

Media Release
21 September 2010
For immediate release

UK's largest independent annuity payment provider encourages Government to go beyond current thinking

Xafinity Paymaster, the UK's largest independent provider of annuity payment services, which pays over 600,000 annuitants around the world, has encouraged the Government to go beyond its current thinking as outlined in the proposed HM Treasury (*Removing the requirement to annuitise by age 75*) consultation.

Xafinity is urging the Government to consider a number of options in order to overcome the retirement advice financial challenge, including:

- Compulsory provision of the three highest comparable annuity quotations for any retiree;
- Compulsory use of a Common Annuity Questionnaire and Application Form;
- Creation of an independent advisory body for annuitants along the lines of the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide specific advice to individuals at retirement. These could form part of the National Financial Advice Service;
- Allowing all retirees the right to two half days "off work" within six months of retirement to get dedicated retirement advice from their own financial adviser or a Government / Industry sponsored one.

Xafinity Paymaster's director of insurance and payroll, Keith Boughton, commented:

"The Government has the opportunity to overhaul completely the 'at retirement' process, which could at a single stroke benefit tens of thousands of retirees. The ability for retirees to shop around for the best 'pension' at retirement via the OMO (Open Market Option) has only been partly successful, and we believe that pension scheme providers must be compelled to provide the three best quotes; and this should be supported by a level of free and independent advice to individuals at retirement."

Copies of Xafinity Paymaster's consultation response entitled *Removing the requirement to annuitise by age 75* is available on their website – www.xafinitypaymaster.com.

ENDS

Notes to Editor

- A copy of Xafinity Paymaster's response to HM Treasury on *Removing the requirement to annuitise by age 75* can be downloaded from - <http://www.xafinity.com/Microsites/Xafinity-Paymaster/Media-Centre/Publications.aspx>

Xafinity Paymaster supports an increasing number of insurance companies in the administration and payment of annuity benefits. Clients include Aviva, Sun Life Financial of Canada, Pensions Insurance Corporation, Windsor Life and many others.

Xafinity Paymaster works with well established insurers as well as new entrants to the UK annuity market. A full range of existing annuity products is supported and at the current time more than 600,000 annuitants living throughout the world receive their annuity payment from Xafinity Paymaster.

Xafinity Paymaster does not provide advice to individuals or product providers and is accordingly focussed upon the servicing aspects of annuity portfolios and clearly has no insurer or product bias.

Xafinity Paymaster is the largest independent provider of annuity payment services in the UK.

For more information

Keith Boughton
Insurance and Payroll Director
Xafinity Paymaster
Tel: 01293 604223
Email: keith.boughton@xafinitypaymaster.com

Jane Ward
Public Relations Manager
Xafinity
Tel: 0207 680 2631
Email: jane.ward@xafinity.com