

Professional indemnity
Miscellaneous /



Policy wording

August 2016

redefining / standards



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Welcome to AXA

Thank you for choosing AXA

Please read carefully all **your** documents together as they form **your policy** and contain the full details of **your** cover. Please keep any documents **we** have provided in a safe place.

If **you** have any questions, need anything explaining or believe this contract does not meet **your** needs, please contact **us** or **your** insurance adviser.

Important information about this cover

This cover operates on a claims-made basis. This means that **we** will only provide cover for **claims** or **claim circumstances** made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**. **We** will not cover any **claim** or **claim circumstance** arising from an act, error or omission that occurred before the **retroactive date**.

Conditions apply regarding when **you** must tell **us** about **claims** or **claim circumstances** and these can be found below. **You** should read these carefully.

Your policy

Your policy is a contract of insurance between **you** and **us** and **you** have a duty to make a fair presentation of the risk to **us** in accordance with the law.

In return for **you** having paid or agreed to pay the premium, **we** will cover **you** subject to the terms contained in **your policy**.

Your policy is renewable provided that **we** agree to accept **your** premium for any subsequent **period of insurance**. **We** do not have to offer renewal of **your policy** and cover will cease on the end date. If renewal is offered and accepted by **you** a new schedule will be issued for the new **period of insurance** showing any changes to **your** cover.

Throughout this **policy**, **we** use definitions and headings. Definitions are used to explain what a word means and are highlighted in bold blue print. Details of the definitions that apply throughout **your policy** can be found on page 4.

Headings have been used for **your** guidance and do not form part of the contract. Wherever a word is used in the singular, this will also include the plural and vice versa.

To help **you** understand the cover within **your policy** **we** have included sections entitled 'What is covered' and 'What is not covered'.

Under the heading 'What is covered' **we** give information on the insurance that **your policy** provides. This must be read with 'What is not covered' and the Policy conditions at all times.

Under the heading 'What is not covered' **we** draw **your** attention to what is excluded from **your policy**.

Telling us about a claim

If **you** need to tell **us** about a **claim** please first check **your policy** to make sure **you** are covered. **You** must then follow the Claim circumstance condition and Claim notification condition on pages 7 and 8.

Please contact **your** insurance adviser who will help **us** deal with the **claim**.

Making a complaint

If **you** are not happy with the way a **claim** or any other matter has been dealt with, please read 'Making a complaint' at the end of this document.

Meanings of defined terms

These definitions apply to **your policy**. If a word or phrase has a defined meaning it will be highlighted in bold blue print and will have the same meaning wherever it is used in this **policy**.

Asbestos

Asbestos in any form, asbestos fibres, particles or derivatives of asbestos or any material containing asbestos.

Claim(s)

Any verbal or written demand, notice or communication from a third party

- 1 making an assertion for legal remedy or any other form of compensation or remedy
- 2 containing reference to, or serving notice of, intent to start legal proceedings
- 3 invoking any pre-action protocol as set under the Civil Procedure Rules and/or
- 4 referring to arbitration, adjudication or complaint proceedings.

Claim circumstance(s)

Any incident, occurrence, fact, matter or act that **you** become aware of that might reasonably give rise to a **claim**.

Criminal prosecution defence costs

Costs and expenses that **you** incur with **our** prior written consent to defend any criminal proceeding first made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance** arising from the conduct of **your professional business**.

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Defence costs

All costs and expenses incurred by **us** or by **you** with **our** prior written permission relating to the investigation, defence or settlement of any **claim** against **you**, which **your policy** covers.

This does not include profit costs or remuneration or expenses paid or due to **you**.

Documents

Any documents, information or data, including computer records and data or information stored magnetically or electronically, that are **your** property or are looked after by or deposited with **you** in the ordinary course of **your professional business** and for which **you** are responsible. This does not include bearer bonds, coupons, stamps, bank or currency notes or negotiable instruments.

Employee(s)

- 1 Any person working for **you** under a contract of service with **you** or
- 2 Any person working for **you** in connection with the **professional business**
 - a who is hired or lent to **you**
 - b who is self-employed
 - c on a voluntary basis

and who is under **your** control or supervision.

Excess

The amount stated in **your** schedule, being the first amount of **loss** for which **you** are responsible.

Extended liability

Legal liability assumed by **you** under the express or implied terms of any contract or agreement that restrict **your** right of recovery, or increase **your** liability at law beyond that applicable in the absence of those terms.

Injury

Any death, illness, disease or sickness or any bodily, mental, psychological or emotional injury, distress or shock.

Limit of indemnity

The amount shown in **your** schedule as the limit of indemnity.

Loss

The amount that **you** are legally liable to pay due to a **claim**, including awards of damages, awards of claimant costs and amounts that are pursuant to settlements, but not including **defence costs**.

Period of insurance

Period shown in **your** schedule, inclusive of both the stated start date and end date.

Policy

This document, any schedule and any endorsements attached or issued.

Pollutant

Any solid, liquid or gaseous pollutant contaminant or irritant substance or any biological agent that is a danger to human health.

Pollution

Actual, alleged or threatened discharge, seepage, treatment, removal, disposal, dispersal, emission, release or escape of any **pollutant** or any regulatory order, direction or request to test for, monitor, remove, contain, treat, detoxify or neutralise any **pollutant**.

Professional business

Professional services or professional advice undertaken by **you** or on **your** behalf arising directly from conduct of the professional business shown on **your** schedule.

Retroactive date

The date from when work **you** performed is covered. This date is shown on **your** schedule.

Subsidiary

A company that **you** either directly or indirectly control through

- 1 holding a majority of the voting rights
- 2 the right to appoint or remove a majority of its board of directors and/or
- 3 sole control of, pursuant to a written agreement with other shareholders, a majority of that company's voting rights.

Terrorist act

Any act of a person or group directed towards the overthrowing or influencing of any government, or putting any section of the public in fear by threat, force or violence or other means.

Virus or similar mechanism

Program code, programming instruction or any set of instructions intentionally constructed with the ability to damage, interfere with or otherwise adversely affect computer programs, data files or operations, whether involving self replication or not, including but not limited to trojan horses, worms or logic bombs.

We/us/our

AXA Insurance UK plc.

You/your

- 1 The person, firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as the insured.
- 2 Any person, firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as an additional insured.
- 3 Any predecessor in business to the firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as the insured or as an additional insured.
- 4 Any person who is or has been or who becomes a director, partner, member, principal or **employee**, but only for work undertaken for or on behalf of any person or body referred to in **1**, **2** or **3** above.
- 5 Any retired partner, retired director or retired member of the firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as the insured and who remains as a consultant to any person, firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as the insured.
- 6 The estate, heirs, executors, legal or personal representatives of any person referred to in **1**, **2**, **3**, **4** or **5** above in the event of their death or incapacity.

Policy conditions

You must comply with the following conditions to have the full protection of **your policy**.

If **you** do not comply then **we** may at **our** option take one or more of the following actions

- 1 Cancel **your policy**
- 2 Declare **your policy** void (treating **your policy** as if it had never existed)
- 3 Change the terms of **your policy**
- 4 Refuse to deal with all or part of any **claim** or reduce the amount of any **claim** payments.

Admission of liability condition

In the event of a **claim** or discovery of a **claim circumstance**, **you** must not

- 1 admit liability
- 2 incur any **defence costs**
- 3 make any offers of settlement
- 4 otherwise prejudice the conduct of defence or settlement of that **claim** or **claim circumstance**

without first obtaining **our** written approval. This applies regardless of any complaints handling procedure or if the amount in dispute is less than **your excess**.

Breach of Claim notification condition or Claim circumstance condition

If **you** do not comply with the Claim notification condition or the Claim circumstance condition and where the **claim** or **claim circumstance** would otherwise be covered by this **policy**, **we** will pay the **claim** provided:

- 1 **you** tell **us** in writing about the **claim** or **claim circumstance** during the **period of insurance**, and;
- 2 **you** can satisfy **us** that **you** had no intention to deceive or mislead.

If, however, this affects **our** ability to handle or settle a **claim** or **claim circumstance**, **we** will reduce the amount **we** pay to the figure **we** reasonably believe would have been payable had **our** ability to handle or settle it not been affected. This does not affect any other condition in this **policy**.

Cancellation condition

- 1** You may cancel **your policy** within 14 days of receiving **your policy** for the first **period of insurance** if for any reason **you** are dissatisfied or the **policy** does not meet **your** requirements.
- 2** **We** can cancel **your policy** at any time during the **period of insurance** by giving 14 days written notice to **your** last known address.

Where **your policy** is cancelled in accordance with either of the above provisions, **we** will refund part of the premium paid, proportionate to the unexpired **period of insurance** following cancellation.
- 3** You may also cancel **your policy** at any other time during the **period of insurance**. **We** will refund part of the premium paid, proportionate to the unexpired **period of insurance** less a short period premium surcharge of £50.
- 4** **We** can cancel **your policy** immediately, without giving **you** notice if the premium has not been paid. If a **claim** or **claim circumstance** has been notified to **us** during the current **period of insurance** the annual premium remains due in full.

We will only refund premium provided that no **claim** has been paid or is outstanding in the current **period of insurance**.

Cancellation of this **policy** will not affect any **claims** or rights **you** or **we** may have before the date of cancellation.

We do not have to offer renewal of **your policy** and cover will cease on the expiry date.

Change in risk condition

You must tell **us** as soon as possible during the **period of insurance** of any change

- 1** to the **professional business**
- 2** in the person, firm, company or organisation shown in **your** schedule as the insured
- 3** to the information **you** provided to **us** previously or any new information that increases the risk of **loss** as insured under any section of **your policy**.

Your policy will come to an end from the date of the change unless **we** agree in writing to accept an alteration.

We do not have to accept any request to vary **your policy**. If **you** wish to make any alteration to **your policy** **you** must disclose any change to the information **you** previously provided or any new information that could affect this insurance. If **we** accept any variation to **your policy**, an increase in the premium or different terms or conditions of cover may be required by **us**.

Claim circumstance condition

You must tell **us** in writing as soon as possible within the **period of insurance** about **claim circumstances**.

When telling **us** about **claim circumstances**, **you** must give to **us** full details including but not limited to

- 1** a description of the **claim circumstance**
- 2** the nature of the alleged act, error or omission leading to the **claim circumstance** and the date it was committed
- 3** the nature of the alleged damage
- 4** the names of the actual or potential claimants and defendants, and
- 5** the manner in which **you** first became aware of the **claim circumstance**.

If **claim circumstances** that relate to work **you** performed after the **retroactive date** and within the **period of insurance** lead to a **claim** after the **period of insurance** has ended, that **claim** will be deemed to have been made against **you** during the **period of insurance**, provided that **you** told **us** in accordance with the requirements of this condition.

Claim control and co-operation condition

You must give **us** all information and assistance that **we** reasonably require and that is in **your** power to provide.

You must co-operate with **us** and anyone appointed on **our** behalf by

- 1** providing any information, assistance, signed statements or depositions as **we** may require to comply with any Civil Procedure Rules, Practice directions and Pre-Action Protocols as may be issued
- 2** assisting to present the best possible defence to a **claim**

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- 3 ensuring access to any information that **we** or **our** representatives may require in the defence of a **claim** or the investigation of any **claim circumstance**, whether or not that information may be privileged
- 4 provide **us** with any and all information that will allow **us** to determine **our** liability under this **policy**
- 5 making payment on demand of **your excess** in order to comply with the terms of any settlement **we** have agreed
- 6 providing any information, assistance, signed statements or depositions as **we** may require to exercise **our** rights of subrogation
- 7 ensuring that all documents of any description relevant to any **claim** or **claim circumstance** are preserved and complete.

Claim notification condition

You must tell **us** in writing as soon as possible within the **period of insurance** about any **claim** against **you** irrespective of **your** views as to the validity of that **claim**.

We will not pay **your claim** where **you** have not complied with this condition.

Dishonesty and fraud condition

You must tell **us** as soon as possible within the **period of insurance** of the discovery of any dishonest or fraudulent act or omission or of any reasonable suspicion that an **employee** has acted dishonestly or fraudulently.

Expiry of period of insurance condition

If **you** become aware of a **claim** or **claim circumstances** in the seven days immediately before the end of the **period of insurance** but, in **our** reasonable opinion, **you** are unable to tell **us** before the end of the **period of insurance**, **we** will allow **you** an additional seven days immediately after the **period of insurance** to tell **us**.

Fraud condition

You and anyone acting for **you** must not act in a fraudulent way.

If **you** or anyone acting for **you**

- 1 knowingly makes a fraudulent or exaggerated **claim** under **your policy**

- 2 knowingly makes a false statement in support of a **claim** (whether or not the **claim** itself is genuine) or
- 3 knowingly submit a false or forged document in support of a **claim** (whether or not the **claim** itself is genuine),

We will

- a refuse to pay the **claim**
- b declare the **policy** void from the date of the fraudulent act without any refund of premiums.

We may inform the police of the circumstances.

Instalments condition

If **you** fail to pay a premium instalment to **us** on the date due **we** may charge an administration fee for instalments rejected by **your** bank.

We have the right to cancel **your policy** for non-payment and apply a short premium payment surcharge of £50.

If a **claim** or **claim circumstance** has been notified to **us** during the current **period of insurance**, the annual premium remains due in full. If no **claim** or **claim circumstance** has been notified to **us** and insufficient payments have been made to cover the period for which insurance has been provided, payment for the unpaid portion of premium will remain due.

Law applicable to this policy

You and **we** can choose the law which applies to this **policy**. **We** propose that the Law of England and Wales apply. Unless **we** and **you** agree otherwise, the Law of England and Wales will apply to this **policy**.

Non-disclosure and misrepresentation condition

You have a duty to make a fair presentation of the risk which **you** wish to insure. This applies prior to the start of **your policy**, if any variation is required during the **period of insurance** and prior to each renewal.

If **you** fail to comply with this duty then

- 1 If **we** can demonstrate that the failure to make a fair presentation of the risk was deliberate **we** can elect to make **your policy** void and keep the premium. This means

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treating the **policy** as if it had not existed and that **we** will not return **your** premiums, or

- 2 If the failure to make a fair presentation of the risk was not deliberate and **we** would not have provided cover or **we** would have issued cover on different terms had **you** made a fair presentation, then **we** will not use **our** right to void **your policy** or to reduce the amount **we** will pay for a **claim**, but **we** can charge a reasonable additional premium in light of any prejudice caused to **us** by **your** failure to comply with that duty. Any such additional premium will not be more than the reduction in the amount of the **claim** payment that the law would have entitled **us** to apply.
- 3 Where **we** elect to apply one of the above then
 - a if **we** elect to make **your policy** void, this will be from the start of the **policy**, or the date of variation or from the date of renewal
 - b **we** will apply additional premium by calculated by reference to the premium that would have been charged and this will apply from the start of the **policy**, or the date of variation or from the date of renewaldepending on when the failure to make a fair presentation occurs.
- 4 In the case of a **claim** first made against **you** during the **period of insurance** where:
 - a **you** had previous knowledge of the circumstances relating to that **claim**, and
 - b **you** should have notified that **claim** under any preceding policy but did not do so, if the indemnity or cover under **your policy** is greater or wider in scope than the preceding policy (whether insured by **us** or not), **we** will only cover **you** to the amount and extent as would have been provided by the preceding policy.

Other insurance condition

If a **claim** is made under this **policy** and there is other insurance cover under which **you** are, or would be but for this **policy**, entitled to have a **claim** paid, **we** will not pay the **claim** or **defence costs** except for any amount over and above the amount payable by the other insurance policy or policies.

Sanctions condition

This contract of insurance is subject to sanction, prohibition or restriction under United Nations resolutions. It is a condition of **your policy** that **we** will not provide cover, or pay any **claim** or provide any benefit under **your policy** to the extent that the provision of such cover, payment of such **claim** or provision of such benefit would expose **us**, or **our** parent, subsidiary or any AXA group member company, to any trade or economic sanctions, or violate any laws or regulations of the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States of America or any other territory.

Subrogation (our rights) condition

We will be entitled to undertake in **your** name or on **your** behalf steps to enforce rights against any other party before or after any payment is made by **us**.

We will not exercise any right of subrogation against any present or former **employee** unless **we** have made payment brought about or contributed to by any dishonest, fraudulent or malicious act or omission of that present or former **employee**, or if the present or former **employee** conspired to commit or condone any such dishonest, fraudulent or malicious act or omission.

You must not enter into any contract or other agreement that restricts **your** rights of recovery in respect of any **claim** that may be covered by this **policy**.

Third party rights condition

The Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 does not apply to this **policy**.

✓ What is covered

We will cover **you** for any **claim** and **defence costs** that arise from the conduct of **your professional business**, where the **claim** is first made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**, arising from

- 1 a breach of **your** professional duty
- 2 negligent misstatement or misrepresentation
- 3 unintentional libel, slander or defamation
- 4 unintentional breach of or misuse of confidentiality or any right to privacy

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5 unintentional infringement of intellectual property rights including any act of passing-off (but not breach of patent), or

6 any other civil liability that **you** incur.

The most **we** will pay for **loss** resulting from each **claim** is the **limit of indemnity**.

We will pay **defence costs** in addition to the **loss**. If the amount of **loss** exceeds the **limit of indemnity**, the most **we** will pay for **defence costs** will be an amount in the same proportion that the **limit of indemnity** has to the **loss**.

Court attendance costs cover

In the event that any of **your** directors, partners, members, principals or **employees** are required to attend court, mediation or arbitration in connection with a **claim** that is covered by this **policy**, provided that **we** have first given **our** written consent, **we** will pay compensation to **you** at £300 per day or part of day for each person required to attend.

The most **we** will pay for all Court attendance costs in any one **period of insurance** is £15,000. This is in addition to the **limit of indemnity**.

Criminal prosecutions defence costs cover

We will pay for **criminal prosecution defence costs** but only where, in **our** reasonable opinion, defending the criminal proceeding could protect **you** against a **claim** or potential **claim** that would be covered by this **policy**.

For any subsequent or concurrent civil action arising out of that criminal offence, notification of that action will be deemed to be notification of a **claim** or **claim circumstance**.

The most **we** will pay for all **criminal prosecution defence costs** in any one **period of insurance** is £250,000 or the **limit of indemnity**, whichever is the lower. This is part of and not in addition to the **limit of indemnity**.

Data Protection Act defence costs cover

We will pay **criminal prosecution defence costs** in the defence of any criminal proceedings brought under sections 21(1), 21(2), 22(6) or 47(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, provided always that

1 the act, error or omission giving rise to the proceedings was committed by **you** in the conduct of **your professional business**

2 **we** will be entitled to appoint solicitors and/or counsel to act on **your** behalf, and

3 **we** will not pay **defence costs** after **you** have pleaded guilty or have been found guilty.

The most **we** will pay for Data Protection Act defence costs cover is the **limit of indemnity**.

Dishonesty and fraud cover

We will cover **you** for any **claim** and **defence costs** arising from the conduct of **your professional business**, first made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**, for any civil liability including liability for claimant's costs and expenses arising from dishonest or fraudulent acts or omissions by any of **your employees** who are not a principal, partner, member or director.

In the case of any **claim** arising from any dishonest or fraudulent act or omission:

1 no person committing or condoning dishonest or fraudulent acts or omissions shall be entitled to cover

2 **we** will not cover dishonest or fraudulent acts or omissions committed by any person after **you** discover, or have reasonable cause for suspicion of dishonesty or fraud on the part of that person

3 in the event of the alleged fraudulent and/or dishonest party making an admission of guilt or being found guilty of that fraud and/or dishonesty, **we** will seek a full refund of any amounts paid by **us** under this section from that fraudulent party.

Any dishonesty or fraud committed by two or more **employees** who were acting together will be regarded as one **claim**.

The most **we** will pay for **loss** resulting from each **claim** that arises out of that dishonest or fraudulent act or omission is the **limit of indemnity**.

We will pay **defence costs** in addition to **loss** that arises out of that dishonest or fraudulent act or omission. If that **loss** amount exceeds the **limit of indemnity**, the most **we** will pay for **defence costs** will be an amount in the same proportion that the **limit of indemnity** has to the **loss** amount.

Disputed fees cover

We will pay **you** amounts owed to **you** by **your** client where they refuse to pay for work **you** have done for them, including amounts legally owed by **you** to sub-contractors or suppliers, provided always that

- 1** we are satisfied that **your** client has reasonable grounds for being dissatisfied with **your** work and threatens to bring a **claim** for more than the amount owed
- 2** it is possible to settle the dispute by **you** agreeing not to pursue the outstanding amount, and
- 3** we consider that it will avoid a legitimate **claim** that would otherwise be covered by this **policy** for a greater amount than the amount owed to **you**.

If a **claim** still arises from the same dispute then the amount paid under this section will be deducted from the **limit of indemnity** for that subsequent **claim**.

If **you** eventually recover the debt then the amount paid by **us** must be repaid to **us** less **your** reasonable expenses of recovering the debt due.

The most **we** will pay for Disputed fees cover is the **limit of indemnity**.

Formal investigation costs cover

We will pay costs and expenses that **you** incur with **our** prior written approval at a properly constituted hearing, tribunal or proceeding that is covered under this **policy**, but that are not included under the meaning of **defence costs**, provided that the hearing, tribunal or proceeding

- 1** is first instigated against **you** and notified by **you** to **us** during the **period of insurance**, and
- 2** arises from the conduct of **your professional business**.

The most **we** will pay for Formal investigation costs cover in any one **period of insurance** is £25,000.

Joint ventures cover

We will cover **you** for any **claim** and **defence costs** that arise from the conduct of **your**

professional business, where the **claim** is first made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**, arising from a civil liability that **you** may become legally liable to pay and that arises whilst **you** are a member of a joint venture or consortium.

The most **we** will pay for Joint ventures cover is the **limit of indemnity**.

Loss of documents cover

We will cover **you** for any **claim** and **defence costs** that arise from the conduct of **your professional business**, where the **claim** is first made against **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**, arising from the destruction, loss or damage of any **documents**.

We will pay reasonable costs and expenses for replacing or restoring **your own documents** that have been destroyed, lost or damaged in the conduct of **your professional business** provided that the destruction, loss or damage is discovered by **you** and notified to **us** during the **period of insurance**.

The most **we** will pay for loss of **documents** is the **limit of indemnity**.

An **excess** of £500 (or the amount shown in **your** schedule if that is lower) will apply to each and every **claim** for loss of **documents**.

Mitigation costs cover

We will cover **you** for reasonable costs and expenses that **you** incur for any reasonable action **you** take to mitigate a **loss** or potential **loss** that would otherwise be the subject of a **claim** under this **policy**, provided always that

- 1** **you** obtain **our** prior written consent before incurring these costs and expenses, and
- 2** **you** prove to **our** satisfaction that the amount of the costs and expenses to be incurred are less than any likely award of damages arising from the same potential **claim**, and
- 3** if a **claim** still arises from the same **loss** or potential **loss** then the amount paid under this section will be deducted from the **limit of indemnity** for that subsequent **claim**.

The most **we** will pay for Mitigation costs cover is the **limit of indemnity**.

Pollution cover

For any **claim** that arises directly or indirectly from **pollution**, **we** will only pay for that **claim** and any **defence costs** related to it if the cause of that **claim** was due to a specific act, error or omission committed by **you**, or by others acting on **your** behalf, in the conduct of **your professional business**.

The most **we** will pay for all **pollution claims** and **defence costs** related to those **pollution claims** in any one **period of insurance** is the **limit of indemnity**. For the purposes of this Pollution cover, **defence costs** will be inclusive of and not in addition to the **limit of indemnity**.

Subsidiary creation and acquisition cover

If, during the **period of insurance**, **you**:

- 1 acquire securities or voting rights in another organisation or create another organisation which, as a result of that acquisition or creation, becomes a **subsidiary of yours**, or
- 2 acquire any organisation by merger or consolidation

then that acquired or created organisation will automatically be insured under this **policy** with effect from the date of the acquisition or creation, but only with respect to the performance of **your professional business** performed after the acquisition or creation was completed.

However, if the acquired or created organisation:

- 1 has annual fee income or turnover, which is greater than 10% of the annual turnover **you** last declared to **us** prior to the **period of insurance**
- 2 has assets in the United States of America or Canada
- 3 provides advice or services as part of activities which are not activities described in the definition of the **professional business**
- 4 has ever been fined an amount of £10,000 or more or has ever been found guilty of an offence by its regulator, or
- 5 has ever, with regard to any given 12 month period, incurred (through judgment or settlement) total losses equaling or exceeding £100,000 or 10% of the **limit of indemnity** (whichever is less) on account of **claims** made against it in that period,

you will give **us** written notice of that acquisition or creation as soon as possible and also provide any additional information **we** may reasonably require. **We** will have the right to amend the terms of this **policy** including but not limited to charging an additional premium. If **you** fail to give **us** written notice of the acquisition or creation then **we** will have the right to refuse to pay any **claim** or **claim circumstance** that arises directly or indirectly in connection with that acquired or created organisation.

Defence and settlement of claims

All **claims** that come from the same act, error or omission or series of acts, errors or omissions, as a result of, or arising directly or indirectly from the same source or original cause, will be regarded as one **claim**.

If **we** cover more than one person, firm, company or organisation, **our** liability to all, as a result of one **claim**, will not be more than the **limit of indemnity**.

We may at any time pay the **limit of indemnity** or relevant sub-limit. **We** will then have no further liability for that **claim** or **defence costs** except those already incurred at the date of payment of the **limit of indemnity** or sub-limit.

We have the right, but not the obligation, to take control of any **claim** and conduct the investigation, settlement or defence in **your** name. After taking into account the commercial considerations of the costs of defence, **we** may choose to settle a **claim** instead of defending it.

If **we** feel it is necessary, **we** will appoint **our** adjuster, solicitor or other appropriate person to deal with a **claim**. If **you** ask **us**, **we** may agree to appoint **your** solicitor, but only if **we** are satisfied that **your** solicitor has the necessary expertise to undertake this work, only on a similar fee basis as **our** solicitor and only for work done with **our** prior written approval.

If **you** disagree with **our** proposed course of action for any legal proceedings (whether defence or prosecution), then **you** may refer the matter to a Queen's Counsel of the English Bar to be mutually agreed between

you and **us**. If **you** and **we** cannot agree on the Queen's Counsel to be appointed, then the Queen's Counsel will be appointed by the current Chairman of the English Bar or their representative. The Queen's Counsel's decision on how the legal proceedings should be handled shall be binding on **you** and **us**. In resolving this dispute, the Queen's Counsel will have consideration for the interests of **you** and **us**. The costs of this exercise will be allocated by the agreed or appointed party on a fair and equitable basis.

× What is not covered

Asbestos exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** directly or indirectly involving **asbestos** or allegations or concerns relating to **asbestos**.

Associated persons or entities exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** brought by

- 1 a firm, company or organisation with a financial interest in **you**
- 2 a firm, company or organisation in which any of **your** partners, directors or principles have a controlling interest
- 3 any firm, company, organisation or individual who falls within the definition of **you**

unless the **claim** originates from a source independent of that firm, organisation or individual.

Construction or installation exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from the conduct of **your professional business** where **you** undertake any construction, erection, installation or maintenance works or to manufacture or supply materials or equipment (other than project models or displays) in connection with such construction, erection, installation or maintenance works.

Deliberate acts and omissions exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising directly or indirectly from any act, error or omission that **you** deliberately, spitefully or recklessly commit, condone or ignore.

Directors' and officers' liabilities exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** made against **you** or **your** directors, officers or trustees for breach of their duties as director, officer or trustee.

Dishonesty and fraud exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** directly or indirectly involving dishonesty or fraud committed by **you** other than as stated in the Dishonesty and fraud cover on page 10.

Distorted computer records exclusion

We will not cover any costs and expenses **you** incur as a result of the loss or distortion of computer records caused by

- 1 defects in computer equipment or electronic storage devices
- 2 wear, tear, vermin or gradual deterioration
- 3 climatic or atmospheric conditions or extremes of temperature
- 4 use or processing whilst mounted in or on any machine unless as a result of loss of or damage to the machine itself.

The exclusion will not apply to the Loss of documents cover.

Employment exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of any kind of employment-related dispute or any kind of defamation, discrimination, harassment or unfair treatment relating to any current, former or prospective **employees**.

Excess exclusion

We will not pay the **excess** shown in **your** schedule.

The **excess** does not apply to **defence costs**, Court attendance costs cover or Formal investigation costs cover.

The **excess** applicable to Loss of documents cover is as stated under the Loss of documents cover on page 11.

Extended liability exclusion

We will not cover **extended liability**.

Failure to duplicate data exclusion

We will not cover **your** own **documents** that are stored on a computer system or in any other magnetic or electronic form unless those **documents** are duplicated on at least a daily basis, with the intention that the duplicate can be used to restore the **documents** in the event of loss or damage.

Financial services exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of any Regulated Activities as defined in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 as amended from time to time.

Fines and penalties exclusion

We will not cover any fines, penalties, punitive, multiple, aggravated or exemplary damages awarded against **you**.

Goods supplied exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of any product, goods or materials that **you** have supplied or used, or made arrangements to supply or use, or the manufacture, repair, sale, installation or maintenance of any product by **you** or on **your** behalf.

Injury exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** for **injury**

- 1 to any **employee**
- 2 to any person who is not an **employee** unless directly arising from a breach of duty through a negligent act, error or omission by **you** in the course of **your professional business**.

Insolvency exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of or in connection with **your** insolvency, bankruptcy or any **claim** made by **your** liquidator, provisional liquidator or administrator.

Insurance or finance arrangement exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from **your** failure to arrange and/or maintain insurance and/or finance.

Internet activity exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of

- 1 the management of financial transactions
- 2 obscene, blasphemous or pornographic materials

on the internet.

North American jurisdiction exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** instituted or pursued

- 1 within the United States of America or Canada or any territories which come within the jurisdiction of the United States of America or Canada or in which it is contended that the laws of the United States of America or Canada should apply
- 2 to enforce a judgment obtained in any Court of the United States of America or Canada or any territories, which come within the jurisdiction of the United States of America or Canada.

North American territorial exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from the conduct of **your professional business** carried out from offices or premises located within the United States of America or Canada or any territories which come within the jurisdiction of the United States of America or Canada.

Patent exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of any infringement of any patent.

Pollution exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** directly or indirectly involving **pollution** other than as stated in the Pollution cover on page 12.

Previous claims exclusion

We will not cover any **claim**

- 1 that has been notified under any other policy before the start of this **policy**
- 2 that **you** were aware of or should have been aware of before the start of this **policy**

other than as stated in the Non-disclosure and misrepresentation condition on page 8.

Miscellaneous professionals *continued*

Property damage exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** for loss of or damage to property unless arising directly from a breach of duty through a negligent act, error or omission by **you** in the course of **your professional business**.

Property ownership exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from the ownership, possession, leasing or use of any land or building structure or any other property or goods whether mobile or immobile.

Radioactive contamination exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising directly or indirectly from

- 1** ionising radiation or contamination by radioactivity from any irradiated nuclear fuel, or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel
- 2** the radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or its nuclear component.

Retroactive date exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from the performance of **your professional business** carried out before the **retroactive date** shown in **your** schedule.

Taxation, competition or restraint of trade exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising directly or indirectly from the breach of any taxation, competition, restraint of trade or anti-trust legislation or regulation.

Terrorist act exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** directly or indirectly involving any **terrorist act**.

Trading losses exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of trading losses or trading liabilities incurred by **you** or any of **your** businesses.

This exclusion will not apply to the Disputed fees cover on page 11.

Virus exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising out of the transmission or receipt of a **virus or similar mechanism**.

War risk exclusion

We will not cover any **claim** arising from or happening through war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, whether war is declared or not, civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection or military or usurped power.

Making a complaint

AXA Insurance aims to provide the highest standard of service to every customer.

If **our** service does not meet **your** expectations **we** want to hear about it so **we** can try to put things right.

All complaints **we** receive are taken seriously. Following the steps below will help **us** understand **your** concerns and give **you** a fair response.

Making your complaint

The majority of complaints can be resolved quickly and satisfactorily by the department **you** are dealing with. If **your** complaint relates to a **claim**, please contact the department dealing with the **claim**. If **your** complaint relates to anything else, please contact the agent or AXA office where **your policy** was purchased. Telephone contact is often the most effective way to resolve complaints quickly.

Alternatively **you** can write to **us** at

AXA Insurance
Commercial complaints
AXA House
4 Parklands
Lostock
Bolton
BL6 4SD

Tel: 01204 815359

Email: commercial.complaints@axa-insurance.co.uk

When **you** make contact please tell **us** the following information:

- Name address and postcode, telephone number and e-mail address (if **you** have one).
- **Your policy** and/or **claim** number, and the type of **policy you** hold.
- The name of **your** insurance agent/firm (if applicable).
- The reason for **your** complaint.

Any written correspondence should be headed 'COMPLAINT' and **you** may include copies of supporting material.

Beyond AXA

Should **you** remain dissatisfied following **our** final written response, **you** may be eligible to refer **your** case to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

The FOS is an independent body that arbitrates on complaints about general insurance products. The FOS can only consider **your** complaint if **we** have given **you our** final decision.

You have six months from the date of **our** final response to refer **your** complaint to the FOS. This does not affect **your** right to take legal action.

Financial Ombudsman Service
Exchange Tower
Harbour Exchange Square
London
E14 9SR

Tel: 0800 023 4567 *

Tel: 0300 123 9123 **

Fax: 020 7964 1001

Email: complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk

Web: www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk

Our promise to you

We will

- Acknowledge written complaints promptly.
- Investigate **your** complaint quickly and thoroughly.
- Keep **you** informed of progress of **your** complaint.
- Do everything possible to resolve **your** complaint.
- Acknowledge when **we** have made a mistake and learn from them.
- Use the information from complaints to continuously improve **our** service.

* free for people phoning from a 'fixed line' (for example, a landline at home)

** (free for mobile-phone users who pay a monthly charge for calls to numbers starting 01 or 02)

Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

AXA Insurance UK plc are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). **You** may be entitled to compensation in the unlikely event **we** cannot meet **our** obligations to **you**. This depends on the type of insurance, size of the business and the circumstances of the **claim**. Further information about the compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS (www.fscs.org.uk).

The European Commission has also provided an Online Dispute Resolution Service for logging complaints. To use this service please go to: <http://ec.europa.eu/odr>

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If you would like a Braille, large print or audio version, please contact us.

www.axa.co.uk

CLPI0014P-B (06/16) (65438)

