MORTGAGE SERVICES

Whose products do we offer?

We offer a comprehensive range of mortgage products from across the market. We offer both first and second charge mortgages, but not deals that you can only obtain by going direct to a lender.

For those seeking to increase their existing borrowing, alternative finance options may be available and more appropriate for your needs. For example, a further advance from your existing lender or an unsecured loan (e.g. a personal loan).

How much will you have to pay for our mortgage services?

A typical fee of £295 is payable for mortgage advice. The fee will be determined by the amount of work required to process your mortgage application. Our fee becomes payable when we provide you with our recommendation(s). If you choose to proceed with our recommendation and the mortgage goes ahead, we will also be paid commission from the lender for arranging the mortgage on your behalf.

The amount of commission we receive varies from lender to lender. Information about the range of commissions available to us from the mortgage products we recommend is available on request.

You will receive a personalised illustration when considering a particular mortgage. This will highlight the key facts about the mortgage product, including any fees relating to it and the amount of any commission due to us from the mortgage lender.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR INSURANCE SERVICES

Personal and Family Protection

We offer products from a range of insurers for Life Assurance, Critical Illness Cover, and Income Protection Insurance.

General Insurance

We offer products from a range of insurers for Buildings & Contents, Accident Sickness & Unemployment and Private Medical Insurance.

How much will you have to pay for insurance services?

Typically we will not charge you a fee for advice and arranging an insurance product. We will receive commission from the insurer and this is reflected in the premium amount you pay to them. The amount of commission we receive will vary depending on the type of contract, term of the cover and the premium amount.

We will tell you how much commission we expect to receive before we transact business for you. You will receive a quotation, which will tell you about any other fees relating to any particular insurance policy we arrange for you.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EQUITY RELEASE SERVICES

Whose products do we offer?

Equity release products are either lifetime mortgages or home reversion plans. We offer a comprehensive range of equity release products from across the market but not deal's that you can only obtain by going direct to a product provider.

How much will you have to pay for our equity release services?

A typical fee of £590 payable at the outset for a lifetime mortgage or home reversion plan. Our fee becomes payable when we provide you with our recommendation(s). If you choose to proceed with our recommendation and the mortgage goes ahead, we will also be paid commission from the lender for arranging the mortgage on your behalf.

The amount of commission we receive varies from lender to lender. Information about the range of commissions available to us from the mortgage products we recommend is available on request.

You will receive a personalised illustration when considering a particular mortgage. This will highlight the key facts about the mortgage product, including any fees relating to it and the amount of any commission due to us from the mortgage lender.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR OTHER RELATED SERVICES

Non-Advised Services

We will tell you how we get paid and the amount before we carry out any business for you.

Credit Broking

We are also credit brokers. This means that if you require a loan other than a mortgage (for example, a personal loan), we can refer you to a specialist third party who can discuss your specific needs with you. We will not advise you on this type of borrowing and you will need to make up your own mind whether to go ahead or not.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT?

If you are unhappy with the service you have received or a product we have arranged on your behalf, a copy of our complaints procedure, which sets out how we will handle your complaint, is available upon request.

If you would like to make a complaint please contact us either in writing to:

Complaints, TenetLime Limited, 5 Lister Hill, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5AZ; or by e-mail:

complaints@tenetgroup.co.uk; or by telephone: **0113 2390011**.



If we are unable to settle your complaint or you are unhappy with our response, you may be able to refer it to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

Further information about the FOS is available from their website: www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk or by

calling them on

ARE WE COVERED BY THE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPENSATION SCHEME?

0800 0234567



Yes, we are covered by the FSCS. You may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if we are unable to meet our obligations. This will depend on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. The FSCS only pays compensation for financial loss and the limits are per person per firm, and per claim category, as listed below:

Investments:

Arranging and advising on most types of investment (e.g. an ISA) is covered up to a maximum limit of £50,000 per person per firm.

Long Term Insurance Contracts:

Arranging and advising on long term insurance contracts (e.g. a life insurance or critical illness policy) is covered for 100% of the claim without upper limit.

General Insurance Contracts:

Arranging and advising on compulsory classes of insurance (e.g. employers liability), professional indemnity insurance, and general insurance contracts that pay out on death or incapacity due to injury, sickness, or infirmity (e.g. an accident & sickness policy) is covered for 100% of the claim without upper limit.

Arranging and advising on other types of general insurance contracts (e.g. Building and Contents) is covered for 90% of the claim without upper limit.

Mortgages & Equity Release Products:

Arranging and advising on mortgages and equity release products is covered up to a maximum limit of £50,000 per person per firm.

Further information about the FSCS is available from their website: www.fscs.org.uk