



The Galbraith Tables

Actuarial tables for use when valuing pension rights for offsetting purposes with reference to non-pension capital assets

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Version 1.0
March 2022

A FOREWORD BY THE AUTHORS

The resolution of matters pertaining to finance for a divorcing couple is a complex affair, and this becomes especially true where pensions are to be considered. The myriad forms of pensions that exist within the UK means that any attempt to value such rights as might be held by a divorcing couple in a manner that is internally consistent is no mean task, and it is in performing analysis of this nature to which we have devoted our careers in the last few years.

Despite the introduction of pension sharing on divorce in December 2000, it remains the case that many such divorces which take place in the courts are settled with reference to offsetting i.e. the equating of pension rights with certain amounts of non-pension capital. This introduces further complexity, not least as such non-pension assets are seldom directly comparable with the rights that either individual might hold in a pension scheme.

Again and again, we have sought to perform such calculations as may prove useful to individuals, their legal representatives and indeed the courts, and it is in this spirit that we produce this first edition of these Galbraith Tables. These tables are intended to be used in a straightforward manner to place a value on pension rights that may be payable to either party, in turn to allow the parties to begin what remains a complex process of equating pension and non-pension rights.

We have been inspired by the simplicity of both the Duxbury and Ogden tables, being actuarial resources produced to help the courts place a capital value upon various streams of payments. These tables also follow the “*Multiplicand × Multiplier*” approach, and the commentary that accompanies these tables provides a detailed explanation of how the appropriate multiplicands are to be derived.

Indeed, Appendix U of *A Guide to the Treatment of Pensions of Divorce*—colloquially known in this industry as the PAG Report—sets out the challenge to produce such tables as may be used for “Ogden-style tables” in respect of valuing pension rights for offsetting purposes. While we accept that a range of possible suitable answers may emerge in respect of offsetting of pension rights—with there being both actuarial and legal considerations involved—we are nonetheless delighted to have taken up this challenge to create a resource that we believe to be of great ongoing value to practitioners in this field.

We are indebted to our fellow expert witness report writers at Mathieson Consulting Limited—being Catherine Anderson, Rob Pritchard and Rahim Rashid—for their helpful contributions, insights and proof-reading skills in the production of the tables and this accompanying document. Special thanks and praise are also due to Jonathan Blatchford, also an expert witness report writer at Mathieson Consulting Limited, for his thorough and diligent review of the tables and the calculations that underpin these. We would also like to thank George Mathieson for his support and enthusiasm in the execution of this endeavour, along with his insights into how best we might seek to take it to market. Finally, thanks are also due to Rhys Taylor of 36 Family for his legal eye, thoughtful input and his understanding of the needs of practitioners that lie beyond the ken of we actuaries.



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March 2022

A QUICK START GUIDE TO USING THE GALBRAITH TABLES

This document sets out in some detail the remedy of offsetting as applied to pension rights, how the Galbraith Tables have been constructed and the assumptions that underpin these, and it provides full details (including examples) of how the tables themselves may be used.

However, it was felt that the reader may appreciate some kind of “quick start guide” i.e. a simple explanation of how to use the tables in the first instance, in the understanding that the finer details may be considered thereafter. This may be taken as such a guide, but it remains important for the user to understand the assumptions made and the caveats associated with the Galbraith Tables. No liability is admitted by the authors in respect of what follows in this document.

To value a lump sum amount of £10,000 (in today’s money terms) payable to someone retiring at age 65 who is today aged 40

1. Refer to “Factors used for the valuation of lump sums payable at retirement (either sex)” in Section B of this document.
2. Look up the factor for Age at date of calculation = 40 and Assumed retirement age = 65, which gives 0.562.
3. Multiply the lump sum being valued (the **multiplicand**) by the Galbraith Table factor (the **multiplier**) i.e. $10,000 \times 0.562 = £5,620$.
4. This means that we determine **£5,620** to be required today to provide this individual with £10,000 in today’s money terms when he/she is aged 65, in 25 years’ time.
5. Adjustments in respect of tax and/or utility may then be appropriate, as discussed in Section G of this document.

To value an index-linked pension amount of £1,000 (in today’s money terms) that is payable to a man retiring at age 60 who is today aged 45

1. Refer to “Factors used for the valuation of pensions payable in retirement (males)” in Section B of this document.
2. Look up the factor for Age at date of calculation = 45 and Assumed retirement age = 60, which gives 26.230.
3. Multiply the *per annum* pension being valued (the **multiplicand**) by the Galbraith Table factor (the **multiplier**) i.e. $1,000 \times 26.230 = £26,230$.
4. This means that we determine **£26,230** to be required today to provide this individual with an index-linked £1,000 pa pension income, in today’s money terms, from age 60—being in 15 years’ time—for the rest of his life.
5. Adjustments in respect of tax and/or utility may then be appropriate, as discussed in Section G of this document.

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SECTION A PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

An introduction to the Galbraith Tables

- A.1. This document sets out details of Version 1.0 of the Galbraith Tables, being the proprietary tables of factors for use when offsetting pension benefits upon divorce using amounts of non-pension capital, as produced by Mathieson Consulting Limited.
- A.2. The tables themselves are to be found in Section B, with details of the assumptions that underpin them in Section D. Details of how the tables are to be used with actual pensions data may be found in Section E, with some discussion of matters pertaining to tax / utility adjustments being given in Section G.
- A.3. These tables may therefore prove useful to practitioners—be these legal or financial in nature—or indeed to individuals themselves when looking to value pension rights for offsetting purposes upon divorce.
- A.4. However, it is important to understand that **these tables are by no means intended to provide a single, definitive value of pension rights that may be used for offsetting purposes**. Indeed, most experts in this field will conclude that no such single figure is likely to exist in respect of “*the value of £X pa of pension in retirement*”, and it would be foolish and misleading to pretend otherwise.
- A.5. Instead, these tables must be seen as providing “*an* answer” rather than “*the* answer” in respect of any such question, and as alluded to above, the tables are a function of the assumptions that we have made in their compilation. There will exist other assumptions that are equally valid, and there will be circumstances where different assumptions / approaches will yield a more appropriate result. Any use of these tables must be made in this understanding.
- offsetting figures that are then deemed to be unsuitable in a pensions settlement.
- A.7. No liability is admitted in respect of—but not restricted to—such matters as:
- user error through the application of the Tables;
 - user error in respect of a misunderstanding of the nature of the pension rights being valued;
 - any numerical errors within the Tables themselves such as may exist;
 - the Tables’ underlying assumptions being deemed unsuitable to a particular set of circumstances;
 - the investment strategy that an individual who receives offset capital may wish to adopt; nor
 - the appropriate adjustments to be made in respect of tax and/or utility.
- A.8. Instead, it must be understood that what emerges through the use of such tables is intended to be indicative and for discussion purposes by the parties in seeking to reach a settlement. Further analysis may be required to place any such results as emerge from the Tables into a broader context.
- A.9. It is noted that the UK pensions regime is complex and all too readily misunderstood, both by individual beneficiaries and very often their advisers. **Nothing shown herein is intended to be a substitute for the commissioning of proper independent advice—in the form of an expert witness report—to parties upon their divorce and financial remedy procedures.**

Caveats in respect of the Galbraith Tables

- A.6. Neither the authors of this document nor Mathieson Consulting Limited can accept any liability where the use of these tables gives rise to

A.10. Part 6 of *A Guide to the Treatment of Pensions on Divorce*¹, being the report of the Pension Advisory Group (PAG)²—as published in July 2019 by the Nuffield Foundation—seeks to answer the question *“When might it be necessary to instruct a Pensions on Divorce Expert (PODE)?”*.

Professional compliance

A.11. The factors that comprise the Galbraith Tables shown in this document have been calculated in accordance with the applicable Technical Actuarial Standard, being TAS 100 as issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

About Mathieson Consulting Limited

A.12. Mathieson Consulting Limited is an actuarial consulting firm that specialises in producing Pensions on Divorce Expert Witness reports for the courts, taking in such matters as offsetting as well as other remedies e.g. pension sharing.

A.13. The Firm is able to provide assistance to solicitors representing individuals who are going through a divorce and have pensions issues to settle, and it has produced well in excess of 5,000 such reports since being founded in 2007.

A.14. At the time of writing, Mathieson Consulting Limited employs four actuaries and various other individuals experienced in both PODE work and pensions administration, and the Firm is in a position to provide support upon such matters as:

- The production of an expert witness report to consider pension sharing / offsetting; and
- The production of a simplified “offsetting only” report that makes use of the Galbraith Tables.

A.15. This work is typically performed on a single joint expert basis; however, the Firm is also able to act on a sole instruction basis with reference to such matters as shadowing the reports of other experts, providing advice on the composition of Letters of Instruction to be sent to other experts and such like.

A.16. Contact details for Mathieson Consulting Limited are to be found at www.mcact.co.uk.

¹ To be found at [https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/Guide_To_The_Treatment_of_Pensions_on_Divorce-Digital\(1\).pdf](https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/Guide_To_The_Treatment_of_Pensions_on_Divorce-Digital(1).pdf).

² The PAG is a multi-disciplinary body including leading actuarial, legal, judicial, academic and other experts in the field of Pensions and Divorce. The establishment of this Group was sanctioned by the President of the Family Division, and is jointly chaired by Mr Justice Francis and HHJ Edward Hess. Its purpose is to provide an authoritative guide to the Courts, lawyers, and others, as to the correct treatment of pensions in divorce cases.

SECTION C AN INTRODUCTION TO OFFSETTING

Preamble

- C.1. The remedy of offsetting differences in a divorcing couple's pensions using non-pension capital has been commonplace in such financial remedy proceedings for some time. Indeed, it can be said that such a remedy predates all others, with the remedy of Pension Sharing Orders having been available from December 2000 onwards.
- C.2. This document is intended solely to showcase the Galbraith Tables and detail their application; it is not intended to serve as a textbook upon the remedy of offsetting in respect of pension rights upon divorce (less still any other such remedies). However, it is noted that a brief explanation of what is meant by offsetting of pension rights may well be deemed useful at this stage.
- C.3. Throughout this document, when the specifics of parties' pensions upon divorce are discussed, we shall refer to "the husband" and "the wife". However, it is accepted that there will be divorces in respect of same-sex marriages, and these tables may be deemed to be equally applicable.
- C.4. Likewise, the words "dissolution of a civil partnership" may be substituted for the word "divorce" throughout, with the legal processes pertaining to the dissolution of a civil partnership entered into under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 being understood to be analogous to divorce in respect of a marriage.

The basics of offsetting

- C.5. Offsetting allows each of the divorcing parties to retain his or her own pension rights, and *in lieu* of the pensions being shared, the party with the lesser pension rights then retains a larger amount of non-pension assets.

- C.6. For example, the husband has an arrangement with a leading pensions provider which has a Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)³ of £100,000. He retains this pension following the divorce, and the wife retains an additional £100,000 of cash. Is this fair?
- C.7. Offsetting always creates issues in terms of how much should one provide to one party in non-pension assets *in lieu* of the other party having greater pension assets, with various legal precedents providing some different perspectives on this. The extent to which non pension capital should be discounted against pension capital is often a contentious area.
- C.8. Other important points to consider in respect of offsetting are as follows:
- Offsetting can only be used if there are sufficient 'other assets' held by the parties with which the difference in the pension assets can be offset.
 - It is possible to use a mixture of offsetting and pension sharing (not a consideration of these tables) if the circumstances of particular cases dictate that this would lead to the fairest settlement.
 - Much greater flexibility exists where non-pension capital is used by way of offset. For example, no minimum pension age attaches to non-pension capital amounts.
- C.9. Further useful background information upon the specifics of offsetting is to be found in Part 7 of the PAG Report that was discussed earlier in this document. Indeed, the PAG Report is increasingly being seen as the definitive guide upon pensions matters that pertain to divorce.

³ This is the term that shall be used in this document, but transfer value, Cash Equivalent Value (CEV), Cash Equivalent (CE) and other such variations are also applicable.

“More than” versus amount given

C.10. In our experience, one of the greatest difficulties in dealing with offsetting figures is whether these are defined in terms of:

- One party having £X amount “more than” the other in non-pension capital; or
- One party receiving £Y amount of non-pension capital from the other by means of offsetting.

C.11. This an opportune moment to clear up this issue: let us assume that A and B are two parties who have between them £200,000 in funds.

C.12. An equal split is obviously £100,000 each, but it must be noted once the split has been effected that every £1 that A gives to B (from A’s own £100,000) means that B then has £2 “more than” A in funds.

C.13. Thus if it were to be agreed that B should have £40,000 more than A, this can be effected in two ways (which both lead back to the same overall result):

- If the monies have yet to be divided, then B need simply retain £120,000 and A £80,000, to give the desired split; while
- If the monies have already been divided, and each has £100,000, then A need give B some £20,000 from his own share (half of the difference of £40,000) such that again B has £40,000 more than A.

C.14. All offsetting amounts considered in this document will be expressed in the “more than” form i.e. the amount that the party with the lesser pension capital need retain in excess of that to be held by the party with the more generous pension provision.

SECTION D ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THESE TABLES

Overarching principles

- D.1. In broad terms, these Galbraith Tables value pension rights upon the basis of an individual seeking to replicate a defined benefit pension promise in retirement through i) the investment of defined contribution pension monies through to the assumed date of retirement, with ii) the accumulated fund then being drawn down over the individual's expected period of retirement.
- D.2. Thus the tables may be used to determine the answer to the question "*what is the present value of a pension of £1 pa, payable from a given retirement date?*", or more accurately, "*what level of defined contribution funds do I need today to replicate a pension of £1 pa, payable from a given retirement date?*".
- D.3. It follows that where immediate retirement is mooted or a pension in payment is valued, the first step above is trivial.
- D.4. Similarly, we provide a table that simply allows for the first (pre-retirement) step, which may be used for the valuation of tax-free cash lump sums that accompany pension rights.
- D.5. The pre-retirement phase assumes that monies in a defined contribution pension arrangement are used, rather than explicitly non-pension assets. However, in Section G we discuss tax and utility adjustments that might be applied to such non-pension assets then to allow a fair comparison to be made with defined contribution pension monies.
- D.6. The post-retirement phase allows in effect for a "sinking fund" i.e. an accumulated fund that is expected to be drawn down at a rate in excess of likely investment returns, such that at the time of death, the fund has been exhausted. This is inherently the same approach that underpins the Duxbury tables, which are predominantly used to capitalise maintenance payments.
- D.7. Other means exist by which an individual might seek to replicate a pension income in retirement, with perhaps the most obvious approach being via annuity purchase i.e. where the individual purchases a product that will provide a guaranteed income for life.
- D.8. However, we reject the use of annuity purchase in compiling these tables on the grounds that i) annuity pricing is sensitive both to changes in market movements and insurers' commercial considerations, and ii) there exists a perception amongst consumers that annuities are "expensive" and reflect poor value for money.
- D.9. Indeed, given that the requirement to purchase an annuity using defined contribution pension monies was relaxed following HM Treasury's "pension freedoms" of 2015, it was felt that alternative approaches ought to be considered in preparing these tables.
- D.10. It is assumed throughout that inflation linkage will apply to the pension rights both before and after retirement, and moreover that such inflationary increases will follow the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) measure of price inflation. This is discussed further in this Section.
- D.11. Most importantly, it is noted that what is shown herein is but one possible means by which pension rights may be valued, and it is by no means intended to be definitive. Pension on divorce experts—and indeed pensions professionals in general—will note that there are many alternative means by which pension rights may be attributed a present value.

Pre-retirement assumptions

- D.12. It is assumed that over the accumulation (pre-retirement) period, a single contribution will be made at the date of the calculation i.e. the amount of offset capital itself. No allowance for further contributions nor withdrawals will be made thereafter until retirement.

- D.13. No allowance is made for pre-retirement mortality i.e. the tables assume that the individual will always survive to retirement age.
- D.14. Further, no allowance is made to replicate any pre-retirement death benefits that may attach to the pension rights e.g. any death-in-service or death-in-deferment lump sum, or any spouse's / children's pensions payable under such circumstances.
- D.15. The funds will be assumed to accumulate in line with assumed investment returns, which will take account of a possible investment strategy as shown below.
- D.16. Investment returns for the various asset classes considered in the investment strategy are as shown in the table below:

Equities	5.25% pa
Corporate bonds	2.25% pa
Government bonds (Gilts)	1.25% pa
Cash	0.75% pa

- D.17. These rates of return are i) assumed to be after the deduction of any investment expenses, and ii) rounded to the nearest 0.25% pa.
- D.18. Further, these are nominal rates that are to be used with our assumption that price inflation will be 2.00% pa in the period to retirement (itself chosen as the inflation target for the Bank of England as set by HM Treasury). Real rates may be derived from deducting 2.00% pa from the figures in the table above.
- D.19. The rates above are informed by "Accumulation rates used by providers of statutory money purchase illustrations since 6 April 2020"⁴ as published by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) in respect of the rates used by pension providers in preparing Statutory Money Purchase Illustrations (SMPIs)

under actuarial standard Technical Memorandum 1 (AS TM1).

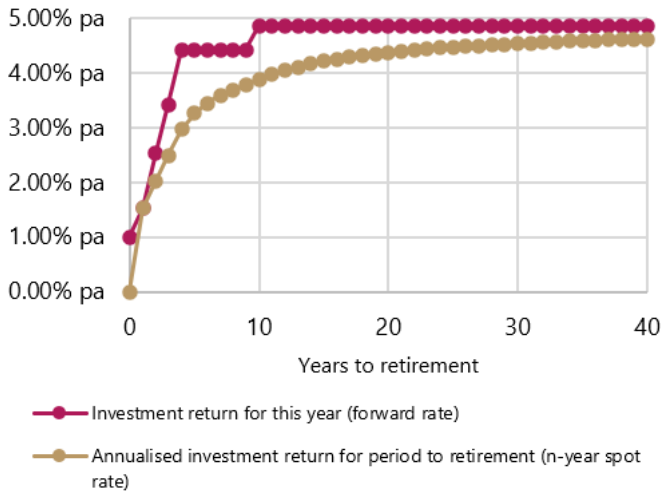
- D.20. However, it is accepted that the selection of any such assumptions for future investment returns is very far from being an exact science, with this being acknowledged within AS TM1 itself.
- D.21. In terms of the investment strategy hypothecated here, it is assumed that a term-dependent approach will apply, with higher-risk assets being held the further that one is from retirement, and a gradual shift then being made towards lower-risk assets as retirement approaches.
- D.22. This approach is commonly known as "lifestyling" by defined contribution pension providers, and it recognises the fact that an individual may better accommodate significant fluctuations in fund value the further one is from retirement, with greater certainty and protection against such volatility typically being desired where one has a reduced opportunity in which to make good any investment losses that occurs.
- D.23. The investment strategy assumed within the tables is broadly set out as follows:
- 10+ years from retirement, assets are held mainly (90%) in equities, with minimal holdings (10%) in corporate bonds and cash;
 - Where there is a 3–10 years period to retirement, the corporate bond holding increases to 20% at the expense of the equities holding (now 75%), with 5% in cash; and
 - Over the final three years to retirement, the investments are gradually moved to a lower risk equal split between gilts and cash.
- D.24. We propose that this may be deemed to reflect the strategy that an investor with an "average" risk appetite might wish to adopt in the period to

⁴ This document is to be found at <https://www.frc.org.uk/getattachment/e311e4e7-9a87-485f-ad59-3a8d8f8e5841/AS-TM1-accumulation-rate-survey-FINAL.pdf>.

retirement with reference to defined contribution pension funds held.

D.25. The chart below sets out details of the forward rates and spot rates implied by this strategy:

Investment returns implied by proposed strategy over period to retirement



D.26. Please note also the comment made in D.45 around the treatment to be adopted where the assumed investment return for a given year is less than the assumed rate of price inflation deemed to apply to the rights being valued.

D.27. However, it is important to note that nothing shown in the tables or elsewhere within this document reflects any form of financial advice whatsoever upon such matters as:

- What might constitute an “optimal” investment strategy for investors with any particular risk appetite;
- The correct allocation of assets between classes to hold at a particular time (recognising that more asset classes exist for investment purposes than are shown in the earlier table);
- The actual assets to be held within each class (providers, specific funds, active *versus* passive investment etc);

- The principle and merits of “lifestyling” as opposed to maintaining a consistent asset allocation over the period to retirement.

D.28. It is recognised that many alternative strategies may be used to project monies held today to a later retirement age: **what is shown herein is simply one possible approach, and once again no advice is given as to the merits thereof in comparison to any other such strategy.**

D.29. In particular, it may well be argued that:

- The approach outlined above is insufficiently prudent, as pension rights in a defined benefit arrangement (i.e. what we seek to value) are protected against pre-retirement investment risk, and therefore it is improper to assume that an individual will incur such risks when seeking to replicate such deferred pension benefits; or in the alternative

- The approach outlined above is overly prudent, as a “lifestyling” strategy is one that lends itself to annuity purchase at retirement, while under a drawdown approach it is perhaps not necessary to move to a fully “derisked” position in the period leading to retirement on the grounds that the post-retirement period of decumulation may last 15–20 years.

D.30. Once again, such considerations notwithstanding, the strategy above is the one that shall be used in the derivation of the tables shown later in this document.

D.31. Any individual who receives financial assets as part of a divorce settlement—whether pension monies or non-pension assets—is strongly encouraged to seek financial advice as to how best such monies might be used to provide for his/her future. **No such financial or investment advice is provided within this document.**

Post-retirement assumptions

- D.32. As alluded to earlier, it is assumed that an income drawdown solution shall be pursued to “run off” the accumulated fund over the expected period of retirement.
- D.33. No expenses shall be allowed for at retirement, on the grounds that no explicit product is being purchased.
- D.34. The income drawn in retirement shall be assumed to increase at a rate of 2.50% pa, with this being expected to follow CPI, but with an allowance for a 0.50% pa inflation risk premium⁵.
- D.35. Monies shall be assumed to be invested in a prudent manner, with these being split equally between Government bonds and cash. The assumed rate of investment returns post-retirement is 1.00% pa, consistent with the financial assumptions made earlier.
- D.36. In terms of the period over which the fund is assumed to be drawn down, this is determined with reference to the S2 PA mortality tables, with year of birth projections to the assumed year of retirement. The CMI 2017 projections are made, subject to minimum 1.50% pa rate of improvement. Such mortality tables are available from the Continuous Mortality Investigation (CMI), which is operated by the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries.
- D.37. These mortality assumptions broadly reflect those used by the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) where an assessment is made of a pension scheme’s solvency (whether it has sufficient funds to allow the pension benefits to be “bought out” by an insurer). They are therefore deemed to be largely consistent with what is used by insurers when seeking to price an annuity.
- D.38. Further, sex-specific tables shall be used i.e. the S2 PMA and PFA tables accordingly. It was deemed appropriate to make an allowance for sex-specific

mortality patterns—in particular, that women tend to outlive men—despite that fact that annuity pricing is no longer sensitive to this following the Test-Achats case⁶.

- D.39. However, it is possible to “override” the sex-specific nature of these tables by taking an average of the relevant figures for males and females of the same current age and assumed retirement age.
- D.40. Sample life expectancies are as shown in the table below:

Age today	Assumed retirement age	Life expectancy in retirement (years)	
		Males	Females
20	60	28.5	30.4
40	60	26.6	28.6
60	60	24.9	26.7
80	80	9.1	10.2

- D.41. These life expectancies are then scaled up by 10% to introduce a margin for prudence i.e. the fund is assumed to last for 110% of the life expectancy suggested by the relevant mortality tables.
- D.42. It is assumed that each individual may be said to be in “normal” or “typical” health for one of his / her age at retirement: no allowance is made for possible curtailments in life expectancy. It follows that if one is in ill-health and/or has a significantly reduced life expectancy, then the use of such tables is unlikely to be appropriate.
- D.43. Such considerations of life expectancy are “single life” in nature i.e. for the individual’s own life only. No allowance is made for benefits that may be payable to others e.g. another spouse upon remarriage.

⁵ This is the “extra” that an individual might be prepared to pay to secure an income that is inflation-proofed in retirement.

⁶ Judgement of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 01 March 2011: C-236/09 – *Association Belge des Consommateurs Test-Achats ASBL and Others v Conseil des ministres*.

Inflation linkage and pension increases

- D.44. As alluded to above, the tables allow for the indexation of pension benefits both before and after retirement in line with the CPI measure of price inflation. This has been chosen as it now forms the dominant method of indexation used (in particular, it is used throughout the public sector pension schemes).
- D.45. It is assumed throughout that no allowance be made for price inflation exceeding assumed investment returns in the period to retirement. In particular, where a prudent investment strategy is assumed to be adopted in the years immediately prior to retirement, and the resulting investment return lies below the assumed rate of price inflation, the lump sum valuation factor that emerges is capped at 1.000 i.e. no allowance is made for an individual seeking a sum of £100 in say two years' time—but with reference to today's money terms—having to invest a greater amount than £100 today.
- D.46. It is noted that the tables need be applied to current pensions i.e. pensions as at the date of calculation. This is unlikely to present any problems in respect of the pensions of active scheme members (those accruing benefits) or pensions in payment, but when it comes to the deferred pensions of those who have left active service but have yet to retire, it may be necessary to “revalue” these to allow for the increases that have applied from date of leaving to date of calculation.
- D.47. It is noted also that UK pensions may receive myriad increases both before and after retirement, with for example some pension elements being level, receiving fixed percentage increases, receiving increases in line with some measure of price inflation and / or being subject to caps and floors each year.
- D.48. This document does *not* seek to codify or anthologise the UK pensions landscape and this is simply noted in passing: it is important however that a competent understanding of the specifics of any pension rights to be valued is achieved prior to one's using the tables to place a value thereupon.

D.49. To the extent to which the tables are to be used with pensions that receive different rates of increase, it may be necessary for some manual adjustments to be made to the multiplicand.

D.50. These adjustments might take the following form:

- Prior to retirement, non-CPI pension increases may be allowed for by means of projecting the pension benefits to retirement in line with actual increases and then discounting back to today with reference to CPI at an assumed rate of 2.50% pa.
- Post retirement, various actuarial “rules of thumb” may be used to allow for £1 pa of CPI-linked pension being more valuable than £1 pa of level pension (and less generous than, say, £1 pa of pension that receives fixed 5% pa increases).

D.51. Such adjustments are left to the practitioner's discretion, but it must be remembered that the validity of such offsetting results is expected to deteriorate where significant actuarial adjustments are applied.

Taxation

D.52. It is assumed that the tables be used with pension incomes that are gross of income tax and lump sum amounts that are payable tax-free under HMRC rules. Adjustments to be made to offsetting results in respect of tax are considered in Section G.

D.53. Considerations in respect of the Lifetime Allowance (LTA) tax regime—for those with generous pension provision—lie well beyond the scope of this document. Where such issues are pertinent, the seeking of expert advice is essential.

The use of other assumptions with the Tables

D.54. It is intended that these Galbraith Tables reflect the underlying assumptions above, in a manner akin to Duxbury i.e. there is one definitive set of assumptions from which the tables are based (contrary to the approach adopted with Ogden, whereby tables are published that show results using various net discount rates).

D.55. However, a spreadsheet version of the Galbraith Tables is available, which allows the user to vary some of the underlying assumptions.

D.56. In particular, the model allows the following assumptions to be varied:

- Pre-retirement investment returns (with the strategy outlined earlier being replaceable with a fixed per annum investment return to retirement);
- Post-retirement investment returns;
- Inflation pre-retirement and pension increases post-retirement (useful perhaps where pensions are not CPI-linked); and
- The uplift to life expectancies discussed in D.41 above (with a 10% uplift being the default setting).

D.57. Interested parties should contact Mathieson Consulting Limited in respect of this spreadsheet, with details of fees levied being provided upon request.

SECTION E HOW TO USE THE TABLES TO PRODUCE OFFSETTING FIGURES

Stages of offsetting

E.1. There are two stages to the process of offsetting, and I suggest that these are considered in turn for the purposes of the calculations that follow:

- Stage 1 refers to the valuation of pension benefits for offsetting purposes i.e. how to value the pensions in a manner that is both internally consistent and consistent with the valuation of non-pension capital.
- Stage 2 refers to how any such amounts should be adjusted in relation to tax and utility to allow a fair comparison to be made with non-pension capital amounts.

E.2. The operation of the tables relates to what is dubbed Stage 1 above; matters pertaining to Stage 2 (being tax and utility adjustments) are discussed in Section G.

Methods of valuing defined benefit pensions for offsetting purposes

E.3. Within what is described as Stage 1 above, there are inherently two ways in which defined benefit pension promises—those expressed in pounds per annum terms, which can include State pensions and annuities now in payment that were purchased using defined contribution funds—can be valued for offsetting purposes.

E.4. These are as set out below:

- In the first instance, the husband's pensions are valued in terms of what benefits they provide to him, and the wife's pensions in terms of what they provide to her. This is a "capital" measure of pension rights i.e. figures that may be placed upon the balance sheet for the purposes of the divorce.
- In the second instance, both parties' pensions are valued in terms of the shortfall in benefits that pertains to the individual with the lesser pension provision i.e. we determine how much this individual requires by way of offset to

make up the shortfall in pension rights at retirement. This is by nature an "incomes" measure of pension rights.

E.5. These two measures will produce equal results where the parties are either i) retired and identical in age, or ii) identical in age and assumed to retire at a later common age. It follows that where there is a divergence in ages, the two methods will produce different results, dependent variously upon

- the fact that the older one is at retirement, the smaller the amount of capital that is required to provide pension benefits; and
- the longer the period of deferment, the greater the allowance that may be made for investment returns on capital provided for offsetting purposes.

E.6. A similar approach may also be adopted in respect of lump sums that accompany these pensions and are payable upon retirement.

E.7. Practitioners and affected individuals must understand the context of any such figures that then emerge, in particular where such a difference in ages exists.

E.8. It is assumed throughout that the pension rights to be considered will be UK-based in nature. It *may* be appropriate to seek to value overseas pension rights using these tables—as per what is stated in Paragraphs D.44–D.51—but this relies upon certain assumptions about inflation linkage which may or may not be applicable.

The arithmetic associated with the factors

E.9. As with the Duxbury and Ogden tables, the tables shown herein rely upon the arithmetic of

$$\text{Multiplicand} \times \text{Multiplier}^7$$

with the **Multiplicand** being the pension (or lump sum) benefit, in present day terms, that is to be valued and the **Multiplier** being drawn from the tables shown herein.

E.10. Thus it is necessary to value the pension rights of husband and wife separately, and then subtract the smaller figure that then emerges from the larger one.

E.11. In terms of which Multipliers to use, this depends on the method that is to be adopted. In particular:

- For the Capital measure, value each benefit with reference to who holds it i.e. value husband's pensions / lump sums using factors that reflect his particulars, and value wife's pensions / lump sums using factors that reflect her particulars.
- For the Income measure, value all benefits from the perspective of the recipient of the offsetting capital i.e. if husband has the greater pension provision, value all pensions / lump sums using factors that reflect the wife's particulars.

E.12. At the expense of introducing some mathematical notation, we note that the table below sets out how the Multipliers are used with the various Multiplicands, depending upon the method adopted and whether pension rights or cash lump sums are being considered:

Multiplicand considered	Multiplier to use	
	Capital measure	Income measure
H's pension	$F_{P,H}$	$F_{P,L}$
H's lump sum	$F_{C,H}$	$F_{C,L}$
W's pension	$F_{P,W}$	$F_{P,L}$
W's lump sum	$F_{C,W}$	$F_{C,L}$

E.13. In respect of the notation used in the table above:

- $F_{P,x}$ refers to a pension valuation factor;
- $F_{C,x}$ to a cash lump sum valuation factor;
- $x=H$ refers to the husband;
- $x=W$ refers to the wife; and
- $x=L$ refers to which of the two parties (H or W) has the lesser pension provision.

E.14. Thus $F_{P,H}$ is the factor used to value the pension payable to the husband. $F_{C,L}$ is the factor used in the income measure calculation to value lump sums, with this being defined with reference to the party that has the lesser overall pension rights (i.e. the wife if the husband has the greater pension provision).

E.15. This is perhaps best explained by means of a number of worked examples. In the interests of simplicity, the parties' names will change in each example, but the husband's name will always begin with an H and the wife's with a W.

E.16. It is assumed in all such examples that pension benefits are linked to the CPI measure both before and after retirement. As alluded to earlier, where

⁷ It is hoped that the reader might forgive the use of such mathematical terminology, albeit that which is also used in the Ogden Tables. In short, the Multiplier is the factor that comes from the tables, and the Multiplicand is "the thing that is being multiplied" i.e. the pension benefits that are to be valued.

benefits receive other such increases (or indeed where they are non-increasing) it will be necessary for some adjustments to be made.

E.17. Further, all pension benefits are shown in current terms i.e. were these in respect of deferred pension rights, an allowance has been made for revaluation from date of leaving to date of calculation.

Example 1: Harry and Wilma

E.18. Harry is aged 45, Wilma is aged 40. Harry has an accrued pension of £15,000 pa and three-times lump sum of £45,000 that are payable at age 60. Wilma has an accrued pension of £8,000 pa that is payable at age 60. Neither party has any defined contribution funds (considered later in Section F).

E.19. On the capital measure, the benefits are valued as follows:

Capital measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£15,000 pa	26.230	£393,449
H's lump sum	£45,000	0.742	<u>£33,386</u>
Value for H			£426,835
W's pension	£8,000 pa	25.502	£204,019
W's lump sum	£0	0.646	<u>£0</u>
Value for W			£204,019
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£222,816

E.20. Likewise, on the income measure, the benefits are valued as follows:

Income measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£15,000 pa	25.502	£382,535
H's lump sum	£45,000	0.646	<u>£29,054</u>
Value for H			£411,589
W's pension	£8,000 pa	25.502	£204,019
W's lump sum	£0	0.646	<u>£0</u>
Value for W			£204,019
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£207,570

E.21. Thus it can be seen that Harry has the greater pension provision, and therefore Wilma will be the recipient of non-pension offset capital.

E.22. Looking at the multipliers above, one can see that we use the same factors for Harry and Wilma when

we come to the incomes measure, and in particular we use factors that pertain to Wilma as she will be the recipient of the non-pension capital. By contrast, when we considered capital values, we used each party's own factors for valuation purposes.

E.23. Consequently, Wilma requires a smaller amount of non-pension capital by way of offset when she seeks to match Harry's income in retirement than on a capital measure (£208k to £223k). This is because she is five years younger than him, and monies in her hands can be invested for longer prior to retirement.

Example 2: Horace and Wendy

E.24. Horace and Wendy are both pensioners; he is aged 67 and she is 64. He is in receipt of a pension income of £25,000 pa while her income is £11,000 pa. All defined contribution monies were used to purchase annuities that were taken into account in the incomes above, and there are no lump sums to consider.

E.25. Once again, the application of the factors is predicated upon the pensions being assumed to follow price inflation as measured by CPI in retirement.

E.26. On the capital measure, the benefits are valued as follows:

Capital measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£25,000 pa	23.972	£599,293
H's lump sum	£0	1.000	<u>£0</u>
Value for H			£599,293
W's pension	£11,000 pa	30.498	£335,481
W's lump sum	£0	1.000	<u>£0</u>
Value for W			£335,481
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£263,811

E.27. On the income measure, the figures are as follows:

Income measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£25,000 pa	30.498	£762,457
H's lump sum	£0	1.000	<u>£0</u>
Value for H			£762,457
W's pension	£11,000 pa	30.498	£335,481
W's lump sum	£0	1.000	<u>£0</u>
Value for W			£335,481
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£426,976

E.28. Thus Wendy requires more non-pension capital to match Horace's income than simply to equalise the capital value of their respective pensions: this is because she is younger than he and is expected to live longer than him in retirement. In turn, the cost of providing a notional £1 pa of pension income is higher for her than it is for him (£30.948 to £23,972).

SECTION F SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN USING THE TABLES

The treatment of defined contribution pension funds

- F.1. It is generally accepted that defined contribution funds may be offset on a pound-for-pound basis, at least prior to any adjustment for tax / utility.
- F.2. This is especially true given the “pension freedom” regime that was introduced by HM Treasury in 2015, with such monies as are held in a defined contribution fund being regarded as being the same as monies in a bank or building society account, except that tax need be paid in order to access such funds. Francis J—sitting as a deputy in the High Court at the time—came to the same conclusion in *SJ v RA* [2014] EWHC 4054 (Fam).
- F.3. Thus on the capital measure, such defined contribution funds are valued using a factor of 1.
- F.4. However, where an incomes measure is adopted, it must be recognised that a notional £100k of defined contribution funds will produce a different level of income for H and W where there is a material age gap between them. In turn, some finessing of the calculation is required where defined contribution funds are used as part of an offsetting calculation on the incomes measure.
- F.5. This can be rectified by using a factor of 1 for the party with the small pension provision (i.e. the recipient of any offset capital) and for the other party, a factor of $F_{P,L} \div F_{P,G}$ where again $F_{P,L}$ is the pension factor for the individual with the lesser pension rights, and $F_{P,G}$ is the pension factor for the individual with the greater pension rights.
- F.6. Again, this relies on mathematical notation, and is perhaps best illustrated by means of an example, and it is further noted that the application of the factors is predicated upon:
- All deferred pensions being assumed to be revalued to the date of the calculation; and
 - All pensions being stated in CPI terms both before and after retirement.

Example 3: Hector and Willow

- F.7. Hector is 35 and Willow is 40, Hector has an accrued pension of £10,000 pa that is payable at age 65. He also has defined contribution funds of £250,000 and Willow has funds of £50,000.
- F.8. On the capital measure, the benefits are valued as follows (with factors of 1 being used for each defined contribution fund):

Capital measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£10,000 pa	14.827	£148,272
H's lump sum	£0	0.489	£0
H's DC funds	£250,000	1.000	<u>£250,000</u>
Value for H			£398,272
W's pension	£0 pa	18.380	£0
W's lump sum	£0	0.562	£0
W's DC funds	£50,000	1.000	<u>£50,000</u>
Value for W			£50,000
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£348,272

- F.9. On the income measure, the figures are as follows:

Income measure of offset amount			
	Multiplicand	Multiplier	Value
H's pension	£10,000 pa	18.380	£183,803
H's lump sum	£0	0.562	£0
H's DC funds	£250,000	1.240	<u>£309,910</u>
Value for H			£493,713
W's pension	£0 pa	18.380	£0
W's lump sum	£0	0.562	£0
W's DC funds	£50,000	1.000	<u>£50,000</u>
Value for W			£50,000
<i>Difference (offset amount)</i>			£443,713

- F.10. Thus the defined benefit pension promise to Hector is valued as before, and on the capital measure, the defined contribution funds are simply added to the total amounts of pension capital for each party.
- F.11. However, when it comes to the incomes measure, it is necessary to adjust the value of Hector's defined contribution fund when determining how much Willow needs in respect thereof by way of

offset. On account of Willow's being five years older than Hector, the cost to her to secure a notional £100 pa annuity income in retirement is greater, and in turn the $F_{P,L} \div F_{P,G}$ multiplier scales up his £250,000 of defined contribution funds.

Active membership of a defined benefit pension scheme

- F.12. It is typical to consider pension rights on a "leaving service benefits" basis i.e. to assume that the individual leaves active service of the pension scheme as at the date of calculation.
- F.13. In so doing, no allowance is made for i) any further accrual of benefits, ii) future salary linkage (to the extent that salary growth may be said to outstrip price inflation), or for iii) any special terms (such as enhanced early retirement) that may pertain only to active members.
- F.14. This is another matter where one may wish to seek the advice of pensions expert to provide support and produce results that may be relied upon in any court settlement.

Multiple pensions with different retirement ages

- F.15. The arithmetic above is predicated upon there being a single point at which each party's pension rights are put into payment, with this either being:
- Immediately, at current age, in respect of pensions in payment; or
 - At a fixed age some years into the future, where pensions are not yet in payment.
- F.16. Where this is the case, it is reasonable to total up each party's defined benefit pension rights, attaching lump sums and defined contribution funds, rather than consider these separately.
- F.17. It follows however that an individual may have pensions that are payable at different retirement ages, or may be in receipt of some benefits now, with others to be taken at a later age (including perhaps State pensions). Under such circumstances, it is necessary to value each pension

separately using the *Multiplicand* × *Multiplier* formula.

Guaranteed annuity rates and other benefit promises attaching to defined contribution funds

- F.18. The commentary in respect of pension rights held in defined contribution funds above assumes that these are conventional in nature i.e. with no benefit promises being made. It follows that a different treatment may be needed where such terms attach to a policy.
- F.19. Some defined contribution pension policies taken out prior to c. 2000 come with the benefit of a guaranteed annuity rate (GAR), which means that the holder has the right to convert the fund into an annuity income on agreed terms. These contracts date back to a time when annuities were cheaper to provide than today, and it follows that such GARs may offer considerable value beyond the face value of the fund.
- F.20. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to determine the expected income under the GAR, and then value such pension rights as being defined benefit in nature.
- F.21. Other benefit promises may attach to seemingly defined contribution arrangements e.g. Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) underpins on benefits bought out with insurers, minimum levels of investment returns and guaranteed fund values. Such benefits need be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the use of these tables is no substitute for seeking advice from a pensions expert.

Defined contribution funds with fund values that differ from the CETVs

- F.22. Similarly, it follows that the CETV—or transfer value payable—of a defined contribution plan may differ from the underlying fund value.
- F.23. CETVs typically exceed fund values where the arrangement is with-profits in nature, with the CETV making an allowance for bonuses that have not yet been awarded to the fund. By contrast,

where the CETV is lower than the fund value, it is usually associated with some penalty / charge that is applied to effect such a transfer.

F.24. A simple rule of thumb in such cases is to take the higher of the two figures, on the grounds this is usually the one that can be realised, by effecting a transfer where this is necessary. However, it may be necessary to gain a deeper understanding of the terms of the pension arrangement that the individual holds from its provider.

Defined benefit pensions with “generous” CETVs

F.25. The approach set out in the prior Section in respect of defined benefit pension rights makes no reference whatsoever to the Cash Equivalent Value (CETV) of the pension, and instead considers only the value of the income stream that may be determined using the tables.

F.26. In most cases, this will be entirely reasonable, on the grounds that the CETV will fall short of the calculated value of the benefits (on either the incomes or capital measure). Given that the CETV of the pension will only be realised either in full where a transfer is taken, or in part where a Pension Sharing Order is applied, it follows that the CETV of such pension rights may be deemed to immaterial.

F.27. However, some defined benefit pension schemes pay out very generous CETVs, whether on grounds of the scheme being well-funded with a prudent investment strategy, or with a view to members being encouraged to take up such generous terms.

F.28. Where a CETV provides a value that is greater than the calculated value of the rights using the table, it could be argued then that the CETV be used in place of the calculated value, on the grounds that this is the true amount that may be “released” from the pension arrangement.

F.29. Nonetheless, it should be noted that:

- The holder of the pension must be prepared to realise the additional value by means of a “DB to DC transfer” i.e. transferring-out the pension rights to unlock the extra value included in the CETV.
- It is noted that formal financial advice will need to be taken before either the defined benefit scheme or the receiving arrangement will permit such a transfer to proceed.
- Experts will disagree upon whether a CETV may be deemed to be “in the money” or otherwise, and such assessments depend very heavily upon the assumptions made which may well differ between individuals (appetite for investment risk *etc*).
- Finally, the CETV must be capable of being taken: this will not be possible where the member has passed Normal Retirement Age (NRA) and is in general not possible in public sector defined benefit schemes (or pension rights secured in the Pension Protection Fund).

F.30. It is accepted that different treatments may well be deemed applicable where a generous CETV is payable by a scheme in respect of defined benefit rights held therein.

Cash balance schemes

F.31. These are arrangements that are inherently defined benefit in nature before retirement, and defined contribution in nature after retirement. Typically, the individual builds up a salary-linked fund which is then used to secure benefits in retirement but with no explicit promises being made as to what the funds might secure.

F.32. Such arrangements ought to be considered on their own individual merits, but in general it might be appropriate to determine the expected fund as at retirement age, express this in today’s money terms and then treat what remains as a defined contribution arrangement as discussed above.

SECTION G POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS TO CALCULATED OFFSETTING FIGURES

Introduction

- G.1. It is generally accepted that monies held outside a registered UK pension arrangement are potentially more tax efficient than is an amount of pension capital. This is because the latter can only be used to provide taxable income—after any tax-free lump sum has been taken—whereas non-pension capital can be used to generate income with no tax. (Alternatively, a fund of £10,000 of cash can be converted into a pension fund of £12,500, after basic rate tax relief.)
- G.2. Given the choice between having £10,000 of cash or £10,000 of pension funds, most people would elect for £10,000 of cash. This is because it is more flexible, accessible, and liquid than monies in a pension fund—this is what is often referred to as the “Utility Argument”. However, it must be noted that this argument is not always applicable, as discussed below.
- G.3. It is therefore necessary to adjust any calculated amount of non-pension capital as might emerge from the tables shown earlier in respect of offsetting to reflect:
- the greater **tax** efficiency compared to any equivalent amount in a pension fund; and
 - the greater **utility** of the monies, where this is applicable.

Tax adjustments

- G.4. With regards to the first adjustment for income tax, there is some consensus that the adjustment is either 15% if the person with the greater pension income will be a basic rate taxpayer in retirement or 30% if they are forecast to be a higher rate taxpayer in retirement. These amounts reflect the current tax rates and assume that 25% of the pension funds can be taken tax-free.
- G.5. It is possible that if the pension assets are very small indeed, and the State pension is minimal, that the adjustment for tax could be less than 15%. It is also possible that the adjustment for tax could be

greater than 30%, if the pension holder is in the 45% tax bracket, or it could be between 15% and 30% if the pension straddles basic and higher rate tax.

- G.6. It follows also that if the pensions are in payment then no tax-free cash lump sums can be accessed and rates of 20% or 40% should apply.
- G.7. No adjustments need be made in respect of National Insurance Contributions (NICs), as pension incomes are not subject to NIC deductions even where the recipient has yet to attain State Pension Age.
- G.8. These comments are deemed applicable as at the time of writing, but it must be noted that any revisions to the income tax regime (in particular around rates, bands and allowances) could lead to other adjustments being applicable instead.

Utility adjustments

- G.9. It is the view of the Pension Advisory Group—as set out in the PAG Report, discussed earlier—that any adjustment for utility is what is called a section 25 factor i.e. it depends upon the specific facts of the case. Ultimately it is for the Court to decide upon what utility argument exists, with it having had the opportunity to consider all of the facts of the case.
- G.10. Some of the factors for assessing the size of the utility argument are set out as follows:
- If the non-pension capital being offered relates to equity in the Former Matrimonial Home, and this meets a very basic housing need, it could be argued that such an asset is perhaps almost equally as illiquid as a pension fund and thus the quantum of the utility adjustment could perhaps be very small.
 - By contrast, if the non-pension capital being offered is cash which is superfluous to needs, then the quantum of any adjustment could be significantly greater.

G.11. PAG discusses adjustments in respect of utility in some detail in Paragraphs 7.37–7.43. The key observations are as shown below (emphasis as per PAG report itself):

- “Unlike tax adjustments, adjustment for utility is **not a matter on which the PODE should be expected to comment...**” (Para 7.38);
- “**It is impossible to come up with a ‘rule of thumb’ formula which may assist parties with how they might apply a utility adjustment; much will depend on the facts of the case. Indeed, in some cases it may be appropriate to make no further adjustment.**” (Para 7.40);
- “[PAG’s] anecdotal observation is that in many cases pensions appear to have been excessively adjusted for perceived utility” (Para 7.41 (g)); and
- “Dependent on the facts of each case **a range of 0%–25% could potentially be argued to be appropriate as a further adjustment to pension values for offsetting purposes where the application of a utility adjustment is considered justified on the facts of the case.**” (Para 7.42).

Partial offsetting

G.12. Partial offsetting is a remedy whereby pension sharing is combined with offsetting by means of non-pension capital.

G.13. In particular, the parties may agree to some non-equal distribution of non-pension assets—typically in favour of the party with the lesser pension assets—with it being understood that a Pension Sharing Order (PSO) is still required to make up a remaining difference in rights thereafter.

G.14. Where offsetting is to be combined with the sharing of solely defined contribution pension

funds, it is possible to consider this on a “pound-for-pound” basis, but subject to adjustments for tax and utility as per this Section.

G.15. For example, if it is agreed that W need receive £200k from H by means of offset—such that she then has £400k more than him in non-pension assets—then it would be possible to substitute some of this £200k that he is to provide by using his defined contribution funds⁸. However, it must again be remembered that £200k of a pension credit may be deemed to be *less valuable* than £200k in non-pension assets for reasons of tax / utility, and it may be appropriate to make an adjustment in respect thereof.

G.16. Partial offsetting solutions are complicated where the PSO concerned relates to a defined benefit pension scheme, and under such circumstances the input of a PODE will prove invaluable. This becomes especially true when multiple PSOs are considered, and some judgement need be applied as to which should be reduced first by the presence of non-pension capital.

Conclusions and further considerations

G.17. In bringing together the above, the Family Justice Council (FJC) “Needs” paper for Litigants in Person⁹ suggests that perhaps an adjustment of between 20 and 40% need be made for tax and utility. PAG proposes that the adjustment should be broken down and proposes that adjustment for tax alone should be between 15% and 30% (as stated above), dependent upon whether the member is expected to pay tax at current basic or higher rates.

G.18. In addition, there **may** be an adjustment for utility—based on the specific facts of the case—of between 0% and 25%¹⁰. Therefore, PAG’s view is that the overall adjustment for both tax and utility could be between 15% and 55%.

⁸ Refer again to what is stated in Paragraph F.2 of this document.

⁹ The document can be found at <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/related-offices-and-bodies/advisory-bodies/fjc/guidance/sorting-out-finances-on-divorce/>.

¹⁰ The factors which PAG suggest may be considered when considering the Utility discount, are set out on pages 23–24 of the PAG Valuation and Expert report, but very firmly concludes that the adjustment for utility should remain within the discretion of the Court using S. 25 factors.

- G.19. It should also be borne in mind that the adjustments for tax / utility may potentially vary between the parties. For example, if one party has a defined contribution fund very close to retirement and the other party has a defined benefit pension with a long period to retirement, any such adjustment for utility may be different for one party.
- G.20. The above explanation of offsetting is a distillation of a very complex thought process. Full details of this thought process and associated considerations can be found in the PAG report, itself.

Examples of possible tax adjustments

- G.21. In Example 1, it was shown that Wilma need retain £223k more in non-pension capital by way of offset on the incomes measure, with this becoming £208k on the capital measure (amounts rounded to nearest £1,000).
- G.22. Given that these pension rights remain uncrystallised (i.e. they are deferred pensions yet to be taken), a tax adjustment of 15% may be deemed applicable, such that these amounts then become **£189k** and **£176k** respectively.
- G.23. In Example 2, the pensions in question were deemed to be in payment, with any tax-free amounts having already been taken. Under such circumstances, the amount that Wendy need retain might instead be made subject to a 20% tax adjustment, such that the incomes figure of £264k reduces to **£211k**, and the capital figure of £427k becomes **£342k**.

SECTION H THE AUTHORS' CURRICULA VITAE

Jonathan Galbraith BSc (Hons) FIA MEWI

I am an experienced pensions actuary, having spent over 17 years working in the UK pensions industry, many of them working as a corporate advisor in respect of the risks that companies face in operating defined benefit pension schemes.

I joined Mathieson Consulting in 2017, and I prepare and advise on Expert Witness reports in the areas of pensions on divorce, loss of pension rights on dismissal / injury, negligence (pensions on divorce) and Inheritance Act cases. I have advised in over 700 such cases, and am therefore in a position to draw upon such considerable experience.

One of my pensions reports was used in a February 2020 divorce case, with explicit reference being made to the report by HHJ Edward Hess in his anonymised written judgement (<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWFC/OJ/2020/B10.pdf>, paragraph 63 (ii)):

"It has been suggested by Mr Galbraith from Mathieson Consulting Limited, the PODE instructed in this case, in his report of 3rd July 2019...that (for reasons convincingly explained in detail by him which have been accepted by both parties, and which include a proper consideration of the Lifetime Allowance and Fixed Protection issues arising here) the appropriate equalisation age on the facts of this case is 60 (rather than the normal 65 or 67). I propose to adopt this recommendation."

My pensions report in a September 2021 case (judgement at <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWFC/OJ/2021/B63.html>) is also referred to in favourable terms by Mr Recorder Salter.

My role also involves the development of new and existing services to clients, and the provision of internal and external training on pensions matters, including speaking at seminars and webinars.

I can draw upon significant experience of performing individual member benefit calculations, including transfer values, early/late retirement terms, pensions tax implications and also pension scheme valuations. Earlier work in my career included advising on pension scheme closure and valuation discussions, and carrying out liability management exercises. I have also historically served as a subject-matter expert in public / not-for-profit sector pension arrangements.

Employment history

2019–present	Head of Product & Risk, Mathieson Consulting
2017–present	Senior Actuary and Report Writer, Mathieson Consulting
2006–2017	Corporate pensions actuary, PwC
2004–2006	Trainee pensions actuary, Hewitt Bacon & Woodrow (now Aon)

Qualifications and memberships

Fellow of the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, qualified 2009
BSc (Hons) in Mathematics, Statistics and Accounting, First Class, University of Strathclyde, 2004
Member of the Expert Witness Institute, 2021–
Affiliate Member of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, 2021–
Associate Member of Resolution (formerly the Solicitors Family Law Association), 2019–
Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, 2006–

Published articles

Galbraith J and Taylor R, "Scrumpping the crop of recent pension decisions", December [2020] Fam Law

Chris Goodwin BSc (Hons) FIA

I am an experienced pensions actuary, having worked in the UK pensions industry for over 30 years.

I joined Mathieson Consulting in 2017, and I prepare and advise on Expert Witness reports in the area of pensions on divorce. I have written or peer-reviewed over 850 such cases.

Previously during my career, I have worked for both actuarial consultants and life assurance companies including Aon Hewitt, Zurich Financial Services and the Prudential.

I have served as a Scheme Actuary to a portfolio of occupational pension schemes and have advised clients on pension matters from a wide range of business sectors including financial services, banking, manufacturing, the motor trade and charities. I have also served as a trustee director for a portfolio of Small Self-Administered Schemes.

Whilst working for Zurich Financial Services, I was responsible for implementing the Pension Sharing on Divorce Regulations within the business and as a Scheme Actuary, I advised clients on how they should implement pension sharing orders. I have also provided actuarial tables and procedures to clients for transfer value calculations, including those required to calculate pension credits.

As well as being a qualified actuary, I also hold a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) in respect of the teaching of mathematics and have taught economics to actuarial students at the Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing.

Employment history

2017–present	Senior Actuary and Report Writer, Mathieson Consulting
2016–2017	Trainee Mathematics Teacher, University of Worcester
2013–2015	Director, Goodwin Actuarial Services
2006–2012	Senior Consultant, Aon Hewitt
2003–2006	Senior Business Development Manager, Prudential
1994–2003	Director of In-Retirement Product Development, Zurich Financial Services
1988–1994	Consultant, Bacon & Woodrow (now Aon)

Qualifications and memberships

PGCE in secondary level Mathematics with post 16 enhancement, 2017

Exempt approved authority to provide investment advice, 2007–2012

Scheme Actuary, 1997–2003 and 2007–2012

Fellow of the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, qualified 1994

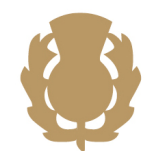
BSc (Hons) in Economics & Statistics, University of Southampton, 1988

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