Equitrade Capital
Global Financial Markets

Pension Factsheet
SSAS

Benefits of a Flexible Pension

Greater Investment Choice

Traditional pension providers tend to only offer a limited number of funds for investors to put their savings into. SSAS's enable a much wider range of investment choices.

Government Incentives

The current Government is actively incentivising the public to take an active approach to managing their own pensions. SSAS's provide a vehicle for this.

Flexibility from Investment to Drawing Down

You can now also drawdown your investment once you reach the age of 55 in a variety of ways, allowing for greater control, drawing down funds to live off whilst keeping the remaining pot invested for growth.

SSAS
Small Self administered Scheme

A SSAS is a tax efficient government approved pension scheme. which allows individuals to make their own investment decisions from the full range of investments approved by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). As with all government approved pension schemes a SSAS offers up to 45% tax relief on contributions (dependant on income tax).

Why a SSAS ?

SSASs give their members more flexibility and control over the investment strategy in comparison to more traditional occupational pension schemes. The amount of members within the scheme is normally **limited to 11**, usually the directors or key employees of a company which is considered to be the 'sponsoring employer' for the scheme. The SSAS is then established **under trust** by the 'sponsoring employer' for the benefit of the member's within the scheme. All members' of the scheme become trustees, however membership is at the 'sponsoring employers' discretion and therefore a SSAS is not used as an auto-enrol work place pension. Because a SSAS is a pension scheme defined by it's trustees rather than by an insured financial institution it gives the trustees a **wider degree of freedom** in what they can invest in.

How to Invest in a SSAS

The sponsoring employer pays any pension contributions into a **bank account specifically set up in the names of the trustees.** Funds can also be transferred from previous pension arrangements. Funds are invested into opportunities that the trustees see fit. This is often done with the **aid of an investment adviser.** When a member decides to withdraw money out of the fund, as long as they **meet the government's pension requirements**, they will be able to benefit from applicable pension scheme benefits (currently 25% of the total amount will be tax free).

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SIPP/SSAS Compared

A SSAS is **not registered as a tax relief source**, and therefore any tax exemptions have to be claimed back on a self-assessment form. This means that with a SSAS there is a **three year carry forward scheme** whereby if a member uses less than **£10,000** of their pension allowance in any of the most recent three years, an investor is able to carry over this amount in the current year.

What can I Invest in my SSAS ?

Most SSASs allow you to select from a range of assets and investment options depending on the SASS provider such as Building Societies and Commercial Property.

The Equitrade Capital SASS service allows you to select within your SASS a number of share portfolio investments, depending on your investment objectives and appetite for risk, including: **UK stocks and shares, overseas stocks and shares, UK gilts, Bonds and other fixed income securities and collective schemes.**

Why Choose Equitrade Capital

Your Local Broker for Your Pension

We recognise that your pension is one of your most prized assets and we believe in providing a personal and tailored service from the outset of our relationship with you through to looking after your pension portfolio for the long term.

Your Own Pension Portfolio

Our focus for your pension is to make the most of the financial investments within your savings. Working with you to construct a share portfolio that is created specifically with your investment goals and objectives in mind.

Risk Management for your Pension

It can be a challenge saving for the long term in an ever-changing world. If you opt for our advisory service we endeavour to keep you abreast of market moving events, diversifying and hedging to help shield your share portfolio against future risk.

Access to Research

Gain access to not only our in-house produced research but also our research department, allowing you to request specific company research.

Options at Retirement

Under current rules once a SSAS holder reaches the age of 55 they then have a number of options on how to make the most of their pension pot. **1.) An annuity** is a way to use pension savings to buy a secure income for the life of the annuity holder. **2.)** However this is not always the best way to maximise a pension pot as the annuity holder must accept there will no longer be growth within their pension savings. New rules from the government now allow a pension holder to either **drawdown**, or take **lump sum's** from their pension whilst keeping the remaining pot invested in a SIPP or SSAS. **3.)** The flexibility of a SIPP or SSAS means that a holder could decide to use a **combination of these options**. Using an annuity to cover essential living costs whilst keeping the remainder invested, drawing it down to provide flexible income support.