

Introduction

Flexi-Access Drawdown allows clients the flexibility to crystallise part or the whole of their pension in the most tax efficient way.

Moving your client into Flexi-Access Drawdown allows them to access 25% of their pension as a tax-free lump sum, while the remaining amount can be taken as a combination of taxable income or lump sum.

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How to put money into Flexi-Access Drawdown

Before you start this process:

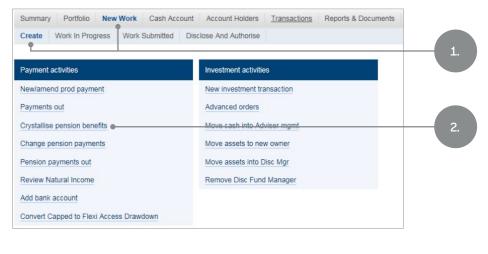
You will need to ensure there is enough cash held in the accumulation arrangement to pay the following:

- Any tax-free cash requirement required
- Your Initial Adviser Charge, if applicable
- Potential market movement during the process.

If there is not enough available cash you will need to sell assets and wait for them to settle before you proceed.

If you need to sell assets first this can take up to 5 working days for the trade to settle (depending on the fund manager and when the trade was placed) and for the cash to be available for this drawdown request.

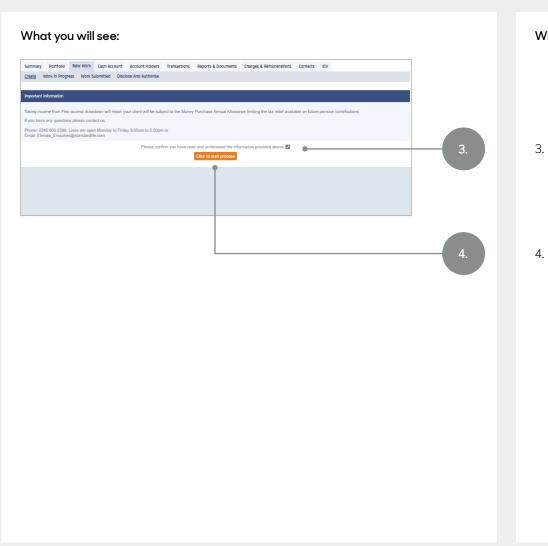
What you will see:



What you will need to do

- Login to Elevate and from your client's account navigate to;
 New Work > Create
- 2. Select **Crystallise** pension benefits.

How to put money into Flexi-Access Drawdown - cont.

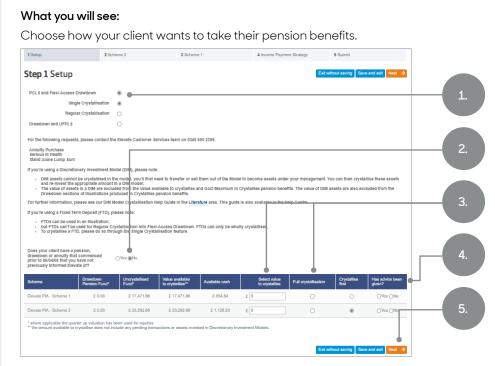


What you will need to do

3. Read the **Important Information**. Tick the box to confirm you have read and understood the information provided.

4. Click to start process.

Step 1: Setup



Drawdown Pension Fund - Total value of existing Capped and Flexi-Access Drawdown arrangements.

Uncrystallised Funds - The value of pension holdings that have not yet been crystallised.

Value available to crystallise - This is the amount available to crystallise and does not include pending transactions, uncleared cash or unsettled orders.

Available cash - Cash that is currently available with the pension Scheme. This is required to pay PCLS and Initial Adviser Charge (Drawdown). It does not include uncleared cash or unsettled orders.

What you will need to do

- Tick the PCLS and Flexi-Access Drawdown box.
- 2. Select **Yes** or **No** to confirm if your client has a pension, drawdown or annuity that commenced before 06/04/2006.
- 3. Either tick **Full crystallisation** or enter the value to crystallise (for Scheme 1 and /or Scheme 2).
- 4. Confirm if any advice has been given.
- 5. Click Next.
- Read the Important Information.
 Tick the box to confirm you
 have read and understood the
 information provided and press
 Click to start process.

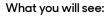
Notes

- 2. If you answer Yes, you will be prompted to complete a Precommencement Details Form.
 This is available from Literature or you can contact Elevate.
- 3. The minimum you can select for each Scheme is £3,500 or full remaining value of the accumulation arrangement if lower.

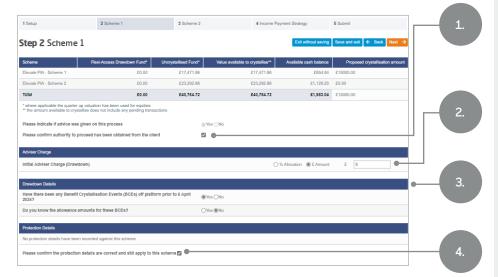
If your client is taking both Scheme 1 and Scheme 2 benefits, tick the box to indicate which to crystallise first.

You can set up Flexi-Access Drawdown for both Schemes in the same process.

Step 2: Scheme 1 Details



Confirm the details of the crystallisation by setting the amount of tax free cash and any taxable income.



Questions regarding benefits used previously that are not on the Elevate platform. How these questions are answered will determine what further questions are asked on this page.

Have there been any BCEs off platform prior to 6 April 2024? No Go to page 7 Have there been any BCEs off platform prior to 6 April 2024? Yes Do you know the allowance amounts for these BCEs?

Yes Go to page 8 No Go to page 9

What you will need to do

1. Tick to confirm authority to proceed has been obtained from your client.

Adviser charges

2. If an Initial Adviser Charge (Drawdown) is to be taken, input the amount as a percentage or £ amount.

Drawdown details

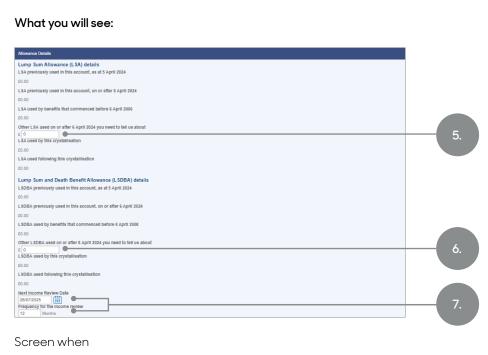
3. Answer these questions to confirm how allowances used off platform will be recorded. How you answer these questions will determine what further questions are asked on this page.

Protection

4. Check the protection details and tick the box to confirm they're still correct.

Notes

- 3. When answering these questions do not include pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as these will already be included in the calculation of allowances used on platform.
- 4. If the protection details are wrong, please contact Elevate before proceeding.



Have there been any BCEs off platform prior to 6 April 2024? No

This section shows details of the allowances already used by your client.

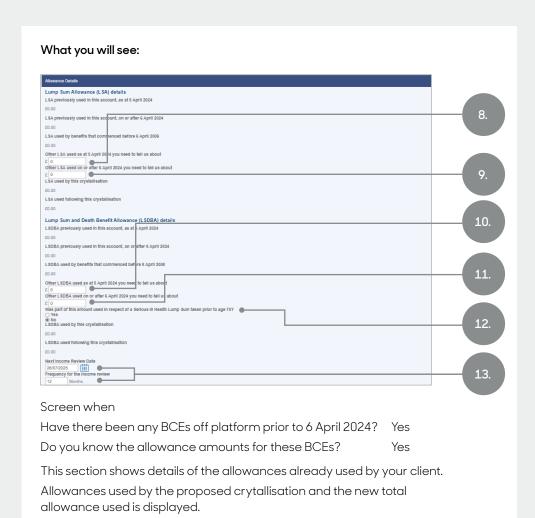
Allowances used by the proposed crytallisation and the new total allowance used is displayed.

What you will need to do

- If applicable, add the amount of lump sum allowance used from 6 April 2024 during any offplatform crystallisation events.
- If applicable, add the amount of lump sum death benefit allowanced used from 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events.
- 7. Set the **Next Income Review Date** and **Frequency**.

Notes

- 5. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 6. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 7. This will set up an alert reminding you to review income payments.



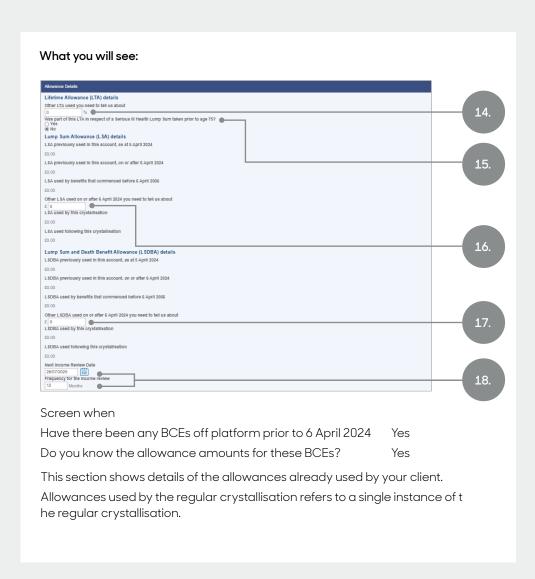
What you will need to do

- 8. If applicable, add the amount of lump sum allowance used before 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events
- If applicable, add the amount of lump sum allowance used from 6 April 2024 during any offplatform crystallisation events.
- 10. If applicable, add the amount of lump sum death benefit allowance used before 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events.
- 11. If applicable, add the amount of lump sum death benefit allowance used from 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events.
- 12. Confirm the client has taken a serious ill-health lump sum payment before age 75.
- 13. Set the **Next Income Review Date** and **Frequency**.

Notes

- 8. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 9. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 10. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 11. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 13. This will set up an alert reminding you to review income payments.

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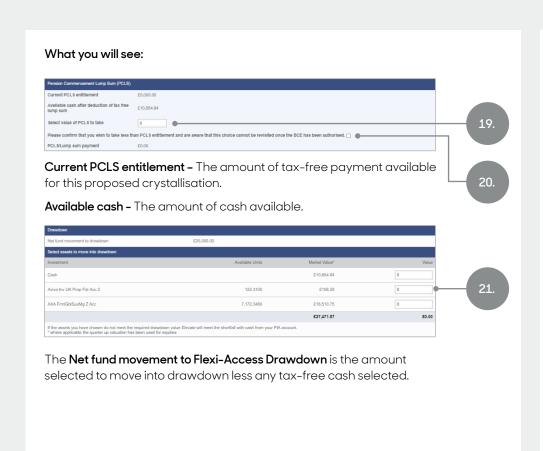


What you will need to do

- 14. If applicable, add the LTA % used before 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events.
- 15. Confirm the client has taken a serious ill-health lump sum payment before age 75.
- 16. If applicable, add the amount of lump sum allowance used from 6 April 2024 during any offplatform crystallisation events.
- 17. If applicable, add the amount of lump sum death benefit allowance used from 6 April 2024 during any off-platform crystallisation events.
- 18. Set the **Next Income Review Date** and **Frequency**.

Notes

- 14. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 16. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 17. Do not include allowance used by pension arrangements already transferred to Elevate as this is already included in the calculation of used allowances.
- 18. This will set up an alert reminding you to review income payments.



What you will need to do

Pension Commencement Lump Sum

19. Enter the amount of tax-free cash your client wants to take.

Tick to select maximum available or enter a lower amount.

20. If you have selected a **lower amount**, tick to confirm your choice.

Movement to Flexi-Access Drawdown

21. Select the assets to move into drawdown.

If you are doing a partial crystallisation, enter the £ amount of uncrystallised assets, cash or a combination of both to be moved into Flexi-Access Drawdown.

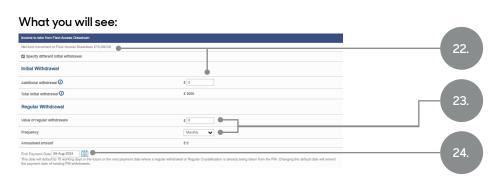
You do not need to complete this step if you are doing a full crystallisation.

Notes

19. The current PCLS entitlement is the lower of 25% or remaining personal allowance.

You cannot select an amount higher than the Current PCLS entitlement or the amount of Available cash in the arrangement.

- 20. Your choice cannot be amended once the crystallisation has been authorised.
- 21. The total value of the assets you select must equal the Net fund movement to Flexi-Access Drawdown.



Setting up and amending regular income:

- Setting an **Additional withdrawal** allows a separate taxable payment to be arranged within this crystallisation process. This is paid on the first payment date you select for regular income (even if no actual regular income is selected). The amount paid on the first payment date is the additional withdrawal plus the first regular income payment.
- Available Product wrapper cash is not required to pay regular income, or an additional withdrawal. The Income Payment Strategy (Step 4) will ensure cash is available for each income payment.
- If income is already being taken from another drawdown arrangement with a different payment date and frequency, they will be aligned automatically to match the selection in this Flexi-Access Drawdown arrangement.
- Alternatively you can set no regular income to be taken. If you wish to set up
 regular income at a later date or you wish to setup any taxable one-off income
 payments from the Flexi-Access Drawdown arrangement, this can be done
 via New Work > Change Pension Payments. Please refer to the Changing Regular
 Pension Income & Taking One-off Payments Help Guide.
- If you are adding additional funds to an existing drawdown arrangement where
 regular income is already in place, you will need to reconfirm income details
 again here. If you do not then any existing income will stop.

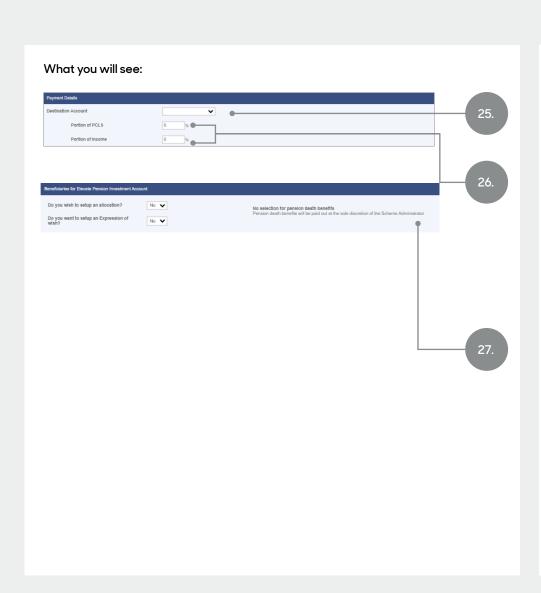
What you will need to do

Income to take from Flexi-Access Drawdown

- 22. If required, tick **Specify different** initial withdrawal and enter the amount of income to set for the **Additional withdrawal**.
- 23. Enter an amount for **Value of**regular withdrawals to take from
 the Flexi-Access Drawdown
 arrangement and select the
 Frequency of payment.
 - If the amount withdrawn would exhaust the Flexi-Access Drawdown account after 12 months or less, you will be asked to confirm your selection.
- 24. Set First Payment Date.

Notes

- 22. This allows you to set up a different amount for the first income payment.
 - Total initial withdrawal is displayed. This is the Additional withdrawal + PCLS.
- 23. If no regular income is required input zero.
- 24. The first payment date must be a minimum of 10 working days in the future for regular and initial withdrawals.
 - If you have selected an Additional withdrawal, this payment is made on the first regular payment date along with the first regular income amount.



What you will need to do

Payment Details

- 25. Selected a destination account for the PCLS and income payments.
- 26. Specify the **Proportion of PCLS** to be paid to the destination account and the **Proportion of Income** to be paid to the destination account. This is regular income and any different initial withdrawals that you set.
- 27. Click Next.

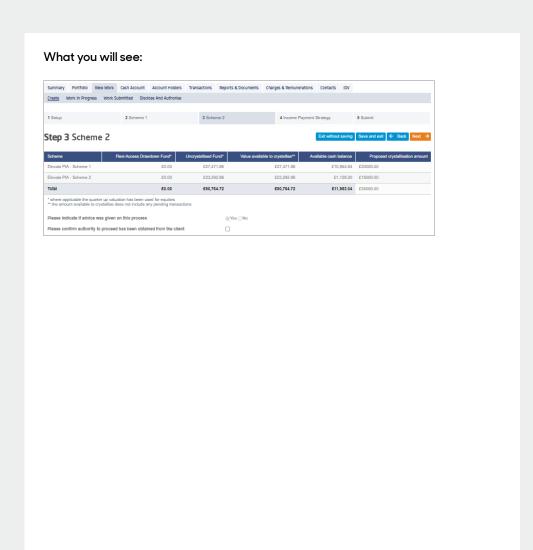
Notes

- 25 The Elevate Cash Account or a bank account that has been verified for withdrawals will be available for selection.
- 26. Enter 100% for both.

You will need to do this even where the income has been set to zero (and if no PCLS has been selected).

You can Save and exit at any point and resume at a later date via New Work > Work In Progress.

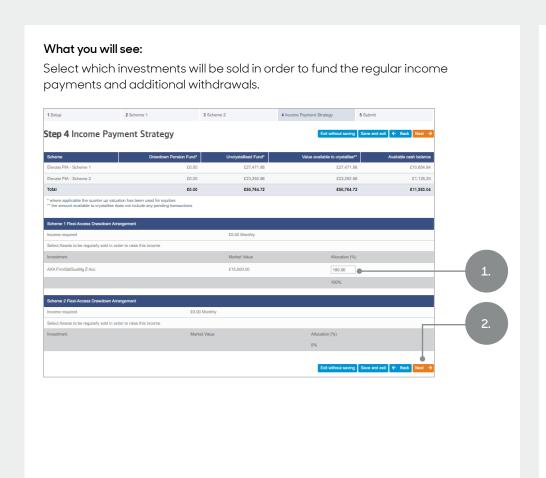
Step 3: Scheme 2 Details



What you will need to do

Repeat the steps for Scheme 2 if necessary.

Step 4: Income Payment Strategy



What you will need to do

1. Add a percentage against the chosen investments or select cash.

2. Click Next.

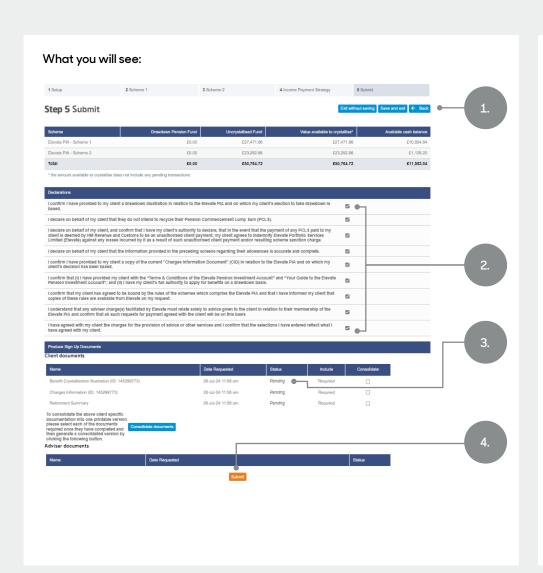
Notes

1. This must total 100% even if no income is being taken.

These are the assets you earlier selected to move in to drawdown.

If you select cash you must make sure cash is available before each payment date or automatic disinvestment will be triggered.

Step 5: Validate and submit



What you will need to do

 Correct any errors shown in Validation Messages by clicking back through the steps if necessary.

- 2. Read and acknowledge the **Declarations**.
- View and print the Benefit
 Crystallisation Illustration and
 Charges Information document
 generated by clicking Complete.
- 4. If all information has been entered correctly, click **Submit**.

Notes

- 3. Paperwork will also be stored in **Reports & Documents** for future reference.
- 4. Once the drawdown request has been authorised a Lump Sum Allowance Certificate is generated if PCLS has been paid, and will be sent to your client.

This will be stored and available to view in **Reports & Documents**.

Helpful hints

We recommend holding approximately 27-30% of the required amount as available cash prior to performing the crystallisation. This will be needed to fund 25% PCLS payment, Initial Adviser Charge (Drawdown), and an allowance for market fluctuation. If there is not enough available cash in the accumulation arrangement, you will need to sell investments and wait for them to settle before commencing this process.

If you are planning to crystallise transfer-in cases immediately, we would recommend you invest the transfer 100% in cash when arranging the transfer. This will enable you to process the drawdown request on Elevate when the money has been received, rather than waiting for trades to settle.

Initial Adviser Charge (Drawdown) is calculated on the net money moved into drawdown after PCLS has been calculated.

Crystallisation requires authorisation from Elevate Client Operations. Until this authorisation is made the process will remain located in **New Work > Work In Progress**. The authorisation will normally be made within 24 hours and we will contact you if authorisation cannot be granted for any reason.

Once authorised, the tax-free portion is paid by CHAPS same day payment.

Income is paid by Direct Credit (BACS). The payment date you select is the date that your client will receive the payment.

If you have set an additional withdrawal, this is paid on the first regular income date you have specified (which must be at least 10 days in the future) at the same time as the first regular income payment if also selected. The subsequent regular income will continue from the next payment date.

Should a regular income payment fall on a non-business day, your client will receive payment on the last business day prior.

On-platform Flexi-Access Drawdown requests will be put in to a single Flexi-Access Drawdown arrangement within the Elevate PIA. However, separate on-platform Flexi-Access Drawdown accounts are opened for Elevate Scheme 1 and, if applicable, Elevate Scheme 2.

Existing Capped Drawdown arrangements (and any new ones that are transferred-in) are held in separate drawdown arrangements unless you choose to convert them to Flexi-Access Drawdown.

Transfer-in Flexi-Access Drawdown accounts are held in separate arrangements unless you choose to merge them to a single drawdown arrangement.

Arranging a Flexi-Access Drawdown arrangement will trigger the Money Purchase Annual Allowance Rules (MPAA) rules, if they do not already apply. The MPAA is triggered when the first income payment (regular or single) is made from the arrangement (not when tax-free cash is paid).

A letter is sent to your client when the MPAA is triggered.

The MPAA will limit the amount of tax relief available on future contributions to any money purchase arrangement (like the Elevate PIA) and an annual allowance tax charge will apply to contributions over this amount.

Please be aware that if taxable one-off income payments (including additional withdrawals) are taken during the tax year, depending on your client's tax code they may not be taxed as you might normally expect. Future regular income received could also vary as a result of any one-off payments taken.

For any taxable income selected the payment will be subject to income tax deducted through PAYE before it is paid to your client. The tax code applied is stipulated by HMRC and will depend on your client's circumstances and the information we have for them:

- If a client is not already taking drawdown pension withdrawals and does not have a P45 for the current tax year, the 'Emergency Code Month 1' tax code will be used until we are provided with the correct code from HMRC.
- If the client is already taking pension withdrawals, we are able apply the tax code we have in place.

Get to know us better

We hope you've got a good insight into our platform and the potential benefits it can bring to you and your firm.

If there is anything more you want to know, please contact us.

Call us on 0345 600 2399

Our lines are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. As part of our commitment to quality service and security, telephone calls may be recorded.

Email us at Elevate_Enquiries@abrdn.com

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For more information visit abrdn.com/adviser

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