

Equity Release

Lending policy



Contents

1.0 Standard criteria	3	5.0 Property location	7
1.1 Applicant & property	3	5.1 Rural & agricultural	7
2.0 Construction	3	5.2 Commercial	7
2.1 Wall structure, roof structure & essential repairs	3	5.3 Coastal	7
3.0 Property tenure	4	6.0 Environmental	8
3.1 Freehold	4	6.1 Flood	8
3.2 Leasehold	4	6.2 Subsidence	8
3.3 Absolute ownership & other Scottish tenures	4	6.3 Mining, radon & horticulture	8
4.0 Property type	5	7.0 Property ownership	9
4.1 Houses	5	7.1 Single occupancy	9
4.2 Flats & maisonettes	5	7.2 Joint occupancy	9
4.3 Ex-local authority	5	7.3 Power of attorney	9
4.4 Sheltered-accommodation	5	7.4 Tenants, lodgers & other occupants	10
4.5 High-value properties (£1m & over)	5	7.5 Trusts & second charges	10
4.6 Extensions, annexes & outbuildings	5	8.0 Reason for loan	10
4.7 Non-standard utilities (inc. septic tanks)	6	8.1 Responsible lending	10
4.8 Listed properties	6	8.2 Home improvements	10
4.9 New build properties	6	Contacts	11

Note

If you would like to make sure that you have the latest version of this policy, please visit www.LV.com/adviser/literature

1.0 Standard criteria

1.1 Applicant & property

Certain applications are categorised as 'standard'. The usual checks of the application will still take place and the property will be underwritten after the valuation.

Applicant

- Aged between 60 and 95.
- UK resident with an address history covering 36 months. UK or EEA/Swiss citizenship or non EEA/Swiss citizenship with permanent rights of residency.
- Sole owner of the property or standard joint owners if married/civil partnership/cohabiting couple and siblings, currently residing in the property (see section 7).
- Low risk credit report.

Property

- Situated in mainland England (inc. Isle of Wight), Scotland & Wales (inc. Anglesey). [Note – certain isles around the mainland UK are classified as 'mainland' however we usually can't accept these cases due to them falling outside our criteria on remoteness (section 5.1)]. We are unable to accept properties in Northern Ireland, Scottish Islands, Channel Islands, Scilly Isles and Isle of Man.
- Property valued between £100k and £5m. Properties valued £1m or over will require individual underwriting.
- Occupied as main residence by applicant/s. Second/Holiday homes are not permitted.
- Freehold house or leasehold house/flat/maisonette (within minimum lease terms as seen in section 4.2).
- Standard construction (e.g. conventional brick, stone or timber frame built post-1970.).
- Standard utilities (e.g. mains gas, water and electricity connected to the National Electricity Grid).

2.0 Construction

2.1 Wall structure, roof structure & essential repairs

For properties that are non-standard construction we generally look at whether the structure is easy to obtain a mortgage on, has evidence of being historically sound and how common the property type is in the area. Properties designated defective under the 1984 Housing Act are not permitted.

Wall & roof structures

For properties that have non-standard constructions we generally review the property to judge:

- the potential lifespan of the material;
- the amount and regularity of maintenance that may be required;
- whether it has historic evidence of being a sound structure; and
- how common it is in the general area of the subject property.

Subject to a favourable valuation report, examples of non-standard construction we would consider are Laing Easiform properties built post-1945 and Wimpey No-Fines properties.

Single skin walls are permitted where they are single storey and represent a minor part of the whole property in non-habitable rooms. In habitable rooms, up to 10% single skin can be accepted, subject to no negative comments on resale from the valuer.

Cornish concrete properties built pre-1965 will require a Mundic test. The property must be graded A1, A2, or A3. Reports need to be extended to LV= as lender.

Flat roof properties may be acceptable depending on the percentage of flat roof and the construction material used. We can generally accept up to 30% for felt flat roofs (as a percentage of the total roof area).

We may accept properties with up to 50% flat roof if it is not constructed of felt and has a guarantee with a remaining validity period of ten years or more.

Purpose built blocks of flats with a flat roof are acceptable regardless of percentage.

Spray foam

Properties with open cell roof coating or spray foam insulation applied to the roof cavity are not acceptable.

Turnerised roof

Properties where the roof has been turnerised are not permitted.

Essential repairs

Should a property require essential repairs, quotes are required for the work and we will consider up to a maximum of £5,000 of works required.

Where essential repairs are identified, Underwriters will assess the materiality of what is required and will consult with the surveyor. Repairs will need to be carried out prior to completion and be subject to re-inspection if it is felt they are:

- In need of immediate attention
- Significantly impacting the property
- Posing a significant risk if not addressed

Where acceptable, repairs can be completed on a schedule of works undertaking post-completion. They must be completed within three months.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

- Flat roof guarantees.
- Reports (e.g. damp & timber, electrical etc.) and quotes for any works required.

3.0 Property tenure

3.1 Freehold

We have provided detail on the freehold properties that we can accept and the freehold properties we can't accept.

Acceptable freehold properties:

- **Houses** – we are happy to accept freehold houses.
- **Ex-local authority** – we are able to accept freehold ex-local authority houses subject to a favourable valuation.

Unacceptable freehold properties:

- **Flats** – we do not accept freehold flats, however, we can usually accept a case if the freehold is held in a separate management company. The property must also have a lease with an unexpired term within our parameters. There should be a maintenance agreement in place for the upkeep of the common areas of the building/development. Please see section 4.2 for further detail.
- **Freehold held by local authority** – we are unable to accept properties that have the local authority as the freeholder.
- **Freeholder owns whole property but only wants loan on one flat** – it is quite common for the freeholder to own the whole property that has then been converted into flats. As long as this is a small development it is acceptable for the freeholder to be the applicant provided a lease is granted for the subject flat.
- **Flying freeholds** – we can sometimes accept a property with a flying freehold of 15% or less (this includes ginnels and snickets).
- **Sheltered/age restricted properties** – we are unable to accept properties with age restrictions.

3.2 Leasehold

We have provided detail on the leasehold properties that we can accept and the leasehold properties we can't accept. Acceptance assumes that our other criteria has been fulfilled in regards to lease term and service charges.

Acceptable leasehold properties:

- **Houses** – we are happy to accept leasehold houses.
- **Flats** – we are happy to accept leasehold flats providing our other criteria are fulfilled. Please see section 4.2 for further detail.

Unacceptable leasehold properties:

- **Ex-local authority** – we are unable to accept leasehold ex-local authority properties.
- **Resale fees** – we are unable to accept properties with any resale/transfer fees etc.
- **Sheltered/age restricted properties** – we are unable to accept properties with age restrictions.

3.3 Absolute ownership & other Scottish tenures

We have provided detail on absolute ownership properties and some further detail regarding other Scottish tenures that are most common.

Absolute ownership

This form of tenure is most similar to the England & Wales definition of freehold, although we treat absolute ownership cases somewhat differently to Freehold cases. If the subject property is a flat then LV= Equity Release Underwriting may need to see the deed of conditions and also review detail of an independent management company being in place to manage the service fees. If there are no deed of conditions, or these are unavailable, please refer the case to LV= Equity Release Underwriting for consideration. If the subject property is an absolute ownership house then we are fine to proceed with the case.

Ex-local authority absolute ownership

We are unable to accept an ex-local authority absolute ownership flat.

Absolute ownership owner owns the whole property but only wants the loan on one flat

We are unable to accept this scenario as the absolute ownership does not allow the owner to transfer one property out of a development to the same owner as they already own the absolute ownership.

Feudal tenure

The vast majority of property in Scotland is held as feudal. This was abolished in 2008 to be replaced with absolute ownership.

Crofting tenure

We are unable to accept a property with crofting tenure, either full or partial.

4.0 Property Type

4.1 Houses

When we review an applicant's house we're looking to accept properties that fit within our lending criteria. We do this by reviewing the location of the property, the construction type and the house-price trends in the area. We've provided further detail on the factors that are key when appraising an applicant's property.

- The property should be in keeping with other dwellings in the area and have positive resale potential. Market data and historic sales trends in the area will also be used to assess the property market in a specific location.
- We take into account the proximity of commercial or environmental factors that may impact the property in its location. For further information on properties close to or containing commercial aspects see section 5.2.
- We assess the proximity of amenities in the location; this is of particular concern for remote/rural properties. See section 5.1 for further detail.
- We consider the construction type and any repairs that may have been undertaken on the property, comparing the subject property with other properties in the area of the similar build type. This may take into account subsidence defects, soil types and issues with construction, for example.
- If the property is ex-local authority then please refer to section 4.3.

4.2 Flats & maisonettes

When we review an applicant's flat we're looking at a few key aspects, on top of the usual location and construction review, in order to mitigate against certain risks.

The lease terms provide a safeguard to LV= Equity Release and the client whilst the service charge criteria means that the property will be maintained to a certain standard by having a fund for the upkeep of common areas. By providing a maximum limit we minimise the chances of excessive charges affecting resale.

- **Storeys** – the maximum number of storeys we accept without a lift is 4 unless the property is situated on the basement or entrance floor. The maximum we accept with a lift is 6.
- **Lease Term** – there must be a minimum remaining lease term of 175 years minus the age of the youngest borrower e.g. if the youngest customer is 60, then remaining lease term must be 115 years or more.
- **Tenure** – we accept leasehold flats in England and Wales with an acceptable remaining lease term. We do not accept freehold flats. We can however consider share of freehold properties with appropriate service charges. Absolute title flats (Scotland) are acceptable if service charges are in place or if there is a relevant maintenance agreement. We do not accept ex-local authority flats, or flats where the freehold is held by the local authority or a housing association (including 'supported housing'). See section 3 for more details.

- **Service charges & ground rent** – we can accept properties where the combined annual service charge and ground rent costs are 2.5% or less of the property value. Ground rent must also not exceed 0.2% of the property value and acceptance is subject to the amount and ongoing terms not being considered onerous. Please note, sheltered accommodation/age restricted properties are not permitted.
- **Studio flats** – we are unable to accept studio flats.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

Confirmation of the lease term. Confirmation of an independent management company managing the freehold. Confirmation of the service charges. The lease may be requested.

4.3 Ex-local authority

When we review an ex-local authority case we're especially careful to check the construction type and location of the subject property. We've provided further details on these types of properties.

- **Flats** – we do not accept ex-local authority flats.
- **Leasehold houses** – we do not accept ex-local authority leasehold houses. This is due to these types of properties' values historically suffering during economic downturns.
- **Freehold houses** – we will accept ex-local authority freehold houses subject to a favourable valuation.
- **Housing association** – please be aware that we do not accept housing association or social housing associated management companies.
- **Ex-local authority with restriction (section 20, repurchase order etc.)** – please be aware that we don't accept ex-local authority properties that have a restriction on the property. This includes age restrictions and local authority repurchase orders.

4.4 Sheltered accommodation

- We are unable to accept sheltered accommodation or any form of age restricted property.

4.5 High-value (£1m & over)

High-value properties are properties valued at £1m or over. We review these cases thoroughly at application so we can assess whether to proceed with the case.

- For all properties estimated to be valued at £1m or over, underwriters will review in detail at application. Please note, properties over £5m are not acceptable.

4.6 Extensions, annexes & outbuildings

It is quite common for a subject property to have an extension or other accommodation included on the title deeds to the property. We have provided detail here for cases involving extensions, annexes and outbuildings; please refer the case to LV= Equity Release Underwriting if further investigation is required.

- **Extensions** – we are unable to accept properties with extensions greater than 50% of the overall property (total floor space including extension). Extensions should be in keeping with the surrounding area.

- **Annexes** – detached or integrated annexes must not exceed 50% of the overall property and cannot have separate utility bills or council tax to the subject property. The annexe must be on the same title as the main property and needs to be of standard construction and in-keeping with the rest of our lending criteria. Any annexe should have no formal letting and only be used for short stays by friends and family. Acceptance will rely on a favourable valuation with no negative comments from the surveyor in relation to the annexe.
- **Outbuildings** – it is common to find a rural property or an agricultural property with outbuildings. Assuming there is no commercial or agricultural tie to the outbuildings we are usually fine to proceed with these.

4.7 Non-standard utilities (inc. septic tanks)

Our preference is for a property to have standard utilities: detail can be found in section 1.1. If the property has non-standard utilities then we can sometimes make an exception so please refer the case to LV= Equity Release Underwriting. Further details on specific non-standard utilities can be found detailed in this section.

- **Non-standard utilities** – some non-standard utilities may be acceptable. Properties with eco-friendly utilities (such as solar panels) may be permitted where no concern is raised by the valuer and they are compliant with building regulations. Alternative fuel central heating and shared septic tanks are not permitted.
- **Septic tanks** – we will accept a septic tank as long as it is maintained to a high standard and is not shared with another property in location or maintenance responsibility.
- **Solar panels** – LV= Equity Release Underwriting first need to know if these have been purchased or whether the applicant has entered into an airspace lease. If the solar panels have been purchased then the valuer will assess the potential impact on the value. If the applicant has entered into an airspace lease then we will need to review the lease. We also require sight of the solar panel firm's agreement to the CML guidelines and evidence that the firm is Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) compliant. Some leases do not have the relevant Mortgage in Possession clause and are therefore unacceptable. Some leases do not provide adequate termination clauses for the applicant and are therefore unacceptable.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

- Solar panel airspace lease.
- Solar panel firm's agreement to Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) guidelines.
- Solar panel firm's Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) compliance.

Note

Please be aware that there should only be one set of utility bills at the subject address. Evidence of further sets of utilities could mean the property has a self-contained annexe or separate accommodation. Please see section 4.7 for further detail.

4.8 Listed properties

If a property has been listed then it has been identified as being of special architectural or historic interest. Listed factors can vary between properties and we've provided some further detail here.

- **England & Wales** – we are unable to accept Grade 1 and Grade 2* (and some Grade 2) Listed properties due to the potential for increased maintenance and repairs that may be required for these types of property. Additional permissions from local planning authorities and in some instances sanctions from English Heritage can be detrimental to resale. It is recommended that work is undertaken by an expert in the field of listed buildings which can be more expensive.
 - **Grade 2 Listing** – we can accept most Grade 2 listed properties. Generally they are buildings of national importance and of special interest.
 - **Grade 1 & 2* Listings** – We are unable to accept these buildings as they are of exceptional interest and are sometimes considered to be internationally important.
- **Scotland** – we are unable to accept Category A & Category B properties for the same reasons listed above. We can accept most Category C(S) buildings.
 - **Category A & B listings** – We are unable to accept these properties as they are of national, international and regional importance. They can be architectural, historic or fine little-altered examples of some particular period, style or build type. They may also be major examples of some particular period, style or building type which have been altered.
 - **Category C (S) listing** – we can consider Category C(S) buildings that are originally constructed or moderately altered traditional buildings.

4.9 New build properties

We require a new build warranty from a reputable company to be in place. The property or development must be finished and habitable before we are able to lend. We may request figures for the number of properties sold to ensure any development will be sufficiently inhabited.

Please note, new build incentive fees are restricted to 5% of the purchase price. If incentives total over 5%, the excess would be deducted from the purchase or valuation price which is used in calculating LTV.

5.0 Property location

5.1 Rural & agricultural

When we review a rural or agricultural property we are assessing the location of the property, the market trends in the area and the common property usage in the area. This means that we are sometimes unable to lend on a property due to it having commercial agricultural ties or because the property is too rural.

- **Location** – many rural and agricultural properties fall outside of our remoteness criterion as local amenities and services are further than 10 km from the subject property.
- **Acreage** – we allow a maximum of 15 acres on the subject property.
- **Commercial & agricultural ties** – we do not accept commercially operated farms or small-holdings. We also do not accept properties with agricultural ties or restrictive covenants relating to the property or land.
- **Historic ties** – we are unable to accept properties that have historic restrictive ties (for example, Church of England or National Trust ties).

Note

We do not consider properties on an island apart from the Isle of Wight and Anglesey.

5.2 Commercial

Some subject properties are either in close proximity to a commercial property or have a commercial aspect themselves. Further detail has been provided for cases that fall within these categories.

- **Proximity to a commercial property** – we take into account the location of the subject property and where the commercial premises are located. Where subject properties are adjacent to commercial premises, we are unable to accept. We've provided a list of examples that we are unable to accept in close proximity:
 - Oil refineries/fracking
 - Prisons
 - Recycling units
 - Licensed premises
 - Commercial factories
 - Food prepared and/or sold on a commercial scale
 - Industrial parks
 - General industrial use
 - Storage or distribution

- **Commercial venture operated from subject property** – we are unable to accept a case if there is a business registered to the property; we will request that the business is deregistered before we can proceed with the case. We are also unable to accept properties used in part or wholly for commercial purposes, even if the business is registered elsewhere. Properties with outbuildings in use for commercial purposes are also not acceptable.
- **Properties situated above a commercial premises** – we may not be able to accept a property if it is situated above a commercial premises. Properties situated on the floor directly above a commercial premises are not acceptable. Please refer the case to LV= Equity Release Underwriting for review.

5.3 Coastal

Some subject properties are in close proximity to the coast. These can pose an increased risk due to flooding or erosion and therefore we may not be able to accept the case. Further detail has been provided for cases that may be at risk due to their coastal location.

- **Flood risk** – all properties must fulfil our flood risk criteria (please see 6.1 for further details).
- **Coastal erosion** – properties currently suffering from, or perceived to be at risk of coastal erosion will be declined.
- **Construction** – the construction type of properties in close proximity to the coast may be considered non-standard due to the materials used to mitigate the environmental impact of such a location.

6.0 Environmental

6.1 Flood

Due to a combination of climate factors and reduced flood-defence fund allocation, flood risk has increased significantly over the past few years in the UK. We need to be especially prudent with properties that have flooded in the past 15 years but we will assess all properties for their flood risk based on flood mapping tools.

- Properties that have flooded through an environmental cause (e.g. river flood, increased groundwater levels) in the past 15 years will be declined irrespective of whether an insurance claim was made.
- If the subject property has not flooded in the past 15 years or has flooded through non-environmental causes (e.g. burst water mains, overflowing bath) then the property will be assessed using flood mapping tools.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

We may request sight of the insurance schedule, premiums and excess in the event of a flood if the property has previously flooded.

6.2 Subsidence

Subsidence and the future risk of subsidence is a significant risk that we must identify. We have provided further details below regarding acceptability.

- Properties with the presence of ongoing, progressive, or the need for monitoring of structural movement are not permitted.
- Properties that have been underpinned in the last 3 years are ineligible.
- Properties that have been underpinned but show evidence of progressive movement are ineligible.
- Properties that have been underpinned should have a certificate of structural adequacy from a reputable company warranting the works undertaken.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

We may need a certificate of structural adequacy.

6.3 Mining, radon & horticulture

When we review a valuation of a subject property it is quite common to find that the property is in an historic mining area, or an area with high levels of radon gas, or is impacted by particular horticulture. Further detail has been provided on each of these factors.

- **Mining** – if a property has been indicated by the valuer to be in an area of historic mining activity then we may not need to investigate further. If the valuer indicates that the property is impacted by historic mining activity then we will need to request a Mining Report for the property.
- **Radon gas** – it is quite common for a property to be in an area with high levels of radon gas.
- **Horticulture** – if the subject property is potentially impacted by trees close to the property then we may need a tree-surgeon's report as subsidence and other risks may lead to the property being declined. If the subject property contains an invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or similar, or it is indicated that a neighbour's property contains an invasive species, then we may not be able to proceed.
- Properties with Japanese Knotweed are considered acceptable if:
 - it has been treated by a Property Care Association (PCA) or an Invasive Non-Native Specialists Association (INNSA) member, supported by a 5 year insurance backed warranty against re-appearance, and
 - is >7m away from the property (i.e. was classified a Risk Category 1, 2 or 3), and
 - there is no evidence it has returned.
- **Unstable soil** – if the subject property has been built on unstable soil, for example an historic landfill site, or has had specific foundations installed to overcome the unstable soil then the case may be declined. Please refer the case to LV= Equity Release Underwriting for individual consideration.
- **Fracking** – if the subject property is potentially impacted by current or future fracking proposals then the case may be declined.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

We may request certain specialist reports and quotes for work required, depending on the nature of the environmental concern.

7.0 Property ownership

7.1 Single occupancy

Standard property ownership is single or joint occupancy of the property (if married/civil partnership/cohabiting couple and siblings) with the applicant(s) named on the title deeds. There are a wide range of non-standard ownership which we have detailed however please refer to LV= Equity Release Underwriting if there is any doubt that the case may not be acceptable.

- **Single occupant** – if an applicant is the sole owner-occupier then they must be the sole name on the title deeds.
- **Divorced or separated couples** – if an applicant has previously been married/civil partnership but they now live in the property by themselves and are the only name on the title deeds then we need a document that legally confirms the separation from their partner.
- **Borrower is living separately due to care needs** – where an application is in joint names, however one of the applicants resides in permanent long term care and will not be returning to the main residence, an application may proceed with a suitable power of attorney (one with no conflict of interests). Where the applicant is married and the title is in their sole name, however the spouse is in permanent long term care, applications can be considered subject to confirmation being provided they are not in a position to return to the property and a suitable power of attorney being in place. A waiver must be completed by the attorney.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

- A doctor's note confirming either of the 'Long Term Care' conditions as defined in section 'Spouse is living separately due to care needs'.
- An occupancy waiver signed by a suitable Power of Attorney.

Note – we define 'Long Term Care' as:

- Care the applicant receives away from their property permanently due to a physical or mental condition which results in them being: **either**
- Unable to safely make a decision on their own, or suffering from memory loss or confusion, **or**
- Unable to independently carry out two or more of the following everyday activities: bathing, dressing, eating, toilet use and walking or transferring (for example getting out of bed or chair) **and**
- It's very likely they won't be able to return to their property to live in on a permanent basis. We may require a letter from the applicant's doctor to confirm that the above conditions have been met.

7.2 Joint Occupancy

Standard property ownership is single or joint occupancy of the property (if married/civil partnership/cohabiting couple and siblings) with the applicant(s) named on the title deeds.

- **Standard joint occupancy** (Section 1.1) requires both borrowers to be on the deeds of the property at completion.
- **Tenants in Common** – we are unable to accept properties held Tenants in Common (form a restriction on the property title).

7.3 Power of attorney

Where an applicant (Donor) is the subject of an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) or Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), we need a copy of the EPA/LPA which has been certified by a solicitor on each page.

Before we will lend these must be either stamped by the Court of Protection, or registered by the Public Guardian Office. We will require evidence of identity for the attorney. Power of attorney is not valid if the person(s) acting in the interest of the applicant is connected with the property, has any interests in the property or is living in the property. Funds must be used for the joint benefit of the applicants or the sole benefit of the donor.

For properties in England & Wales we can consider:

- **General power of attorney** – attorney can act as the donor would lawfully do. This document can be revoked by the donor at any time and cannot be used to give the donor's money away as this contradicts the strict financial guidelines around power of attorney.
- **Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)** – no longer available but still valid if set up before October 2007. Donor can request the document only comes into force once they become mentally incapable but can be used immediately. If donor becomes mentally incapable, attorney must register the EPA. Has to be registered with COP and once registered, cannot be revoked without COP permission. EPA is automatically revoked on death of donor or bankruptcy.
- **Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)** – for property and financial affairs. Can appoint at any time and include specific instructions for when donor loses capacity. Cannot be used until the LPA has been registered with Office of Public Guardian (OPG). Donor can revoke if they still have mental capacity and will be automatically revoked if donor or attorney is made bankrupt or dies, through divorce or attorney loses mental capacity.

For properties in Scotland we can consider:

- **Continuing power of attorney** – if appointed between Jan 1991 & Apr 2001 this document will continue after donor incapacity unless stipulated in document. If set up before Jan 1991, POA becomes invalid on donor loss of mental capacity but attorney can still act under negotiorum gestio (informal agreement to act like they would had they been given authority). If appointed after Apr 2001 POA has to be registered with OPG in Scotland.
- **Guardianship** – court order from sheriff to appoint a guardian to look after the affairs of someone who lacks capacity and specifically states what guardian can do. Requires an indemnity insurance to safeguard adult from fraudulent actions of guardian.
- **Intervention Order** – one off order from court specific to one task.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

A copy of the EPA / LPA certified by a solicitor on each page and either stamped by the Court of Protection, or registered by the Public Guardian Office.

7.4 Tenants, lodgers & other occupants

We are happy to consider properties with lodgers, however, we will need to consider these cases individually. Please refer to LV= Equity Release Underwriting for review.

- **Lodgers** may be acceptable providing no formal agreement is in place and that there are no more than two in the property. Lodgers must sign an occupancy waiver to confirm they will leave the property should the applicant move into long term care or pass away. The applicant must have contacted their insurance provider to let them know there are lodgers in their property. If the client's property is leasehold, the lease must be checked to ensure it does not prohibit lodgers. We are unable to accept properties that are being let out and not resided in by the applicant.
- **Individuals 17 or over** will need to sign an occupancy waiver. Permanent live-in carers may need to sign a waiver if there is no suitable contract in place. Those who are incapable of signing a waiver through disability for example may have an occupancy waiver signed by a suitable power of attorney. The attorney must not be an applicant for the loan. There must be no conflict of interests present between the attorney and the occupant in the transaction.
- **Individuals under 17** do not need to sign a waiver of occupancy.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

- We will need any lodgers to sign an occupancy waiver.
- We may need to see a carers contract for terms of accommodation.

Note

Anybody signing an occupancy waiver must seek independent legal advice.

7.5 Trusts & second charges

Applications that are made when the property is held completely or partially in trust will not be accepted. Applications made with properties that have second charges against the title are unacceptable.

- **Trusts** – we are unable to accept cases that are held in trust.
- **Second charges** – we don't accept properties that have second charges on the title.

8.0 Reason for loan

8.1 Responsible lending

As part of our responsibilities as a product provider, we may on occasion require more information in regards to the reason for loan.

Responsible lending

- Reason for loan – We will always request a reason for loan to ensure that we are fulfilling our obligations as a responsible lender.
- **Responsible lending** – Although this is not an exhaustive list, we have provided some examples below of reasons where we may request some more information about the specific circumstances:
 - Giving money to friends or family.
 - Releasing money to consolidate unsecured debt.
 - Investment – Please note, we typically do not lend to invest.
 - IHT planning.

8.2 Home improvements

We understand that funding home improvements is a popular use of equity release. Whilst this often enhances the property, we need to ensure that any works will be carried out to an acceptable standard and be adequately completed. To do this, we may request further information.

Where home improvements are structural i.e. anything non-decorative, we will check that the case meets certain parameters. We ask that:

- Any works do not exceed 25% of the property value.
- There is a 10% contingency available within the permitted total loan to value, based on the cost of the works e.g. if structural works are costing £20,000, we would require an unused amount of £2,000 to be available within the LTV.
- The property remains habitable throughout works.
- Any extension is within limits – see section 4.7.
- Any flat roof areas fall within our limits – see section 2.1.
- The property layout isn't being altered significantly. This should still be a standard residential layout.

If parameters above are met, in order to proceed we will require:

- A breakdown of the works with quotes included.
- A timescale for the works.
- Sight of planning permission and any building regulations required.
- Confirmation any build materials meet our lending criteria.

Please note, any home improvements of the described nature should be referred to LV= Equity Release Underwriting for review. Depending on the works taking place, further information may be required.

What do LV= Equity Release Underwriting need?

- Quotes for works.
- Sight of any planning permission and building regulations required.

Documents LV= Equity Release may need:

- Certified copy of client's passport.
- Certified copy of client's birth certificate.
- Certified copy of marriage certificate – if married (or previously married).
- Certified copy of driving license – counter-part and photo ID.
- Decree of Separation or Decree Absolute if the couple are separated.
- Occupancy waivers – individuals 17 or over will need to sign an occupancy waiver, including permanent live-in carers. Spouses and partners will need to submit a joint application as joint owners.
- Power of attorney – where an applicant is the subject of an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) or Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), we need a copy of the EPA/ LPA which has been certified by a solicitor on each page. Before we will lend these must be either stamped by the Court of Protection, or registered by the Public Guardian Office. The adviser will also need to complete a certificate of verification form to confirm the identity and address of the power of attorney. The attorney must have no conflict of interests and not be party to the mortgage.

LV= Equity Release may not accept applications if an applicant:

- Has or had arrears on a previous or current mortgage, other secured loan, or unsecured loan within the last two years, where the cumulative amount overdue at any point reached three or more monthly payments.
- Has an adverse credit rating.
- Is bankrupt or has had bankruptcy discharged in the last six years.
- Has entered an IVA with their creditors in the last six years.
- Has County Court Judgements (CCJ) in the last six years.
- Has entered a debt management plan in the last six years.
- Has been subject to any form of debt relief order in the last six years.
- Has been party to a mortgage where the property has been taken possession of on either a voluntary or enforced basis.

This is a lifetime mortgage. To understand the features and risks, ask for a personalised illustration, or email us at:

Property and underwriting enquiries -
ERUnderwriting@LV.com

Product and pre-application enquiries -
EquityRelease.Sales@LV.com

New business application enquiries -
NewBusiness.EquityRelease@LV.com

Post-completion case enquiries -
EquityReleaseServicing@LV.com

You can get this and other documents from us in Braille, large print or on audio by contacting us.

LV Equity Release Limited, Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2DX.

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