

Terms of Business (UK)

Important Document Please Read and Retain

Accepting our Terms of Business and The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

This document sets out our commitment to you as our client and outlines the principles we follow in doing business with you. We (ABT) are a specialist provider in non-investment insurance contracts for commercial clients. Our permitted business is advising, arranging, dealing as agent and assisting in the administration and performance of general insurance contracts. By asking us to quote for, arrange or handle your insurances, you are providing your informed agreement to these Terms of Business.

For your own benefit and protection, you should read these terms carefully. We are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and our registration number is 463052. You may check this on the FCA's Register by visiting the FCA website: www.fca.org.uk or by contacting the FCA on Tel: 0800 111 6768 (Freephone 0300 500 8082 from the UK).

We may, at any time, and at our sole discretion, modify these Terms and Conditions, including our Privacy Policy. Any such modification will be effective immediately upon public posting and we will endeavour to notify clients digitally of any change. Your continued use of our Service following any such modification constitutes your acceptance of these modified Terms.

Our Service

Associated Beauty Therapists is an Insurance Intermediary, not an Insurer, and our role is being committed to providing a professional service for therapists across the United Kingdom and you will be classed as a Commercial Client.

We will not in any circumstances act as an insurer nor guarantee or warrant the solvency of any insurer. This document sets out our commitment to you as our client and outlines the principles we follow in doing business with you. In providing this service to you we act as agent to the insurer.

With regards to insurance, we source and arrange insurance products but do not offer advice or make recommendations when arranging your insurance. However, we may ask some questions to narrow down the selection of products on which we will provide details. We will provide you with the relevant information before we finalise your insurance arrangements, including the insurers we use, so you can make your own informed choice about how to proceed.

We mainly arrange or introduce with Balens Limited the following types of insurance: Professional Liability, Medical Malpractice using one insurer - Zurich Insurance Company Ltd, All Risks and Salon Packages using one insurer, Zurich Insurance Company Ltd and the Legal Package is offered by DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company Ltd (DAS). All these insurers provide us with Delegated Authority to bind cover, via Balens Limited. Balens Limited are a specialist insurance brokers and a copy of their Terms of Business can be obtained from www.balens.co.uk, ringing 01684 580771, or writing to their address, Balens Ltd, Bridge House, Portland Road, Malvern, WR14 2TA.

This service is provided on a non-advised basis and we will provide you with the relevant information before we finalise your insurance arrangements, including the insurers we use, so you can make your own informed choice about how to proceed.

Occasionally, if you have a bespoke insurance requirement, we will refer your case to Balens Limited, who will inform all parties of the service offered at that point.

Complaints and Compensation

We are an Ethical Firm and aim to provide you with a high level of customer service at all times, but if you are not satisfied, please contact ABT in writing to Mr. David Horton, The Courtyard, Wixford Park, George's Elm Lane, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4JS or by phone on Tel: 01789 773 573 and ask for Mr. Horton or email info@abtinsurance.co.uk. When dealing with your complaint we will follow our complaint handling procedure; a copy of which is available on request.

If you are still not satisfied, you may be entitled to refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) (except in the case of a business employing 10 persons or more and with a turnover or annual balance sheet exceeding €2 million, a charity with an annual income of £1 million or more or trustees of a trust with a net asset value of £1 million or more).

For further information you can visit FOS website www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk

We are covered by the Financial Services compensation Scheme (FSCS). You may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if we, Balens Limited or any insurers we select on your behalf are unable to meet our or their obligations. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. Insurance advising and arranging is covered for 90% of the claim, without any upper limit. For compulsory classes of insurance (such as Employers Liability), insurance advising and arranging is covered for 100% of the claim without any upper limit. Further information about compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS on 020 7892 7300 or www.fscs.org.uk.

Membership Benefits

Membership packages may vary according to the level of individual membership. We reserve the right to change the benefits that apply to ABT membership at any time without prior notice.

Any external providers of a benefit included within your membership package will have absolute discretion in relation to the provision of services, and membership of the ABT does not guarantee that the external provider will be able to fulfil that section of the benefit. Where possible, ABT will attempt to offer an alternate benefit during a cease of service but this is not guaranteed. Services provided by a third party will be subject to the provider's own terms and conditions, and we will not accept any liability for loss or damage suffered as a result of a fault, error or omission in the provision of these services.

Please note, membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable after the initial 14 day period and run for the full year regardless of cancellation or amendments.

Payment for our Services

The only fees that ABT charge are insurance administration fees and a £5.00 membership fee. In addition, we normally receive commission from the insurers or product providers, details of which are available on request. Any commission we receive will be paid from the insurance premium payable by you. We may also make charges for handling your insurance. We also draw your attention to the sections headed Cancellation of Insurances and Ending your Relationship with us.

Handling Money

Our financial arrangements with most insurance companies are on a 'Risk Transfer' basis. This means that we act as agents of the insurer in collecting premiums and handling refunds due to clients. In these circumstances such monies are deemed to be held by the insurer(s) with which your insurance is arranged. However, if Risk Transfer does not apply, such monies will be held by us in a Statutory Trust account set up in accordance with FCA rules. Interest earned on monies held in such a Statutory Trust account will be retained by us.

If you object to your money being held in a Statutory Trust account you should advise us immediately. Otherwise, your agreement to pay the insurance premium and/or membership together with your acceptance of these Terms of Business will constitute your informed consent to ABT holding your money in Statutory Trust account. For the purpose of some transactions, client and/or Insurers money may pass through other authorised intermediaries, i.e. Balens Limited, before it is received by the insurer.

Cancellation of Membership and Insurances

You should make any request for the cancellation of membership [including accreditation] or an insurance policy in writing and any relevant documents or certificates of insurance should be returned to us. You are entitled to cancel insurance policies within 14 days from the day after the day of conclusion of the contract. You will be charged for reasonable costs incurred in relation to the cover and services provided. Cancellation by you in other circumstances may result in enhanced, short-period charges as determined by the product provider and in some circumstances there may be no refund of membership or insurance premiums paid. Accreditation [with or without membership] is a non-refundable process unless we are unable to insure the treatments being applied for at the point of application. We reserve the right to withdraw insurance for any accredited treatment at any time and with no notice. You should also be aware that, in certain circumstances according to the terms of membership and insurance policies, insurers may be entitled to cancel your policy and allow a proportionate return of premium. If you allow your insurance to lapse we may not be able to reinstate the policy incorporating previous terms, conditions and costing.

Ending our Relationship

You may terminate our authority to act on your behalf with 14 days notice or as otherwise agreed without penalty. Notice of this termination must be given in writing and will take effect from the date of receipt. Termination is without prejudice to any transactions already initiated which will be completed according to these terms of business unless otherwise agreed in writing. You will be liable to pay for any transactions of adjustments effective prior to termination and we will be entitled to retain any and all membership fees or insurance brokerage payable in relation to insurance policies placed by us prior to the date of termination. In circumstances where we feel we cannot continue providing services to you, we will give you a minimum of 7 days notice.

Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for answering any questions or assumptions you may agree to honestly and to the best of your knowledge, providing the complete and accurate information which insurers require in connection with any proposal for insurance cover. This is particularly important before taking out a policy but also at renewal or if you make a midterm amendment to your policy. If you fail to disclose information, or misrepresent any fact which may influence the insurer's decision to accept the risk or the terms offered, this could invalidate the policy and mean that claims may not be paid in part or full. You must check all details on any proposal form or Statement of Facts and pay particular attention to any declaration you may be asked to sign. You must read all insurance documents issued to you and ensure that you are aware of the cover, limits and other terms that apply. Particular attention should be paid to any warranties and conditions as failure to comply with them could invalidate your policy. You must take note of the required procedures in the event of a claim, which will be stated in the policy documentation. Generally, Insurers require immediate notification of a claim or circumstances that might lead to a claim. You must inform us immediately of any changes in circumstances that may affect the services provided by us or the cover provided by your policy. If you are unsure about any matter, please contact us for guidance. Changes of Circumstances Notification -You must notify us in writing if there are any changes since originally completing your proposal form or other relevant documentation, as this could have a bearing on your cover. We undertake to notify this to your Insurers and supply appropriate documentation for the alteration.

Processing and the Use of your Personal Data

In your dealings with us you may provide us with information that may include data that is known as personal data. Where we process any personal data we obtain in the course of providing our services to you we comply with statutory data processing requirements as set out by the Data Protection Act 2018. The personal data we will collect will include information relating to your name, address, date of birth, contact details, criminal offences, financial information i.e. in respect of any County Court Judgement, Individual Voluntary arrangement, company voluntary arrangements etc., and where relevant to certain types of policies, your personal health information.

We will process your personal data to allow us to provide you with our services as your Insurance broker in quoting for, arranging and administering your insurances. In processing personal data for insurance purposes about your health and any criminal offences, we will only do so to enable us to provide our service to you and on the basis of it being in the public interest.

We will only use your data for the purpose for which it was collected. In administering your insurances and/or claims, we will only grant access to or share your data within our firm or other firms associated with us, i.e. authorised partners, third parties and our market service providers such as insurers and other product or service providers, or your professional body/ training school, where we are entitled to do so by law under lawful data processing, or as required by law to comply with regulatory or legal requirements. These parties may be inside or outside the European Economic Area.

Your personal data will also be used to manage future communications between ourselves. Where you have agreed, or in circumstances where to do so will be in our mutual interests, your personal data will be used to provide you with further information about our wider products and services. You can opt out from receiving such communications by emailing: info@abtinsurance.co.uk, telephone: 01789 773573 or by writing to: ABT The Courtyard, Wixford Park, George's Elm Lane, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4JS

We will not otherwise use or disclose the personal information we hold without your consent. In processing personal data for insurance purposes about health or criminal offences, we will only do so to enable us to provide our service to you and on the basis of it being in the public interest.

The Data Protection Act 2018 provides you with Access Rights that allow you to gain an understanding on the data being processed, who we share it with, for what purpose, why we need to retain it and retention periods, to object to the processing and to place restrictions on the processing, to request copies of your data and to request the deletion of your data.

Subject to certain exemptions, you will be entitled to have access to your personal data. We will maintain records of the insurance contract(s) we arrange on your behalf. It is our policy to keep records in accordance with best practice and as stated in our Privacy Notice.

If you require further information on how we process your data or you wish to exercise your right under the Act, please contact our Data Privacy Representative by emailing: dataprotection@balens.co.uk, info@abtinsurance.co.uk or by writing to The Data Protection Representative at: The Courtyard, Wixford Park, George's Elm Lane, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4JS or by telephoning 01789 773573. How we process your personal data is detailed further within our Privacy Notice: www.abtinsurance.co.uk/Privacy-Policy

Claims Handling Arrangements

It is essential that Balens are notified immediately of any claims, or circumstances which could give rise to a claim providing details honestly and accurately. Your policy wordings will describe in detail the procedure and conditions in connection with making a claim. The final decision regarding the payment of a claim will be made by the relevant insurer.

In addition to providing a claims handling service Balens will:

- Employ due care and skill if we act on your behalf in respect of a claim.
- Give you guidance on pursuing a claim under the policy and, if required, negotiate with Insurers on your behalf.
- Provide you with information about how to handle complaints and potential clashes between you and your clients.
- Inform you in writing if we are unable to deal with any part of a claim.
- Handle claims fairly and promptly and keep you informed of their progress.
- Account to you, without avoidable delay, once a claim has been agreed and settled.

Settlement of claims will be dependent upon decisions and collection from insurers. Part payment may be made during the collection process, but ABT or Balens cannot be responsible for the wrongful non-payment or delay by insurers in paying any claim. Claims information may be used by Balens or insurers concerned for underwriting, statistical analysis, management information, market research and risk management. Insurers may pass your claims information to the Claims and Underwriting Exchange Register, run by Insurance Database Services Ltd (IDSL) & the Association of British Insurers (ABI). Also, to prevent and detect fraud, insurers may share your claims information with the Police. We may also share your claims information with any association or professional body that you are a member of.

Quotation Validity Period

There is usually a 15 or 30 day validity period after which it will be necessary to re-quote. This will be stated in your quotation letter which you should refer to. It will be necessary to sign a further declaration after a 30 day period has expired in order to go on cover or continue cover. Cover for previous work performed (retroactive cover) may not be included by Insurers if a gap has occurred between a previous policy and a new or renewal one. Cover also needs to be provided after termination (run-off) on some of our specialised policies should you not take up a renewal from us, it is important to always refer to our instructions and information in this regard.

Retention of Documents on Client's Behalf:

ABT and Balens will maintain records of the insurance contract(s) we arrange on your behalf. It is our policy to keep records in accordance with best practice within the insurance industry. We are happy to provide this service free of charge for as long as you are our client.

Governing Law

ABT undertakes its activities in accordance with the Laws of England and Wales and any disputes will be governed by and construed in accordance with the Laws of England and Wales.

Conflicts of Interest and Call Recording

Occasions can arise where we or one of our clients or product providers may have a potential conflict of interest with business being transacted for you. If this happens, and we become aware that a potential conflict exists, we will write to you and obtain your consent before we carry out your instructions and we will detail the steps we will take to ensure fair treatment. For training and monitoring purposes your telephone conversations with us may be recorded.

Changes of Circumstances Notification

You must notify us in writing if there are any changes since originally completing your proposal form or other relevant documentation, as this could have a bearing on your cover. We undertake to notify this to your insurers and supply appropriate documentation for the alteration.

Treating Customers Fairly

ABT and Balens are ethical firms and we aim to treat our customers fairly.

Telephone Communications

Calls to ABT may be recorded or monitored for training and compliance purposes. Although not all calls are recorded, where available free of charge internal document that will outline documents is available along with system notes. With regard to requests for official transcripts, these are available as outlined in our web/telephone terms at a cost of £250 per call [from 0-15minutes]. ABT use a third party to produce transcripts and the fee is a direct cost – therefore, should you wish to receive transcripts we will supply a list of available calls from our system and a charge will be made prior to supplying.

Associated Beauty Therapists Limited registered in England & Wales with company number 6135223.
Registered office is at The Courtyard, Wixford Park, George's Elm Lane, Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, B50 4JS
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority 463052.