



FCQ

QNUPS



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Introduction

First Choice QNUPS is part of the First Choice Group of companies, based in Manchester, being originally established in 2010 as a legal and financial solutions provider to business owners within the UK with an emphasis on business protection.

FCQ work transparently in conjunction with our partners, FCA regulated chartered tax advisors and, when necessary, HMRC to deliver pension schemes to individuals, couples and or business owners.

The Group, including FCQ, pride themselves on delivering with the utmost confidentiality and integrity and in a timely manner with a view to ensuring that our private and commercial clients receive a professional and expedited service.

Background



Our Partners

Working with experienced and fully regulated Financial Conduct Authority partners and chartered tax advisors ensures that our clients always receive “best advice” when it comes to the type of QNUPS to be established and the most tax efficient jurisdiction for them.



Experience

As members of Countrywide Group we have we have years of experience and access to fully qualified and regulated STEP practitioners to ensure a seamless journey to setting up your pension trusts.



HMRC

A quick visit to www.gov.uk and search for QNUPS will reveal that this pension vehicle is a fully approved and legal vehicle for the setting up of overseas pension schemes.

REGULATION

The provision of pension advice is a fully regulated financial service and monitored by the Financial Conduct Authority.

However, Qualifying Non UK Pension Schemes are not regulated by the FCA whilst still being recognised by HMRC as a legal pension scheme evidenced by information set out on the Government's web site found at www.gov.uk.

As such, a QNUPS can be set up in a number of overseas jurisdictions taking the form of either contract or trust based pension schemes.

QNUPS EXPLAINED

A Qualifying Non UK Pension Scheme (“QNUPS”) is exactly that, a pension scheme established abroad but still recognised as a legitimate pension scheme by HMRC.

Indeed, QNUPS were introduced by HMRC through a statutory instrument that came into force on 15th February 2010 as a direct result of an oversight in terms of IHT liabilities in the earlier QROPS program.

A QNUPS is a retirement trust or pension that meets a number of criteria. Should the criteria be met by a scheme then any lifetime payments into the scheme or transfers on the death of the pension holder will be exempt from UK Inheritance Tax.

QNUPS will be particularly attractive to UK residents looking for solutions to mitigate against Inheritance Tax, non-UK residents who want to mitigate local death taxes (and potentially wealth taxes) in the country in which they are tax resident and non-UK domiciled individuals who may return to the UK at some time in the future.

QNUPS BENEFITS

The key benefits of QNUPS are:

- Contributions into the scheme can be from any source and not just earned income
- There is no maximum age for making contributions
- There is no limit on how much can be paid or transferred in.
- Assets within QNUPS will roll up without liability to tax
- Flexible levels of income can be withdrawn
- A tax free lump sum of up to 25% of the fund can be withdrawn at 55
- There is no liability to local taxes in the country of set up
- On death the trust assets will be exempt from Inheritance Tax, Succession Tax and Wealth Tax in many countries (particularly the UK, France and Spain)
- Income from the scheme can be structured as an annuity if the local tax rules mean that this is more tax efficient
- There is no scheme reporting by the trustees to HMRC
- 100% of the fund can be passed to heirs on death

As a QNUPS is a pension scheme members are entitled to withdraw an income or a cash lump sum and a pension.

IFA AVOIDANCE

Most clients looking at pension scheme set up will have personal IFA's who will provide them with regulated financial advice on pensions and other investment strategies.

They will not have received advice on QNUPS from their IFA because it is not a FCA regulated scheme even though it is approved by HMRC. In addition to which most IFA's are "tied" to networks and will only offer advice on financial products approved by that network.

So the reality is that most IFA's do not actually provide impartial advice on financial products but only on products that they are authorised by their network to promote and the question then is, who is the real beneficiary of the product being promoted, the client or the network?

As a result of this biased approach most clients will not be aware of the benefit of a QNUPS as set out above.

