# **Mortgage Protector**

Including Employment Legal Protection and Health Assistance

Policy Document COV/PS/019



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## Introduction

This **policy** booklet provides **you** with everything **you** need to know about **your** Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance. It contains the full details of **your policy** including the exclusions. It is important that **you** read this booklet carefully along with **your certificate of cover** (which confirms the details of **your** cover) and please keep them together in a safe place. This **policy** uses words and phrases that have specific meanings, **you** will find these explained in the 'Definitions' section. Defined words are shown in '**bold**' wherever they appear in this booklet.

Please make sure that you:

- are eligible for the insurance cover
- know what this insurance does and does not cover
- understand how changes to your work affect your eligibility and the terms and conditions of making a claim.

## Changing Your Mind - Your Cancellation Rights

This insurance is optional and **you** have a right to cancel **your policy** during a period of 30 days from the day of purchase of the **policy** or the day on which **you** receive **your policy** booklet, whichever is the later. This is called the 'statutory cooling off period'.

If you wish to cancel during this period, you will be entitled to a full refund of the premium paid. If you have made a claim and then cancel within this period, we may seek to recover any monies paid to you in settlement of the claim.

To exercise **your** right to cancel in the statutory cooling off period, please call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline on 0345 6011 050 or write to Paymentshield Customer Services Team at Paymentshield Limited, PO Box 229, Southport PR9 9WU.

If you do not exercise your right to cancel your policy in the statutory cooling off period, it will continue in force and you will be required to pay the monthly premium.

For **your** cancellation rights after the statutory cooling off period, please see the 'When Does **Your Policy** End' section of this **policy**.

## **Important Numbers**

If you have any questions about your eligibility for this insurance or changes to your circumstances you should call:

Paymentshield Customer Helpline: 0345 6011 050

Lines open between 8.00am-7.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am-1.00pm Saturdays.

To register a claim (or check progress on a claim) call:

Claims Helpline: 0330 134 8240

Lines open between 9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday.

If you are registering a claim you should read the 'Your Claim – Making a Claim' section before calling to make sure you have the relevant information available.

Telephone calls may be recorded and monitored.

## **Customers With Disabilities**

This **policy** is also available in large print, audio and Braille.

If you require any of these formats please contact the Paymentshield Customer Helpline.

## Eligibility, Your Cover, Joint Borrowers, Moving Home or Your Mortgage

## Eligibility

You are eligible for this insurance if at the start date you:

- are aged 18 years or over but under 64,
- work at least 16 hours per week,
- live in the UK.
- are paying or about to pay a mortgage agreement,
- are named on the mortgage agreement and
- are up to date with your monthly repayments, if you have an existing mortgage agreement.

For the purposes of this insurance **work** means any paid **work** of at least 16 hours per week. This includes **self-employed work** and statutory maternity and parental leave but it does not include **temporary work**.

If you are self-employed or you work on fixed-term contracts you are eligible for this insurance but you should read the policy carefully to make sure it is suitable for your needs – you should pay particular attention to the 'Employment Circumstances', 'Unemployment Cover' and 'Your Claim – Things to Keep in Mind When Claiming' sections.

## **Your Cover**

Details of the cover you have chosen, including the qualification period, monthly benefit and maximum number of monthly benefit payments will all be shown on your certificate of cover.

Note: The **monthly benefit** chosen should not exceed 75% of **your** monthly earned income before tax.

### **Joint Borrowers**

If you have a joint mortgage agreement both of you may apply for cover if you are both eligible and pay the monthly premium. Provided that the amount of each person's monthly benefit does not exceed 75% of that person's monthly earned income before tax you can choose to insure:

- 100% of the monthly benefit which will be divided between both of you. You must decide what proportion of the monthly benefit will relate to each of you and the proportions chosen must total 100% of the monthly benefit, or
- 100% each of your monthly repayment. You will need to take out a separate policy to cover 100% each of your monthly repayment.

The monthly benefit you have each chosen will be shown on your certificate of cover.

# Moving Home or Your Mortgage

This **policy** has been designed to be transferable if **you** move **your mortgage agreement** to another **lender**, whether **you** move home or not. If **you** need to make a change to **your** cover please call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline.

If your mortgage agreement is repaid and not replaced, the cover provided by this policy will end and you should call the helpline number to cancel the cover. Please also refer to the 'When Does Your Policy End' section of this policy.

## **Important Notes**

- This **policy** does not cover a medical condition or related symptoms **you** knew about at the **start date** whether the condition had been diagnosed or not. This is known as a **preexisting medical condition**. If **you** have seen a **doctor** in the last 12 months **your** ability to claim may be affected. This is explained in the 'Accident or Sickness Cover' section.
- If you are off work due to accident or sickness at the start date:
  - You may still be eligible for the insurance.
    However, you should be aware that you
    will not be able to claim for accident or
    sickness cover unless you have been
    symptom-free, have not received treatment
    or consulted a doctor about the condition
    in the 12 months before the start of your
    accident or sickness claim.
  - If you do not return to work within the first 30 days following the start date, your accident or sickness cover will not start until you have returned to work for 30 consecutive days. In this case, any preexisting medical condition will not be covered unless you have been symptomfree, have not received treatment or consulted a doctor about the condition in the 12 months before the start date of your accident or sickness claim.
- 3. This policy will not pay for any unemployment you were aware of at the start date. You will not be covered for any unemployment which we reasonably believe you knew was likely to happen, whether you had official notice or not, when you took out this insurance.
- 4. If you are an existing borrower this policy will not pay for any unemployment that you were advised of or which happens within the first 90 days of the start date, whether you were aware of it or not at the start date (this is waived if you already have existing Unemployment cover in place with Paymentshield or another Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance Policy and you are transferring your cover to this Paymentshield policy).
- 5. This policy will not pay for any unemployment unless you were in continuous work for 6 months before your first claim for unemployment (this is waived if you were in continuous work for 6 months before the start date).
- 6. This **policy** will not pay a **carer** claim if at the **start date we** reasonably believe **you** were aware

of the need or the likely need at any time in the future for a member of your immediate family to require a carer, or if you are an existing borrower you are notified of receipt of or apply for Carer's Allowance within the first 90 days of the start date, unless the condition of the member of your immediate family requiring a carer was due to or caused by an unforeseen event happening after the start date (this is waived if you already have existing Unemployment cover in place with Paymentshield or another Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance Policy and you are transferring your cover to this Paymentshield policy).

If **you** have any questions **you** should call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline.

## **Material Facts**

All material facts must be disclosed. A material fact is one that is likely to influence **us** in the acceptance and assessment of an application e.g. living outside the **UK** or in **work** for less than 16 hours per week. It is **your** responsibility to provide complete and accurate information to Paymentshield Limited when **you** take out **your** insurance **policy** and throughout the life of **your policy**.

Please note that if **you** fail to disclose any material information to **us**, this could invalidate **your** insurance cover and could mean that part or all of a claim may not be paid. **We** recommend **you** keep a record (including copies of letters) of all information provided to Paymentshield Limited for **your** future reference.

# Changes To Your Circumstances During The Lifetime of Your Policy That May Affect Your Insurance Cover

It is **your** responsibility to ensure that this **policy** continues to meet **your** requirements should the circumstances of **your work** change during the lifetime of **your policy**, as this could affect **your** entitlement to make a claim or any **monthly benefit** paid during a **period of claim**.

Your eligibility for cover or the monthly benefit paid during a period of claim under this policy may change if your personal circumstances change. If this happens or is likely to happen you should call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline to discuss the changes. This would include for example:

- You retire from work and do not intend to actively seek further work.
- Changing your employment e.g. your work becomes temporary.
- You voluntarily reduce your hours of work to less than 16 hours per week.

- You reach 65 years of age.
- You leave the UK to live abroad.
- You change your mortgage agreement with your existing lender or to another lender.
- You and your immediate family no longer reside at the mortgaged property.
- You wish to change your monthly benefit amounts, for instance following an increase or decrease in your monthly repayment.
- Your income amount changes and the monthly benefit amount is likely to exceed 75% of your monthly earned income before tax.
- The monthly repayment that you make to your lender decreases during the term of your policy.

If you decide the **policy** is no longer suitable and you wish to cancel it please see the 'When Does Your **Policy** End' section for more details.

## **Employment Circumstances**

Your employment circumstances may affect your eligibility for cover and entitlement to make a claim. If your employment changes or is likely to change or you have any questions you should contact the Paymentshield Customer Helpline.

#### **Fixed Term Contracts**

If you have chosen unemployment cover and you work on a fixed term contract and have worked for the same employer for at least 12 months, you will be entitled to claim for unemployment, for non-renewal of a fixed term contract. If you have not worked continuously for the same employer for at least 12 months you are not insured for the non-renewal of a fixed term contract but you are entitled to claim for unemployment and receive claims payments up to the date that your fixed term contract was originally intended to terminate.

#### Self-Employed

If you have chosen Unemployment cover we will consider you to be self-employed if you meet one of the following criteria:

- you are carrying on a business in the **UK** either alone or as a partner in a partnership; or
- you can control the affairs of a company you work for because either you or a relative or a member of your household individually or jointly hold the majority of the voting rights in that company; or
- you can otherwise ensure that the company you work for conducts its affairs according to your wishes.

If you are self-employed you will need to provide the following to be entitled to claim for unemployment benefit:

- satisfactory proof that you have involuntarily and permanently ceased trading because you could not find enough work to meet all your reasonable business and living expenses and have declared this to HM Revenue & Customs; and
- satisfactory proof that you are registered as unemployed with the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### Retiring Before The Age of 65

If you retire before the age of 65 and do not intend to actively seek further work, you will no longer be eligible for cover.

## Important – The Type of Cover The Policy Provides

Please refer to **your certificate of cover** for the cover options that **you** have selected. If **you** are unclear as to the cover **you** have selected please call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline.

If you take out unemployment cover only or accident or sickness cover only, you must be aware of the following points:

- If you only take out unemployment cover and you suffer an accident or sickness during a period of unemployment your monthly benefit payments will be suspended until you re-register as unemployed with the Department for Work and Pensions and are able to actively continue seeking work.
- If you only take out accident or sickness cover and become unemployed during a period of accident or sickness, you will only continue to receive monthly benefit payments whilst you remain certified unfit to work due to accident or sickness.

## **Accident or Sickness Cover**

This cover only applies if **your** current **certificate of cover** shows that **you** have chosen 'Accident or Sickness Cover'. **Your certificate of cover** will also show the **qualification period you** have selected.

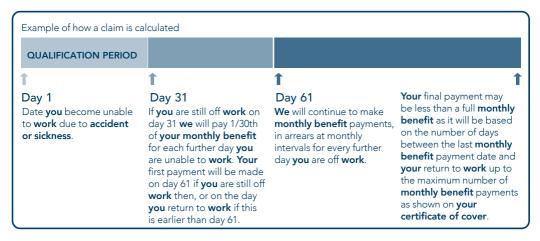
#### What is Covered

If an **accident or sickness** prevents **you** working for a continuous period beyond the **qualification period** shown in **your certificate of cover**, **your monthly benefit** under this **policy** will become payable as follows:

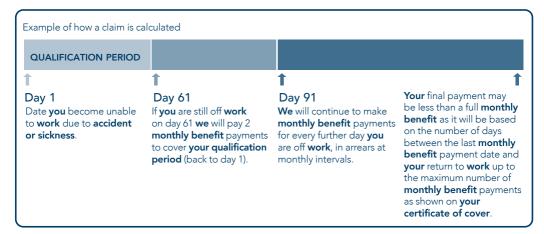
Option 1: 30 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
 On the 31st day we will pay 1 monthly benefit. We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain off work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



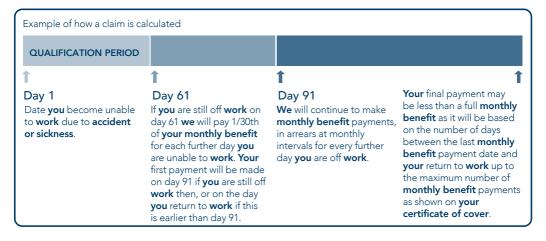
Option 2: 30 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover
 We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 30th day you remain off work starting with the
 31st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will
 be made on the 61st day and we will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



Option 3: 60 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
 On the 61st day we will pay 2 monthly benefits. We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain off work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



Option 4: 60 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover
 We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 60th day you remain off work starting with the 61st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will be made on the 91st day and we will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



Option 5: 180 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover
 We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 180th day you remain off work starting with the
 181st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will
 be made on the 211th day and we will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.

Example of how a claim is calculated QUALIFICATION PERIOD Day 1 **Day 181** Day 211 **Your** final payment may be less than a full monthly Date **you** become unable If you are still off work on We will continue to make benefit as it will be based to work due to accident day 181 we will pay 1/30th monthly benefit payments, on the number of days or sickness. of your monthly benefit in arrears at monthly between the last monthly for each further day you are intervals for every further benefit payment date and unable to work. Your first day you are off work. your return to work up to payment will be made on the maximum number of day 211 if **you** are still off monthly benefit payments work then, or on the day as shown on your you return to work if this certificate of cover. is earlier than day 211.

**You** can make a completely new **accident or sickness** claim as long as **you** have returned to **work** for at least 90 days in a row.

Two claims (that arise from a related medical condition) separated by less than 90 days continuous work are treated as the same period of claim. You will only be entitled to receive monthly benefit entitlement that is left over from the previous period of claim. This period is reduced to 30 days continuous work for any claim that arises from a medical condition that is not related to the accident or sickness that brought about the previous claim.

# What is Not Covered (in addition to General Exclusions) We will not pay any accident or sickness claims due to or arising from:

Any pre-existing medical condition unless you
have been symptom free, have not received
treatment or consulted a doctor about the
condition in the 12 months before the start of
your accident or sickness claim.

A **pre-existing medical condition** is any condition, injury, illness, disease, sickness or related condition and/or associated symptoms, whether diagnosed or not:

- which you knew about, or should reasonably have known about, at the start date, or
- which you had seen or arranged to see a doctor about, during the 12 months immediately before the start date.
- Pregnancy or childbirth unless there has been a medical complication.

A medical complication is a symptom of pregnancy which has developed into an identified condition diagnosed by a recognised obstetric **specialist**. It does not include delivery by caesarean section or other surgically assisted means or any normal symptom of a temporary or minor nature, which presents no significant medical hazard to mother or baby.

- Cosmetic surgery or other treatment which is not medically necessary.
- Your detention in prison under the direction of a court of law. This will not apply if you are later acquitted.
- Your own deliberate actions, drug or alcohol abuse. (This does not include any drugs prescribed by your doctor, except if they are to treat drug addiction or you fail to follow any medical advice).

In addition we will not pay any monthly benefit if you are doing any job for payment or reward or, you are receiving any form of payment or reward for managing or carrying out any part of the day to day running of the business you work for.

**Note:** If **you** have retired and are not actively seeking **work** immediately prior to **your accident or sickness you** will not be able to claim for **accident or sickness**.

## **Unemployment Cover**

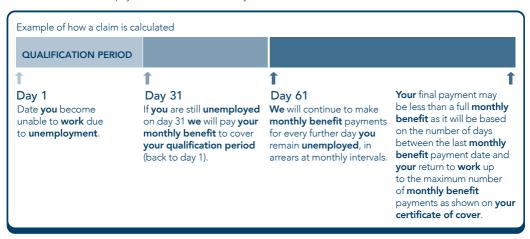
This cover only applies if **your** current **certificate of cover** shows that **you** have chosen 'Unemployment Cover'. **Your certificate of cover** will also show the **qualification period you** have selected.

#### What is Covered

If you are unemployed for a continuous period beyond the qualification period shown in your certificate of cover, your monthly benefit under this policy will become payable as follows:

• Option 1: 30 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
On the 31st day we will pay 1 monthly benefit. We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain out of work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover.

We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



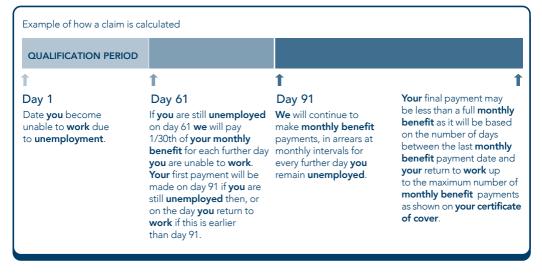
Option 2: 30 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover
 We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 30th day you remain out of work starting with the 31st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment



Option 3: 60 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
 On the 61st day we will pay 2 monthly benefits. We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain out of work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover.
 We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.

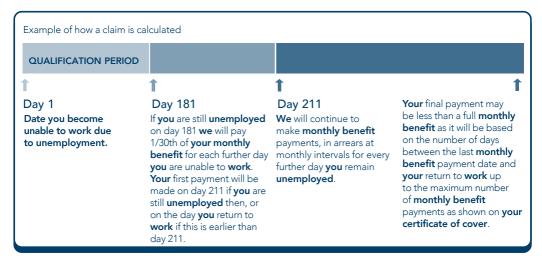


• Option 4: 60 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 60th day you remain out of work starting with the 61st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will be made on the 91st day and we will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



Option 5: 180 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover
 We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 180th day you remain out of work starting with
 the 181st day up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment

the 181st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on **your certificate of cover**. The first payment will be made on the 211th day and **we** will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.



**You** can make a completely new claim as long as **you** have returned to **work** for at least 90 days in a row.

Two claims separated by less than 90 days continuous **work** are treated as the same **period of claim. You** will only be entitled to receive **monthly benefit** entitlement that is left over from the previous **period of claim.** 

## Temporary Work If you do any temporary work:

- during a claim, your monthly benefit will be suspended during the period of temporary work and will be resumed when the temporary work finishes.
- during the qualification period, the qualification period will be suspended until the end of the temporary work.

#### Self-Employed

If you are self-employed and you have involuntarily and permanently ceased trading because you could not find enough work to meet all your reasonable business and living expenses and have declared this to HM Revenue & Customs, you will be entitled to claim for unemployment benefit.

If, for the purpose of this insurance **you** are not **self-employed**, all other terms, conditions and exclusions of this **policy** will apply.

In either case **you** will need to have a Jobseeker's Agreement for the whole time **you** are claiming. If **you** are ineligible for a Jobseeker's Agreement, **you** must be able to provide ongoing alternative evidence that is acceptable to **us** that **you** are **unemployed** and actively seeking **work**. This could include copies of job applications, responses and registration with job agencies.

#### Payment In Lieu Of Notice

If you have been paid or are entitled to be paid in lieu of notice any claim for unemployment, including the qualification period, will not start until the end of your notice period.

### What is Not Covered (in addition to General Exclusions) We will not pay for any unemployment:

 We reasonably believe you knew was likely to happen, whether you had official notice or not, when you took out the policy.

- When you took out the policy.
   For existing borrowers that are notified of unemployment or if unemployment happens within the first 90 days of the start date (this is waived if you are transferring to this cover from an existing unemployment cover which was in place with Paymentshield or another Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance Policy and you
- Policy).
  If you were not in continuous work for 6 months before your first claim for unemployment (this is waived if you were in continuous work for 6 months before the start date).

are transferring your cover to this Paymentshield

- If you refuse any offer of reasonable alternative employment by your employer, which is based on your qualifications, previous experience and the location of such employment would have been reasonable for you to accept.
- If you fail to meet any of the performance standards or targets laid down by your employer.
- If you have resigned or taken voluntary redundancy.
- If you retire and do not intend to actively seek further work.
- Due to your misconduct.
- After temporary work (unless you have taken temporary work during a claim).
- Which is normal, regular or seasonal in your work.
- After the end of a fixed-term contract which is not renewed, unless you have worked continuously for the same employer for at least 12 months. If you have not worked continuously for the same employer for at least 12 months you are not insured for the non-renewal of a fixed term contract and entitlement to monthly benefit will end on the date that your fixed term contract was originally intended to terminate.
- Arising due to your own deliberate actions, drug or alcohol abuse. (This does not include any drugs prescribed by your doctor, except if they are to treat drug addiction or you fail to follow medical advice.)
- Arising due to you being detained in prison under the direction of a court of law. This will not apply if you are later acquitted.
- If your unemployment occurs as a result of an accident or sickness.

## **Carer Cover**

This cover only applies if your current certificate of cover shows that you have chosen 'Unemployment Cover'. Your certificate of cover will also show the qualification period you have chosen.

#### What is Covered

If you voluntarily leave your work to become a carer for a continuous period beyond the qualification period shown in your certificate of cover, your monthly benefit under this policy will become payable as follows:

- Option 1: 30 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
   On the 31st day we will pay 1 monthly benefit.
   We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain off work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.
- Option 2: 30 Day Qualification Period
   + Excess cover

We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 30th day you remain off work starting with the 31st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover.

The first payment will be made on the 61st day and **we** will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.

- Option 3: 60 Day Qualification Period + Back to day 1 cover
  - On the 61st day we will pay 2 monthly benefits. We will then pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every further day you remain off work, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. We will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.
- Option 4: 60 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover

We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 60th day you remain off work starting with the 61st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will be made on the 91st day

and **we** will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.

Option 5: 180 Day Qualification Period + Excess cover

We will pay 1/30th of the monthly benefit for every day after the 180th day you remain off work starting with the 181st day, up to the maximum number of payments as shown on your certificate of cover. The first payment will be made on the 211th day and we will make these payments in arrears at monthly intervals.

(For example tables of how a claim is calculated, please refer to the 'Unemployment cover' section)

You can make a completely new claim as long as you have returned to work for at least 90 days in a row. Two claims separated by less than 90 days continuous work are treated as the same period of claim. You will only be entitled to receive monthly benefit entitlement that is left over from the previous period of claim.

#### What is Not Covered (in addition to General Exclusions)

We will not pay a claim for carer cover:

• If at the start date we reasonably believe you were aware of the need, or likely need at any time in the future, for a member of your immediate family to require a carer.

• For existing borrowers, if within the first 90 days of your start date you apply for Carer's Allowance, or are notified of receipt of Carer's Allowance, unless the condition of the member of your immediate family requiring a carer was due to or caused by an unforeseen event happening

the start date, (this is waived if you already have existing Unemployment cover in place with Paymentshield or another Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance Policy and you are transferring your cover to this Paymentshield

Where the person you are caring for is not a member of your immediate family.

#### General Exclusions

We will not pay any claim:

- Arising due to any dishonest or exaggerated behaviour by you or anyone acting for you. If this happens, you will have to return any benefits already paid in relation to the claim, your policy may be terminated and you will have no cover under the **policy** from the date of termination.
- Arising due to war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities or a warlike operation or operations (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to an uprising, military or usurped power and/or any action taken in controlling, preventing, suppressing or in any way relating to any of these causes or events.

## Making Changes To Your Cover

If you need to make a change to your cover, please call the Paymentshield Customer Helpline or write to the Paymentshield Customer Services Team at: Paymentshield Limited, PO Box 229, Southport, PR9 9WU or e-mail: enquiries@paymentshield.co.uk

#### Changing Your Cover

You can apply to make changes to your cover. If you choose to;

- increase your monthly benefit for any reason other than an interest rate change that you notify Paymentshield of within 30 days of receiving notification from your lender; or
- increase your cover.

the **start date** of the change will be 90 days from the date on which we accept your notification. If you choose to;

- increase your monthly benefit due to interest rate changes and provided you tell Paymentshield within 30 days of receiving the notification from your lender
- reduce your monthly benefit amount for whatever reason
- increase your qualification period and type
- reduce your type of cover from Accident,

- Sickness & Unemployment cover to Accident & Sickness only cover
- reduce your maximum benefit period the start date of the change will be from the date we receive your notification.

You cannot alter your cover or monthly benefit during a period of claim.

Changes For Joint Borrowers Please also refer to 'Joint Borrowers' in the 'Eligibility, **Your** Cover, Joint Borrowers, Moving Home or **Your** Mortgage' section near the front of

this policy.

If you are both insured and want to change the way in which the benefit is split between you, you may do so but the change will take effect 90 days after we accept your notification for any change in monthly benefit or cover for either borrower.

Reviewing Your Monthly Benefit You should review your monthly benefit on at least an annual basis to ensure that your monthly repayments (including any secured/unsecured loan payments taken in connection with your mortgage agreement) and any mortgage related insurance premiums or shared ownership rental payment that you wish to include are adequately covered.

#### Your Claim

#### Claim Requirements

Before **we** can pay out a claim **we** must receive from **you** the necessary evidence and proof to validate **your** claim. **We** will only ask for information and proof that is reasonably required for the purpose of assessing **your** claim.

You will be asked to evidence that you have a current mortgage agreement when making a claim.

This can be a bank statement clearly identifying **your** outgoing mortgage payment or an up to date mortgage statement or online banking mortgage account screen print.

**You** may be asked for up to date evidence of a current mortgage during a continuing claim.

#### Accident & Sickness Claims

When you make a new claim for disability cover, the information we may require depends upon whether you were, at that time, employed or self-employed.

Where you are employed we will require:

- medical certificates covering the period for which you are making your claim (we will accept you self-certifying a period of up to 7 days before you obtain the first such medical certificate at the start of your claim);
- your doctor's name and address;
- your employer's name and address.

Where you are self-employed we will require:

- medical certificates covering the period for which you are making your claim (we will accept you self-certifying a period of up to 7 days before you obtain the first such medical certificate at the start of your claim);
- your doctor's name and address;
- bank statements for your business, or evidence of your payment of class 2 national insurance contributions, covering the period immediately before the date from which your claim starts.

Throughout any period during which **you** continue to make a claim for disability cover **you** may be asked to provide, at **your** expense, such reasonable proof that **you** continue to be certified as unfit to **work** by **your doctor** and by completing continuing claim statements confirming such information as **we** may reasonably require

## **Unemployment Claims**

When **you** make a new claim for **unemployment** cover, the information **we** may require depends upon whether **you** were, at that time, **employed** or **self-employed**:

Where you were employed we will require:

the written communication from your employer

terminating your employment;

- your employer's name and address;
- evidence of your receipt of jobseeker's allowance or that you are making active attempts to find employment, such as copies of letters to/ from prospective employers and copies of job applications;
- if you are claiming after 3 months of being unemployed, a copy of your awards letter from the Department for Work and Pensions (or equivalent in Northern Ireland).

Where **you** were self-employed **we** will require:

- evidence of your payment of the appropriate class 2 national insurance contributions, covering the period immediately before the date from which your claim starts, or evidence of the income from your business covering the six-month period before the date from which your selfemployment ended;
- evidence that your business has ceased or suspended trading because you could not find enough work to meet all your reasonable business and living expenses. We may require evidence such as that you have declared this to HM Revenue and Customs, bank statements, accounts, or a letter from your accountant with evidence that your business was no longer viable, that your business has ceased or suspended trading and that you are not receiving an income from the business;
- evidence of your receipt of jobseeker's allowance or that you are making active attempts to find employment, such as copies of letters to/ from prospective employers and copies of job applications;
- if you are claiming after 3 months of being unemployed, a copy of your awards letter from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Throughout any period during which **you** continue to make a claim for **unemployment** 

benefit **you** may be asked to provide reasonable proof and evidence that **you** are actively looking for **work**. This may include monthly bank statements showing the payment of jobseeker's allowance or replacement benefit (after the first 3 months of a claim) and/or monthly documentary evidence that **you** are actively seeking **work**, such as copies of letters to/ from prospective employers and copies of job applications except:

- if you are self-employed, and are ineligible for jobseeker's allowance (or replacement benefit), we will waive any requirement to provide evidence that you are in receipt of this, but we will require evidence that you are receiving national insurance credits; or
- such other ongoing alternative evidence that is reasonably acceptable to us that you are unemployed and actively seeking work.

If you are made unemployed whilst on maternity/ paternity leave, you will be entitled to receive a monthly unemployment benefit whilst you can evidence that you are in receipt of statutory maternity/paternity pay.

#### Carer Claims

When **you** make a new claim for **carer** cover, the information **we** may require depends on **your work** status at the time of the event giving rise to the claim:

Where **you** permanently leave **work** to become a **carer we** will require:

- your employer's name and address;
- such evidence as we reasonably require to confirm that carer's allowance (or any benefit which replaces carer's allowance) has been awarded.

Where **you** take a period of unpaid leave of absence from **work we** will require:

- your employer's name and address;
- such evidence as we reasonably require to confirm that your employer has granted you temporary unpaid leave in order to become a carer;
- letter from the doctor of your close relative confirming the nature of the condition suffered and when it was first diagnosed.

Where you were/are self-employed we will require:

- your payment of class 2 national insurance contributions covering the period immediately before the date from which your claim starts, or evidence of the income from your business covering the six-month period before the date from which your self-employment ended; or
- evidence that your business has ceased or suspended trading because you have become a carer and that you are not receiving an income from the business. We may require evidence such as that you have declared this to HM Revenue and Customs, bank statements, accounts, or a letter from your accountant with evidence that your business has ceased or suspended trading and that you are not receiving an income from the business; or
- such evidence as we reasonably require to confirm that carer's allowance (or any benefit which replaces carer's allowance) has been awarded.

Throughout any period during which **you** continue to make a claim for **carer** benefit, **you** may be asked to provide reasonable proof and evidence that **you** remain a **carer**. This may include monthly bank statements showing the payment of **carer's** allowance (or replacement benefit).

#### State Benefits

If you make a claim under this policy and also apply for any means tested state benefit, the Department for Work and Pensions/Benefits Agency may treat some of the claim payment as income when calculating your benefit entitlement.

#### Back To Work

We offer a free Back To Work service if you have selected Unemployment cover (as shown on your certificate of cover) and you are unable to work due to unemployment. You will be contacted by our specialist Back to Work service. This service is free, confidential and designed to provide advice and assistance to help you make a speedy return to work.

Our Back to Work service provides:

- Self-help guide
- Access to a specialist website
- Telephone advice providing access to specialist employment counsellors
- Confidential advice and ongoing support throughout your search on:
  - seeking **work**, career changes, state benefits
  - managing your time effectively while searching for employment
  - tips on preparing your CV
  - help with preparing for interviews

#### **Paying Claims**

**We** will make claim payments directly to **you**. When **we** have made these payments, **we** will not make any further payments for the same claim.

#### Switching Between Claims

If you need to you can switch from an unemployment to an accident or sickness or a carer claim or a combination of all three (provided you have chosen these covers). A new claim form must be completed but no additional qualification period will be applied. However, we will not pay more than the maximum number of monthly benefit payments, as shown on your certificate of cover for any claim period. This applies to any one continuous period of accident or sickness, unemployment or a period for which you are a carer or a combination of all three (provided you have chosen these covers).

You cannot claim for an accident or sickness, unemployment, or a carer claim at the same time.

#### When Will Monthly Claim Payments End

**We** will continue paying **your** claim until the first of the following happens:

- Your unemployment ends, you recover from your accident or sickness or you are no longer a carer.
- We have paid the maximum number of full monthly benefit payments, as shown on your certificate of cover for any one continuous period of unemployment, accident or sickness or a period for which you are a carer or a combination of all three.
- Your mortgage is repaid.
- You reach age 65.

#### Paying Premiums During a Claim

When you are making a claim under this policy you should continue to pay the monthly premium to ensure that cover can continue once your claim has ended. We will reimburse any premiums you have paid during a period of claim by increasing your monthly benefit. If you cancel your policy during a claim then we will continue to pay monthly benefit provided the claim happened prior to the cancellation date, and your premiums were up to date. However, you will not be covered for any claim that happens on or after the cancellation date.

## Changes We Can Make To Premium, Administration Charge, Policy Cover And/Or Terms And Conditions

1. We can, at any time and after taking a fair and reasonable view, make changes to your premium, administration charge, policy cover and/or terms and conditions of insurance, to reflect changes in our expectation of the future likely cost of providing cover. Premiums, administration charge, and/or policy cover may go up or down but will not recoup past losses.

When doing so we will consider:

- Our experience and expectation of the cost of providing this product and/or other Covèa products of a similar nature.
- Information reasonably available to us on the actual and expected claims experience of insurers of similar products.
- Widely available economic information such as inflation rates, interest rates and unemployment rates.
- Our and/or Paymentshield's experience and expectation of the costs of administering your policy.

Changes (together with the reasons for such changes) will be notified to **you** in writing at least 30 days in advance and once **we** make any changes **we** will not make any further changes under this paragraph for at least six months.

- 2. Additionally, **we** can, at any time and after taking a fair and reasonable view, make changes to:
- your premium, administration charge, policy cover and/or terms and conditions of insurance to reflect changes (affecting us or your policy) in the law or regulation or the interpretation of law or regulation, or changes in taxation.
- your policy cover and/or terms and conditions of insurance to reflect decisions or recommendations of an Ombudsman, regulator or similar person, or any code of practice, with which we intend to comply.
- your policy cover and/or terms and conditions of insurance in order to make your policy clearer and fairer to you or to rectify any mistakes that may be discovered in due course.

Changes (together with the reasons for such changes) will be notified to **you** in writing at least 30 days in advance and there is no minimum period between changes.

## When Does Your Policy End

- 1. The cover provided by this **policy** and all **monthly benefit** payments may end immediately, if any of the following happen:
- The date agreed by your lender for your mortgage agreement to be repaid is reached.
- There is any dishonest or intentionally exaggerated or fraudulent behaviour by you or anyone acting for you in relation to a claim under this policy. In such cases, you may have to return any benefits paid in relation to the claim, and will have no cover from the date of termination.
- You breach the **policy** terms and conditions.
- You retire from work and do not intend to actively seek further work, unless you retire due to accident or sickness on the advice of a doctor.
- Your mortgage agreement is repaid early or ceases and is not replaced.
- When you and your immediate family no longer reside at the property for which your mortgage agreement is held.
- The only obligation which you have under the mortgage agreement is to pay your lender a fee for holding your title deeds in safe custody.
- You die.
- You reach 65 years of age.

For avoidance of doubt, when **your policy** ends then all cover and **monthly benefit** payments end and therefore cover cannot continue for any **additional cover**, **shared ownership rental payment** or unsecured / secured lending taken out in connection with the **mortgage agreement**.

- 2. **You** may cancel the **policy** at any time by:
- calling Paymentshield's Customer Services Team on 0345 6011 050; or
- writing to Paymentshield Limited at PO Box 229, Southport, PR9 9WU; or sending an email to enquiries@paymentshield.co.uk

Please note that **your policy** cover will continue until the end of the period in respect of which premium has been paid.

- 3. **We** may cancel **your policy**, by sending **you** notice in writing if:
- You have not paid your premium when it was due

   in which case your policy will end with effect from
  the beginning of the period in respect of which
  premium has not been paid.
- We offer you an equivalent alternative product (which does not materially disadvantage you). In this event we will give you at least 30 days notice
- this event we will give you at least 30 days notice.
   We give you at least 90 days notice where we do not offer you an equivalent alternative product.
- 4. If you or we cancel your policy under 2 or 3 above then all cover will end from the date of cancellation outlined above. However, we will continue to pay monthly benefit that is due to be paid for any claim that happened prior to the date on which your policy ends.

## **Promise of Service**

**Our** and Paymentshield's goal is to give excellent service to all customers, whilst recognising that things do go wrong occasionally. All complaints received are taken seriously and resolved promptly, wherever possible. To ensure we and Paymentshield provide the kind of service you expect, your feedback is welcome. Your comments will be recorded and analysed to make sure the service we and Paymentshield offer continually improves. Most customers' concerns can be resolved quickly but occasionally more detailed enquiries are needed. If this is likely, you will be contacted and provided with an expected date of response.

## **Complaints Procedure**

a. Sales Complaints - if you are unhappy with any aspect of the sale of your policy or have cause for complaint, you should initially contact the person who arranged the cover for you.

b. If you are unhappy with the administration of your insurance please contact the Paymentshield Customer Services Team by telephone or in writing by email or letter to:

Paymentshield Customer Services Team Paymentshield Limited, PO Box 229, Southport PR9 9WU

Paymentshield Customer Helpline: 0345 6011 050 enquiries@paymentshield.co.uk

c. If you are not satisfied with the service we have provided in relation to your claim, please tell us so that we can do our best to resolve the problem. You can contact us in the following ways:

By phone on 0330 134 8240

By email at fspcomplaintsmailbox@coveainsurance.co.uk

Or you can write to us at:

Protection Dept, Covéa Insurance plc, 50 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JX

## **Service Complaints**

If you have a complaint about any aspect of our service, you should contact us in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied with our response or 8 weeks have elapsed from the date we received your complaint, you may be eligible to refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

FOS was set up by parliament to resolve complaints that customers and financial businesses are not able to resolve. FOS is an independent service free to customers. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be found below:

The Financial Ombudsman Service Exchange, Tower London, E14 9SR

Financial Ombudsman Service is open from Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm, Saturday, 9am – 1pm

0800 0 234 567

(calls to this number are now free on mobile phones and landlines).

0300 123 9 123 (calls to this number cost no more than calls to 01 and 02 numbers)

complaint.info@financialombudsman org.uk

www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk

This procedure will not prejudice your right to take legal proceedings. However, please note that there are some instances when the FOS cannot consider complaints. A leaflet detailing our full complaints/appeals process is available from us on request.

#### General Information

This insurance is underwritten by Covea Insurance plc.

Covea Insurance plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

Your policy will be administered by Paymentshield Limited on our behalf. Paymentshield Limited is responsible for the day to day running of your policy.

Any premium, premium refunds or claims money held by Paymentshield Limited will be held on **our** behalf.

Paymentshield Limited reserves the right to change its chosen insurer. Any such change may take place at any time by the administrator cancelling the **policy** and transferring the insurance cover to a new insurer.

Paymentshield Limited will contact **you** not less than 30 days before making such a change with details of the new proposed insurers and terms on which cover may be provided by the new insurer.

Accordingly, in order to ensure continuity of your insurance you authorise Paymentshield Limited to cancel your existing insurance and transfer your data to any new proposed insurer to provide you with the replacement cover. When contacting you with details of the new insurer and its offer of insurance for your consideration, Paymentshield Limited will explain how you may revoke this authority and provide details of how you may cancel this policy, if you do not wish to continue your policy with the new insurer.

## The Law

There is a choice of law for this insurance, but unless **we** agree otherwise, the law for that part of the **UK** where **you** live at the **start date** will apply.

## Financial Services Compensation Scheme

**We** are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). **You** may be entitled to compensation from this scheme if **we** cannot meet **our** obligations, depending on the type of insurance and the circumstances of **your** claim.

Further information about the scheme is available from the FSCS website www.fscs.org.uk or you can write to Financial Services Compensation Scheme, 10th Floor Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7QU.

## Fair Processing Notice

This section describes how the administrator, **Paymentshield**, will capture, process and store **your** data. Details on how the insurer of **your** policy uses **your** personal data can be found on their website: www.coveainsurance. co.uk/privacy-policy/

Full details of Paymentshield's Fair Processing Notice can be found here: https://www. Paymentshield.co.uk/Fair-Processing-Notice. It explains who Paymentshield are, the types of information it holds, how it is used, who they share it with and how long it is kept and informs you of certain rights you have regarding your personal information. If you are unable to access this website, details can be obtained by contacting the address detailed or telephone number indicated in any recent correspondence or emails you have received from Paymentshield.

#### Who Are We?

Paymentshield Limited (part of The Ardonagh Group of companies) along with the insurer is the Data Controller of the information **you** have provided. **You** can contact Paymentshield for general data protection queries by email to DataProtection@ardonagh.co.uk or in writing to:

The Data Protection Officer care of the office of the Chief Information Officer, The Ardonagh Group, 1 Minster Court, Mincing Lane, London, EC3R 7AA.

## How Paymentshield Use The Information You Provide

Your personal information will be used to

- Assess and provide the products or services that you have requested through arranging and administration of policies
- Communicate with you
- Develop new products and services
- Undertake statistical analysis
- Contact you about products that are closely related to those you already hold with Paymentshield
- Provide additional assistance or tips about these products or services
- Notify you of important functionality changes to our websites
- Cross reference with information from publicly available sources

Conduct Market research

Any new information **you** provide us may be used to update any existing record **we** hold for **you**.

Only where **you** have provided us with consent to do so, **we** may from time to time use **your** information to provide **you** with details of marketing or promotional opportunities and offers relating to other products and services from The Ardonagh Group (http://www.ardonagh.com).

#### **Sharing Your Information**

We will only share your information:

- Where **we** are required to do so by law
- With fraud prevention agencies or third parties that provide a service to us or on our behalf;
- Where **we** may transfer rights and obligations under this agreement; and
- In order to achieve any of the purposes for which we process your data, as noted above

The data **we** hold may be transferred to, and stored at, a destination outside of the European Economic Area (EEA). It may also be processed by staff operating outside of the EEA who work for us or one of **our** suppliers. If **we** provide information to a third party **we** will require it and any of its agents and/or suppliers to take all steps reasonable necessary to ensure that **your** data is treated securely and in accordance with this notice.

We follow reasonably strict security procedures in the storage and disclosure of **your** personal information in line with industry practices.

#### How Long Do We Keep Your Information?

We will not keep **your** personal information for longer than is necessary for the purpose for which it was provided unless **we** are required to by law or have other legitimate reason to do so, such as if necessary for any legal processing. This is typically for a period of no more than 6 years after the termination or cancellation of a product, contract or service **we** provide.

#### Your Rights

You have rights relating to your personal data, such as to request access to a copy of the data we hold about you, to request a review of any automated decision taken about you and correct any erroneous information we hold about you. More details on your rights can be found on the Information commissioner's website: https://ico.org.uk

## Insurance Administration

Information **you** supply may be used for the purposes of insurance administration by the Data Controller(s),

our associated companies and agents, by reinsurers and Paymentshield Limited. It may also be disclosed to regulatory bodies for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing our and Paymentshield Limited's compliance with any regulatory rules/codes. Your information may also be used for research and statistical purposes and crime prevention. It may be transferred to any country, including countries outside the European Economic Area for any of these purposes and for systems administration. Where this happens, we and Paymentshield Limited will ensure that anyone to whom we and Paymentshield Limited pass your information agrees to treat your information with the same level of protection as if we and Paymentshield Limited were dealing with it. If you give us and Paymentshield Limited information about another person, in doing so you confirm that they have given you permission to provide it to us and for us and Paymentshield Limited to be able to process their personal data (including any sensitive data) and also that you have told them who we and Paymentshield Limited are and what we will use their data for, as set out in this notice.

In the case of personal data, with limited exceptions, and on payment of the appropriate fee, **you** have the right to access and if necessary rectify information held about **you**.

## **Sensitive Data**

In order to assess the terms of the insurance contract or administer claims which arise, **we** may need to collect data which the Data Protection Act defines as sensitive (such as medical history or criminal convictions). By proceeding with this insurance, **you** signify **your** consent to such information being processed by **us** and Paymentshield Limited or **our** agents.

If you have any questions about the use of personal information by us, Paymentshield Limited or if you believe our records are inaccurate, you should write to:

The Data Protection Officer Paymentshield Limited PO Box 229 Southport PR9 9WLI

# Fraud Prevention And Detection

In order to prevent and detect fraud **we** and Paymentshield Limited may at any time:

- share information about **you** with other organisations and public bodies including the police
- undertake credit searches and additional fraud searches
- check and/or file your details with fraud prevention agencies and databases, and if you give us and Paymentshield Limited false or inaccurate information and we and Paymentshield Limited suspect fraud, we and Paymentshield Limited will record this.

**We** and Paymentshield Limited can on request supply further details of the databases **we** access or contribute to.

## **Definitions**

Wherever the following words or phrases appear in this **policy**, they will be shown in **bold** and have the following meanings:

#### **Accident or Sickness**

Any accident, sickness or disease which occurs after the **start date** which results in **you** being totally unable to carry out the duties of **your normal work** and not doing any other **work**, as confirmed by a **doctor** or **specialist**. Normal **work** means **your work** immediately before **your accident or sickness**, or any other **work** which **we** think **you** are, or may reasonably become qualified for, in view of **your** training, education and ability.

#### **Additional Cover**

Means cover of up to 33% additional cover over and above the combined total of your monthly repayment along with any further cover selected to include premiums for your buildings and contents insurance on the property and associated life assurance premiums.

Should your monthly repayment reduce, your additional cover will be maintained at the fixed amount selected by you at the start date or mid term adjustment, unless the reduction in your monthly repayment means your level of additional cover exceeds 33% of the combined total of the reduced monthly repayment and monthly mortgage related insurance costs.

In this case, the amount of **additional cover** will be reduced to 33% of the combined total of the reduced **monthly repayment** and monthly mortgage related insurance costs. A refund of any overpaid premium will be arranged back to the date when the decrease in **your monthly repayment** actually occurred.

You need to notify us when **your monthly repayment** changes.

#### Carer

You look after a member of your immediate family on a full-time basis and have completed a Carer's Allowance Claim pack and are either in receipt of or awaiting Carer's Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### Carer's Allowance

A taxable benefit paid by the Department for Work and Pensions to an informal **carer**.

#### Certificate of Cover

The certificate accompanying and forming part of this **policy** which sets out details of the cover selected by **you**.

#### Doctor

A medical practitioner (other than **you** or a member of **your** family) who holds a full qualification entitling him or her to full registration with the General Medical Council.

#### **Existing Borrower**

Means your mortgage agreement has been in force for more than 30 days on the **start date**.

#### Immediate Family

**Your** spouse, civil partner, live-in partner, children and parents.

#### Lender

The financial institution which **you** have entered into **your mortgage agreement** with.

#### Monthly Benefit

The amount chosen by **you** and shown on **your** current **certificate of cover**.

If your monthly repayment is less than £3,000 you can increase the amount you insure to include premiums for this policy, buildings and contents insurance on the property, associated life assurance policies, shared ownership rental payment and any additional cover selected, provided the lower of the following amounts is not exceeded:

- 75% of **your** monthly earned income before tax or
- £3,000.

The monthly benefit payable at time of claim will be reduced if the monthly repayment to your lender has decreased to less than the amount shown on your Certificate of Cover. Please refer to the 'Making Changes To Your Cover' sections for more details.

#### Monthly Repayment

Your minimum monthly mortgage payment due to your lender. This can also include additional lending (secured or unsecured) taken as part of your mortgage agreement with your lender and repaid as part of your monthly mortgage payment (i.e. this does not include loans repaid separately to your mortgage agreement).

#### Mortgage Agreement

Your mortgage agreement on residential property, which has priority over any other charge on the property. Residential property means a property permanently and solely occupied by you and your immediate family as your main home.

#### Period Of Claim

Means any separate period of unemployment (including a carer claim) or accident or sickness for which you are receiving monthly benefit payments.

#### Policy

This document which sets out the benefits, terms, conditions and exclusions of **your** Mortgage Payment Protection Insurance. It should be read in conjunction with **your certificate of cover**.

#### **Pre-existing Medical Condition**

Any condition, injury, illness, disease, sickness or related condition and/or associated symptoms, whether diagnosed or not:

- which you knew about, or should reasonably have known about, at the start date, or
- which you had seen or arranged to see a doctor about, during the 12 months immediately before the start date.

#### **Qualification Period**

The period defined in this **policy** as selected by **you** and as stated in **your certificate of cover**. **Monthly benefit** will not be paid during this period.

#### Self-employed

You are self-employed if:

- you are carrying on a business in the UK either alone or as a partner in a partnership; or
- you can control the affairs of a company you work for because either you or a relative or a member of your household individually or jointly hold the majority of the voting rights in that company; or
- you can otherwise ensure that the company you work for conducts its affairs according to your wishes.

#### **Shared Ownership Rental Payment**

The rental or equity loan monthly repayment amount payable to the housing association, local authority, Government or lender when the mortgage agreement is also completed as part of a shared ownership purchase.

#### Specialist

A suitably qualified independent medical specialist who is working at a recognised hospital in the UK. It does not include **you** or any member of **your immediate family**.

#### Start Date

The date shown on **your Certificate of Cover**, which is either of the following:

- If yours is a new mortgage agreement, insurance starts on the completion date.
- If you apply for insurance at any other time, including a further mortgage advance, your insurance starts on the date we accept your application.

However, if you are off work due to accident or sickness for more than 30 days when you apply for your mortgage agreement or apply for cover, your accident or sickness cover will not begin until you have returned to work for 30 consecutive days.

#### **Temporary Work**

Work that is casual, occasional or for a specific task. Also work that is seasonal or irregular, or for a period of training or apprenticeship.

#### UK

England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.

#### Unemployment/Unemployed

Having no paid work or temporary work and having a Jobseeker's Agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions in the UK. If you are ineligible for a Jobseeker's Agreement you must be able to provide alternative proof acceptable to us that you are actively seeking work.

#### We/Us/Our

Covea Insurance plc.

#### Work

Any paid **work** of at least 16 hours a week. This includes **self-employed work** and statutory maternity and parental leave but not **temporary work**.

#### You/Your/Yours

The person(s) who is eligible, has applied and been accepted by **us** for insurance and who has paid or agreed to pay the premiums and are named on the **certificate of cover**.

# **Employment Legal Protection** including Health Assistance

This **policy** for Employment Legal Protection including Health Assistance has been supplied by Arc Legal Assistance Ltd who have capacity provided elsewhere, full details of which can be found on the Paymentshield website:

www.paymentshield.co.uk/underwriters.

Arc Legal Assistance Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

This is a contract of insurance between **You** and the **insurer**. The insurance provided covers **legal costs** subject to the terms, limits of indemnity, exclusions and conditions contained herein, in respect of an insured event which occurs within the **Territorial Limits** and during the **Period of Insurance** for which **You** have paid or agreed to pay the premium. Claims must be notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**.

Unless expressly stated nothing in this **policy** will create rights pursuant to the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

This contract of insurance is personal to you the policyholder and us.

We will not be bound by any agreement between you and your appointed representative, or you and any other person or organization. You may not assign any of the rights under this policy without our express prior written consent.

## **Definitions**

The words and phrases listed below will have the following meanings:

Appointed representative

The solicitor, solicitors' firm, barrister or other suitably qualified person appointed by **us** to act for **you**.

Civil proceedings

Civil court, civil tribunal or civil arbitration proceedings, which are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the United Kingdom.

#### Date of event

The date of any event which may lead to a claim; where there is more than one such event, the date of the first of these.

#### **Disbursements**

Any sum spent by an **appointed representative** on **your** behalf in respect of services supplied by a third party. **Disbursements** may include, for example, barristers' fees (provided that the barrister is not acting under a conditional fee agreement or equivalent arrangement) or expert report fees.

Iniurv

Your bodily injury or death, or any disease, illness or shock suffered by you.

#### Insurer

The insurer for this section of **your policy** as shown on the Paymentshield website: www.paymentshield. co.uk/underwriters.

Legal costs

Professional legal fees that **you** are bound to pay, including reasonable fees or expenses incurred by the **appointed representative** whilst acting for **you** in the pursuit of civil **proceedings**. This also includes **disbursements**; however these **disbursements** must be in respect of services provided by a third party, received by **you**, distinct from the services supplied by the **appointed representative**. **Legal costs** will not be paid on an interim basis throughout a claim.

#### Part 36 Offer

Any offer made to settle a claim, where blame is accepted or not, made by either party throughout the claim. To be accepted, the offer must:

- be in writing;
- call itself a Part 36 Offer;
- be open for at least 21 days, when the offer or will pay the opponent's costs, if accepted;
- specify covers the whole claim, part of it, or an issue that arises in it and, if so, which:
- advise whether any counterclaim is factored in.

#### Period of insurance

The period of time during which cover under this **policy** is in force. Cover shall commence on the **start date** shown on the Certificate of Cover and continue until the date on which you cease to pay the monthly premium, or cancel this **policy**, whichever occurs first.

**Policy** 

This policy document that sets out the terms and conditions of **Your** Employment Legal Protection and Health Assistance insurance.

#### **Property**

Your permanent primary residence within the territorial limits.

Reasonable prospects

A 51% or greater chance that **you** will recover losses or damages (or obtain any other legal remedy that **we** have agreed to, including an enforcement of judgement), make successful defence or make a successful appeal or defence of any appeal in **your** pursuit of **civil proceedings** or criminal proceedings

#### **Territorial limits**

- a) In respect of Section 1 Personal Claims: Worldwide.
- b) In respect of Section 2 Employment: The United Kingdom.

#### **Terrorism**

Any direct or indirect consequence of terrorism as defined by the Terrorism Act 2000 and any amending or substituting legislation.

An act of terrorism includes any act, or preparation in respect of action, or threat of action designed to influence the government de jure or de facto of any nation or any political division thereof, or in pursuit

of political, religious, ideological, or similar purposes to intimidate the public or a section of the public of any nation by any person or group(s) of persons whether acting alone or on behalf of or in connection with any organisation(s) or government(s) de jure or defaqto, and which:

- i) involves violence against one or more persons; or
- ii) involves damage to property; or
- iii) endangers life other than that of the person committing the action; or
- iv) creates a risk to health or safety of the public or a section of the public; or
- v) is designed to interfere with or to disrupt an electronic system.

This **policy** also excludes loss, damage, cost, or expense directly or indirectly caused by, contributed to by, resulting from, or arising out of or in connection with any action in controlling, preventing, suppressing, retaliating against, or responding to any act of terrorism.

#### You/your

The person named on the Certificate of Cover, being the individual for whom this insurance provides legal expenses cover. This cover extends to also include the following, who permanently reside with **you** at the **property**:

- a) your spouse or partner;
- b) your parents or parents-in-law;
- c) your children.

#### We/our/us

Arc Legal Assistance Ltd and underwritten by the **insurer**.

## Table of Cover, Restrictions, Exclusions

The following are insured:	Restrictions:	Exclusions:
We will pay legal costs for the following Sections 1 and 2, in order to pursue civil proceedings directly against a third party arising from one or more of the following events or causes:	We agree to provide the cover in this policy subject to the terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations, provided that:  • the legal action or criminal prosecution occurs within the territorial limits;  • the date of event is within the period of insurance;  • the premium has been paid; and  • We deem that there are reasonable prospects of success.  The most we will pay for any one claim is £50,000 (fifty thousand pounds).  Legal costs incurred in any appeal proceedings will be covered provided that:  • we agree to cover the original claim;  • the matter has reasonable prospects; and  • we are notified of the decision to appeal at least 7 days before the deadline to appeal.  We reserve the right to withdraw cover at any time where upon review of reasonable prospects.  All claims must be reported to us within a reasonable time	The exclusions noted apply to both sections of cover.  1. Coroners' Inquests and Fatal Accident Enquiries;  2. Alleged failure to correctly diagnose any medical condition;  3. Any illness or bodily injury or psychological injury that occurs gradually or is not caused by a sudden, specific event;  4. Any claims caused by or arising out of the deliberate, conscious or intentional disregard of your obligation to take all reasonable steps to prevent bodily injury;  Any claim:  • which has not been notified to us during the period of insurance  • for which the date of event is before the date of inception of this policy  • If we or the appointed representative do not believe there are reasonable prospects in pursuing your claim, we will not pay for any costs arising from a subsequent or additional claim to determine reasonable prospects
	frame after the <b>Date of Event</b> and during the <b>period of insurance</b> .  Where an award of damages is the only legal remedy to a dispute and the cost of pursuing <b>civil proceedings</b> is likely to exceed the value of any such award of damages, the most <b>we</b> will pay in respect of <b>legal costs</b> is the value of the likely award of damages.  Can be dealt with by a court of competent jurisdiction within the <b>territorial limits</b> .	Legal costs incurred before our written acceptance of a claim. Any insured incident which occurs as a result of a deliberate action by you. War, invasion, foreign enemy hostilities (whether war is declared or not), civil war, terrorism, rebellion, revolution, military force or coup. Radiation or radioactive contamination.

		Irradiation, or contamination by nuclear material; or the radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous or contaminating properties of any radioactive matter; or any device or weapon which employs atomic or nuclear fission or fusion or other comparable reaction or radioactive force or matter.
		Any claim or expense of any kind caused directly or indirectly by pollution or contamination which:
		a) was the result of an intentional act;
		b) was not sudden and unforeseen
		The balance of any <b>legal costs</b> incurred before <b>we</b> have given <b>our</b> written acceptance of <b>your</b> claim, or before the inception date of this <b>policy</b> .
		Judicial Review.
		Fines or penalties or any damages which <b>you</b> are ordered to pay by a court, tribunal or other authority.
		Any remark or comment, whether permanently recorded or not, which may damage <b>your</b> reputation.
		Any claim relating to violence or dishonesty on <b>your</b> part.
		Any dispute whatsoever arising between <b>you</b> and <b>us</b> or your insurance broker, other than the cover provided under the Arbitration Condition of this policy.
		Any claim where funding is available from a trade union. Where cover is available but does not provide protection for <b>your</b> claim, written confirmation will be required to this effect.
1)	Personal Claims	Clinical negligence claims.
	<ul> <li>an event that subsequently causes your death;</li> <li>a bodily injury to you.</li> </ul>	Any injury which is gradual or progressive or is not caused by a specific or sudden accident.

		Any motor vehicle owned by you or anyone associated with you, or any incidents relating to road traffic accidents, except under Section 1 of the Cover section of this policy where you are injured as a pedestrian or cyclist; Any claim relating to wills, probate or inheritance.  We will not cover legal costs and expenses in defending your legal rights, but will cover legal costs and expenses in vou defending a counter claim.  Proceedings before, or reference to the European Court of Justice or the European Court of Justice or the European Court of Human Rights.  Divorce, separation or other matrimonial disputes; cohabitation disputes or any legal action brought about between members of your family or household.
2)	Employment  We will provide cover for legal costs incurred in the pursuit of civil proceedings against your employer, in matters relating to any discriminatory action as specified in the Employment Tribunals Act 1996	Your employer's internal disciplinary hearings and internal grievance procedures. Claims relating solely to personal injury. Your business, trade or profession, any shareholding, directorship or partnership or any other commercial interest (other than your contract as an employee). Where your employment status is not that of an employee. Any claim brought outside of the employment tribunal (e.g. county court or high court). Fines, penalties or damages which you are ordered to pay by a court, tribunal or other authority. Any claims relating to a settlement agreement whilst you are still employed.

## **General Conditions**

This is a legally binding contract of insurance between **you** and **us**.

The following conditions apply to all sections of this **policy. You** must comply with them where applicable in order for **your** insurance to remain in full force and effect.

#### 1. Claims

Claims must be notified to **us** as soon as reasonable possible, and during the **period of insurance**.

If at the time a claim is made by **you** under this policy there is any other insurance covering the same liability, **we** will not be liable to pay or contribute more than **our** proportion of any claim and the **legal costs** in connection with this.

- a) You will give notice to us as soon as reasonably possible of an insured event and during the period of insurance. In the event of a claim for personal bodily injury, we have the right to have a medical examination carried out of any injured person at our expense.
- b) **You** will take all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of a claim and to prevent or minimise **legal costs** wherever possible
- c) All professional fees, expenses, disbursements and any other costs may only be incurred with our prior consent;
- d) **Legal costs** will not be paid on an interim basis throughout a claim;
- e) Authorisation will need to be requested in writing in respect of all **disbursements** before they are incurred;
- f) All **legal costs** are subject to an independent assessment to ensure that they have been incurred reasonably;
- g) You will take all steps necessary to assist in the recovery of legal costs from a third party where appropriate and where you are able to do so;
- h) **You** will not enter or offer to enter into any negotiation to settle the claim without **our** prior written approval to do so;
- i) You will not unreasonably withhold consent for your appointed representative to make an offer to settle legal action;
- j) If an offer of settlement (which may include a **Part 36 offer**) is made that **we** or the **appointed representative** would deem fair and **you** do not accept it, **we** will not be liable for any further costs incurred;

- k) **You** will not withdraw from any legal action without **our** permission to do so;
- I) In some circumstances, where we decide it is appropriate, we may elect to pay you the sum of damages that you are seeking and then end or not begin civil proceedings, and we will not be liable for any further costs incurred;
- m) We reserve the right to:
  - Take over any claim or civil proceedings at any time and conduct them in your name;
  - ii) Negotiate or settle any claim or **civil proceedings** on **your** behalf;
  - iii) Contact **you** directly at any point concerning **your** claim.
- n) **Your** property must be insured for standard buildings and/or contents risks throughout the **period of**

#### 2. Appointed representative

- i) Before legal proceedings are issued, an appointed representative from our panel will be appointed to act for you to pursue, defend or settle any claim we have accepted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this policy;
  - ii) Should legal proceedings need to be issued or have been issued against you, or where there is a conflict of interest, you can choose a nonpanel solicitor of your choosing. You must inform us in writing of the full name and address of the representative you want to act for you.
  - iii) If there is any dispute over your choice of nonpanel solicitor you will be asked to nominate an alternative. If, after having done so, we are still not able to agree, you may escalate the matter in accordance with General Condition 4 – Arbitration, which can be found on page 28 of this policy. Until the complaint has been resolved, or until such time as an arbitrator has reached a decision, we shall be entitled to appoint an appointed representative from our panel in order to protect your interests in any legal proceedings.

- b) If you do select to appoint your own non-panel solicitor, this insurance will not cover expenses over and above the costs that our panel would charge in equivalent circumstances. For your information, this means that we would take into account the seriousness of the claim and the location and class of non-panel solicitor that you choose. The hourly rate is currently set at £125 + VAT. We reserve the right to assess each case on its merits, and may agree to pay additional fees if we feel the situation warrants it. This will remain entirely at our discretion;
- c) The appointed representative or non-panel solicitor will have direct contact with **us** and must fully cooperate with **us** at all times, and **you** must cooperate with **your** representative, providing all necessary information and assistance to them as required;
- d) Any non-panel solicitor that you appoint must sign our standard terms of appointment and adhere to all of its terms. You agree to us having access to the appointed representative's or non-panel solicitor's (as the case may be) file relating to your claim. You will be considered to have provided express consent to us or our appointed agent to access the file for auditing, quality and cost control purposes.

#### 3. Counsel's Opinion

Where reasonable and necessary, we may obtain at our own cost, advice on prospects for your claim from an independent barrister. This will be in the event that there is a dispute on the prospects of success for your claim, between your choice of appointed representative and our panel solicitors.

#### 4. Arbitration Clause

If there is a dispute between **you** and **us** which arises from this insurance, **you** can make a complaint to **us** in accordance with the complaints process which can be found on page 19. If **we** are not able to resolve the matter satisfactorily and the matter can be dealt with by the Financial Ombudsman Service, **you** can ask them to arbitrate in the matter.

If the matter cannot be dealt with by the Financial Ombudsman Service, it can be referred to arbitration by a single arbitrator who will be agreed by both **you** and **us**. The arbitration shall be in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 and will be binding on both parties. The costs of the arbitration shall be at the discretion of the arbitrator.

If we are not able to agree on the appointment of an arbitrator, we shall ask the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to decide. Their decision will be final and binding on both parties.

#### 5. Statutory Regulations

In all matters relating to the performance of this

insurance contract, it is the responsibility of both **you** and **us** that **we** both comply with all Acts of Parliament and with all orders, regulations and bylaws made with statutory authority by Government Departments or by local or other authorities. The cost of meeting the requirements of this clause will be payable by **you** and **us** in **our** own rights respectively.

#### 6. Severability Clause

If any term of this contract of insurance is to any extent invalid, illegal or incapable of being enforced, such term will be excluded to the extent of such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability, all other terms will remain in full force and effect.

#### 7. Proportionality

Where an award of damages is the only legal remedy to a dispute and the cost of pursuing civil proceedings is likely to exceed the value of any such award of damages, the most **we** will pay in respect of **legal costs** is the value of the likely award of damages.

#### 8. Acts of Parliament

All references to Acts of Parliament in this **policy** shall include the equivalent laws in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands and shall include any subsequent amendments, re-enactments or regulations.

## Making A Claim 24/7

In the event of a claim please do not appoint **your** own solicitor as this will invalidate the cover provided by this **policy**.

Please note that **you** must report any claim to **us** within a reasonable time frame and during the **period of insurance**.

#### CALL 0333 234 3478

Please quote Paymentshield in all communications.

**REMEMBER** The claims line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

#### Telephone Legal Advice Helpline

Available 24 hours a day throughout the year to provide **you** with confidential telephone advice about any personal legal problem in the UK.

#### **European Legal Advice Service**

**We** will give **you** confidential legal advice over the phone on any personal legal problem, under the laws of the EU, Switzerland and Norway.

To contact the Telephone Legal Advice Helplines, phone 0333 234 3478, quoting the reference Paymentshield.

#### **Health & Medical Information Service**

We can provide non-diagnostic information about health and fitness, and details of self-help groups and family health service associations. This includes information relating to allergies, drugs and their side effects, patient rights, social security and social service matters, and hospital waiting lists.

#### **Counselling Service**

**We** provide confidential telephone counselling including reference to professional or voluntary services.

To contact the Health & Medical Information and Counselling helpline services, phone: **0344 770 1036**, quoting the reference **Paymentshield**.

To help **us** monitor **our** service standards, telephone calls (except those to the Counselling Service) may be recorded. Please do not phone the helpline to report a general insurance claim. **We** will not accept responsibility if the helpline services are unavailable for reasons **we** cannot control.

We do not provide diagnostic advice or information.

## **Complaints Procedure**

If **you** are unhappy about claims handling on the **policy** for Legal Expenses cover **you** should contact:

Quality Assurance Manager Arc Legal Assistance Ltd The Gatehouse Lodge Park Lodge Lane Colchester C04 5NF

Tel: 01384 377 000

Email: customerservice@arclegal.co.uk Please ensure **your claim** number is quoted in all correspondence to assist a quick and efficient response.

If it is not possible to reach an agreement, **you** have the right to make an appeal to the Financial Ombudsman Service. The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) was set up by parliament to resolve complaints that customers and financial businesses are not able to resolve. FOS is an independent service free to customers. This also applies if **you** are **insured** in a business capacity and have an annual turnover of less than €2 million and fewer than ten staff. **You** may contact the Financial Ombudsman Service at:

#### The Financial Ombudsman Service

Exchange Tower London E14 9SR Tel: 0800 023 4567 (calls to this number are now free on mobile phones and landlines. Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm, Saturday, 9am – 1pm)
Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk

The above complaints procedure is in addition to **your** statutory rights as a consumer. For further information about **your** statutory rights contact **your** local authority Trading Standards Service or Citizens Advice Bureau.

# Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The **insurer** is covered by the Financial Services
Compensation Scheme. **You** may be entitled to
compensation from the scheme in the unlikely event that
the **insurer** cannot meet their financial responsibilities. **You** can obtain further information about compensation
scheme arrangements from the FSCS at www.fscs.org.uk,
or by phoning:

0800 678 1100 (Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5.30pm) 020 7741 4100 (Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 5.30pm)

## **Data Protection Act 1998**

Please note that any information provided to **us** will be processed by **us** and **our** agents in compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, for the purpose of providing insurance and handling claims, if any, which may necessitate providing such information to third parties. **We** may also send the information in confidence for process to other companies acting on their instructions including those located outside the European Economic Area.

#### A Guide to Direct Debit Payments

(this section does not form part of the policy conditions)

The premium for **your policy** is collected by monthly Direct Debit from **your** bank account. **We** can accept **your** instruction in one of the following ways:

- From a signed Direct Debit mandate
- From a telephone instruction you have given to us
- Electronically (if collected by **your** intermediary) or through the internet



#### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- · This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Paymentshield Limited
  will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you
  request Paymentshield Limited to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given
  to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Paymentshield Limited or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Paymentshield Limited asks
  you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Covea Insurance plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. It appears on the Financial Services Register under number 202277. Registered Office Address: Norman Place, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8DA. No. 613259

The insurance for Employment Legal Protection including Health Assistance is supplied by Arc Legal Assistance Ltd who have capacity provided elsewhere, full details of which can be found on the Paymentshield website: www.paymentshield.co.uk/underwriters.

Arc Legal Assistance Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under registration number 305958.

Paymentshield Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under registration number 312708.

You can check this on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768 or 0300 500 8082.

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