

Tenant Deposit

Legal Protection Insurance

Policy Wording



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CONTRACT OF INSURANCE

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing Tenant Deposit Legal Protection Insurance from Legal Protection Group Limited.

This insurance will provide assistance to pursue **your** legal rights in a **dilapidations** dispute with **your tenant** arising from the letting of **your insured property**.

Important note: This insurance comes into effect only in circumstances where Advanced Rent Limited do not facilitate an agreement between you and your tenant in the event of a dilapidations dispute and the matter is subsequently passed to us to deal with as a claim.

This is **your** Tenant Deposit Legal Protection policy document and it provides evidence of the contract between **you** and the **insurer**.

This document forms part of **your** policy, along with any attaching policy schedule, endorsement or, where applicable, a completed proposal form. Together these documents will give **you** full details of **your** cover, which **INSURED EVENT** is in force and the obligations between **you** and **us** and the **insurer**.

Please carefully read all documents and contact the person who sold **you** this insurance if **you** have any queries or if any information is missing, incorrect or needs to be changed. It is important that **you** inform the person who sold **you** this insurance of any inaccuracies or changes as soon as possible as failure to do so could adversely affect the terms of this insurance, including invalidating this policy or claims being rejected or not fully paid.

Please keep all documents in a safe place in the event you need to refer to its terms and conditions or make a claim.

Our obligation to you

In return for you paying or agreeing to pay the premium:

- a) we will provide cover for a claim, subject to the terms, exclusions and conditions detailed in this policy wording, your policy schedule any endorsements; and
- b) the insurer will pay adviser's costs and expenses up to the limit of indemnity for any one INSURED EVENT.

Provided that:

- (i) your dilapidations dispute is reported to Advanced Rent Limited within 30 days of the date of occurrence;
- (ii) Advanced Rent Limited are not able to facilitate an agreement between you and your tenant within 30 days of you notifying Advanced Rent Limited of your dilapidations dispute;
- (iii) the INSURED EVENT happens in the territorial limit;
- (iv) the INSURED EVENT always has reasonable prospects of success which must be present throughout the duration of your claim;
- (v) any proceedings or other methods we agree to resolve your claim are dealt with by a court or other body within the territorial limit; and
- (vi) you have ensured that each tenant (or, where appropriate, their guarantor) has satisfactorily passed a reference from an approved tenant referencing agency and can provide evidence to confirm this.

Legal Protection Group Limited and Legal Claims Group Limited Head and Registered Office

Lysander House, Catbrain Lane, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7TQ Registered in England and Wales Legal Protection Group Limited company number 1009

Registered in England and Wales. Legal Protection Group Limited company number 10096688. Legal Claims Group Limited company number 11033103. Website: www.legalprotectiongroup.co.uk

Legal Protection Group Limited (firm reference number 749446) is an appointed representative of Eldon Insurance Services Limited (firm reference number 477112). Eldon Insurance Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This Tenant Deposit Legal Protection Insurance is underwritten by Alwyn Insurance Company Limited (the **insurer**). Further information concerning the **insurer** can be found in the **General information** section of this policy.

What to do if you have a dilapidations dispute with your tenant

a) Where you have a dilapidations dispute with your tenant, you must report this matter to Advanced Rent Limited who will then advise you how to proceed:

by phone: 01603 227056 (lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm); or

by email (and also outside of office hours): TDLPclaims@advancedrent.co.uk; or

by post: Advanced Rent Limited, Claims Department, Unit 1, St Mary's Court, Carlton Forehoe, Wymondham, Norfolk NR9 4AL.

Any dilapidations dispute must be reported to Advanced Rent Limited within 30 days of the date of occurrence. Failure to do so may lead to any subsequent claim not being covered under this insurance if that delay adversely affects its reasonable prospects of success and/or causes prejudice to your claim (please see General exclusions applying to the whole policy 2)).

- b) Advanced Rent Limited may require additional information which could include, but is not strictly limited to: copies of tenancy agreements, tenant reference checks, confirmation of a mid-term inspection and a copy of a dilapidations inventory. Any additional information or supporting documents requested must be forwarded within 15 days of the date you first notified Advanced Rent Limited of your dilapidations dispute.
- c) Where Advanced Rent Limited are unable to successfully resolve your dilapidations dispute within 30 days of notification, they will pass the details of your dispute to us and we will decide whether to accept this as a claim and:
 - appoint an **appointed adviser** to negotiate a settlement; or
 - arrange for the insurer to pay you the amount you are claiming from the tenant, subject to the limit of indemnity (please refer to Meaning of words and terms – Limit of indemnity b)).
- d) Under no circumstances should you instruct your own lawyer or legal representative or incur any costs before we have accepted the claim as the insurer will not pay any costs incurred without our agreement. Unless it is necessary to start legal proceedings (starting an action in a court to settle a dispute) or if there is a conflict of interest (where our chosen appointed adviser cannot act for you as to do so would breach their professional code of conduct), we will appoint our own appointed adviser to act on your behalf if we accept your claim.
- e) Once all relevant information has been received, your claim will be assessed and we will let you know if we can help. Please note that reasonable prospects of success must be present throughout the duration of any claim and cover could be withdrawn if at any stage reasonable prospects of success no longer exist which could be as a result of new information emerging regarding the claim or as legal arguments develop.
- f) If we are unable to cover your claim, then we will explain the reasons why and discuss any other available methods (which may be at your expense) to help achieve a successful outcome.

Meaning of words and terms

The following words or phrases have the same meaning wherever they appear in this policy document:

Advanced Rent Limited	The agent who has arranged this policy for you.
adviser's costs and expenses	 a) Reasonable and necessary costs, fees and disbursements chargeable by the appointed adviser, in respect of your claim, which have been agreed by us in accordance with our standard adviser's terms of appointment. b) Costs and disbursements incurred by the other party in civil cases in respect of your claim if you are ordered to pay them, or pay them with our agreement.
appointed adviser	The law firm or other suitably qualified person, appointed by us to act on your behalf, in respect of a claim under the terms and conditions of this insurance and in accordance with our standard adviser's terms of appointment .
claim	An INSURED EVENT which is reported to us by Advanced Rent Limited with a request for us to appoint an appointed adviser to help settle your dilapidations dispute.
date of occurrence	 a) The date when you and the tenant first disagree over dilapidations to your insured property; or b) the date on which the tenant absconds from your insured property and before you are able to obtain a dilapidations inventory.
dilapidations	Items of disrepair or defects which the tenant is obliged to rectify or pay to have remedied under the terms of the tenancy agreement .
dilapidations inventory	A full and detailed inventory of the fixtures, fittings and contents within your insured property and a check-in report detailing their condition, which have been signed by the tenant at the start of the tenancy agreement and regularly checked as part of a mid-term inspection .
insured property	 The property specified in your schedule which is: a) occupied for residential purposes; b) located in the territorial limit; and c) let under a tenancy agreement.
insurer	Alwyn Insurance Company Limited.
limit of indemnity	 The most the insurer will pay for any one INSURED EVENT is: a) £50,000 to negotiate a settlement in respect of your claim; or b) where we are not able to negotiate a settlement in respect of your claim, the insurer will instead pay the amount you are claiming from the tenant, subject to a maximum amount equivalent to 6 weeks' rent. The amount payable will be based upon the monthly rent specified in the tenancy agreement.
mid-term inspection	A thorough and detailed inventory of your insured property at no more than 26 weeks from the start date of the tenancy agreement and every 26 weeks thereafter, which references the dilapidations inventory and reports any dilapidations to the tenant for remedy within a 14 day period.
period of insurance	The period of time covered by this policy as shown in your schedule and any further period(s) this insurance is renewed for.
reasonable prospects of success	 For any claim under an INSURED EVENT, there must always be more than a 50% chance that you will: a) recover any losses or damages; or b) succeed in enforcing a judgment or obtaining a legal remedy which we have agreed to. In all cases we or a suitably qualified expert acting on our behalf will assess whether reasonable prospects of success exist. This assessment will also take into account whether a reasonable person would wish to pursue such a dispute if this insurance was not in force.
standard adviser's terms of appointment	A separate agreement we require an appointed adviser to enter into with us. This agreement sets out the appointed adviser 's responsibilities and the amounts the insurer will pay the appointed adviser in respect of an INSURED EVENT .

Meaning of words and terms (continued)

The following words or phrases have the same meaning wherever they appear in this policy document:

tenancy agreement	 A written legally binding agreement, containing an enforceable termination clause, between you and the tenant to occupy your insured property: a) which is let under an assured shorthold tenancy, a short assured tenancy or an assured tenancy as defined by the Housing Act 1988 (updated and amended by the Housing Act 1996) and the Assured Tenancies (Amendment) (England) 2010 or the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988 or a private residential tenancy (as defined in the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016); or b) under a contractual tenancy agreement created after 1988 where your insured property is let for residential purposes and the annual rent is no more than £100,000 and the provisions of the Housing Acts in England, Wales and Scotland do not apply; or c) which is let under the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006; or d) which is let to a limited company or business partnership for residential use; or e) where you permanently live at your insured property and have at least one written licence agreement which contains a termination clause.
tenant	The person(s) named in the tenancy agreement who occupies or has occupied your insured property.
territorial limit	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
we, us, our	 a) Legal Protection Group Limited, who administer and manage this insurance on behalf of the insurer. b) Legal Claims Group Limited, who administer all claims under this insurance on behalf of the insurer.
you, your	The person named in the schedule who has purchased this insurance, or any person acting on their behalf to manage the letting of your insured property .

INSURED EVENT

Dilapidations Disputes

Important note: The following cover only applies after you have reported your dilapidations dispute to Advanced Rent Limited and where Advanced Rent Limited are not able to successfully resolve that dispute within a 30 day period and have subsequently reported this dispute to us as a claim.

W	What you are covered for	
a)	Adviser's costs and expenses to pursue your legal rights at the expiry of the tenancy agreement in a dispute with the tenant over dilapidations to your insured property;	
	Please note that you must have provided the tenant with a check-out report signed by an appropriately qualified inventory clerk.	
	or	
b)	Adviser's costs and expenses to pursue your legal rights where your tenant has absconded from your insured property before you are able to obtain a dilapidations inventory;	
(i) (ii)	 Please note that in a) and b): (i) the amount in dispute must be more than £150; (ii) your claim must be supported by written estimates (where possible) of all dilapidations which have been agreed and signed-off by an appropriately qualified inventory clerk; and (iii) you or an appropriately qualified inventory clerk must have inspected your insured property and completed a mid-term inspection at least once in any 26 week period. 	
Your obligations in relation to dilapidations before reporting a dilapidations dispute		

Where dilapidations have been discovered and before you can report a dilapidations dispute to Advanced Rent Limited, you must:

a) have exhausted all reasonable steps taken to recover dilapidations from the tenant;

- b) issue the tenant with a letter confirming that the tenant is responsible for remedying any dilapidations within a 14 day period, if such dilapidations are discovered during or on renewal of the tenancy agreement; and
- c) visit your insured property immediately on expiry of the 14 day period to ensure those dilapidations have been remedied. If dilapidations have not been remedied on expiry of the 14 day period, you must then serve the correct notices on the tenant in order to gain possession of your insured property.

General exclusions applying to the whole policy

There is no cover for:

1)	Disputes arising before this insurance started Any event or dispute which you were aware of, or should reasonably have been aware of, which could give rise to a dilapidations dispute or a subsequent claim under this insurance and existed or happened before this insurance first started.
2)	Disputes notified outside of the reporting period Any dilapidations dispute reported to Advanced Rent Limited more than 30 days after the date of occurrence and where that delay adversely affects your claim's reasonable prospects of success and/or where that delay causes prejudice to your claim.
3)	 Costs incurred and legal action we have not authorised a) Any adviser's costs and expenses or other costs incurred: (i) before we have accepted a claim; and/or (ii) which we have not authorised in advance. b) Any action taken by you which we or the appointed adviser have not agreed to.
4)	 Fines and court awards a) Fines, compensation, damages or penalties awarded against you. b) Any costs you are ordered to pay by a court of criminal jurisdiction.
5)	Shortfalls in awards Any shortfall between the settlement awarded by a court or other authority and the amount you originally demanded to cover the cost of dilapidations.
6)	Wilful acts Any claim resulting from an act which is wilfully carried out and the outcome of which is consciously intended by you.
7)	 Judicial Review and challenges to legislation a) Judicial Reviews (reviewing the way a decision has been made by a government authority, local authority or other public body), coroner's inquests or Fatal Accident Inquiries. b) Any challenges to current or proposed legislation.
8)	 Freehold, leasehold and rent reviews or assessments Any claim relating to: a) purchasing a freehold or extending a leasehold; b) registering, reviewing or assessing rents or matters relating to Land Tribunals, Leasehold Valuation Tribunals, Rent Tribunals or Rent Assessment Committees.
9)	Disputes with us, the insurer or the appointed adviser Any claim made against us, the insurer or the appointed adviser (please also refer to General conditions applying to the whole policy 8)).
10)	 War, terrorism, radioactive contamination and pressure waves Any claim resulting directly or indirectly from or in connection with: a) war, terrorism, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, uprising, military or usurped power; b) ionising radiation or contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel or any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel;
	 c) the radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear component of it; d) pressure waves caused by aircraft or other aerial devices travelling at sonic or supersonic speed.

General conditions applying to the whole policy

You must keep to these conditions as failure to do so may lead to us refusing a claim, withdrawing from a claim or cancelling this insurance (please refer to condition 10).

1) Your general obligations

You must:

- a) keep to the terms and conditions of this policy;
- b) take all reasonable precautions to prevent or minimise the risk of a **claim** occurring under this policy and to avoid incurring any unnecessary costs;
- c) supply us and Advanced Rent Limited with honest and accurate information when asked to do so;
- d) have a signed tenancy agreement before granting possession of your insured property to the tenant;
- e) have a forwarding address for the tenant which should also be included in your outgoing inventory (unless that tenant has absconded from your insured property and cannot be traced);
- f) comply with all statutory legislation relating to the letting of your insured property; and
- g) ensure that all posted pre-agent notices and pre-proceeding notices are sent by recorded delivery.

2) Appointment of an appointed adviser

- a) Where we have accepted your claim, we will appoint an appointed adviser who may be able to negotiate settlement before or without the need for court action.
- b) If your claim cannot be settled by negotiation and it becomes necessary for legal proceedings to be issued (starting an action in court to settle a dispute), or if a conflict of interest arises (where our chosen appointed adviser cannot act for you as to do so would breach their professional code of conduct), you are free to nominate a law firm or suitably qualified representative to act as the appointed adviser.
- c) Any law firm or suitably qualified representative nominated by you must agree to represent you in accordance with our standard adviser's terms of appointment (which are available on request) and the most the insurer will pay is no more than the amount the insurer would have paid to our own choice of appointed adviser.

3) Conduct of the claim

- a) You must:
 - (i) co-operate fully with us and the **appointed adviser** and provide any relevant information, documentation and evidence in connection with a **claim** when asked to do so; and
 - (ii) keep us and the **appointed adviser** fully informed of any developments and instruct the **appointed adviser** to provide us with any information we ask for.
- b) You must not:
 - (i) act in any way which obstructs us or the appointed adviser or hinders the progress of a claim; and
 - (ii) incur any adviser's costs and expenses or any other costs or amounts without our consent.
- c) We can:
 - (i) contact the **appointed adviser** at any time and have access to all documents and information regarding **your claim**;
 - (ii) withdraw funding for a claim and pursue you to recover adviser's costs and expenses or other costs or amounts already paid, if you pursue or withdraw from that claim without our consent or fail to pass on any instructions to the appointed adviser;
 - (iii) withdraw funding for a claim if you dismiss the appointed adviser without our consent and there is no valid cause to do so, or if the appointed adviser refuses to continue acting for you with our consent and there is valid cause to do so; and
 - (iv) withdraw funding for a claim if at any time we believe reasonable prospects of success are no longer present. The insurer will still pay any adviser's costs and expenses or other costs or amounts we have agreed to, prior to reasonable prospects of success no longer being present.

4) Claims settlement

- a) You must tell us immediately an offer to settle a claim is received and must not enter negotiations to settle a claim without our prior consent.
- b) If you refuse a fair and reasonable offer to settle a claim, we will be entitled to withdraw funding for that claim and the insurer will pay no further adviser's costs and expenses or other costs or amounts.
- c) We may decide to settle a claim by instructing the insurer to pay the reasonable value of that claim instead of pursuing or continuing with any action in court. In such cases we may decide to pursue the other party for the amount the insurer has paid to you and you must allow us to take over and continue the claim in your name and provide us with any information in support of this action.

5) Costs recovery and assessment of costs

You must:

- a) take all reasonable steps to recover adviser's costs and expenses or any other costs or amounts, or any monies received from the tenant and pay such sums recovered to us;
- b) tell the appointed adviser to have adviser's costs and expenses taxed, assessed and audited and/or have their claims file audited by us, if we ask for this. If it is established that adviser's costs and expenses or any other costs have been billed which have not been agreed by us, the insurer reserves the right to refuse to pay these unauthorised costs.

6) Other insurance and apportionment of costs

If any **adviser's costs and expenses** or other costs or amounts covered by this insurance are also covered under an alternative insurance policy, or would have been covered if this insurance did not exist, the **insurer** will only pay their share of these costs.

7) Obtaining a legal opinion

We may require you, at your own expense, to obtain an independent opinion from a barrister or other expert agreed between you and us over a claim's merits, financial value or reasonable prospects of success. If the opinion supports you and there are clear merits in proceeding with that claim, the costs incurred by you in seeking that opinion will be reimbursed.

8) Disputes with us

If there is a dispute between **you** and **us** over this policy, which cannot be resolved through **our** internal complaints handling process, **you** are entitled to seek a resolution through the Financial Ombudsman Service as long as **you** are eligible to complain.

Where the Financial Ombudsman Service cannot deal with that complaint, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration which is a formal and binding process where disputes are resolved by independent arbitrators in accordance with the Arbitration Act. The arbitrator will be chosen jointly by **you** and **us**. If **we** are not able to agree on the appointment of an arbitrator with **you**, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators will decide.

The decision of the appointed arbitrator is binding and the arbitrator may require **you** or the **insurer** to pay the costs.

9) Your cancellation rights

a) Cooling-off period

You can cancel this insurance, without giving any reason, within 14 days of its start date or within 14 days of receiving your policy documents, whichever is later.

If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the person who sold you this insurance. You will be entitled to a full refund of premium paid as long as you have not made a claim under this insurance during the current period of insurance.

b) Outside the cooling-off period

You can cancel this insurance at any other time, subject to providing the person who sold you this insurance with 7 days' notice. As long as you have not made a claim under this insurance during the current **period of insurance** and subject to the terms of business between you and the person who sold you this insurance, you may be entitled to a partial refund of premium.

In the event of cancellation, the person who sold **you** this insurance may apply an administration charge. Please contact them for more information on any charges applied.

General conditions applying to the whole policy (continued)

10) Our cancellation rights

a) General

- We can cancel this insurance at any time, where there is a valid reason to do so, subject to providing **you** with 7 days' notice. Reasons for cancellation may include, but are not strictly limited to:
- (i) you have failed to co-operate with us or the **appointed adviser** and this failure has significantly hindered **our** ability to deal with a **claim** or administer this insurance; and/or
- (ii) a premium payment is due or a costs recovery is still outstanding by the end of the final deadline notified to you.

b) Fraudulent or dishonest claims

If we have evidence that you have made a fraudulent, dishonest or exaggerated claim, or have deliberately misled us or the appointed adviser when presenting relevant information in support of a claim, we reserve the right to cancel this insurance from the date of the alleged claim or misrepresentation and recover from you any adviser's costs and expenses or other costs or amounts already paid in respect of that claim, which the insurer otherwise would not have paid. We will also not refund any premium paid by you.

If fraudulent activity or false or inaccurate information is identified, **we** may, at **our** discretion, pass details to fraud prevention or law enforcement agencies who have the right to access and use this information, which could result in a prosecution.

11) Persons involved in this contract of insurance

Unless expressly stated otherwise, any person who is not a party to this insurance has no right under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any of the terms of this insurance.

12) Choice of law and Acts of Parliament

- a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, this insurance is governed by the laws applying to England and Wales.
- b) Any Acts of Parliament or Statutory Instruments referred to in this insurance shall include equivalent legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland and shall also include any subsequent amending or replacement legislation.

General information

Policy amendments

In the event of a change of **tenant**, as long as one original **tenant** remains at **your insured property** under a **tenancy agreement**, **Advanced Rent Limited** will amend **your** policy schedule to acknowledge this change, subject to that original **tenant** having satisfactorily passed a reference from an approved tenant referencing agency.

If a new **tenancy agreement** is drafted, a new policy will subsequently be required and a new premium charged. Please also note that any mid-term adjustments will be subject to a £10 administration charge.

The insurer

This insurance is underwritten by Alwyn Insurance Company Limited, P.O. Box 1338, First Floor Grand Ocean Plaza, Ocean Village, Gibraltar. Registered in Gibraltar, number 106261.

Authorised and regulated by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The **insurer** is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and **you** may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if the **insurer** cannot meet their obligations. This will depend on the circumstances of the **claim**.

Further information about the compensation scheme arrangements can be found on the FSCS website at www.fscs.org.uk

General information (continued)

Data protection notice

In order to manage this insurance, including the provision of helpline services, claims handling, underwriting and other administrative duties, we may need to share personal information which has been given to us with other parties such as insurers, insurance intermediaries, law firms, experts, regulatory authorities or agents providing services to us or on our behalf. We will only request necessary information from you and will only use it and disclose it in the course of arranging and administering this insurance.

Any personal information **we** hold about **you** will be retained by **us** for a period of seven years after this insurance expires and in any event, for the minimum periods required by relevant laws and regulations. This information may need to be retained for legal and regulatory reasons and for legitimate business purposes including (but not strictly limited to) establishing, pursuing or defending legal claims.

Sometimes **we** may need to send **your** personal information to agents based outside of the European Economic Area and in doing so will ensure that those agents apply the same levels of confidentiality, protection and security that are applied by **us**.

In arranging and managing this insurance and administering claims, **we** will comply with the provisions of the Data Protection legislation which is directly applicable in the United Kingdom (this includes the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (otherwise known as GDPR) as well as any subsequent amending or replacement Data Protection legislation which is directly applicable in the United Kingdom) and unless required to do so by law or a professional body, will not disclose **your** personal data to any other person or organisation without **your** consent.

You can find full details of our privacy policy on our website www.legalprotectiongroup.co.uk

More information on the Data Protection Act and the principles in place to protect personal information can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website https://ico.org.uk/

You have a right to obtain information we hold about you. This is called a Subject Access Request and in order to obtain such information, please write to:

The Data Protection Officer, Legal Protection Group Limited, Lysander House, Catbrain Lane, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7TQ

If **you** have a concern about the way **we** have handled **your** personal data, then **you** have the right to report this to the Information Commissioner's Office:

Website:https://ico.org.uk/concerns/Phone:0303 123 1113 (lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)Email:casework@ico.org.uk

General information (continued)

What to do if you have a complaint

We are committed to providing you with excellent customer service, but we accept that occasionally things go wrong. We take all complaints seriously and have a commitment across our business to treat all customers fairly. Where we have made a mistake, we want to put things right quickly.

If you are not happy with the standard of service provided by us, please let us know:

- Email: complaints@legalprotectiongroup.co.uk
- Phone: 0333 700 1040 (lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)
- Post: Customer Service Department, Legal Protection Group Limited, Lysander House, Catbrain Lane, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol BS10 7TQ

As soon as a complaint is received:

All complaints will be acknowledged in writing within five business days of receipt. If the complaint can be resolved within five business days, **our** letter will also outline the result of **our** investigation.

If **our** investigation is not resolved within five business days, **we** will aim to respond within four weeks of receiving the complaint.

If the complaint is about another party, such as a law firm who is acting for **you**, **we** will refer details of the complaint to that other party and confirm this course of action to **you** in writing.

After we have investigated the complaint:

We will write to you immediately notifying you of the outcome of our investigation. We will also advise that if you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service within the next six months^{*}.

If we cannot resolve the complaint within 4 weeks:

We will write to you and inform you that our investigation is continuing, giving the reasons for the delay and a date by which we expect to be able to contact you again.

If we cannot resolve the complaint within 8 weeks:

We will inform you of the reasons for the further delay and advise that if you are not satisfied with our progress then you may refer the complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service within the next six months*.

*If **you** do not refer **your** complaint within the six month period, the **insurer** will not permit the Financial Ombudsman Service to consider **your** complaint and will only be able to do so in very limited circumstances such as where they believe that the delay in notifying **your** complaint was as a result of exceptional circumstances.

The Financial Ombudsman Service can be contacted:

- Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk
- Phone: 0800 023 4567 (free from a landline) or 0300 123 9123 (free from some mobile phones)

Post: Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR

You can also visit www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk and follow the guidelines on how to complain and to also check their eligibility criteria.

Important: This complaints notification procedure does not affect your right to take legal action.