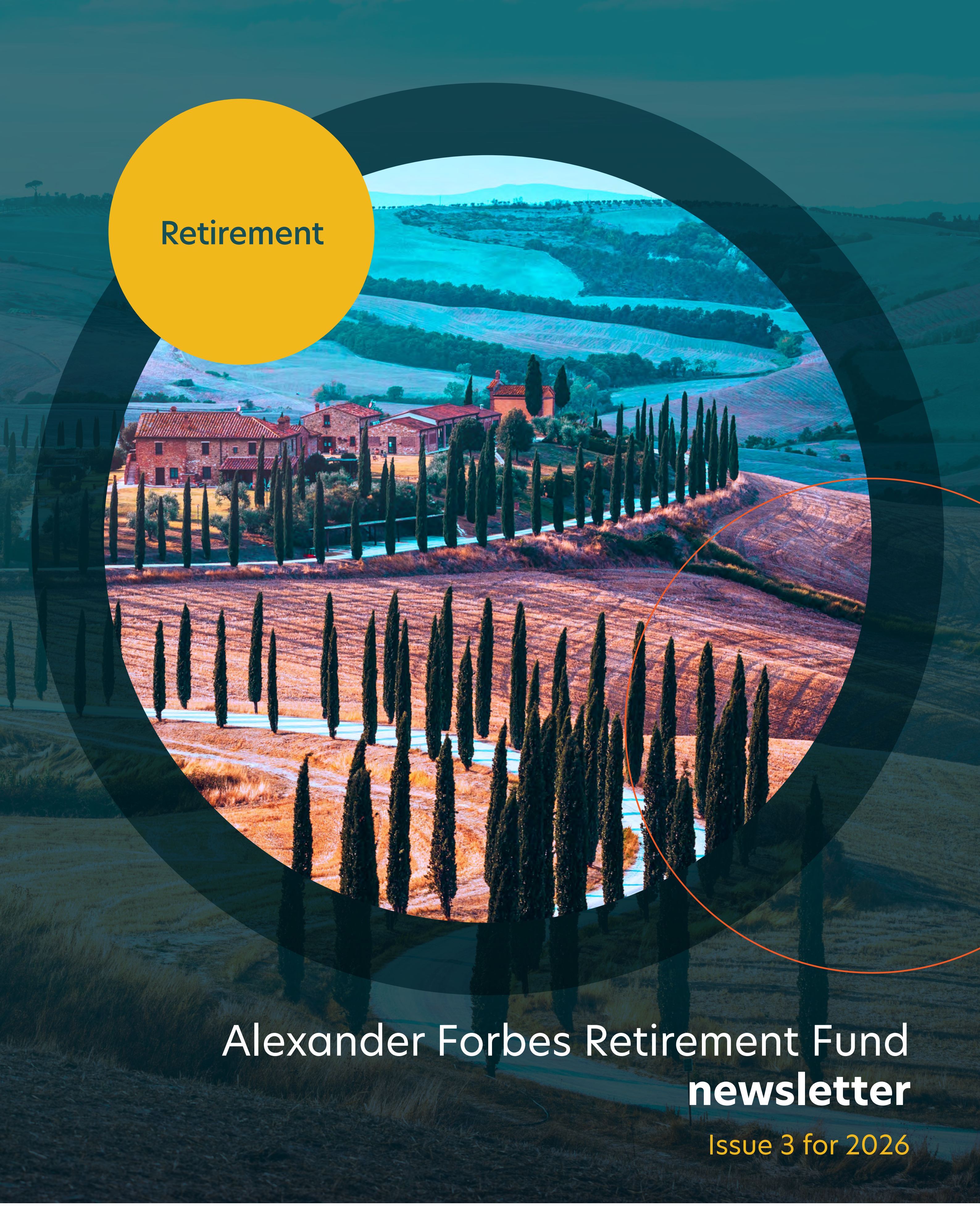


Retirement

Alexander Forbes Retirement Fund **newsletter**

Issue 3 for 2026

alexforbes.com

insight • advice • impact

Welcome to Issue 3 of the AFRF newsletter!

We are already more than halfway through the year, making it a great time for a quick check-in on your retirement benefits. In this issue, we explore the support available to you, take a look at why life cover matters and unpack what using your savings pot today could mean for your future retirement savings. We've also included quick links to helpful tools and services available through AF Connect, including the new TaxTim benefit.

Our goal is simple: to help you understand your benefits, make informed decisions and feel more confident about your financial future.

Support and guidance when you need it most

You do not have to manage your retirement savings on your own.

Planning for retirement is not a once-off decision. It is a journey that changes as your life, work and family needs change. Whether you are just starting out, building your savings, going through a life change, leaving employment or getting ready to retire, support is available when you need it.

The important thing is to know where to go, what to check and when to ask for guidance.

How you can get help

You can choose the type of support that works for you: self-service tools, consultant support or personal financial advice.

AF Connect (self-service)

Access your benefit information, update your details and use tools whenever it suits you.

Consultants (call centre) - 0860 100 333

Get personalised support, ask questions and receive guidance on important decisions whenever it suits you.

Speak to a financial adviser or request a call back

Receive additional support tailored to your employment benefits and financial planning needs. Complete the online form to have a financial adviser contact you whenever it suits you.

Request a call back

When you'll typically need support

You can choose the type of support that works for you: self-service tools, consultant support or personal financial advice.

Starting out

When you join the fund:

- Check that your personal details are correct.
- Nominate your beneficiaries.
- Understand how your contributions work and choose the contribution level available to you.

AF Connect may be enough for simple updates, but support is available if you need it.

While you are building your savings

As your savings grow:

- Track your fund value.
- Keep your contact information up to date, including a non-work email address where possible.
- Understand how your investments and contributions work.

Use the tools on AF Connect to stay on track, or speak to a consultant or adviser for guidance.

When life changes

Major events may require action:

- Update your beneficiary form after marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or the loss of a dependant.
- Review your contribution choices where applicable.
- Consider whether your investment option and risk benefits still suit your needs.

This is often when guidance can be most useful.

When leaving employment

You'll need to decide what to do with your savings:

- Leave your money invested in the fund, if this option is available to you.
- Transfer your savings to another approved retirement fund.
- Withdraw, if you understand the tax and long-term impact.

Think carefully before withdrawing. Getting advice before you decide can make a meaningful difference.

At retirement

Turning savings into income:

- Understand your retirement options.
- Choose how to turn your savings into an income.
- Consider the long-term impact of your decisions.

Professional financial advice is especially important at this stage.

Key takeaway

The right support at the right time can help you make informed decisions and stay connected to your retirement goals. Whether you prefer to take a self-service approach or need personalised guidance, a range of tools, consultants, and advisers are available to help you make informed decisions every step of the way. By staying engaged, keeping your information up to date and seeking support when it matters most, you can approach your financial future with greater confidence and peace of mind.

Savings pot withdrawal options

Savings pot exit options

The Taxation Laws Amendment Act (TLAA) rules changed on 1 March 2026. The change makes it easier for you to access your savings pot when you leave a **retirement fund**. Previously, some members could not withdraw the balance in their savings pot when exiting the fund if they had already made a savings pot withdrawal during the same tax year.

Let's take a look at some examples that explain your savings pot withdrawal options. if your savings pot balance is at least R2000.

Story 1: Thabo stays in the fund

Situation:

Thabo resigns from his employer and starts a new job. He decides to keep his retirement money invested in the same fund. He has R15,000 in his savings pot and has **not** made a savings pot withdrawal this tax year.

What can Thabo do?

✓ He can make a savings pot withdrawal.

Why?

Although Thabo has left his employer, he is still a member of the fund because he kept his retirement money in the fund. The normal savings pot rules apply, and he is entitled to one savings pot withdrawal during the tax year.

Key lesson:

Leaving your employer does not automatically mean you can access all the money in your savings pot. If you stay in the fund, the normal savings pot rules continue to apply.

Story 2: Lerato stays in the fund after already withdrawing

Situation:

Earlier in the tax year, Lerato withdrew R10,000 from her savings pot. A few months later, she leaves her employer. She has R5,000 left in her savings pot and decides to preserve her retirement money in the same fund.

What can Lerato do?

✗ She cannot make another savings pot withdrawal.

Why?

Lerato is still a member of the fund because she kept her retirement money there. Since she already used her one savings pot withdrawal for the tax year, she must wait until the next tax year before she can make another withdrawal.

Key lesson:

If you remain in the same fund, you are still subject to the one-withdrawal-per-tax-year rule, even after leaving your employer.

Story 3: Sipho leaves the fund completely

Situation:

Sipho leaves his employer and decides to transfer all his retirement money to another retirement fund. He has R1,200 left in his savings pot and already made a savings pot withdrawal earlier in the same tax year.

What can Sipho do?

✓ He can take the remaining R1,200 from his savings pot.

Why?

Sipho has left the fund completely. Because he is no longer a member of the fund, the special exit rule applies. The normal rules, including the minimum withdrawal amount of R2,000 and the one-withdrawal-per-tax-year limit, do not apply in this situation.

Key lesson:

If you leave the fund completely, you may be able to take the money remaining in your savings pot, regardless of how much is left or whether you already made a savings pot withdrawal during the tax year.

Quick summary

Member	Stayed in the same fund	Already withdrew this tax-year	Can withdraw from savings pot
Thabo	Yes	No	Yes
Lerato	Yes	Yes	No
Sipho	No, left the fund completely	Yes	Yes

Remember

If you leave the fund completely, you may be able to take the money left in your savings pot. If you stay in the same fund, the normal savings pot rules still apply. Your withdrawal may be taxed, so the amount paid to you may be less than the amount you request. If you are not sure whether you are leaving the fund completely, please ask for help before deciding.

Quick links

Get the most from your retirement benefits with AF Connect

AF Connect gives you simple online access to your retirement fund information. You can use it to view your fund value, download documents, update key details and access tools that help you understand your benefits.

If you are not registered yet, do not delay. Make sure your contact details are up to date with your HR payroll team, then register for AF Connect and take charge of your retirement savings.

Register or log in: AF Connect

Make tax season simpler with TaxTim

As a member of the fund using AF Connect, our administrator's online portal, you have access to other resources offered through this portal. One of these is TaxTim, an easy-to-use digital tax assistant that guides you through your tax return step by step. You can access your TaxTim member benefit through **AF Connect**.

How it will work:

- Log in to **AF Connect**
- Click through to **TaxTim**
- Sign up or log in with your member discount

Why use TaxTim?

- Completes your tax return accurately
- Submits directly to SARS with no queues or paperwork
- Reduces errors through built-in checks
- Connects to SARS eFiling to pull in your documents
- Stores your information securely
- Helps you avoid penalties by submitting on time
- Alexforbes members receive a **25% discount** on TaxTim fees during tax season

For more information and terms and conditions, visit **TaxTim**.

Keep your contact details up to date so you do not miss important updates about your benefits, documents or available services.

Investment returns

Performance of investment portfolios to 30 June 2026

Let's take AF Balanced High Growth as an example

The value of R100 invested over various periods to the end of June 2026

1

We measure how well a portfolio is performing by comparing it to a benchmark[1]. We can see that the portfolio is **better than** its benchmark over **most** periods.

2

Over a period of 10 years you would have R26 more for every R100 you saved in this investment portfolio instead of its benchmark.

Source: Alexforbes

4

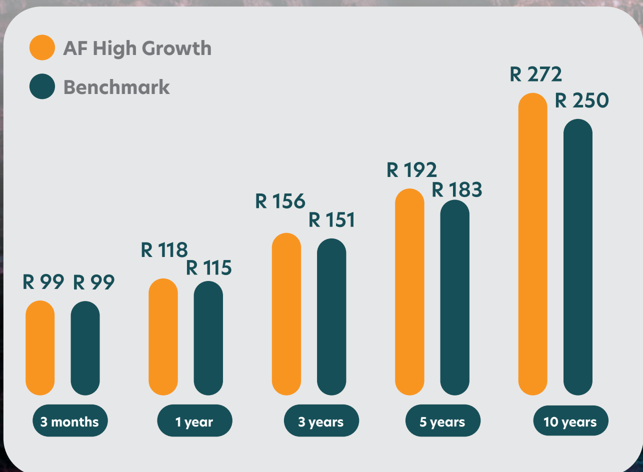
Keep in mind that the value of your investments go up and down.

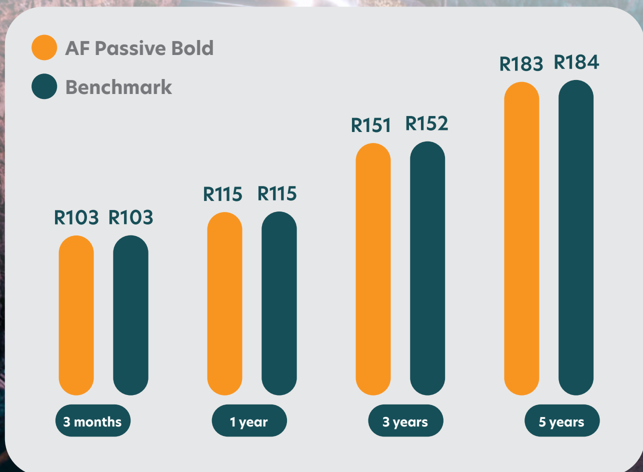
5

Invest over long periods for your money to grow, the longer the better.

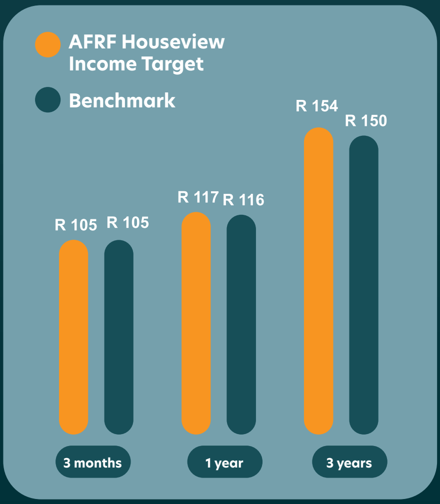
3

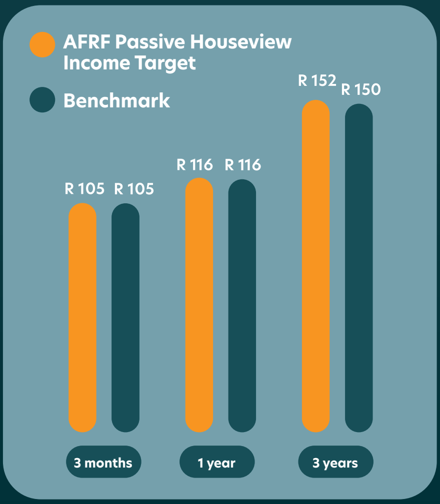
Over long periods, we expect the value of investments to grow in line with its target, which may not be the case in shorter periods. For this reason, it's better to focus on long periods like **five or ten years** when you look at retirement savings.

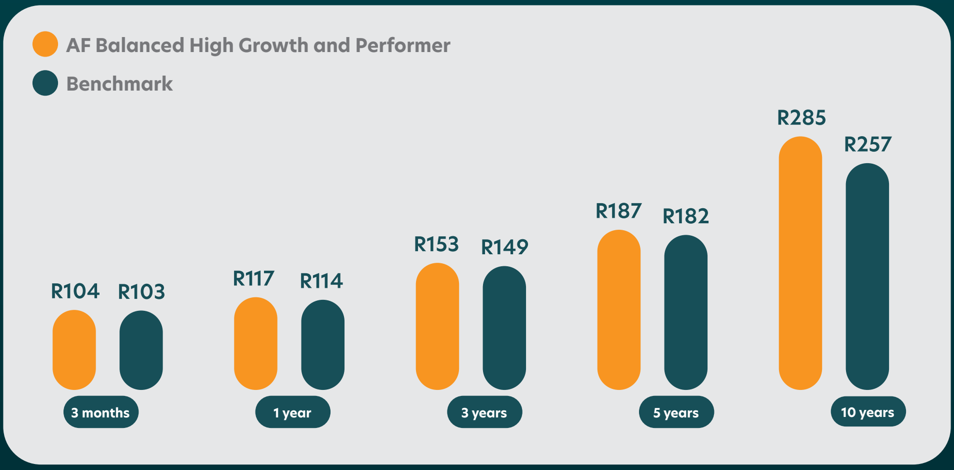


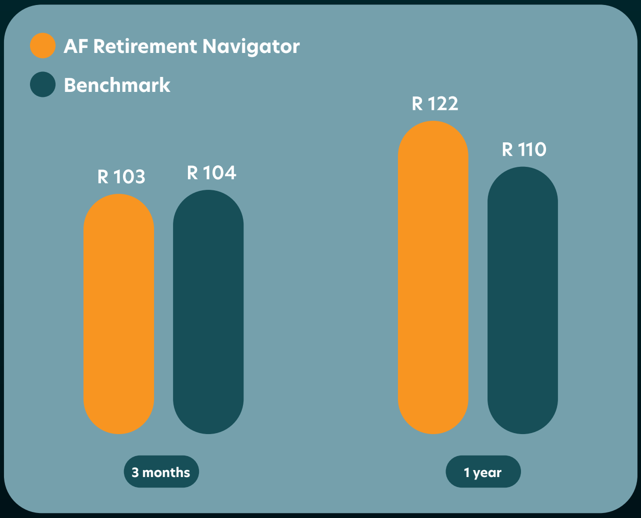


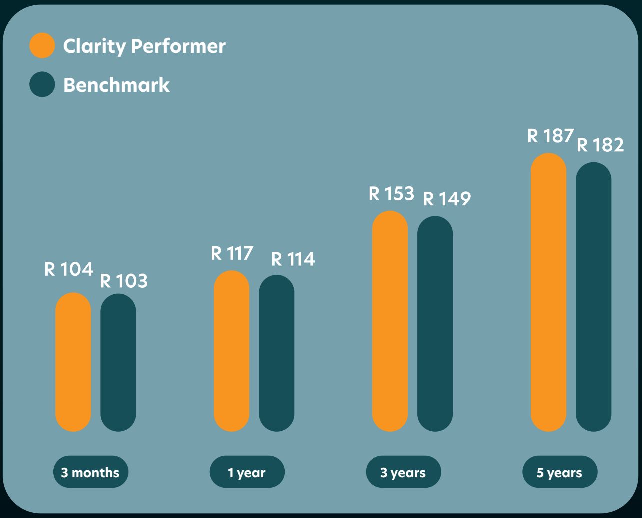
Details on how to read the charts are included on the previous page.











Click here to view the investment returns for all trustee approved portfolios.

Contact us

0860 100 333
Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:30

While care has been taken to present correct information, The fund, its trustees/PO (officers) and Alexforbes, its directors, officers and employees take no responsibility for any actions taken based on this information, all of which require financial advice. Please speak to your financial adviser for tailored advice based on your individual financial needs.