



Your Island Pension (YIP)

Pension Transfers - Why combine your pension?

The pension built for you. Easy. Simple. Affordable.

With the new Secondary Pensions regulation, every islander who is an employee will have a pension pot. The good news is that now when you leave your employer you will be able to take it with you to your new employer.

Think of your pension as a backpack that you will carry through your working life. If you keep paying into it, it'll get bigger, but it will give you joy, freedom and choice when you retire.

1. Keep it simple

If you have worked for employers that have provided you with a pension before the new rules, then it is likely that you have little pension pots dotted around the island. It's important that you don't lose track of them, as it's easy to forget over the length of your career. You can transfer these into one pension account (or backpack) so that you don't forget them.

2. Plan for your future

By having a single pension, it will make it easier for you to plan for your future. You'll know how much money you will have. When you retire it makes life easier as you don't have to deal with lots of old employers (that may not exist anymore) or lots of pension providers. This means you will get your money quicker and it will be less stressful.

So, you only carry one handy backpack and not lots of little bags that you try and juggle.

● **Can I put my personal Retirement Annuity Trust (RAT) into YIP?**

Yes. If you have a RAT, then you can transfer the cash value and take advantage of YIP's low costs.

● **Can I put my UK pension into YIP?**

No. YIP can only accept transfers from pension values that have been earned in Guernsey.



What should I consider?

First you need to consider if you can transfer your pension. Then you need to consider the pros and cons to see if it's the right thing to do. You may wish to seek advice from a financial adviser.

Are there any benefit guarantees?

- There are some older schemes called Final Salary or Defined Benefit schemes and they have valuable guarantees as to the benefits you will receive. For example if you have worked for the States of Guernsey, this may be the case. If you have this kind of scheme, you should take specific financial advice. We have a panel of independent financial advisers and we can forward details to you.
- Some schemes may have a guaranteed annuity when you retire. This means that the pension will guarantee an income for life. It is very hard to source an annuity now in Guernsey, so dependent on the value of that particular plan you would need to consider if it's worth keeping it where it is. Again, you can take financial advice.

What are the costs?

- Some employers continue to pay the pension fees for ex-employees, so you need to understand if and what fees you are paying. You also need to find out what the fees are to transfer the account to another provider. These are often called exit fees.
- YIP do not charge for accepting and processing transfer-ins.

To understand more about the different types of pension please click here:

[What is a pension? | Your Island Pension \(yip.gg\)](https://www.yip.gg/what-is-a-pension/)



How do I find out about any older pensions?

The first step would be to contact your old employers and they will either be able to give you the information or pass you on to the pension provider that has your pension.



What information would I need to have?

The more information you have the easier it will be. For example, do you have an annual pension benefit statement or perhaps a portal log in? Ideally the provider will need to know:

- Your Plan number
- Your full name
- Your address at the time you had the Plan if you have not kept it up to date
- Your date of birth
- Your GY social security number



How easy is it to transfer?

The good news is that it is easy. All the Guernsey pension providers work closely together, so your existing pension provider will ask you to complete some documentation and they will engage with Sovereign, the YIP provider, to arrange the transfer.

You will also need to send us a transfer-in form which can be located at:
[Forms | Your Island Pension \(yip.gg\)](#)



Once the pension is transferred do I need to do anything?

Not really, no. Unless you instruct otherwise the money will be invested into the default investment choice which is the My Future Life Strategy. If you want to use the self-select range and put it into specific funds, then you simply need to inform us before the money is transferred.

So to recap:

1. Identify any pension accounts you have in Guernsey.
2. Consider what types of pensions they are and if you need to take financial advice.
3. If you are not going to transfer some or all, then make a note of all the details and put them somewhere safe so you don't forget them.
4. If you are going to transfer them into YIP, get the ball rolling by contacting either your old employer or the pension provider.
5. Email yip@sovereigngroup.com with the YIP transfer-in form or upload it via the Member portal to let us know.

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