

**EXPRESSION OF WISH
FOR THE PAYMENT OF
LUMP SUM DEATH BENEFITS**

**BT PENSION
SCHEME**





Introduction

The Rules of the BT Pension Scheme (BTPS) provide for a lump sum benefit to be paid on the death of a member and sometimes on the death of a pensioner. The Trustees of the Scheme have a discretionary power to decide who will receive the payment and under present law any benefit paid in this way is not assessable for Inheritance Tax.

The purpose of this booklet is to enable BTPS members and pensioners to let the Trustees know to whom they would like any lump sum death benefits to be paid, by completing an **Expression of Wish** form.

Do I need to give an Expression of Wish?

The Trustees can consider a range of persons to whom the benefit might be paid, including:

1. Your widow or widower, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and their descendants.
2. Anyone towards whose maintenance and support you were contributing prior to your death.
3. The executors or administrators of your estate or any person entitled to share in it under your Will or, if you leave no Will, under the rules relating to intestate estates.
4. Any individual or individuals, or charity or charities registered with the Charity Commissioners, or society or club, nominated by you in writing to the Trustees during your lifetime.

Theoretically, the Trustees could pay the death benefit to any of these people, but in practice they will rarely need to look beyond your immediate family and persons who have some degree of financial dependency on you at the time of your death.

By completing an Expression of Wish, however, you can guide the Trustees on how to distribute the benefit and (if relevant) in what proportions. You can also use the form to state who should be excluded (eg because you have left them money in your Will or have made other arrangements for them).

You may complete an Expression of Wish naming beneficiaries who may be relatives (not confined to those listed above), dependants or other individuals, charities, societies or clubs of your choice.

It is essential to complete an Expression of Wish if you want the whole or part of the benefit to go to a charity, society or club, or to a person other than those listed at (1), (2) and (3) above (eg a friend who is neither financially dependent on nor financially interdependent with you).

An Expression of Wish is not binding on the Trustees but while they need not follow your wishes, they will give great weight to them in deciding how to pay the benefit.

It should be stressed that 'the discretionary system' and the Expression of Wish apply only to the lump sum death benefit and not to any other entitlements which may become payable on your death.



If I have completed an Expression of Wish form, do I need to make a Will?

You should still make a Will. The BTPS death benefit is **not included in** the value of your estate, but unless you also make a Will, the **remainder** of your estate will be disposed of by the laws of intestacy. Consequently, it may not all be distributed in the way you might have wished.

How does it work?

After the death of a member or pensioner, the Trustees will make thorough enquiries in order to establish the identities and circumstances of persons who may have an interest in the death benefit. The Trustees will then exercise their discretion, making the payment with due regard to their findings.

In the rare cases where difficulties arise in identifying potential beneficiaries and their circumstances, the Rules of the Scheme provide that the Trustees will have a maximum period of two years following the date of death in which their discretion may be exercised. After that time, any portion of the benefit which still remains unpaid will automatically pass to your legal personal representatives.

Very occasionally a member or pensioner dies intestate without leaving any relatives or dependants and if he or she has not nominated a suitable beneficiary in writing to the Trustees, the death benefit will not be payable and will remain in the Fund.

What if my circumstances change?

Each time your family circumstances change (eg on marriage, divorce, birth of a child etc), you will need to give careful consideration as to whether or not you need to change your Expression of Wish.

Trustees' assurance

The Trustees would like to assure you that their discretionary powers will be exercised in the best interest of your family and dependants, with proper regard to your own wishes and the circumstances existing at the date of death.

Enquiries

If you have any further enquiries about completing an Expression of Wish, please contact:

Tel: 0800 731 4747 - Members
0800 731 1919 - Pensioners



Accenture HR Services
 Pioneer House
 Chesterfield
 S42 6NT
 Tel: 0800 731 4747 - Members
 0800 731 1919 - Pensioners

BT PENSION SCHEME EXPRESSION OF WISH

To: The Trustees of the BT Pension Scheme.

I

(Full name in BLOCK CAPITALS)

of

(Home address in BLOCK CAPITALS)

REQUEST that the Trustees should pay or apply any lump sum payable under the Scheme on my death to or for the benefit of the following:

Preferred beneficiary/beneficiaries

FULL NAMES	ADDRESSES	* RELATIONSHIP STATUS	% SHARE OF BENEFIT

* e.g. spouse, child, common law spouse, parent, friend, club, charity, legal personal representatives etc.

Completion of this section is optional

Alternative beneficiary/beneficiaries

(if preferred beneficiaries do not survive you)

This Expression of Wish cancels any previous Expression of Wish I have completed relating to the benefit payable under the Scheme on my Death.

FOR USE IN BTPC

Date of receipt

Receipt of the completed form will be acknowledged by Pension Services so that you will know your wishes have been recorded.

This booklet was correct at the time of going to print, however, if any of the facts contained therein become subject to any material change, the correct information will be issued upon receipt of the Expression of Wish form in Pension Services.

