



HANSARD
WORLDWIDE

Product Brochure



Ascend

Your investment journey



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In good company

With a history spanning over 35 years, we are proud of who we are and excited about where we're going.

As one of only a few providers in our industry to have maintained our original name, identity and focus since our formation, we know how much it means for our clients and their Independent Financial Advisors to invest with a company that can demonstrate the same commitment to them, as they do to us.

Key to our longevity is a focus on putting service at the centre of everything that we do, whether this be through the provision of award-winning technology that enables clients and their Independent Financial Advisors to manage their savings and investments wherever they are in the world, or through the delivery of independently recognised best-in-class, day-to-day service.

“

“Hansard Worldwide Limited benefits from being part of the FTSE-listed Hansard Global plc group.”

What is Ascend?

Ascend is a unit-linked regular contribution insurance contract that allows you to save for a future financial goal but with the flexibility to meet your changing needs. Over a commitment period of between 5 and 25 years, you make regular contributions into your contract with the aim of reaching a contracted total amount.

Contract owners must be aged 75 or younger at the end of the commitment period. For life assurance contracts, the contract owners will also be the lives assured and must be less than 65 years old on the contract start date.

Regular contributions can be made on either a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or yearly basis and you can add extra single contributions at any time to help you reach your financial goal ahead of time.

Contracts are available on either a life assurance or capital redemption basis and can be issued in one of three different currencies: USD, GBP, or EUR.

To help give your savings an extra boost towards your financial goal, we will give you a loyalty bonus of 0.6% p.a. of the value of accumulation units from the start of their allocation, which will increase to 1.0% p.a. from the later of the 10th contract anniversary or the date on which 10 years' worth of contracted contributions have been received.

With Ascend, you have full control and freedom over your investment options. Depending on your financial needs, goals, and experience, you can:

- Create a completely personalised investment strategy by choosing specific Hansard Unit-linked Funds.
- Choose to use a Hansard Deposit Fund as part of your personalised investment strategy or during periods of market turbulence.
- Take withdrawals without penalty.
- Monitor and manage your contract through your Online Account.

Investing with confidence

With Ascend, you have full control and freedom over your investment options and can select any combination to support your financial needs and goals:

- Create a completely personalised investment strategy by choosing specific Hansard Unit-linked Funds which are notionally linked to – and track the performance of – underlying external funds from some of the largest and most reputable asset management companies in the world; and/or
- Choose to use a Hansard Deposit Fund as part of your personalised investment strategy or during periods of market turbulence.

You may amend your investment options at any time using your Online Account as your financial needs, goals, or appetite to investment risk change.

The selection of investment options and their suitability is your responsibility; we cannot provide you with investment advice. Your Independent Financial Advisor can help you select investment options that meet your needs and risk appetite.

In addition to your Independent Financial Advisor, you can appoint an Investment Advisor who can help you manage your investments and if you wish, you can give your Investment Advisor authority to actively manage your investment options for you. Fund factsheets are available for Hansard Unit-linked Funds and Deposit Funds via your Online Account, and our handy Fund Factsheet Guide will help you interpret and understand the information they provide.

One of the key benefits is that the sale and purchase of investment options within a switch takes place simultaneously so you do not need to wait for the sale to complete before instructing the purchase, and therefore you will not suffer from any out-of-market exposure.

REDIRECT

You can direct future contributions into different investment options than those you currently hold – referred to as a 'redirection'. An example of this may be because you have received a lump-sum of money which you want to invest into a specific fund in the future.

A redirection only affects future contributions – your existing investment options will remain unchanged.

SWITCH

Alternatively, you can perform a 'switch' transaction at any time, with no switching charges. A switch allows you to sell all or part of any of your current investment options and to purchase alternative investment options in their place.

For example, you may be approaching retirement and wish to reduce your exposure to equities by switching more of your contract value into cash or fixed income investment options to reduce the volatility risk and potential for losses.



Secure your own and your family's future

You can pass on your wealth to your family smoothly in the event of your death.

Ascend can be set up on either a life assurance or capital redemption basis, whichever is most appropriate for you and your family's needs.

Life Assurance

When we are notified of the death of the first, or sole, life assured, your contract will end, and we'll pay the death benefit to your nominated beneficiaries. For joint contracts, upon the death of the first life assured, we'll pay the death benefit to the surviving life assured.

The standard death benefit is 100.1% of the termination value of the contract.

Capital Redemption

Contracts issued on a capital redemption basis have no lives assured and a fixed term of 99 years. On death of the sole or last remaining contract owner, ownership will pass to your designated beneficiary or personal representatives and the contract continues until for the remainder of the original term, or until it is terminated.



Contributions

You can choose a commitment period of between 5 and 25 years and regular contributions can be made on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis, subject to the minimum amounts below:

	USD / GBP / EUR
Monthly	300
Quarterly	900
Half-yearly	1,800
Yearly	3,600
Additional Single Contribution	300

All contributions have 100% allocation and must be paid in the same currency as your contract. Payments can be made by bank transfer, standing order or credit card.

The bank account used to transfer the contribution will be noted as your nominated bank account. This is the account we'll pay to if you request to take a withdrawal from your contract.

Contributions are allocated to initial units for the duration of the initial period, after which, contributions will be allocated to accumulation units.

The length of the commitment period defines the total contributions that will be allocated to initial units as shown below:

Commitment Period (Years)	Initial Period (Months' Worth)
5 to 6	12
7 to 8	13
9 to 10	14
11 to 12	15
13 to 14	16
15 to 16	17
17	18
18	19
19	20
20	21
21	22
22	23
23 to 25	24

Single Contributions

As a flexible contract, you can make single contributions at any time in addition to your regular contributions, subject to a minimum of USD / GBP / EUR 300. Any extra contributions must be paid in the same currency as your contract and can be made by bank transfer.

If you are considering making an extra contribution, you can determine the likely impact of doing so using the illustration tool within your Online Account. By using differing contribution amounts and/or potential growth rates, this tool can help you assess the potential financial outcome of making an extra contribution.

Flexible contributions

After the initial period has ended, you have the flexibility to increase, decrease or even stop your contributions for up to 12 months without any increase in service charge and without needing to complete any forms (subject to holding all necessary source of wealth and source of funds information).

What happens if I don't pay a contribution?

Stopping your contributions will result in the value of your contract at the end of the commitment period being lower than if you had maintained your contributions for your commitment period.

You have a period of 30 days in which to pay a contracted contribution before your contract will be recorded as in arrears.

If your contract has been in arrears for 13 months or more and it has a termination value, the status will be changed to paid-up and the service charge will increase. Please see the Charges section for more information. If you wish, it may be reinstated, subject to acceptance, and you can continue to make contributions into your contract.

Loyalty Bonus

As a thank you for staying invested, and to help give your savings an extra boost towards your financial goal, we will give you a loyalty bonus of 0.6% p.a. of the value of accumulation units which will increase to 1.0% p.a. from the later of the 10th contract anniversary or the date on which 10 years' worth of contracted contributions have been received.

Bonus units will not be calculated if the contract status is paid-up.

Before making any changes to your contributions, you should discuss your options with your Independent Financial Advisor to ensure you enjoy the best possible returns from your contract.

Adapt to your financial needs

Ascend has been designed to be as flexible and simple as possible to support you and your financial goals.

Withdrawals & terminations

Withdrawals can be taken from accumulation units whenever needed and without penalty.

The maximum withdrawal that can be taken is 95% of the value of the accumulation units.

Before carrying out a withdrawal, you can use the online illustration tool to assess the impact the withdrawal may have on the estimated value of your contract at the end of the commitment period.

You can request to terminate your contract at any time, but please be aware the contract will have no value if it is terminated before twelve months' worth of contracted contributions have been received. A

termination charge may also be applied. See page 11 for more information on charges.

Withdrawal and termination instructions are provided to us using your secure Online Account, without the need to complete any forms. Payments can only be made to the contract owner(s).

Portability

Ascend is intended to suit internationally minded clients. It is not tied to your current country, should your circumstances change, and you change your country of residence, your contract can be maintained (subject to conditions), without compromising the diversity and strength of your investment portfolio.

Putting you in control

There is a growing trend globally for people to take more control of their financial wellbeing by embracing technology to better monitor and manage their financial affairs.

Our award-winning technology provides you with access to a wealth of contract information wherever you are in the world, around the clock.

With your own secure Online Account, you can:



View all contract documentation and communications sent to you through your personal digital library.



View the details of your contract, including all transactions made as well as current and historic valuation statements.



Access your money at any time. Submitting withdrawal instructions online removes the need for any manually completed forms, reducing delays.



Amend your personal details, should you change your residential address, telephone number(s), email address or nominated bank account.



Monitor performance and create personal illustrations to assess what the future value of your investment may look like following a change in your investment strategy, or the impact of adding an additional contribution or taking a withdrawal.



Keep beneficiary details up to date – Beneficiaries can be changed, or their details amended at any time in line with your wishes.



Monitor and change your investment options at any time as your financial needs, goals, or appetite to investment risk changes.

Charges

Annual Management Charge

We deduct an Annual Management Charge, on a monthly basis, for the duration of your contract. This charge is split between initial and accumulation unit types and is based on the value of your contract at the time the charge is taken:

- Initial Units – 7% p.a.
- Accumulation and Loyalty Bonus Units – 1.2% p.a.

There is an initial period at the start of your contract that determines the type of units that your regular contributions will purchase. Contributions are allocated to initial units for the duration of the initial period, after which contributions will be allocated to accumulation units.

1/12th of the above charges will be calculated and deducted from the units in your contract each month in arrears at the close of business on the day of the month of the contract start date, or on the last day of the month where this date is not applicable

Service Charge

A monthly service charge of USD 9.50 / GBP 7.00 / EUR 9.00 will be taken for the duration of your contract. If you have stopped paying your contributions during the commitment period and your contract has a paid-up status, the monthly service charge will increase to USD 28.50 / GBP 21.00 / EUR 27.00.

Termination Charge

If you terminate your contract before the end of your commitment period, a termination charge will be deducted from the value of the contract before it is paid out to you. The charge is the equivalent to the annual management charge that would have been due from the termination date to the end of your commitment period. This charge is applied as a percentage of Initial Units and examples are shown in the table below:

End of contract year	Commitment Period				
	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years
1	24%	47%	62%	74%	81%
2	19%	43%	60%	72%	80%
3	13%	39%	57%	70%	79%
4	7%	34%	54%	67%	77%
5	0%	30%	50%	65%	75%
10	-	0%	30%	50%	65%
15	-	-	0%	30%	50%
20	-	-	-	0%	30%
25	-	-	-	-	0%

Underlying Fund Charges

Each underlying external fund will have their own annual management charge and Ongoing Charge Figure (OCF). These charges, which are calculated by the fund manager to cover the fees incurred for managing the investments, are shown on the relevant Hansard fund factsheet.

Conditional Charges

Bank transfer charges – Bank transfer charges may apply when you send a contribution to us or when taking a payment from your contract.

Credit card charges - A credit card charge may be applied by your credit card provider when you pay a contribution.

Currency conversion costs – There is a currency conversion charge applied during any purchase or sale of investment options where these are performed across different currencies. Where such a currency conversion takes place, this will be subject to, and included within, Hansard's prevailing daily currency conversion rate.

Mandated agent charge – This is an optional charge, which is agreed in writing between you and your Independent Financial Advisor or Investment Advisor for their ongoing service.

Monetary charges and contract limits are reviewed on a yearly basis (normally during July) to reflect changes in inflation and may be increased without notice.

Please contact your Independent Financial Advisor or our Client Services Team on +44 1624 688000 for more information in respect of contract charges and minimum/maximum contract values.

Ascend at a glance

Flexible contributions	Start your contract with a regular contribution of as little as USD / GBP / EUR 300 per month. Extra single payments can be made at any time, subject to a minimum of USD / GBP / EUR 300.
Loyalty bonus	Be rewarded for staying invested with a bonus of 0.6% p.a. of the value of accumulation units, which increases to 1.0% p.a. from the later of the 10th contract anniversary or the date on which 10 years' worth of contracted contributions have been received.
Easy access to your money	Withdrawals may be taken from accumulation units at any time without penalty.
Free and efficient switching	Switch your investment options at any time, online, and without charge.
Online Account	Take control of your financial wellbeing with your own secure Online Account which is available 24/7.
Portability	If you change your country of residence, you can take your contract with you (subject to conditions).



Is Ascend right for me?

Ascend may be suitable if you:

- Are aged 18 or over
- Want access to a simple, flexible, secure online solution
- Are looking to save and invest over the medium to long-term
- Want and can afford to make regular contributions of USD/GBP/EUR 3,600 or more each year over the medium to long-term
- Have an interest in diversifying part of your investment portfolio into a product that provides internationally focused investment options

Ascend may not be suitable if you:

- Have no other savings or investments
- Have a savings commitment of less than 5 years – this product is suited to those with mid to long-term financial goals, such as funding children's education needs, or supplementing wealth and retirement income
- Do not want or cannot afford to make regular contributions of at least USD/GBP/EUR 3,600 or more each year over the medium to long-term
- Are not willing and able to accept the risk of potential investment losses. It is important to remember that the prices of investment options can go down as well as up
- Are classed as a Politically Exposed Person (PEP) or a close associate/family member of a PEP¹
- Are unable or unwilling to transact online

How do I cancel my contract?

If you change your mind once your new contract starts, there is a cancellation period during which time you may cancel the contract without penalty. When we issue the documents for your new contract, we will send you details of how to cancel your contract, and you will have 30 calendar days from the contract start date to request this. You may also cancel before you receive your contract documents by contacting us or your Independent Financial Advisor.

If you do decide to cancel, we will give you your contribution back. If the value of the investment options you have invested in has fallen, you will get back the value available at that time which may not be the full amount you paid in.

These cancellation rights also apply to any additional² contributions that you may make, effective from the date each contribution is allocated.

¹ A PEP is a person who is or has been entrusted with prominent public functions. Examples of PEPs include: a head of state, a holder of a political or government post, a high-level member of the judiciary, a high-ranking officer in the military, an employee of a state-owned corporation or a board member of a central bank.

² Additional contribution means a contribution that is made in addition to the total Contracted Contributions.



Contact Us

If you would like to know more about Ascend, please contact us:

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