

# **Terms of Business**

These Terms of Business applicable from 31/1/2024 set out the general terms under which we will provide business services to you and the respective duties and responsibilities of both us and you in relation to such services. Please ensure you read these terms thoroughly and if you have any queries, we will be happy to clarify them. If any material changes are made to these terms, we will notify you.

# **Authorisation and Codes of Conduct**

Ezfees Financial Ltd T/A ezfees financial is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Our authorisation can be checked on the Central Bank register at www.centralbank.ie or by calling them on 01-224 4000 to verify our credentials. Our reference code is C489026. We are also subject to the Consumer Protection Code, Minimum Competency Code and Fitness & Probity Standards which offer protection to consumers. These Codes can also be found on the Central Bank's website. ezfees financial is a member of Brokers Ireland.

#### **Our Services**

We are an Insurance and Mortgage Credit Intermediary. Our principal business is to provide advice and arrange transactions on behalf of our clients in relation to life, pensions & mortgage products. We are not under a contractual obligation to conduct Insurance distribution business exclusively with one or more Insurance Undertakings and do not give advice on the basis of a fair and personal analysis, we do however provide advice from the selection of products provided by the Companies and Lenders we have agencies with. We recommend the product that, in our professional opinion, is best suited to your needs and objectives from this selection of products.

Providers and lending agencies we have an agency with:

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<u>Life Companies</u>	
Aviva Life & Pensions Ireland	Royal London Insurance Dac
Dac	j
Irish Life Assurance plc	Standard Life International Dac
New Ireland Assurance Co plc	Zurich Life Assurance plc
Through Brokers Ireland Network Services Ltd & Directly	
we have access to the following Mortgage Lenders	
Bank of Ireland	Haven Mortgages Limited
Dilosk Dac	Permanent tsb Plc
Financial Ireland Credit	Senior Money Mortgages
Solutions Dac	[Ireland] Dac

### Mortgages

Through the lenders or other undertakings with which we hold an agency, we can provide advice on and arrange mortgage products. We provide mortgage advice on mortgages from the selection of lenders we have agencies with. We will need to collect sufficient information from you before we can offer any advice on housing loans. This is due to the fact a key issue in relation to mortgage advice is affordability. Such information should be produced promptly at our request. Where the creditor is unable to carry out an assessment of creditworthiness because the consumer chooses not to provide the information or verification necessary for an assessment of creditworthiness, the credit cannot be granted.

### Disclosure of information

We act as your representative to the companies we have agencies with, and we will provide assistance to you for any queries you may have in relation to the policies or in the event of a claim during the life of the policies and we will explain to you the various restrictions, conditions and exclusions attached to your policy. However, it is your responsibility to read the policy documents, literature and brochures to ensure you understand the nature of the policy cover. Material information about medical history, non-smoker status, occupation category and any hazardous pursuits are central to underwriting decisions and it is imperative all information you

provide to the insurer is accurate and complete.

You are under a duty to answer all questions posed by the insurer or us on your behalf, honestly and with reasonable care. It is presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that you would know all questions in an application or at renewal are material to the risk undertaken by the insurer or the calculation of the premium by the insurer, or both. Any failure to disclose material information may invalidate a claim and render your policy void.

You must inform and disclose any material information including any material changes that might take place between the time you complete an application form and the time you pay the first premium. To assist us in providing you with a comprehensive service and to keep our records up-to date as soon as possible, please notify us of any changes to your personal circumstances, e.g., name change, change of address, etc.

### **Sustainable Investing**

We will consider adverse impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors in our investment and insurance-based Investment advice.

We will gather your preferences for Sustainable Investing and build them into our Statement of Suitability for you. Ultimately, it is the Product Producers we have agencies with that build the Investment Products we advise on, and it will be their documentation we are relying on when advising you on Sustainable investments. All information re Sustainable Finance Disclosures will be adhered to by the Product Producers and their brochures and documents will outline their disclosures.

#### Remuneration

ezfees financial is remunerated by commission and other payments from product producers or lenders on the completion of your business. You may choose to pay in full for our services by means of a fee. Where we receive recurring commission, this forms part of the remuneration for ongoing advice with regards to the business we advise you on.

Life Products Fee – General Advice/Reviews: Please note that we charge all clients a fee of €150, payable on commencement of a full Financial Review

If we receive commission from a product provider, this will be offset against the fee which we will charge you, except for Mortgage advice. Where the commission is greater than the fee due, the commission will become the amount payable to us unless an arrangement to the contrary is made.

Additional fees may be payable for complex cases or to reflect value, specialist skills or urgency. We will give an estimate of this rate in advance of providing you with services.

We may receive up to 1% (or whatever maximum is applicable) of the loan for arranging mortgage finance. This commission is paid by the mortgage lender. The actual amount of commission will be disclosed at a later stage in the ESIS (European Standardised Information Sheet) which will be forwarded to you at loan offer stage.

Mortgages - Please note that we charge a fee of €150 when we obtain a Mortgage Approval in Principle for you through Haven Mortgages Ltd or Dilosk Dac as we hold direct agencies with these. Our other agencies are processed through Brokers Ireland Network Services who charge an upfront fee of €400 per application which is payable by you prior to submission of an application. Once the mortgage is complete (mortgage drawdown), we will refund you €250 of this, meaning you only pay the €150 overall.

Further fees may apply to you if your Mortgage is less than €100,000 at point of drawdown/final drawdown we will charge an additional fee of up to €500 &/OR If your Mortgage Application proves more complex and time consuming than initially anticipated, we will charge you a further processing/arrangement fee of up to

€500 but will discuss this with you in advance if in the event this situation should arise. Our fee will be notified to the lender who will include this fee into the calculation of the APRC (Annual Percentage Rate Charge Please note lenders may charge specific fees in certain circumstances and if this applies, these fees will be specified in your Loan Offer. You have the right to pay a fee separately and not include it in the loan. Typically, this situation arises in relation to specialist lending. A full list of lenders and remuneration is available on request.

If by investing in sustainable investment products there are any differences in charges etc., we will advise you of this in advance of advising you on your investment.

A summary of the details of all arrangements for any fee, commission, other reward or remuneration paid or provided to us by the product producers" is available on our website or in our offices. If you need further explanation of this information, please do not hesitate to call us.

### Regular reviews

It is in your best interests that you review, on a regular basis, the products which we have arranged for you. As your circumstances change, your needs will change. Please advise us of these changes and request a review of the relevant policy so we can ensure you are provided with up-to-date advice and products best suited to your needs.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

It is our policy to avoid conflicts of interest in providing services to you. However, where an unavoidable conflict of interest arises, we will advise you of this in writing before providing you with any service. As per the above we receive commission from the lenders and companies we have agencies with for the business you transact.

## **Default on Payments by Clients**

We will exercise our legal right to receive payments due to us from clients (fees) for services provided. Product producers may withdraw benefits or cover in the event of default on payments due under policies or other products arranged for you. We would refer you to policy documents or product terms for the details of such provisions. Mortgage lenders may seek early repayment of a loan and interest if you default on your repayments. Your home is at risk if you do not maintain your agreed repayments.

### **Client Monies & Receipts**

We request all cheques or negotiable instruments are made payable to the appropriate Product Provider and to lenders. We shall issue a receipt for each payment received. These receipts are issued with your protection in mind and should be stored safely. Every effort is made to ensure clients' money is transmitted to the appropriate Product Provider without delay. We are not authorised to accept cash.

The acceptance by Ezfees Financial Ltd T/A ezfees financial of a completed proposal DOES NOT in itself constitute the effecting of a policy. It is only when the Provider or Lender confirms the policy is in place or the loan is drawn down that your policy is live.

### Complaints

We have a complaints procedure in place which is available on request. Your complaint can be in writing, email, telephone or face to face. If your complaint is face to face or by phone, we will write to you to confirm our understanding of your complaint. We will acknowledge your complaint within 5 business days, advising you of the name of the person dealing with your complaint on behalf of the company. Please address any complaint to Ezfees Financial Ltd, Unit 5, Complex No. 5, Riverstown Business Park, Tramore, Co. Waterford. If in the event, a complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of our investigation, you are entitled to refer the matter to the Financial Services & Pensions Ombudsman, Lincoln House, Lincoln Place, Dublin 2, Lo call 01 5677000 email <a href="mailto:info@fspo.ie">info@fspo.ie</a>.

#### **Data Protection**

ezfees financial complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Regulation. The data will be processed only in ways compatible with the purposes for which it was given. We will provide you with a separate Data Privacy Notice which will outline exactly how, what and where we use your data. We may receive referrals from partner firms and may advise them of any transactions arranged for you.

#### **Compensation Scheme**

We are members of the Investor Compensation Scheme which provides for the establishment of a compensation scheme and the payment, in certain circumstances, of compensation to certain clients (known as eligible investors) of authorised investment firms, as defined in the Act. Compensation may be payable where money or investment instruments owned or belonging to clients and held, administered or managed by the firm cannot be returned to those clients for the time being and where there is no reasonably foreseeable opportunity of the firm being able to do so. A right to compensation will arise only: If the client is an eligible investor as defined in the Act; and if it transpires the firm is not in a position to return client money or investment instruments owned or belonging to the clients of the firm; and to the extent of the client's loss is recognized for the purposes of the Act. Where an entitlement to compensation is established, the compensation payable will be the lesser of: 90% of the amount of the client's loss which is recognised for the purposes of the Investor Compensation Act, 1998; or Compensation of up to €20,000. For further information, contact Investor Compensation Co Ltd. at (01) 224 4955.

### **Governing Law and Business Succession**

These Terms of Business shall be governed by and construed in all respects according to the laws of the Republic of Ireland and will be deemed to cover any successors in business to ezfees financial.