



# NON-STANDARD PRSA

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*PRSA Preliminary Disclosure Certificate*



# About - Quest Retirement Solutions

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Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd, with over 20 years' experience in the Irish financial industry, is one of the leading providers of self-directed pension structures in Ireland. We strive to make pensions work harder for our clients.

We offer a full suite of self-directed pre and post retirement pension structures, delivered through our focused administration service. Self-directed structures allow you to control the investment decisions made within your pension. These structures offer a large selection of investment options and are highly flexible arrangements.

You, working with your Financial Broker, decide the most suitable investment strategy based on your financial needs.

We operate through a 'Broker Only Model', therefore our products are exclusively available through regulated Financial Brokers. We do not deal with the public directly. In order to setup a Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd self-directed structure you must appoint a regulated Financial Broker who will discuss your options with you and create a financial plan for you based on your needs.



## PRSA Introduction

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This is a Preliminary Disclosure Certificate ("Certificate") for a non-standard Personal Retirement Savings Account, provided by Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd. This is an important document. Please read it and keep it for future reference.

# 1. Description of your PRSA

## (A) BENEFITS

### *Benefit at Retirement*

1. You may retire at any time after age 60 and before age 75 provided rules imposed by the Irish Revenue Commissioners (“Revenue Commissioners”) at the time are complied with. You may retire at any time after 50 if you are an employee and retire from employment. Your retirement benefit will be the value of your investments. You will have a choice as to how you would like to take your retirement benefits, details of which can be found below. If you make Additional Voluntary PRSA Contributions (“AVCs”) only, you may take these benefits only when you retire from the Occupational Pension Scheme to which your AVCs relate. All benefits must be taken on or before your 75th birthday.
2. Provided the rules imposed by the Revenue Commissioners at the time are complied with, you may choose to provide benefits on retirement in one or more of the following forms:

### *Lump Sum at Retirement*

- i. A retiring member may take a **lump sum of up to 25%** (subject to a maximum lifetime tax-free amount of €200,000, with the balance up to €500,000 taxed at 20%) of the accumulated fund at retirement. Lump sums under an AVC PRSA are determined in conjunction with the benefits under the main occupational pension scheme.
- ii. **A taxable Lump Sum Retirement Benefit:** You can take all of your retirement proceeds as a taxable lump sum
- iii. Purchase an **Annuity** (guaranteed pension for life)
- iv. Establish an **Approved Retirement Fund (ARF)**
- v. **Vested PRSA:** Instead of opting to transfer any balance to an ARF, the PRSA holder can alternatively opt to retain the balance in the PRSA until age 75.

A PRSA from which the 25% lump sum is taken but where funds are retained in the PRSA is called a ‘vested’ PRSA. Vested PRSAs are subject to the same imputed distributions applying to ARFs. This means that once the Vested PRSA owner is aged 60 for a full tax year, there is a requirement to value the Vested PRSA as at 30th November each year and make a mandatory withdrawal, on which tax must be paid to the Revenue Commissioners. The current imputed distribution rates applicable, as at 1st January 2023, are as follows:

- From age 61 the minimum withdrawal will be 4% of the plan value each year for combined ARFs and Vested PRSAs of less than €2 million
- From age 71 the minimum withdrawal rises to 5% of the plan value each year for combined ARFs and Vested PRSAs of less than €2 million
- Combined ARFs & Vested PRSAs over €2 million must withdraw 6% of the plan value each year regardless of age.

At age 75 a PRSA holder may have the following options in relation to the balance in a vested PRSA:

- Leave the balance in the PRSA. In this case the individual can take no further withdrawals from the PRSA during his/her lifetime, but the imputed distribution tax charge continues to apply
- Take as a taxable lump sum, subject to relevant taxes
- Use to purchase an Annuity, or
- Transfer to an ARF

We fundamentally believe in the value of independent advice and we strongly recommend that you consult your Financial Broker prior to retirement in order to choose benefit options suitable for your individual circumstances.

### *What happens if I die?*

Currently, if you die before retirement, the value of the PRSA can be used to provide a pension for your spouse or can be paid as a lump sum to your estate. The law can change, we will follow the applicable laws in relation to the payment of benefits in the event of death.

### *Early Retirement*

If you are an employee and retire from employment, or your occupation is one from which persons customarily retire before the age of 60, you may be able to take your retirement benefits earlier than aged 60, but not before aged 50.

## Ill-Health Retirement

Should you become permanently incapable of continuing your current occupation, you can retire on ill-health grounds. Before you take ill-health retirement, you must provide us with appropriate evidence that supports your ill-health claim.

## Refund of Contributions

Refund of contributions can occur when:

- The amount of the contributor's PRSA assets with that PRSA provider, at the time of a request by the contributor for or offer by the provider, does not exceed €650 and
- No contributions have been received from the contributor for a period of at least 2 years prior to the said request or offer.

## (B) INVESTMENT STRATEGY

A PRSA allows you to control where the assets are invested. There are a wide range of investment options that you can choose from. If you do not select an investment option for your PRSA, the Default Investment Strategy will apply.

## Default Investment Strategy

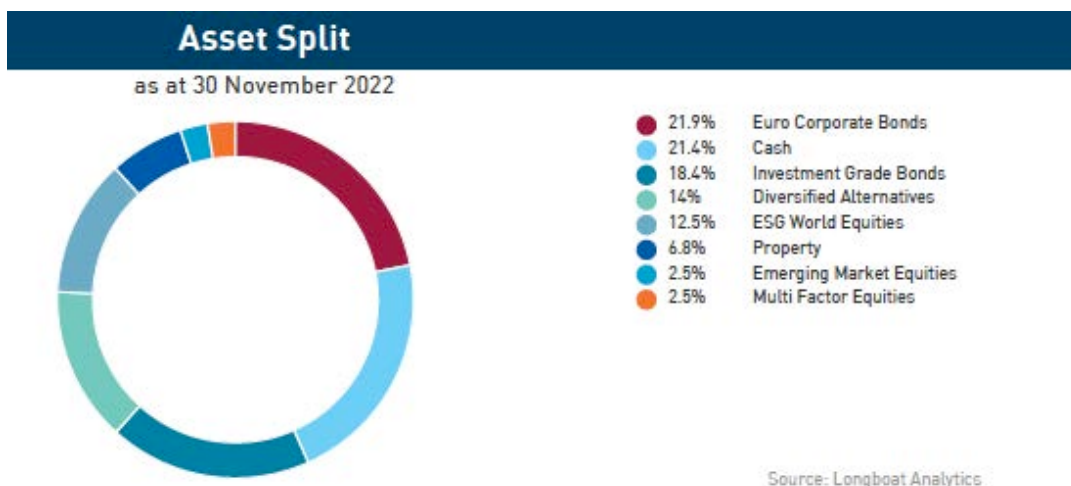
Under the Pensions Act, each PRSA product must provide a Default Investment Strategy ('DIS'), which is the investment approach to be used unless you specify otherwise. The DIS is designed to meet the reasonable aims of a typical PRSA contributor for the purposes of saving for retirement.

The DIS for the Quest Retirement Solutions PRSA is the New Ireland PRIME 3 fund ("PRIME 3"). If you adopt this strategy, it is assumed that you intend to take a cash lump sum of 25% on your retirement and invest the balance in an ARF. **This may not be appropriate if you intend purchasing an annuity or taking all your funds as a taxable lump sum at retirement.**

PRIME 3 invests in equities, bonds, cash and alternative investments. PRIME 3 is managed by State Street Global Advisors. The fund aims to generate an investment return which is reflective of the risk profile of the fund. New Ireland's risk rating for PRIME 3 is classified as low to medium risk and invests in a range of passive funds. PRIME 3 aims to achieve returns by using a multi-asset approach which offers investors possible returns that can arise from investing in a variety of asset classes. The fund aims to reduce the risk of investment loss by reducing the amount invested in equities when equity market volatility is high and investing in a broader range of asset classes. PRIME 3 uses a Passive investment approach which tracks a market weighted index or portfolio, as opposed to relying on a fund manager to make the investment decisions. PRIME 3 is broadly a passively managed fund but it is important to note that any investment in property will primarily be actively managed.

The DIS is designed to meet the needs of a Typical Contributor to a self-directed PRSA who does not make an active investment decision. You should note that the DIS adopts a stable risk profile over time and does not de-risk into lower risk assets as an investor approaches retirement. In this way it assumes the investment horizon for the typical contributor is to remain invested after retirement age.

The annual management charge for PRIME 3 is 0.5% PA. This is additional to the Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd annual management charge. You do have the option of switching to another investment approach at any time if you feel that the DIS does not meet your needs.



Source: New Ireland PRIME 3 Performance Factsheet dated 24 January 2023. The splits shown are as 30 November 2022. Over time all asset class exposure levels will move in line with changes in the markets. This may cause the actual exposure levels of PRIME 3 to deviate from the original levels for a period of time. A rebalancing process will occur to bring these levels back into line. The exposure to developed world and multi factor equities will also be determined by the dynamic risk adjustment mechanism.

**Warning: Past performance is not a reliable guide to the future performance. The value of investments may go down as well as up. The product may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest.**

## Range of investment funds

Here are some examples of the types of investments which can and cannot be made by your PRSA. These are not exhaustive lists but give you an indication of the flexibility and range of your investment choice under a PRSA. With some of the investments there are specific Revenue rules which you can discuss with your Financial Broker.

You will be required to appoint the services of a property management company and also a nominated solicitor to facilitate with any property purchase.

### Authorised Investments:

- ✓ Approved property
- ✓ Land
- ✓ Property syndicates
- ✓ Shares in private companies (subject to limits)
- ✓ Quoted equities on recognised worldwide stock exchanges
- ✓ Gilts, bonds and fixed interest stocks
- ✓ Investment trusts
- ✓ Unit trusts
- ✓ Insurance company funds
- ✓ Bank and building society deposits
- ✓ Offshore managed funds
- ✓ Copyrights
- ✓ Loan notes

### Prohibited Investments:

- ✗ Holidays homes with personal usage
- ✗ Shares in an associated employer
- ✗ Rare books and stamps
- ✗ Works of art and antiques
- ✗ Fine wines
- ✗ Loans to PRSA holder or their families
- ✗ Secured and unsecured loans to an associated employer or connected person
- ✗ Assets that could be used for PRSA holder's personal gain, e.g. golf membership
- ✗ Furniture and oriental rugs
- ✗ Yachts and vintage cars
- ✗ Jewellery and gem stones
- ✗ Gold bullion

## Arm's Length Rule

The seller of any asset must be at arm's length from the beneficial owner. If the asset is a property the property must be let, and eventually sold, on an arm's length basis and all rents received must be lodged to a PRSA account. Property development is not permitted as the Revenue regards this as trading and not investment.

### (C) TAX

There is income tax relief available on personal contributions made to your PRSA. You can claim tax relief within the following limits set by the Revenue Commissioners:

Age attained during year	Tax Relief Limit (% of Net Relevant Earnings)
Less than 30	15%
30 – 39	20%
40 – 49	25%
50 – 54	30%
55 – 59	35%
60 and over	40%

The maximum net relevant earnings limit is currently €115,000. If the total amount of your personal contributions exceed the limits above, the excess may be available for relief in future years subject to relevant limits in each year. Relevant earnings is broadly defined as any remuneration from an office or employment or income from a trade or profession chargeable to income tax; net relevant earnings are relevant earnings less losses, capital allowances, and certain payments that reduce your income for tax purposes, such as tax-efficient covenants.

The limits set out above are inclusive of all personal contributions which you may make to other pension schemes – other PRSAs, Personal Pension Plans, Section 785 policies and Occupational Pension Schemes. You can carry forward and backdate income tax relief for PRSAs subject to certain conditions.

Independent tax advice should be sought to determine your Net Relevant Earnings and allowable limits.

Employer contributions to your PRSA, from 1st January 2023, are no longer treated as a Benefit in Kind for Income Tax purposes and do not attract a tax liability for you.

### *Some important points to note:*

- If contributions to your PRSA are deducted directly from your salary, you benefit from the above tax relief immediately. Otherwise, you need to apply to the Revenue Commissions to obtain this tax relief.
- You may be able to carry forward and backdate income tax relief for personal contributions to your PRSA, subject to certain conditions.
- Income Tax Relief on total PRSA contributions can be claimed up to an amount of €1,525 p.a. (excluding AVCs), even if the contribution exceeds the relevant limits referred to above. You can make a claim for tax relief from the Revenue Commissioners.
- Personal PRSA contributions are NOT deductible for PRSI or USC purposes.
- You may also elect to apply your contribution to the preceding tax year, provided the payment is made by 31st October. Extended payment and return filing dates may apply if the contribution is made using Revenue Online Services.
- Investment Tax: Any Investments made using funds from your PRSA grow free from Irish Capital Gains and Income Tax. In addition, deposits grow free from DIRT. However, if you invest in some overseas investments there may be withholding taxes deducted at source from income or dividends which may be due from such investments. In most cases, these withholding taxes can be reclaimed.

### *Tax on Benefit Payments*

When you retire, you may take a lump sum of up to 25% (subject to a maximum lifetime tax-free amount of €200,000) of the accumulated fund at retirement. The next €300,000 will be taxed at 20%, with any balance being treated as income and taxed under the PAYE system.

If you are in an occupational pension scheme and are making AVCs, the amount of the tax-free cash lump sum payable will be based on the rules of the occupational pension scheme.

The balance, subject to Revenue rules, can be:

1. Left in your PRSA. Imputed Distribution rules will apply annually
2. Take as a taxable lump sum, subject to PAYE and USC
3. Used to purchase an Annuity
4. Transfer to an ARF
5. A combination of the above

Any taxable cash lump sums, annuity incomes, ARF and PRSA withdrawals are regarded as income and taxed under the PAYE system.

Vested PRSAs are subject to the same imputed distributions applying to ARFs. This means that once the Vested PRSA owner is aged 60 for a full tax year, there is a requirement to value the Vested PRSA as at 30th November each year and make a mandatory withdrawal, on which tax must be paid to the Revenue Commissioners. The current imputed distribution rates applicable as at 1st January 2023 are as follows:

- From age 61 the minimum withdrawal will be 4% of the plan value each year for combined ARFs and Vested PRSAs of less than €2 million
- From age 71 the minimum withdrawal rises to 5% of the plan value each year for combined ARFs and Vested PRSAs of less than €2 million
- Combined ARFs & Vested PRSAs over €2 million must withdraw 6% of the plan value each year regardless of age

### *Tax Treatment upon death of the PRSA Holder*

If you die before you have started to draw down your PRSA benefits, the value of your PRSA will be paid in a tax free lump sum to your estate. Death benefits may be subject to Inheritance Tax for the beneficiary. However, if you had already begun taking your PRSA benefits, the remaining value of your PRSA will be treated as if it was an ARF. Tax treatment depends on who your vested PRSA is paid to.

### *Maximum Pension Fund and tax-free lump sum*

If all your pension arrangements at retirement exceed €2 million the excess is taxed at the higher rate of income tax. This is known as the Standard Fund Threshold (SFT). You may also have a higher Personal Fund Threshold (PFT).

The maximum total tax-free lump sum that can be taken at retirement is €200,000 currently. Retirement lump sums between €200,000 and €500,000 will be taxed at the standard rate.

## *Tax on refunds of contributions from Occupational Pension Schemes*

You can transfer a refund of contributions from your occupational pension scheme or your statutory pension scheme into your PRSA. Tax will not be deducted from this refund.

## *Tax on transfers to and from other pension arrangements*

In certain circumstances, transfer values can be paid from a personal pension or an occupational scheme into a PRSA and would not be subject to taxation.

## (D) RISK FACTORS

There are risks you should consider before using a PRSA as a provision for your retirement. At retirement, your PRSA retirement fund may be less than the total contributions paid into the PRSA. This could occur due to a combination of investment risk and charges applied to your PRSA.

### *Investment Risks*

- You could get back less than the anticipated/targeted retirement benefits shown at the outset. This could occur from a combination of lower investment returns, higher charges, and lower contributions paid to the PRSA, than illustrated at the outset.
- All investment decisions are made by you, the PRSA holder. It is important to seek financial advice before any investment decision.
- Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd have the power to dispose of assets within the PRSA where required.

### *Economic Risks*

- The PRSA may produce a return less than inflation, and so the retirement fund may fail to keep pace with inflation.

### *Taking Benefits Early*

- You may need access to your PRSA funds at a time and in circumstances in which you are not allowed to access the PRSA. It is therefore important that you have other readily accessible savings and investments. A PRSA is a long-term financial commitment and you should be satisfied that this commitment fits in with your needs, resources, and circumstances before establishing a PRSA.
- If you access your benefits before age 60 then your PRSA funds are likely to be less than you expected as you will have paid contributions for a shorter period and will have invested your funds for a shorter period.

### *Concentration Risk*

- Any investment within your PRSA should be considered as part of your overall portfolio. To avoid over exposure to one counterparty or investment type, you should not put all, or a large proportion of the money into one investment.

### *Credit/Counterparty Risk*

- Default or failure by any third party investment provider could result in a complete or partial loss in the value of your investment.

### *Tax Risk*

- The tax treatment of this product could change at any time and any tax benefits may depend on your individual circumstances.

### *Market Risk*

- There are a wide, varying number of market risks that affect how this product and any underlying investment markets work including breakdowns in technical communications, market default, prohibitions imposed by civil or regulatory authorities, acts of God, fires, floods, acts of government or state, civil commotions, strikes or lockouts (of its own or other employees), war, insurrections or riots, embargoes and similar events. It is impossible to accurately quantify the effect that any of these occurrences would have on the investment.

## 2. The Projected Level of Benefits

The benefits that will emerge from your PRSA will depend in particular on the level of your contributions, how long you pay those contributions and the investment return achieved.

The table below illustrates the projected benefits that might be obtained from this PRSA contract. The illustration has an investment term of 25 years and is based on a transfer of €100,000 with no allowance for future contributions.

We do not have sufficient information to produce a certificate that reflects your specific circumstances. Consequently, the level of contributions, projected benefits, intermediary remuneration and sales remuneration shown here may be misleading. If you accept the terms of this contract, we will subsequently send you a Statement of Reasonable Projection that will reflect your indicative circumstances. You will then have 30 days in which you may cancel the contract if you wish.

### *Table of Benefits*

Year	€ Total amount of contributions paid into PRSA contract to date	€ Projected investment growth to date	€ Projected PRSA contract value if no account is taken of applicable charges to date	€ Projected PRSA contract value if account is taken of applicable charges to date
1	100,000	2,900	102,900	101,256
2	100,000	5,924	105,924	102,568
3	100,000	9,076	109,076	103,937
4	100,000	12,363	112,363	105,364
5	100,000	15,791	115,791	106,851
10	100,000	35,271	135,271	115,233
15	100,000	59,336	159,336	125,343
20	100,000	89,107	189,107	137,411
24	100,000	117,956	217,956	148,654
Year of maturity	100,000	125,975	225,975	151,705

IMPORTANT: THE PROJECTIONS SHOWN ABOVE MAKE NO ALLOWANCE FOR THE EFFECT OF INFLATION, WHICH WILL REDUCE THE VALUE OF THE PROJECTED BENEFITS. THE PROJECTED MATURITY VALUE OF €151,705 SHOWN IN THE TABLE IS WORTH €104,556 IN TERMS OF CURRENT PRICES. THIS MATURITY VALUE COULD PURCHASE A RETIREMENT INCOME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE STARTING FROM THAT DATE OF €288 PER MONTH IN TERMS OF CURRENT PRICES.

THESE ILLUSTRATIONS ASSUME AN INVESTMENT RETURN BEFORE RETIREMENT OF 3.3% PER ANNUM AND INFLATION OF 1.5% PER ANNUM. THESE RATES ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE NOT GUARANTEED.

ACTUAL INVESTMENT GROWTH WILL DEPEND ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNDERLYING INVESTMENTS AND MAY BE MORE OR LESS THAN ILLUSTRATED.

**Warning: These figures are estimates only. They are not a reliable guide to the future performance of the investment.**

The figures in the 'Table of Benefits' above were prepared in line with the Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (Disclosure) Regulations 2002 and Actuarial Standards of Practice ASP PRSA-2 of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland.

## 3. Warnings

**It is important to make adequate provision for your retirement. At the date of this Certificate, the State Pension (Contributory) payable under the Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006 to a single person who is qualified to receive the maximum rate amounts to €265.30 per week and equates to 32% of the latest yearly figure for gross average earnings as published by the Central Statistics Office for all industrial workers in all industries.**

**The value of your assets, and accordingly, the level of your benefits will depend upon the value of the underlying investments of the PRSA and the income which they earn. These values are not guaranteed, and may fall from time to time, as well as rise.**

**This PRSA is intended to provide benefits over the duration of your life from retirement and it should be viewed as a long-term**



investment.

It is recommended that you seek professional financial advice about the nature of this PRSA and associated investments before signing the PRSA contract.

## 4. Intermediary Remuneration

Illustrative Table of Intermediary Remuneration and Sales Remuneration:

Year	€ Contributions payable in that year	€ Projected total intermediary and sales remuneration payable in that year
1	100,000	374
2	0	308
3	0	312
4	0	316
5	0	321
10	0	346
15	0	376
20	0	412
24	0	446
Year of maturity	0	455

This remuneration is paid for by Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd from the charges we apply to your PRSA.

## 5. Information on Charges

The charges for PRSAs cannot be defined in monetary terms but can only be expressed as a percentage of the fund value and/or percentage of contributions. There will be no charge for contributions made to the PRSA. Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd annual administration charges are as follows:

Investment Value	Annual Administration Charge
Less than €50,000	2.5% p.a.
€50,000 to €99,999	1.4% p.a.
€100,000 to €499,999	1.0% p.a.
€500,000 to €1,499,999	0.5% p.a.
Over €1,500,000	0.4% p.a.

The Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd Annual Administration Charge ('Fees') will be deducted half yearly in advance, based on the value of your PRSA Fund as at 31 March and 30 September ("Valuation Dates"). Fees accrue from the start date of this contract (the date the Firm issues your Statement of Reasonable Projection ("SORP")) and will be deducted based on the valuation of your PRSA fund at the next Valuation Date, either 31 March or 30 September. In this regard, the first fee applied to your PRSA fund will include the fee from the start date of this contract to the next valuation date, and the following 6 month fee. Should the value of your PRSA fund fluctuate during the period, Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd will apply the corresponding fee based on the value of your PRSA fund at the valuation date. Where there are insufficient funds to deduct fees following the valuation date, fees will accrue for future deduction.

Bank charges for your PRSA are paid in addition to the charges above. A charge of 1% per annum (pa) for the first €6,000 of the fund value and 0% pa thereafter will be applied to accommodate the third party banking facility. These are charged quarterly, directly to your bank account opened to operate your PRSA.

In addition to bank charges your bank account may attract negative interest rates. Interest rate changes will be communicated to you via your Financial Broker.

Additional charges for investments made within the PRSA may be applied by third parties. You will be notified of these charges in advance by your Financial Broker. They are in addition to the charges above and will comply with PRSA legislation.

In preparing this Certificate we have assumed a fund value of €100,000 and a Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd annual administration charge of 1% p.a. and an additional charge on underlying investments of 0.55% p.a. along with a bank charge of 1% pa of the first €6,000. This is based on an assumed investment mix of 5% in cash, 20% in bonds, 50% in equity, 10% in property and 15% in other asset classes. Note, actual investment charges may be higher or lower depending on your investments. Higher charges will lower the value of your investments. Based on the above factors for your contract, the total effect of these charges on the benefits at maturity projected above is equivalent to a single charge of 1.61% per annum of the assets held under contract.

The actual charges on your underlying investment will be disclosed to you in advance and shown in your annual Statement of Reasonable Projection.

Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd reserve the right to apply any other charges that may arise as a result of changes to taxation by the Revenue Commissioners or any other changes to legislation. We will inform you in writing at least two months before any increase in the Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd fund charge is made. If the charge is increased, we will send you a Statement of Reasonable Projection when the change is made.

## 6. Cooling-off Period

This contract is not enforceable until a period of 30 days has elapsed from date on which you are given a Statement of Reasonable Projection and you may cancel this contract at any time during that period.

## 7. Certificate

This Preliminary Disclosure Certificate has been prepared under the provisions of section 111 of the Pensions Act, 1990 for disclosure in connection with this PRSA on 31st January 2023. This PRSA is not a Standard PRSA.

Signed:




**David Kavanagh, Director**


Quest Retirement Solutions Ltd, 2A Elm House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare


Date: 31st January 2023






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