

**Press release****Britain, a nation of savers that needs more help**

*Employers are the gateway to get Britain investing but should play a greater role in financial education, says Equiniti*

Research from Equiniti, a leading investment and pension technology company, shows that uncertainty about what to do is preventing savers from investing as much as they want to. A survey of over 6,000 savers and investors found that more than half (58%) do not save or invest as much as they want, with around one in five (19.1) blaming that on uncertainty about what to do next.

The research, carried out with employees and investors from Equiniti's clients<sup>1</sup> which includes about half the FTSE 100, also showed that half of those surveyed first acquired shares through a company share scheme.

A similar number felt that their employer doesn't do enough to support informed financial decisions on savings and investments and would like to see them offer financial education, 49% and 46% respectively.

Phil Ainsley, managing director of Equiniti's employee services business, said: "Of the people we surveyed, many of them got into investing through their employer when they joined a company share plan. It shows that these schemes are a valuable gateway to saving and creating wealth for the longer term for many employees and - coming from the same source as their salary and pension - it's unsurprising they look to their employer for further guidance."

"The government has taken steps to address financial literacy in schools, particularly focusing on debt issues for those continuing in education, but this research shows that more can and should be done in the work place."

Phil added: "I wouldn't expect to see employers venturing into financial advice but many are starting to focus more on education."

Andrew Woolnough, Equiniti's Director, Employee Platforms and Engagement, is keen to support that corporate initiative and allow employees to make informed decisions. "People save or invest with our schemes through some of the biggest employers in the country, and they offer huge government backed incentives through tax savings and different investment options."

He continued "This isn't about telling people what to do, but equipping them to better understand their options. It's in the employers' interest, it helps build loyalty and mitigate financial stress in the workplace which could affect the bottom line with increased absenteeism or presenteeism affecting employee productivity."

Andrew concluded: "For the people we surveyed it is clear that Britain is still a nation of savers, but uncertainty is holding them back".

-Ends-

**For further information please contact:**

Alex Child-Villiers / William Barker

Temple Bar Advisory

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7002 1080

Email: alexcv@templebaradvisory.com / williams@templebaradvisory.com

**Notes**

Data tables

<b>Do you save or invest as much money as you would like to?</b>		
<b>Answer Choice</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>
1	Yes	42.5%
2	No	57.5%
<b>Which challenge most prevents you from achieving your saving and investment objectives?</b>		
<b>Answer Choice</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>
1	Lack of disposable income	66.9%
2	Uncertainty about what to do	19.1%
3	Lack of time	6.4%
4	Lack of interest	3.3%
5	Other (please specify):	4.3%
<b>How did you first acquire your shares?</b>		
<b>Answer Choice</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>
1	Inheritance	12.4%
2	Purchased by parents/grandparents	6.7%
3	Purchased by you or your financial adviser	40.2%
4	Employee Share Scheme eg Share Incentive Plan (SIP), ShareSave	50.3%
5	Other (please specify):	9.7%
<b>Do you feel your employer does enough to support you making informed financial decisions on savings and investments?</b>		
<b>Answer Choice</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>
1	Yes	51.2%
2	No	48.8%
<b>Which of the following from your employer would support you making better informed financial decisions on your savings and investments?</b>		
<b>Answer Choice</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>
1	Total Reward Statements	33.4%
2	More financial education in the workplace	46.4%

3	Access to more employee benefit choices	40.9%
4	Other (please specify):	7.0%

### Methodology

1. The Equiniti 2016 Savings and Investments Survey was conducted among shareholders of Equiniti clients with over 6,000 complete responses captured via an online survey. The survey was completed in August 2016.

### About Equiniti

Equiniti is a specialist outsourcer delivering technology-enabled solutions to large enterprises. It processes £90bn in payments every year, handles 88 million documents and pays 20 per cent of pensioners in the UK. We provide sophisticated administration, processing and payments services powered by up-to-the-minute technology. We are acknowledged leaders in many of our markets and keep things running smoothly for some of the UK's best-known brands and public sector organisations. Equiniti's services, which are delivered by over 3,500 employees across 28 locations, benefit 27 million people in the UK and 180 countries around the world.