PENGUIN



Seven Pensions. Six Months. One Headache.

Why organising your Pensions may be one of the kindest bits of Estate Planning you ever do

This is not really a guide about having seven Pensions. You might have two. You might have twelve. The point is that after a lifetime of changing jobs, moving providers and building wealth, it is remarkably easy to leave behind a financial treasure hunt that nobody asked to play.

From April 2027, that organisation matters even more because relevant Pension wealth may need to be identified and valued as part of the Inheritance Tax process.

So this guide is about making life easier for the people who may one day have to sort everything out.

General information only. This is not personalised Financial Advice, Tax advice or legal advice.



1. How do people end up with so many Pensions?

Usually without trying.

> One from your first proper job.

> Another after changing employer.

> A workplace scheme that was moved when the company changed provider.

> A personal Pension opened years ago.

> A SIPP created later.

> Perhaps an inherited Pension or beneficiary Drawdown arrangement.

> And the little one you vaguely remember receiving a letter about but could not name under pressure.

None of this is unusual. The problem is not having several Pensions. The problem is nobody knowing they exist.

2. Why six months matters

Inheritance Tax is generally due by the end of the sixth month after the month in which somebody dies. From 6 April 2027, most unused Pension funds and relevant Pension death benefits will be included in the Estate for Inheritance Tax.

That can mean Personal Representatives need information about Pension values while they are also dealing with the Will, property, banks, Investments, Trusts, Probate and everything else that follows a death.

Now imagine doing that while trying to discover whether Dad had five Pensions or six.

The deadline does not mean every Estate will be completed within six months. It does mean identifying the assets quickly becomes rather important.

The practical problem

- Provider A replies in a week.
- Provider B wants another form.
- Provider C has changed name twice.
- Provider D has an old address.
- Nobody can remember the fifth provider.

This is not a Tax strategy. It is an admin headache.



3. Should I just consolidate everything?

Maybe. But organisation and consolidation are not the same thing.

Combining Pensions can make administration simpler and may make it easier for you and your family to understand the plan. But transferring a Pension can mean giving up valuable features, including:

- Guaranteed benefits
- Protected Tax-Free Cash
- Valuable charging terms
- Guaranteed annuity rates
- Safeguarded benefits
- Better death-benefit options

Defined Benefit schemes need particular care.

So the objective is not 'one Pension at all costs'. The objective is a Pension arrangement you understand, your family can find, and that still contains the benefits you actually need.

4. The nomination problem

Finding the Pension is only step one. The next question is: who does the provider think you want to receive it?

Expression of Wish and beneficiary nomination forms are easy to complete and equally easy to forget. Life, unfortunately, does not have the same habit of staying still.

> People marry.

> People divorce.

> Children arrive.

> Grandchildren arrive.

> Relationships change.

> Beneficiaries die.

> Trusts are created for reasons that may later change.

A nomination written when Tony Blair was Prime Minister may deserve another look.

> **Do not change it simply because it is old. Check that it still reflects what you want and that the scheme gives those beneficiaries appropriate options.**



5. Would your family know who to call?

Imagine somebody close to you dies tomorrow. Could you answer these questions?

- Which Pension providers do they have?
- Who is their Financial Planner?
- Where is their Will?
- Who are the Executors?
- Are any Trusts involved?
- Where are the important documents kept?
- Is there Death in Service cover?
- Who has been nominated on the Pensions?

Your family does not need to know every balance today. They need a starting point. One telephone number and a sensible record can be worth considerably more than a beautifully organised filing cabinet nobody knows exists.

6. Build your Pension Treasure Map

This is the practical bit. Create one record of every Pension and keep it somewhere the right people know about.

> ⚠️ **Do not include online passwords or security answers.**

Provider / scheme	Pension type	Plan/reference	Nomination checked?	Key contact / notes

Financial Planner / Adviser: _____

Solicitor: _____

Accountant / Tax adviser: _____

Location of Will: _____

Location of Trust documents: _____

Executors know where this is kept: **YES / NO**

7. The annual ten-minute Pension tidy-up

This does not need to become another enormous annual life-admin project. Once a year, ask:

- [ ] Have I changed employer or opened another Pension?
- [ ] Have any providers merged or changed name?
- [ ] Are my contact details correct?
- [ ] Are my beneficiary nominations still right?
- [ ] Do the schemes offer the death-benefit options I expect?
- [ ] Is a Trust still nominated anywhere?
- [ ] Does my Pension Treasure Map need updating?
- [ ] Does the person who may need it know where it is?

Ten minutes now can save somebody else ten hours later.





8. Penguin Perspective: organisation is part of the plan

Financial Planning is often presented as Investments, Tax and clever calculations. Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is knowing where the paperwork is.

A family dealing with bereavement should not also have to become financial detectives. They should be able to find the plan, find the people and understand what happens next.

That is not glamorous Financial Planning. It may be some of the most valuable.

PENGUIN

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Get in touch with us.
We are always here to help you.



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