

LIFETIME ISA

Frequently asked questions

Setting up a Lifetime ISA

How do I apply for a Lifetime ISA?

An AJ Bell Lifetime ISA (LISA) can **only** be applied for via the online new business process, within the V2.0 area of the adviser secure website.

Who can open a Lifetime ISA?

Your clients can open a LISA if they are aged 18–39. If your client is 40 or older, they cannot open a LISA.

After your client has opened a LISA, they can continue subscribing until the day before their 50th birthday.

In order to open a LISA, the client must be resident in the UK, be a Crown employee working overseas, or be the spouse/civil partner of such a Crown employee.

More than one LISA can be held, but your client can only open and subscribe to one LISA per tax year.



18–39 years old

Can open an AJ Bell Investcentre Lifetime ISA



40+ years old

Cannot open a Lifetime ISA

When is the LISA open?

The LISA is open from the date the first subscription is made into it, as opposed to the date the application is made.

This is potentially important if your client would like to use the LISA to buy their first home. They need to have had it open for at least 12 months before doing so. The 12-month period starts on the date the first payment is made. Therefore if your client is looking to buy their first home in the near future, they need to open and subscribe to the LISA as soon as possible to get the clock ticking.

For clients who are approaching the age of 40, you should consider whether it is prudent to open and fund an account to allow them to continue subscribing up to age 50. If a LISA has not been funded before your client reaches 40, it will have to be closed.

The first payment should be made into an individual's LISA in the same tax year in which the application to open their LISA was made. If a payment is not made in the same tax year as their application, then the client will have to re-apply.

Can a joint LISA be opened?

A joint LISA isn't allowed. LISAs can only be opened by individuals.

How does the LISA interact with other ISAs?

A LISA can be opened alongside any other ISA(s) your client may have, including: cash, stocks and shares, help to buy or innovative finance ISAs. Your client needs to ensure they do not exceed the overall subscription limit of £20,000, which a LISA normally counts towards. More information on this is provided in the section "How much can you subscribe to a LISA?" below.

AJ Bell offers a stock and shares ISA and a LISA.



LISA accounts and their values will not be included in the summary seen in the 'classic' secure area of the website. However, the LISA payment limits will be reflected in the overall ISA subscription limit shown on the classic secure website.

What investments can be made in an AJ Bell Investcentre LISA?

You have the same functionality as you do with our Stocks and Shares ISA. We provide access to a comprehensive range of investments via our platform.

Placing deals for the LISA can be done using the V2.0 website, and follows the same process as other wrappers. 'Investments' must be selected on the left-hand menu, the relevant client chosen, then the LISA wrapper. Deals are then placed in the usual way.

You can also view all LISA accounts in the main Funds & Shares Service (F&SS) dealing pages and access all F&SS functionality for LISAs, including:

- bulk dealing tools;
- Model Portfolio Service;
- regular investments;
- cash management tools;
- performance tools and other reporting; and
- online dealing functionality, also available in the Beta website for individual trades.

The fastest way to make a payment into any AJ Bell Investcentre account is via electronic payment or Direct Debit, although cheques can also be accepted. When opening a LISA, the details of subscription(s) can be captured within the new business process. To make a payment into an existing account, you can use the 'payments-in' area of the V2.0 website to make electronic payments.

Can an employer make a subscription?

No, your client's employer cannot subscribe to their LISA.

How much can be paid into a Lifetime ISA?

The maximum which can be paid into a LISA is £4,000 per tax year.

Current year subscriptions made into a LISA will count against the overall ISA subscription limit for the year as well as the LISA subscription limit.

As AJ Bell Investcentre does not accept transfers into the LISA, all payments will count towards the LISA subscription limit of £4,000.



Can I receive adviser charges from a LISA?

No, adviser charges cannot be taken from a LISA because they are classed as a withdrawal and the client would incur a 25% penalty charge.

Paying into a LISA and receiving the Government bonus

Who can make a subscription to a LISA?

Only the account holder can open and make subscriptions into a LISA. Once opened, subscriptions can only be made by individuals between the ages of 18–49.

An important point for your client to consider is that if they primarily use a LISA to save provision for retirement – rather than enrolling in a qualifying scheme, occupational pension scheme or personal pension scheme – they may lose the benefit of contributions from an employer (if any) and future entitlement to means-tested benefits may also be affected.

How and when is the Government bonus paid?

The Government bonus is calculated as 25% of the payment and we arrange for the bonus to be paid directly into the LISA on a monthly basis. This takes four to eight weeks to credit to the LISA.

Can the client make regular investments in a LISA?

Yes, you can set up regular investments online.



Account management

- The V2.0 website supplies a single view of the client’s LISA, including payments made and remaining subscription amounts.
- The V2.0 website will also show the total value of all LISA payments, cash and assets.
- LISAs for clients can be viewed in the same way as other wrappers on the V2.0 website. The website has sections that show:
 - payments in – this has payments for ISA and LISA to show subscription and payment limits;
 - regular payments at client level;
 - client portfolios viewable at wrapper level, as well as at individual level, so LISA portfolios can be viewed independently;
 - client documents;
 - corporate action information and elections via the corporate actions dashboard; and
 - a cash management tool.
- Where subscription figures are shown in the classic website, these will include payments made to LISAs.
- Contract notes and secure messages can be accessed through the F&SS dealing pages as usual.
- **Important note** – adviser charging is not available for LISAs, including wrapper charges and charges on trades placed. Any charge added to a trade will not be paid out and will be returned to the client’s account.
- Clients have full read-only access to their LISA through the client website.



Clients will be unable to instruct cash withdrawals online, with this process being completed offline. If a withdrawal is required, then you will be able to access a withdrawal form from the literature section online.

For example:

Client contribution	=	£4,000
Government bonus	=	£1,000
Total LISA value	=	£5,000
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Client withdraws	=	£5,000
25% penalty charge	=	-£1,250
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Client receives	=	£3,750

How is the LISA used to purchase a first home?

The LISA can be used to fund the purchase of a first home. To qualify, the client can’t have owned property before anywhere in the world either by themselves or with another person. This includes any property that they may have inherited.

The property must be bought in the UK with a mortgage, shared ownership arrangement or regulated home purchase plan for under £450,000. It must be your client’s main residence.

It’s also worth remembering that the LISA must have been open and funded for at least one year before it can be used to purchase a first home.

What happens when my client is ready to purchase their first home?

First they should contact their conveyancer, who will ask them to complete a declaration. The declaration form will ask for details about the purchase. The conveyancer will then contact us once the purchase is ready to proceed. We will pay the amount requested to the conveyancer to finalise the transaction.

If the purchase doesn’t complete within 90 days of the withdrawal, the amount withdrawn must typically be returned to the LISA.

Withdrawals

When can withdrawals be made from a LISA?

Withdrawals can be made charge-free to purchase a first home (priced up to £450,000) or from age 60 to fund retirement. In addition, it is possible to access the LISA charge-free if your client is terminally ill.

If a withdrawal is made from the LISA for any other reason, the client will incur a 25% penalty charge for doing so.

Can the LISA be used if my client is buying a first home with someone else?

Yes, it can (even if the joint mortgage applicant is not a first-time buyer), as long as the home your client is buying meets the conditions. If they're both first-time buyers, they can both use a LISA towards buying the home.

Can the LISA be used for purchasing a first home and retirement?

Yes, it can. The client can purchase their first home using the LISA and continue to make subscriptions until they turn 50. After age 60, they can then start to use the LISA to fund their retirement.

Any withdrawals made from the age of 60 will be entirely free from tax.

Closure

Can the LISA be closed?

Yes, the LISA can be closed without penalty charge if the client uses the funds to purchase their first home, withdraws all funds after age 60 or is terminally ill. Otherwise, they will incur a 25% penalty charge to close their account.

If the client has made subscriptions to the LISA before it is closed, they cannot subscribe to another LISA in the same tax year.

It's also worth remembering that if the client closes their LISA when they're over 40, they cannot open a new one.

Death

What happens to a LISA upon death?

Investments held in an LISA will remain tax-free after death. This is subject to a few limits and restrictions.

- The tax-free period ends on the earlier of:
 - the completion of the administration of the deceased's estate;
 - the third anniversary of the date of death; or
 - the closure of the account.
- No subscriptions or transfers are permitted into the continuing LISA.

The rules surrounding Additional Permitted Subscriptions (APS) are also relevant to LISAs. This is an allowance which is available to the surviving spouse of a deceased ISA-holder.

It's worth noting that a payment of an APS to a LISA is limited to the LISA limit of £4,000, whereas the same payment made into an ISA would not be limited to the ISA limit of £20,000.