



## Equitable Life : the Government's ex-gratia payments scheme

**Q: When will Sir John Chadwick give his first update?**

A: The Government believes it is important to establish a scheme that can pay out as swiftly as possible. Sir John has been asked to undertake his work as quickly as he is able, including providing interim updates. Work is also going on in relation to practical issues in parallel without waiting for all Sir John's work to be concluded.

**Q: When will Sir John Chadwick make his final report to the Government?**

A: Sir John has not yet indicated when he expects his work to be completed.

**Q: When will the scheme start paying out?**

A: The Government will introduce a fair ex-gratia payments scheme for policyholders who have suffered a disproportionate impact, with the benefit of Sir John's advice, and taking account of other relevant considerations such as the position of the public finances. Sir John is progressing his work with expediency though the timing of the introduction of the scheme will not be known until Sir John is closer to completing his work.

**Q: Some people need help now – will you introduce an interim hardship scheme?**

A: The Government is not ruling anything out, but considers it is most important to press ahead with the ex-gratia payments scheme and avoid taking any action which might delay that.

**Q: Will payments from the scheme be means tested?**

A: The Government recognises the concerns that have been expressed by some policyholders on the question of means testing. It is hoped that this can be avoided, particularly because we want to have a payments scheme operational as soon as possible but it would not be appropriate at this stage to rule out any methods for allocating resources fairly under the scheme.



**Q: How do I register for the scheme?**

A: The Government will publicise the ex-gratia payments scheme when it has been established, and will give direct notification to key stakeholder groups.

**Q: How much money have you set aside to pay for the scheme?**

A: We do not know yet how much the scheme will cost.

**Q: Will the ex-gratia payments be passed to the estates/families of the deceased policyholders?**

A: The issue about people's estates is an important one and it will be taken into account when deciding on the final terms of the payments scheme.

