

# BOAL & CO MALTA PENSION

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GLOBAL RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS,  
INNOVATIVE THINKING

MALTA QROPS

 **Boal & Co**

# MALTA QROPS

Whatever our age, and wherever in the world our lives have taken us, we all want to make the most of what we have. It's right to look at our options, to make the most of the assets that we have and to maximise the opportunities we are given.

For many of us, our pension will be one of our largest financial assets. For some people, particularly those with **Defined Benefit** schemes, their pension may be worth even more than their house.

If you have built up a UK pension fund and are no longer UK resident, you may not realise that your pension is still subject to UK tax. You might have moved abroad to escape the UK, but if your pension has not, it is still subject to constantly changing restrictive UK taxation rules, which may lead to you paying a lot more in tax than is necessary.

There is an alternative. Imagine an overseas pension scheme that can provide:

- more tax-efficiency, both during your life and on your death
- more investment choice, before and after retirement
- the option to change the currency of your pension fund and your retirement pension, to match your local currency
- a scheme especially designed for UK pension transfers that fully recognises and satisfies the relevant UK rules, but maximises the opportunities you have as a UK non-resident for your spouse, children or nominated beneficiaries to receive your pension fund when you die.

**IS THIS THE SOLUTION YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR?**

# WHAT IS THE BOAL & CO MALTA PENSION?

THE BOAL & CO MALTA PENSION ("THE PLAN") IS A PENSION SCHEME ESTABLISHED UNDER TRUST, TAX APPROVED AND REGULATED IN MALTA.

The Plan is listed with the UK tax authority HM Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") as a [Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme \("QROPS"\)](#). This means that pension transfers made from UK pension schemes to the Plan are termed [Recognised Transfers](#) and are, therefore, permitted transfers under UK pension legislation introduced by the Finance Act 2004. Provided the transfer value of your UK pension is less than the UK [Lifetime Allowance](#) (currently £1 million) and you reside in the EEA, there is no UK tax payable when you transfer your pension into the Boal & Co Malta Pension.

## WHY MALTA?

Situated in the southern Mediterranean, Malta has risen into the ranks of Europe's leading finance centres. This has been driven by the island's reputation for stability, predictability and security together with a robust, EU-compliant regulatory framework and deep talent pool attracting companies from around the world seeking opportunities for doing business in Malta. With English as an official language, and legislation being published in English and based historically on common law, Malta makes an ideal place for UK expatriates to hold their pension provision.

The Boal & Co Malta Pension is designed to fully satisfy the rules applicable to [QROPS](#). Whilst fully observing all HMRC requirements, it aims to optimise the position for members. The result is a scheme which delivers more benefits, and less tax.

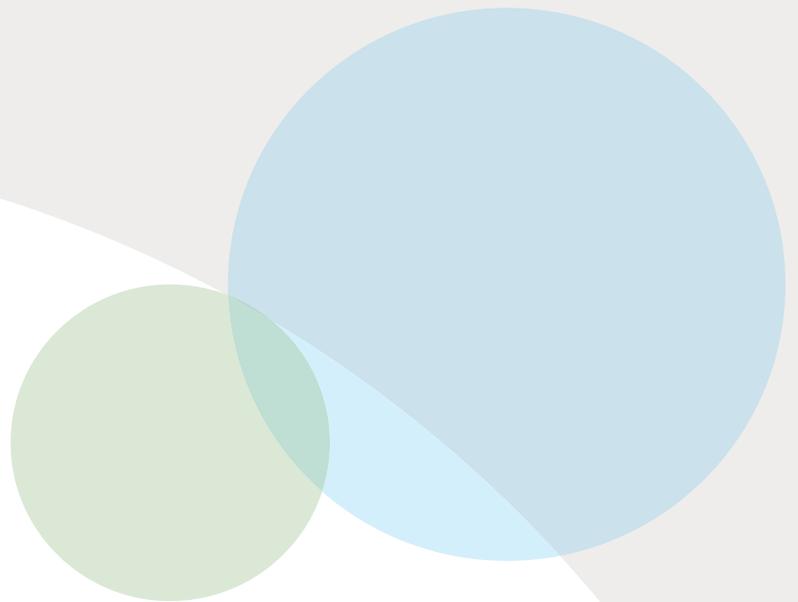
The [Trustees](#) of the scheme are ITC International Pensions Ltd ("ITC"), a regulated Maltese pension provider and part of the wider ITC Group, which has over \$1.5 billion under administration for individual pension clients.

# WHAT IS A QROPS?

**Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Schemes** are special overseas pension schemes which satisfy rules and regulations laid down by UK legislation. The Finance Act 2004 made it possible, from April 2006, for UK pensions to be transferred to any overseas pension scheme which has notified HMRC of its status as a **QROPS**.

Legislation changes in 2017 mean that, to avoid a 25% transfer tax, a UK pension fund can only be transferred to the same jurisdiction as the pension member resides in. The European Economic Area (EEA) is classed by HMRC as the same jurisdiction meaning someone residing in one EEA country can transfer his pension to any other EEA country. As a member of the EEA, Malta has become the jurisdiction of choice for clients living in the EEA.

The **Trustees** have notified HMRC that the Boal & Co Malta Pension is a **QROPS**, and HMRC have given the scheme the reference number 910065.



# WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS OF THE PLAN?

If you have a UK pension scheme or a UK personal pension, there are a number of benefits from transferring your UK pension to a Malta [QROPS](#), particularly if you have been, or will be, UK non-resident for at least 10 complete tax years (we will refer to this as not “UK resident/recently resident”), and you are not planning on taking benefits for at least a further 5 years:

## 1. TAILORED PENSION PAYMENTS

- a range of payment levels are calculated by our actuaries and personalised to your situation
- consideration of how your [QROPS](#) fund is invested and your individual life expectancy
- payable to you by annual, half-yearly or quarterly [Drawdown](#)

## 2. INHERITANCE PLANNING

- a lump sum payment on death from a UK pension scheme will be subject to a tax charge based on your beneficiary’s marginal tax rate
- a Malta [QROPS](#) can be used to provide a pension for a spouse or dependant
- the Boal & Co Malta Pension can pay out as a lump sum with no Maltese tax due on this distribution on death

## 3. ELIMINATE LIFETIME ALLOWANCE TAX CHARGE

- UK pension [Lifetime Allowance](#) limits are steadily reducing
- a transfer to a [QROPS](#) is a one-off [Benefit Crystallisation Event](#)
- if your fund grows in a [QROPS](#) beyond the [Lifetime Allowance](#), no [Lifetime Allowance](#) excess tax charge is due

## 4. INCREASED RETIREMENT LUMP SUM

- majority of UK pension schemes are only permitted to pay 25% of the pension fund (or 25% of the [Lifetime Allowance](#), if lower)
- a Malta [QROPS](#) enables you to take a lump sum of up to 30% of fund value

## 5. PENSIONS PAID FREE OF UK TAX

- UK pensions are usually subject to UK tax at source
- as long as you reside in a country with a suitable tax treaty with Malta (Malta currently has 70 treaties) Maltese tax is not applied to the Boal & Co Malta Pension
- your residency at the time of payment will determine if further tax is applicable

## 6. INVESTMENT CHOICE

- a wide range of collective investment funds are available, held either directly or through investment wrappers
- ability to appoint an investment manager on either an advisory or a Discretionary basis

# WHAT PENSIONS CAN BE TRANSFERRED IN?

Transfers into a [QROPS](#) can be made from most forms of UK tax approved pension schemes, including:

- occupational pension schemes, both [Defined Contribution](#) and [Defined Benefit](#)
- [SIPPs](#) and other personal pension schemes
- additional voluntary contribution (AVC) schemes
- section 226 retirement annuity policies.

Transfers from a [Defined Benefit](#) pension scheme can be made but not if the pension has already commenced from that scheme, or if the scheme in question has entered the Pension Protection Fund. Please note that it is not possible to transfer State pensions such as the Basic State Pension or the State Second Pension (formerly SERPS).

Just because it is possible to transfer a UK pension does not necessarily mean that it is advisable to do so. Independent financial advice should be taken by any individual in connection with any pension transfer, and particular consideration should be given when contemplating the transfer of pensions from either a [Defined Benefit](#) scheme or from a pension policy with guaranteed annuity options, when a pension transfer might be inadvisable. Transfer values can vary widely from one [Defined Benefit](#) scheme to another, and UK legislation now requires that any transfer from a UK [Defined Benefit](#) scheme be formally advised by a UK FCA regulated individual, in addition to any local advice you have received in your country of residence. Please ask your financial adviser for advice.

Boal & Co, as a firm of Actuaries and Consultants, are also able to provide an actuarial calculation for your [Defined Benefit](#) transfer value which uses pension [Drawdown](#) as the income in retirement, and which may be more suited to your needs. Please ask your financial adviser if you would like us to organise this for you.

# HOW IS MY QROPS FUND INVESTED?

Investment management can either be delegated to an investment manager or adviser. Investment can be made into any of the following asset classes:

- collective investment funds
- private portfolio bonds, investment bonds and other life assurance policies

As the Plan is an "open-architecture" scheme, insurance bonds and investment funds can generally be selected from any product provider. Please note that investment in residential property is not permitted in any circumstances because of HMRC regulations applicable to UK tax-relieved pension funds, including [QROPS](#). Loans to members or connected persons are also not permitted.

For avoidance of doubt, ITC does **NOT** provide investment advice. Responsibility for investment decisions rests with your appointed investment manager, in conjunction with you.

Please remember that investment values will inevitably fluctuate. Investment involves risk. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, and may be affected by fluctuations in exchange rates. Past performance should not be viewed as a reliable guide to the future. The value of your [QROPS](#) investment cannot be guaranteed.

**PLEASE REFER TO THE INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR A FULL LIST OF ASSET CLASSES AVAILABLE UNDER THE PLAN.**

# WHAT BENEFITS ARE PAID AT RETIREMENT?

The Plan is a [Defined Contribution](#) pension scheme, which means that the amount of benefits received by you, in the form of retirement lump sum and pension, is entirely dependent on the following:

- the amount of money paid into your [QROPS](#) fund (for example, by way of transfer values from UK pension arrangements), and
- the investment performance (which may be positive or negative) of your [QROPS](#) fund

Therefore, there are no guaranteed retirement benefits of any form. Retirement benefits from the Plan can be taken by you from as early as age 55 and no later than age 75. Your pension in retirement is provided via [Drawdown](#), which means that each year a proportion of your [QROPS](#) fund is drawn down and used to provide the pension, whilst the balance of your fund remains invested. Pension payments are payable to you by annual, half-yearly or quarterly [Drawdown](#) of income and capital from your fund. As such, it is to be expected that your [QROPS](#) fund will gradually reduce after retirement, through the effect of regular pension payments to you.

The amount of pension, i.e. the rate of [Drawdown](#), is flexible within limits. Provided you are not UK resident/recently resident in retirement, the amount of pension you can draw from your [QROPS](#) fund will be within a range of amounts calculated by our actuaries and personalised to your situation, taking into account how your [QROPS](#) fund is invested (and the range of associated target future investment returns) and your individual life expectancy. We will be able to advise you prior to retirement of the range of permitted pension [Drawdown](#) relevant to your individual circumstances.

After retirement, the amount of pension payable to you is normally reviewed every 3 years in line with the investment return achieved by your [QROPS](#) fund. If your fund earns more than anticipated, this can result in an increase to your pension. If your fund earns less than was assumed, this can result in a reduction to your pension. Failure to implement the recommendations of any regular pension review, or sustained poor investment performance, could lead to your [QROPS](#) fund running out before death.

At retirement, members of a Malta [QROPS](#) can opt to take up to 30% of their [QROPS](#) fund as a retirement lump sum, compared to the 25% maximum from UK pension schemes. If you are UK resident/recently resident at retirement, or less than 5 years have passed since the date of your UK pension transfer, UK tax rules apply.

# WHAT HAPPENS ON MY DEATH?

Even if you have left the UK, your UK pension fund continues to be subject to UK tax laws and restrictions. With a UK pension scheme, a lump sum payment on death after reaching age 75 will be subject to a tax charge based on your beneficiary's marginal UK tax rate.

There is no requirement for your [QROPS](#) fund to wind up on your death. If you have a surviving spouse or dependant, your [QROPS](#) fund can be used to provide a continuing pension for them. You can nominate family members (children for example) to join as new members of your scheme, and benefit in the future from pension and other retirement benefits payable from your fund. Any spouse or dependant's pension income may be subject to tax where the recipient is resident.

If you elect for your [QROPS](#) fund to be wound-up after your death, any remaining balance can be paid out by the Trustee to your nominated beneficiaries. No Malta tax is due or payable at source on this lump sum distribution. Please note, if you are UK resident/recently resident on death, there may be UK tax applicable to this lump sum distribution. In addition, the recipient could also be subject to tax on this distribution depending on their residency.

For added succession planning, your [QROPS](#) fund can be transferred to a separate Trust on your death giving you the opportunity to plan for your family's future in the most efficient manner. Your financial adviser can help you with this if it is something you require.

You are able to indicate your preference in the Expression of Wish section of the application form.

# WHAT IS THE TAXATION POSITION?

- investments held within the Plan accumulate free from tax (apart from any taxes deducted at source)
- at retirement, pension benefits are subject to Malta income tax, unless you are resident in a country with a suitable tax treaty with Malta
- at retirement, up to 30% of your [QROPS](#) fund value can be taken as a retirement lump sum benefit, free of Malta tax at source. (If you are UK resident or recently resident at retirement, then lower UK limits will apply)
- if your pension fund is wound up on death, no tax is payable, and the fund will be paid to your beneficiaries without deduction of Malta tax at source

Should you reside in a country with a suitable tax treaty with Malta, your pension benefits will be paid without deduction of income tax. However, you may have a liability to tax on [QROPS](#) benefits in your country of residence. Tax rates vary widely from one country to another, and you are advised to take local tax advice and to declare the pension income on your annual return.

It is a legal requirement and obligation of any [QROPS](#) that the [Scheme Administrator](#) reports to HMRC in certain situations when your benefit begins to be paid. The reporting obligation currently applies for the first 10 years following transfer regardless of residence, and then ceases unless you are UK resident at the time of payment or have been UK resident in any of the preceding 10 tax years.

Please note that the information given in this document is based on our understanding of current pension law and taxation practice, which may change in the future. No liability can be accepted for any personal tax consequences of this scheme or for the effect of future tax or legislative changes.

# ARE THERE ANY LIMITS ON THE SIZE OF MY PENSION FUND?

UK pensions are subject to ever increasing tax restrictions, designed to reduce the possible use of pensions for tax relief. Where previously there was no limit to the size a pension fund could grow to (only a limit on how much was paid in as contributions), UK tax law introduced in 2006 created an upper limit to the size of a UK pension fund, namely the **Lifetime Allowance**. Any excess of a UK pension fund above the **Lifetime Allowance** is subject to UK tax, at 25% (if benefits taken as a pension) or 55% (if benefits taken as a retirement lump sum) on what is termed a **Benefit Crystallisation Event** (for example, the commencement of a pension), even if the member is UK non-resident.

The **Lifetime Allowance** has reduced in steps in recent years from £1.8 million down to £1 million, bringing more and more UK pensions into the catchment of the excess 25%/55% tax. The possibility of further reductions to the **Lifetime Allowance** creates considerable uncertainty.

More and more individuals who, through their own hard work and financial success, have accumulated larger UK pension funds face the prospect of excess UK tax, even if they are no longer UK resident.

The good news though is that it is possible to eliminate this uncertainty by transferring to a **QROPS**. A transfer to a **QROPS** is a one-off **Benefit Crystallisation Event**. If at the time of transfer the transfer value is less than the **Lifetime Allowance**, there is no **Lifetime Allowance** excess tax charge.

After transferring to a **QROPS**, even if the **QROPS** fund increases to an extent where it exceeds the **Lifetime Allowance**, or even if the level of the **Lifetime Allowance** is further reduced, the crystallisation event has already occurred at the date of transfer and no further tax is payable in relation to the **Lifetime Allowance**. In short, transferring to a **QROPS** brings greater certainty for larger pension funds which might otherwise be subject to future UK tax. Exporting a UK pension overseas means that the pension is tested against the **Lifetime Allowance** once, and thereafter is not subject to changing UK allowances.

# WHO ARE THE DISTRIBUTORS OF THE PLAN?

The Boal & Co Malta Pension is distributed by Boal & Co (Pensions) Limited.

Boal & Co (Pensions) Limited is part of Boal & Co group ([www.boal.co.uk](http://www.boal.co.uk)), a leading firm of offshore consulting actuaries, with operations in the Isle of Man, Jersey, Ireland and Gibraltar.

Boal & Co is an award-winning firm, having won several prestigious awards for innovation in pensions.



All Boal & Co Malta Pension assets are held under trust for members by the scheme's Trustee, ITC International Pensions Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority and registered under the Retirement Pensions Act, 2011 (Chapter 514 of the Laws of Malta) as Retirement Scheme Administrators.

There exists no statutory provisions for compensation in the case where a scheme is unable to satisfy the liabilities attributable to it, and the licence for the scheme is not an endorsement of the scheme's financial performance.

# WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF THE PLAN?

The charges for the Boal & Co Malta Pension take the form of an initial fee when you transfer in, and an annual fee for ongoing membership. Both fees are taken from your [QROPS](#) fund. The applicable fee scales are set out in the separate Fee Schedule document.

Investment management charges are agreed between you and your appointed financial adviser or investment manager, and are also paid for out of your [QROPS](#) fund.

Normal underlying charges, if any, associated with the investments in your [QROPS](#) fund will apply in the usual way, subject to any discounts that are obtained. All such discounts will be credited in full to enhance your [QROPS](#) fund. In some cases, a financial adviser may charge clients an initial transfer fee in lieu of commission from the underlying investments. In this case, the amount of the adviser's fee must be agreed by the financial adviser with you in writing.

# AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE PLAN?

The Boal & Co Malta Pension is an overseas pension scheme designed for individuals who currently have UK pensions or existing [QROPS](#) arrangements. The Plan is open to Malta residents and non-residents alike, though please note that there are some countries from which we are unable to accept business (please contact us for details).

The minimum investment into the Plan (for example, by transfer value from existing UK pension schemes) is £50,000.

For smaller investments a 'Lite' charging structure is available, with a reduced minimum total transfer of £25,000 up to a maximum of £100,000, and a more restricted investment choice.

Please contact your financial adviser for details.

# SERVICE ASSURANCE

If at any time you believe that our service could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our services, please write to our administration office:

Boal and Co Malta Pension  
ITC International Pensions Ltd  
Nu Bis Centre, Level 1  
Mosta Road  
Lija LJA 9012  
Malta

In this way, we will be able to ensure that any concerns are dealt with carefully and promptly.

Any matters relating to the investments in your [QROPS](#) fund should be raised with your financial adviser or investment manager.

## HOW DO I JOIN THE PLAN?

If you have read the Plan brochure and scheme particulars, are eligible and have decided that you would like to transfer your UK pension or existing [QROPS](#) to the Boal & Co Malta Pension, you can apply for membership using the application form. The information collected in the application form will enable us to contact your UK pension company or existing [QROPS](#) provider and authorise them to arrange for transfer of the value of that pension into the Plan.

The application form also enables you to tell us who your financial adviser is, and the rate of investment management fees applicable.

**ONCE COMPLETED, THE APPLICATION FORM SHOULD BE SENT BY POST TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.**

# GLOSSARY

**Benefit Crystallisation Event** is a defined event or occurrence that triggers a test of the benefits 'crystallising' at that point against the individual's available lifetime allowance.

**Defined Benefit** pension scheme (also known as a final salary pension scheme) means a scheme where pension is calculated by reference to salary and length of pensionable service.

**Defined Contribution** pension scheme means a scheme where the benefits are dependent entirely on the amount of contributions paid into the scheme and the investment return achieved on them.

**Drawdown** means the regular withdrawal of money from a member's **QROPS** fund in order to provide the member with a pension in retirement. The funds paid out in drawdown will typically include a return of both capital and interest.

**DTA** means Double Taxation Agreement.

**Lifetime Allowance** is an overall ceiling set under UK legislation to limit the amount of an individual's UK pension funds. The current lifetime allowance is £1,073,100. When you initially transfer UK pensions into thePlan, their value is tested against the lifetime allowance and, if it exceeds the lifetime allowance, a UK tax charge will arise unless you have registered your UK scheme for protection. This is a one-off test.

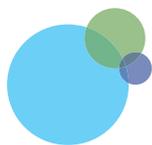
**QROPS** or **Qualifying Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme** is a non-UK pension scheme which satisfies certain HMRC requirements as to benefits and reporting, and HMRC have been notified of its compliance with these requirements. A list of Recognised Overseas Pension Scheme notifications is available on-line at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-qualifying-recognised-overseas-pension-schemes-qrops](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-qualifying-recognised-overseas-pension-schemes-qrops)

**Recognised Transfer** means the transfer of a UK pension to another UK-approved pension scheme or to a QROPS. A recognised transfer is an authorised member payment and so does not incur a tax charge. (Note, see separate reference to **Lifetime Allowance**)

**Scheme Administrator** means ITC International Pensions Ltd.

**SIPP** or **Self-Invested Pension Plan** is a form of personal pension arrangement with the widest possible investment choice.

**Trustee** means ITC International Pensions Ltd as the trustees of the Boal & Co Malta Pension.



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Nu Bis Centre, Level 1, Mosta Road, Lija LJA 9012

Malta

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