



For customers

Aegon Retirement Choices – charges

Aegon Retirement Choices (ARC) is designed with you in mind. When it comes to charges, that means being clear on how much you'll be charged and why.

This guide covers the charges that could apply to your investment with us. We may vary these charges in the future. In most circumstances we'll write to you explaining how this impacts you.

The charges and calculations shown throughout this guide are our current standard charges and calculation methods for individual investors only. Your own charges may vary from those detailed. To find out the charges that apply specifically to you please see your personal illustration. Once a year, we'll send you details of the costs and charges you've paid in the last 12 months.

If you've already taken out an ARC account, you can view your personal illustration by logging into your online account and viewing it in the document library. If you've not yet taken out an ARC account, your financial adviser will be able to explain the charges to you.

If you've invested in ARC through your workplace pension scheme, different charges may apply. Please view these on our website www.aegon.co.uk/workplace-arc-charges

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ARC charges

Annual charge

Your annual charge is to pay for the administration of your ARC account.

Within your ARC account, you can hold different types of products. These are:

- Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP);
- Individual Savings Account (ISA), and
- General Investment Account (GIA).

When calculating the annual charge, we look at the value of all your products.

How much is the annual charge?

The table below details the charge. The charge is based **on the total value of your ARC account** and how much of that value falls into the different charging bands.

Charging band	ARC account value	Annual charge
1	First £29,999.99	0.60%
2	Next £20,000 (£30,000 to £49,999.99)	0.55%
3	Next £50,000 (£50,000 to £99,999.99)	0.50%
4	Next £150,000 (£100,000 to £249,999.99)	0.45%
5	£250,000 and over	0.00%

As you can see from the table above, we only take a charge on the first £250,000 of your ARC account value. Based on the charging bands in the table above, as long as you've no Secure Retirement Income investments, you'll never pay a total yearly charge of more than £1,215 a year. You can read more about how Secure Retirement Income impacts on the annual charge in our [Secure Retirement Income – charges](#) guide.

How often is the charge taken?

Even though it's an annual charge, we take the charge each month throughout the year. It's taken on or around the first business day of the month.

How do we calculate the annual charge?

On the first business day of the month, we'll look at the value of your ARC account on the last business day of the previous month. We'll then apply the percentages shown in the table on the previous page.

It's important to note that this charge will change month to month depending on the value of your ARC account.

The example below shows how the charges are calculated.

Let's assume the total value of your ARC account is £300,000 (£225,000 in a SIPP and £75,000 in an ISA) – this will take you over the five bands shown in the table on the previous page. We look at the charge from each band and use this total to work out the overall percentage charge we apply to your ARC account.

So the charge would be:

Charging band	ARC account value	Annual percentage charge	Value of account falling into band	Calculated yearly charge
1	First £29,999.99	0.60%	£29,999.99	£180
2	Next £20,000 (£30,000 to £49,999.99)	0.55%	£20,000	£110
3	Next £50,000 (£50,000 to £99,999.99)	0.50%	£50,000	£250
4	Next £150,000 (£100,000 to £249,999.99)	0.45%	£150,000	£675
5	£250,000 and over	0.00%	£50,000.01	£0
Total			£300,000	£1,215

So as you can see in the table above the total charge is £1,215 which means we'd apply an overall charge of 0.405% to your ARC account ($£1,215/£300,000 \times 100 = 0.405\%$).

We apply this percentage to each of the products you hold within your ARC account and divide by 12 to calculate the monthly charge. In this example this would mean:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{£225,000} \\
 \text{SIPP value}
 \end{array}
 \times
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{0.405\%} \\
 \text{Annual} \\
 \text{percentage} \\
 \text{charge}
 \end{array}
 \div
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{12} \\
 \text{months}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{£75.94} \\
 \text{SIPP monthly charge}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{£75,000} \\
 \text{ISA value}
 \end{array}
 \times
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{0.405\%} \\
 \text{Annual} \\
 \text{percentage} \\
 \text{charge}
 \end{array}
 \div
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{12} \\
 \text{months}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{£25.31} \\
 \text{ISA monthly charge}
 \end{array}$$

$$\text{Total} = \begin{array}{c} \text{£101.25} \\ \text{Total monthly charge} \end{array}$$

Reducing your annual charge further

You may be able to benefit from a reduction to the annual charge if you have other eligible pension products with us. You may sometimes hear these pension products called 'off-platform assets'.

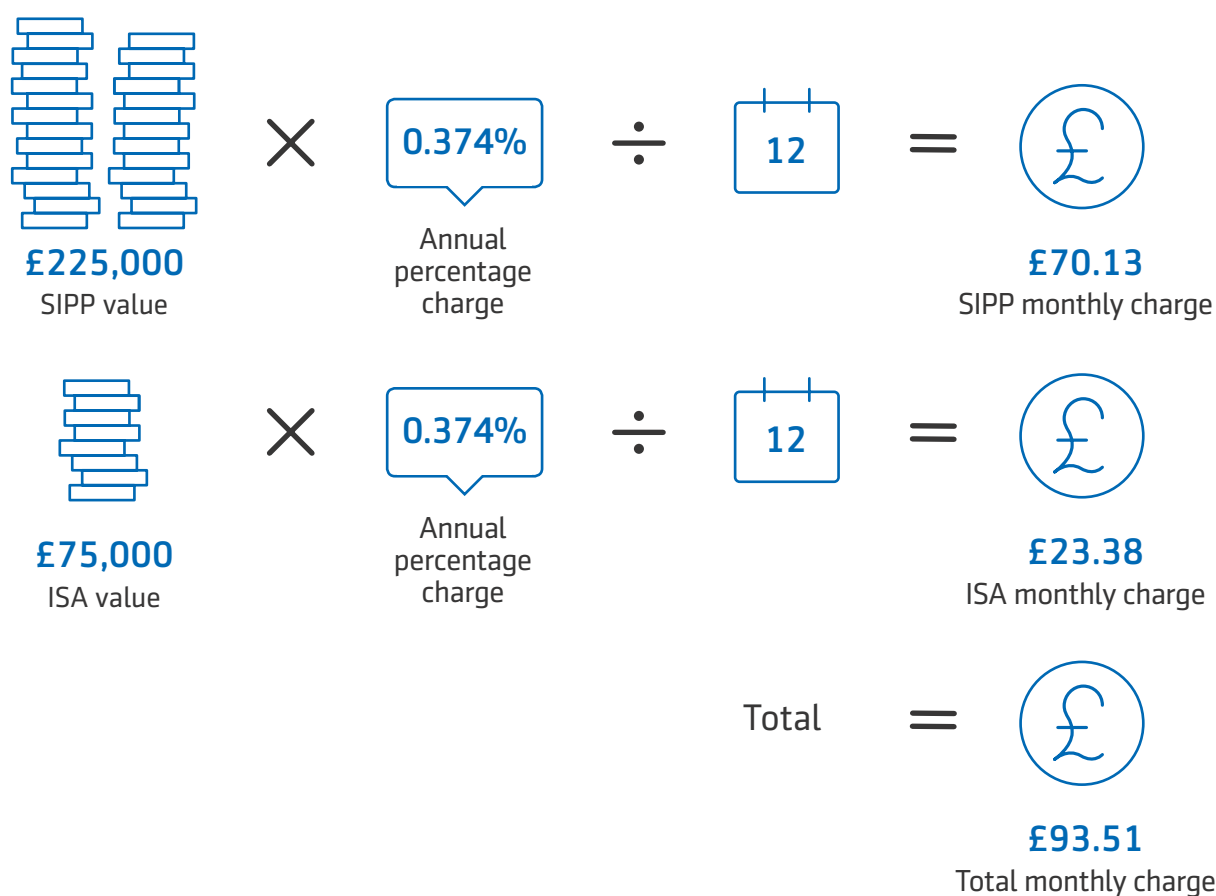
If you do have any other eligible pension products with us, we'll automatically include them when calculating your annual charge. You don't have to let us know about them.

Using the values shown in the earlier example, if you also had another eligible pension product with us with a value of £25,000 the annual charge percentage would reduce from 0.405% to 0.374%.

This is because although the overall yearly charge is still limited to £1,215. In this example, when you divide the £1,215 by the £325,000, including the value of the other eligible pension products, it gives a lower charge in percentage terms of 0.374%.

This doesn't affect any of the charges payable on your other pension products with us. It's only the value of all your pension assets with us that's taken into consideration.

So the charge we'd take from each of the products you hold in your ARC account would now be:



By taking into account other eligible pension products, the monthly ARC account charge has reduced from £101.25 to £93.51.

Your financial adviser will be able to tell you if you have any eligible off-platform pension products with us.

Drawdown fee

It you choose to take an income (either regular or ad hoc) from your SIPP within your ARC account, there's a charge to cover the ongoing administration.

If you only have Secure Retirement Income investment(s) in your ARC account and you're withdrawing the full amount of the guaranteed income payments each month from your ARC account, there won't be a drawdown fee.

How much is the charge?

The drawdown fee is £75.00 per year.

How often is the charge taken?

We'll take this charge the first time you take an income payment and every year after that.

If you don't take any income in the year following your last income payment, there will be no charge.

The charge will become payable the next time you decide to take income.

How do you calculate the charge?

It's a flat rate.

If you have more than one income stream from your ARC account, you'll only pay a single £75.00 charge. The charge will be taken equally across all the drawdown accounts you're taking income from.

Secure Retirement Income charges

If you invest in Secure Retirement Income there are additional charges you will have to pay. You can read about these in our guide [Secure Retirement Income – charges](#).

Gross GIA charges

You may find that some external product providers will charge you for investing in their products.

As these are other providers' charges and not ours, we're unable to provide details of these charges in this guide. Your financial adviser will be able to provide more information on this.

Investment charges

Investment and fund charges

These charges cover the cost of managing your funds or investments and checking they're performing as expected. It's sometimes known as the total expense ratio (TER) or ongoing charges figure (OCF). This charge applies to the following types of investments:

- insured funds;
- collectives;
- investment trusts, and
- exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

How much is the charge?

The charge depends on the investments you and your adviser have selected.

You can find out which investments are available to you and how much they cost on our website www.aegon.co.uk/fund-ranges

How often is the charge taken?

Charges are normally calculated daily and are taken directly from your investments. Some fund managers may have other frequencies.

How is the charge calculated?

The charge is calculated as a percentage of the investments. It's taken directly which means it's already been taken into account when you view the performance of your investments.

For example, if an investment has an annual charge of 0.20% then each day 1/365th of 0.20% (i.e. 0.00055%) would be calculated and taken to cover the investment charge.

Stockbroker fee

A fee will apply to every sale or purchase of:

- equities, and
- investment trusts.

How much is the charge?

The stockbroker fee is £15.00 for each sale or purchase.

How often is the charge taken?

It will apply to any sale or purchase. We'll take it from your cash facility. You can find out how this works on page 9.

Aggregated stockbroker fee

A fee will apply to every sale or purchase of ETFs.

If the amount held in an ETF increases or decreases, either as a result of automatic rebalancing or your financial adviser actively changing this, the charge won't apply. It only applies to new purchases or full sales.

How much is the charge?

The stockbroker fee is £10.00 for each sale or purchase.

How often is the charge taken?

It will apply to any full sale or new purchase. We'll take it from your cash facility. You can find out how this works on page 9.

Other dealing related charges

Stamp duty

Stamp duty will apply to equity and investment trust transactions.

Panel of Takovers and Mergers (PTM) levy

A £1 PTM levy is charged for equity transactions over £10,000. The levy goes to the PTM.

Investment entry and exit charges

Investment entry and exit charges may also apply. Please refer to either your Key Information Document, Key Investor Information Document or fund factsheet for details.

Discretionary fund manager charge

If you decide to use a discretionary fund manager (DFM) to help you with planning your investments, we'll pay a charge to this manager on your behalf.

How much is the charge?

The fees charged by DFMs vary. Your financial adviser will explain how much you're expected to pay.

How often is the charge taken?

We'll take the charge from the cash facility of the product wrapper that you have appointed a DFM for. You can find out how the cash facility works on page 9. The charge is taken monthly.

How do we calculate the charge?

This is a percentage of the value of the assets the DFM is managing on your behalf. It's calculated using the value on the last business day of the month and deducted on or around the first business day of the following month. Your personal illustration will show you more details on this or speak to your financial adviser.

Paying your charges

When we set up your ARC account for you, we'll automatically set up a cash facility for each product you have. The cash facility is where we deduct most of the charges from.

About your cash facility

- A minimum balance of 0.25% of the value of your ARC account must be held in your cash facility.
- It's up to you and your adviser to make sure there's always enough money in the cash facility to meet any charges due.
- Each month we'll check the minimum cash balance in the cash facility of your ARC account. If the amount held in your cash facility falls below 0.15% of the value of your ARC account we'll sell some of your investments, starting with the highest value investment to bring the balance back up to the minimum of 0.25%.
- If there's not enough in your cash facility to pay any charges due, we'll sell some of your investments, starting with the highest value investment.

If you invest in Secure Retirement Income through your ARC account, you can read about how it works with your cash facility in our [Secure Retirement Income – charges](#) guide.

Paying fund charges

Fund and investment charges on the investments you hold are taken by the investment manager and are reflected in the daily price of the investment.

We'll only take investment and fund charges from the cash facility if the investment manager asks us to. Your adviser will be able to tell you if this applies to any of your investments.

Stockbroker fees, dealing charges and DFM charges are taken from the cash facility.

Adviser charges through ARC

You and your financial adviser will agree how much you'll pay for the financial advice you receive. The good news is that we can facilitate these charges (known as adviser charges) through your ARC account if you wish.

If you and your financial adviser agree when you're setting up your ARC account to pay adviser charges, these will be clearly shown on your personal illustration. If you agree to add these at a later date, your financial adviser will provide you with the information to show how these will impact your ARC account.

There are three ways to pay your financial adviser.

- Initial adviser charge
- Ongoing adviser charge
- Ad hoc adviser charge

Initial adviser charge

This can be a percentage of the amount you invest in your ARC account – whether that's a regular contribution, single contribution or transfer payment – or a set monetary amount.

We'll take any initial adviser charge from your cash facility that we spoke about in the [Paying your charges section](#).

Regular contributions

- Initial adviser charge payments are taken monthly and can be made up to a maximum of 36 months.
- If there isn't enough money in your cash facility to meet the payment, we'll automatically sell some investments, starting with the largest value investment.
- We'll take the initial adviser charge after basic-rate tax relief has been applied, where relevant.

For example, if you pay a regular contribution of £160 per month into a SIPP, after basic-rate tax relief (currently 20%) has been applied this brings the amount up to £200 per month. If you agree to pay your financial adviser a 10% initial adviser charge from the regular contributions over 24 months, we'll pay your financial adviser £20 each month from the £200 paid into the cash facility and invest the remaining £180 in your ARC account. So after 24 months we'll have paid your financial adviser the £480 you agreed with them.

Single contributions and transfer payments

- The initial adviser charge is calculated on the amount of your single contribution, after adding basic-rate tax relief (if paid to a SIPP where relevant, or transfer payment). The charge is taken from the cash facility of your product after the single contribution or transfer payment has been added.

For example, if you pay a single contribution payment of £8,000 into a SIPP, after basic-rate tax relief (currently 20%) has been applied this brings the amount to £10,000. If you agree to pay your financial adviser a 3% initial adviser charge, we'll pay your financial adviser £300 (3% of the £10,000) from the £10,000 paid into the cash facility and invest the remaining £9,700 in the investments selected for your ARC account.

- If you take tax-free cash straight away, and you want to pay your financial adviser a percentage of the transfer payment, we'll calculate the initial adviser charge after deducting your tax-free cash (and any other charges we may have to deduct to meet any regulatory requirements).

For example, if you transfer £100,000 into your ARC account and you take 25% tax-free cash (£25,000) this leaves £75,000. If you agree to pay your financial adviser 3% initial adviser charge, we'll pay your financial adviser £2,250 (3% of £75,000) from the £75,000 paid into the cash facility and invest the remaining £72,750 in the investments selected for your ARC account.

Your financial adviser will be able to tell you if any charges are due to be deducted to meet any regulatory requirements.

This information is based on our understanding of current, taxation law and HMRC practice, which may change.

Ongoing adviser charge

If you've agreed with your financial adviser to pay them for ongoing advice and services through payment from your ARC account, this can be done through an ongoing adviser charge.

An ongoing adviser charge can be set up for the products you've agreed to pay your financial adviser a charge on. For example, you might agree to pay a certain level of charge for ongoing advice and services you're receiving on your SIPP and a different charge for advice and services you're receiving on your ISA.

- The ongoing adviser charge can be a percentage of the value of the product or a fixed amount – the frequency of payment is monthly.
- We can facilitate quarterly payments but only where you select to have the ongoing adviser charge as a fixed amount.
- You and your financial adviser should agree the frequency and level of payment. This can be changed in the future.

If you invest in Secure Retirement Income through your ARC account, you can read about how it works with your cash facility in our [Secure Retirement Income – charges](#) guide.

Ad hoc adviser charges

This is a lump-sum payment you can ask us to make to your adviser from your ARC account. We'll make payment as and when we receive a request and there must be enough in the cash facility for this to be paid.



For more information about the charges that apply to ARC,
please speak to your financial adviser.



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