



Redundancy Advice



We would like to thank Neil, Helen and Wendy and all at Fortitude for the advice, hard work and professionalism they have shown over the past few months helping us sort out my pension and build a more financially stable future.

Their friendliness and help during this time is something we will remember and we will certainly use Fortitude again”

Richard and Barbara Preston

I was recently made redundant. I decided to take on a number of freelance projects, although I wasn't confident in the amount of work I could secure on an ongoing basis. I'm 62 years' old and wanted to explore if retirement was a viable option. Could my wife and I live comfortably on the pensions I'd accrued over my working life, without having to rely on my future earnings?

Not only did I need to confirm if we would have sufficient income to fund our lifestyle - and the best way to structure our affairs to achieve this - but I also wanted make sure my wife would be looked after should anything happen to me.

I met with Neil from Fortitude Financial Planning. He took time to understand our current situation, my concerns for the future and the retirement lifestyle we were aspiring to. Not only did he ask about what was most important to me, but the impact on Barbara and how she felt about our plans.

Neil explained the Fortitude advice process and how they could help us to explore our different options. We completed all of the required paperwork and provided the information they required to set to work.

Due to health issues, Neil advised that Barbara might be able to secure an improved annuity rate. We agreed

that this was worth investigation and submitted these forms as well.

Initially Barbara felt she didn't need to be involved, as it was my pension being discussed. After I spoke with Neil she quickly realised the importance of being included in the meetings, so she would be involved and see the implications of our decisions.

Fortitude used a Lifetime Cashflow Forecast to show our income (from our pension benefits) and expenditure against different scenarios. This was invaluable in providing perspective, helping us to visualise just how we could live in retirement - without needing to rely on my future earnings.

We realised, through working with Fortitude, we could start enjoying retirement today. They helped us achieve this by structuring our affairs to provide the income we need to fund our lifestyle. I also take comfort knowing that should anything happen to me, Barbara will remain secure.

An added bonus was that Fortitude managed to secure an enhanced annuity, which is significantly higher - almost double - what we thought we would have access to.

We were pleasantly surprised by how quickly and efficiently the process was managed. We took the decision about how we would structure our affairs and within one month our retirement income commenced. Any work I do now is disposable income, which we use to treat ourselves to the things we enjoy.

Until the redundancy I thought I'd have to continue to work for a number of years. Instead we're living in retirement, relaxed, knowing my affairs are in order.

To find out how Fortitude can help you achieve a "Life/Life" balance, call 01327 354321 to speak with a member of our team.