

Scam alert:

Your handy guide to safeguarding against rogue pension promoters



A fifth of people over 50 have been targeted by pension scammers, according to research from provider Retirement Advantage. Here are the top five tips advisers should give to anyone they fear has been duped into a pension scam.



1 An offer to help you access your pension savings before age 55

It is only possible to do this in rare situations (for instance, if you are very ill), so be careful and always check with your pension provider.

2 A recommendation to take a large amount of money, or your whole pension pot, in a lump sum and invest it

There are significant tax implications if you take lots of your savings in one go, so check the tax position before you make any decisions.



3 Warnings that the deal is limited and you must act now

Choosing the right retirement income product(s) is a big decision and should not be done quickly or under pressure.

4 An encouragement not to get professional financial advice or talk to Pension Wise

An adviser would be able to explain the rules and tax implications of different options and help you make the best choices for your personal circumstances, so be very suspicious if this is discouraged.



5 Contact by somebody who is not on the Financial Conduct Authority register

The register is a public record of all the regulated firms and individuals in the financial services industry, including retirement income providers and investment companies.

Spot the warning signs before it's too late