



Fair Value Statement

April 2025



About Us

Introduction

This document is aimed at providing you with a brief overview of our firm and to introduce our services.

In this document, we intend to illustrate how we assess value and whether there is fair value between the total price of the service and the benefits and their quality that our clients receive.

Lifetime Financial Management & Planning is a firm of Independent Financial Advisers. We are a trading style of MJ Financial Consultants LLP which is an appointed representative of Best Practice IFA Group Limited, a network that promotes a high level of market standards through the provision of resources, technology, training and support.

We are a progressive, “human with a digital touch”, firm of Independent Financial Advisers with over 35 years of experience providing the highest-quality holistic financial planning and wealth management solutions.

We combine personal service with intelligent use of technology and a market-leading discretionary investment proposition. Our risk-rated portfolios have discretionary management incorporated to ensure that the funds are reviewed on a quarterly basis. We also have specialist Sustainable Portfolios. For these, we provide unique, informative reporting for those clients who want to measure the positive impact their investments are making on the world in monetary terms.

Our service propositions have been designed to meet the needs and objectives of our clients and to ensure fair value is received by engaging with our service.

All of our clients will be advised by a highly qualified and regulated professional, backed by an institutional quality proposition, which delivers assurance and peace of mind.

Our commitment to our clients runs deeper than a simple meeting structure and we work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we remain up to date with the latest industry requirements, competent in our product knowledge and supported with the highest quality back-office systems and compliance controls. This is achieved through:

- Continual Professional Development (CPD)
- Industry Qualifications (Diplomas, Certificates, Awards etc.)
- Being part of the Best Practice IFA Group (Access to regulatory supervision and compliance framework).

Our client relationships are often very long standing. Clients lean on us for so much more than the financial plans we cultivate and manage for them. As a result, we build multi decade trust-based relationships with our clients. We get to know what really matters most to them and their families and what they are trying to achieve in life. We focus all our resources and expertise on helping them to achieve their goals.

Services

Our service proposition has been designed to meet the needs and objectives of our clients and to ensure fair value is received by engaging with our service.

Our service is designed for all individual clients, families, business owners and trustees and is provided face-to-face, or via a video meeting or phone call, according to client preferences.

The service provides the full breadth of holistic financial planning and wealth management solutions. It is based on lifetime client engagement and designed to provide our clients with a personalised financial strategy and ongoing advice. This ensures ongoing suitability of clients’ plans as they pass through each stage in life.



We know this service contributes materially to value and peace of mind for our clients and their families, often over many decades.



The Value of our Service

We are a firm of Independent Financial Advisers

- As a firm of Independent Financial Advisers, we are committed to the highest standards of professional competency, ethical standards, and integrity. We know being independent gives our clients a great deal of peace of mind, knowing that they will always get an objective view and a solution designed specifically for them.
- We feel this professional and ethical framework is central to our firm's values and aligns perfectly with our focus on delivering value for clients. This is of vital importance to us, supporting the development of lifelong, trust-based relationships with our clients.

We are a member of Best Practice IFA Group

- Best Practice IFA Group, our network, provides an institutional regulatory supervision and compliance framework service which provides us with a high level of regulatory assurance and industry leading client management systems.
- This high quality and financially sound organisation provides us with a high level of assurance and comfort around the regulatory framework of our proposition and the services we deliver to our clients.
- By leveraging the quality and services of an organisation like Benchmark, a Schroders plc group company, we have comfort that we will remain at the leading edge of our profession, ensuring we maintain a "Best Practice" approach to serving our clients.

Many of the benefits we derive, we see as having direct value to our clients, including:

- Enhanced professional indemnity insurance.
- Integrated client technology systems, including our online client portal, Wealth Platform.
- Independent compliance supervision of our advisers and the suitability of our client advice.
- The provision of an independent complaints handling process for all of our clients.

Technology

- One of the reasons clients choose to work with us, is because of our award-winning technology provided by Benchmark. Ultimately backed by Schroders, we have every confidence that the security of our client's information within Benchmark's client management systems is in very safe hands. This provides great peace of mind to our clients who feel their information is safe whilst working with us.
- Our client management systems create adviser efficiency, allowing us to spend less time recording information on systems and more time focused on providing you, our clients, with good quality holistic financial planning advice.
- Our clients also have the ability to log into an online client portal, Wealth Platform, and check the value of their investments, should they wish to do so at any time. This portal can also be used to securely share documents.

Holistic Financial Planning



We will consider all aspects of your personal and financial life whilst providing advice. By looking at the full picture we can look how the different aspects of your finances interact. We can then assist you with making a well thought out and cohesive plan for your financial future.

Market, Product Research and Analysis

To recommend the most suitable solutions for our clients, we use professional tools to conduct research and analysis of provider and product solutions. This ensures we can make recommendations to best meet your needs and goals.

Tax Efficiency

Making sure we consider tax reliefs and allowances enables clients to maximise their after-tax wealth. If you do not take advantage of annual tax reliefs, then you could quite literally be paying more tax than you need to. Tax efficiency is inherent in our advice and ongoing planning.

Initial Advice

Our initial advice and implementation process is designed to work with you to understand and capture everything we need to know about you, your financial objectives, your family's aspirations and goals for the future. Using our deep pool of technical knowledge and experience with financial planning and investment management, we will craft a bespoke plan aimed at meeting your goals. This will set the starting point for a relationship built on trust which we hope will last many years. This should provide you with clarity, understanding and peace of mind about the future. Below is an explanation of the advice process:

Initial discovery meeting:

- Understand your current circumstances.
- Determine your goals for your financial future and how we can help you to achieve them.
- Discuss and agree your priorities.
- Assess, discuss and agree your attitude to investment risk.

Research and analysis:

- Analyse any existing plans.
- Identify any gap in achieving your personal objectives.
- Research the range of potential solutions.
- Construction of a personal financial plan.

Report preparation:

- Prepare and present a full financial planning report.
- Discuss our recommendations and how these can assist you to achieve your goals.
- Ensure your understanding.

Implementation:

- Obtain your consent to proceed.
- Assist you to complete all the relevant paperwork.
- Ensure your applications are processed in a timely manner.

We will ensure you are given all the time you need to understand all the elements of our planning solutions, recommendations and how we propose to implement them.



Ongoing Advice Service

- Ongoing advice is an essential part of our service. This ensures that the plan we have put in place is monitored and reassessed according to your changing needs.
- Our ongoing advice service ensures you have access to your adviser and their support teams throughout the year to provide proactive guidance and support. They will deal with any enquiries or financial issues and concerns you may have and consider any changes to your circumstances.
- The cornerstone of our ongoing advisory service is the annual review meeting (further details below). This is a key meeting and opportunity to review the performance of your plans against your goals and objectives. We can adapt your plans as needed and ensure that any plans in place continue to remain suitable.
- You will have 24/7 access to your account online with full transparency of your portfolio and secure messaging via the client portal, Wealth Platform.
- We provide regular newsletters and investment insights which will keep you updated throughout the year. These cover any changes to markets, tax legislation and other relevant information that we feel may impact on your plans and objectives.

Annual Reviews

- Your annual review gives us an opportunity to sit down with you and your family, at a convenient time and setting, to reflect on the past year and to look forward and consider any changes in your circumstances, both now and in the future. We will ensure that any changes are considered and that your plans remain appropriate.
- You will be provided with a review report as part of the meeting and we will assess how your investments are performing. We will consider the outlook for markets and the economic landscape, discuss any changing tax regulations which might impact on your current plans. We will discuss and reassess your attitude to investment risk.
- If your strategy needs to be amended, this will be put in place.
- We will take the time to ensure you fully understand any changes to our advice. We will provide you with a record of our review meeting and any actions we will take as a result of the review.
- If appropriate to your planning needs, cash flow forecasting can provide a visual illustration of how your investments and wealth can move over time. Although this can only provide an indication, and plans will change, the forecast is designed to simulate possible future market movements by replicating historical events, showing how these may impact your portfolio. Cashflow planning also assists with understanding investment risk and should help you to feel more informed and comfortable with your future plans.

Investment Proposition and Philosophy

Diversification is key when investing for long term growth. One of the most important views to arise from modern portfolio theory is that investors should avoid concentrated sources of risk by holding a diversified portfolio.

Diversification of an investment portfolio across a variety of different low correlated asset classes should help to reduce the overall level of risk compared with, say, a portfolio which only includes bonds. For example, the inclusion of a small investment in a higher risk asset invested in a completely different area, in a portfolio comprising solely of UK bonds, can actually serve to reduce the overall level of risk in the portfolio when viewed as a whole.

This is because the behaviour of the higher risk fund differs to that of UK bonds in how it reacts to varying economic events. An effective combination of different asset classes can significantly reduce the risk of a portfolio without reducing its potential for growth.

Whilst investment performance is largely governed by the markets, it is essential that your investment is made into a well-researched and diversified portfolio at a risk level which is acceptable to you. This should include ongoing monitoring to ensure that your agreed risk levels are maintained and the strategy remains appropriate for your needs.



It is important that we can justify investment decisions to clients and make it clear why we have invested their money in a particular way. Our philosophy summarises our approach.

- Our investment proposition is researched to provide the most suitable investment solutions for your needs.
- Our skill is in selecting which solutions to blend together to build portfolios aimed at meeting your goals.
- These solutions are constantly monitored in terms of risk levels, performance and fees. This ensures they remain appropriate to you.

This gives comfort and reassurance that your personal financial plans are being looked after by highly qualified financial planning professionals, whilst your funds are invested in the most appropriate portfolio for your needs.

Centralised Investment Proposition

- A key part of our service is the use of our Centralised Investment Proposition. This provides access to a wide range of Model Portfolios and funds to meet your needs.

Rebalancing

- This is a discretionary service which helps to keep your investments on track by resetting your investments on a regular basis back to your strategic investment plan and agreed risk level. This will also adjust your portfolio dynamically to account for swings in markets.
- We will also proactively consider the tax consequences of these actions and will ensure we are taking advantage of any tax reliefs or allowances that you are entitled to, such as annual Capital Gains Tax allowances.

Advisory Services - Retirement Planning

- There are many options to consider in terms of retirement planning: examples such as flexible withdrawals from your plan or the purchase of an annuity to provide guaranteed income. We will assist and provide advice on the best route for your own circumstances. We will consider all elements of your retirement planning including death benefits for your spouse or dependents.
- Entering retirement and beginning to draw an income or tax-free cash from your pension assets for the first time requires considerable initial advice and planning. We will ensure you understand all of your options.
- We will advise on the most appropriate and tax efficient way to access your pension assets in the context of your short, medium and long term lifestyle needs. Should your funds remain invested, annual reviews will assist you with arranging your flexible retirement benefits. This will include a review of the underlying investments.
- Retirement is an area of planning which deserves significant planning time. It is one of the most valuable services we provide to our clients. Approximately 60% of our clients are currently in retirement, following our advice and drawing on their assets to live a life of their choice. Our retirement planning provides clarity and peace of mind to our clients.

Advisory Services - Protection Planning

- We all need to plan for the unforeseen in life and how this would impact ourselves and our family. We will help you to consider different scenarios which could occur and identify any shortfalls in your protection planning.
- We can explain the options available to address these shortfalls to ensure that you and your family can maintain your standard of living and longer-term financial goals in the event of ill health or death. We can find a bespoke solution to fit your priorities and budget.
- In the event of a claim, we can assist with the claims process on your behalf. This provides real value and peace of mind that your loved ones will be looked after when you are gone.

Advisory Services - Intergenerational Wealth Planning

- Managing your family's finances with both the present and future in mind is more than passing down an inheritance, it's a comprehensive strategy to make sure financial security, stability and family values are preserved across generations. We will advise you on the most appropriate planning solutions.



Advisory Services - IHT and Estate Planning

- We can work with you and your other professional advisers who have a deep knowledge and understanding of HMRC tax rules in relation to your estate's assets. We can help you to understand the value of future liabilities and design and implement strategies to reduce this burden. This can often save thousands of pounds in potential tax charges.

Advisory Services - Education Planning

- Many clients want to support their children or grandchildren through their education or university. We can help you put in place a financial plan to meet these costs in full or in part. This will provide you with the knowledge and peace of mind that this very important goal is in hand. Reviews will be held year on year to make sure you are on track.

Advisory Services - Long Term Care

- Long Term Care can be a complex, emotional and difficult subject. Whether thinking about yourself or exploring options on behalf of a loved one, we will simplify and explain all the options available. We will advise you on the most appropriate planning solutions.

Advisory Services - Corporate Services

- We can assist with setting up group pension schemes and protection solutions for businesses.
- We can assist with the provision of educational financial wellbeing services to sit alongside other employee benefits. This can provide tangible and intangible benefits to an employer. Ensuring employees' best interests are cared for and protected promotes a sense of wellbeing within the company.
- We can assist businesses with key person insurance and shareholder protection planning, where tax efficiencies and business protection can be achieved through financial planning.
- We can advise on protection for directors and the use of trusts for inheritance tax planning. These areas are particularly valuable areas of advice, given their complexity and the need for a qualified professional financial planner to advise you in these areas.



Summary

We believe our clients see real value from our services, which provide them with personalised financial planning advice and peace of mind through the use of:

- Carefully structured processes, which are reviewed regularly.
- Continuing Professional Development for all advisers at the firm.
- Being a member of a large organisation offering a compliance framework, award winning technology and regulatory supervision.
- Regular meetings to monitor progress and adapt plans according to changing objectives.
- Thorough market research and analysis, completed on a regular basis.
- Access to specialist advisers for all areas of your financial planning needs.

At Lifetime Financial Management & Planning we work hard to create a valued and trusted service for our clients. We know that every one of our clients is unique and we will work with our clients to find the right individual solutions for them.

Considering all areas included in the assessment of value, we believe the service provided is demonstrating value overall and our service proposition along with this value statement has been approved by our network, Best Practice IFA Group Limited.

Important information: Lifetime Financial Management & Planning is a trading style of MJ Financial Consultants LLP which is an Appointed Representative of Best Practice IFA Group Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority,



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