



Your policy document | Reference SMEP0518

SME Protect



Your policy document

Welcome to your ERS policy document. To know exactly what your insurance covers with us, please make sure to read this document carefully. You should read it alongside any schedule, endorsement or certificate you've received from ERS.

If you have any questions about your cover, please contact your broker directly.

This insurance is written in English and any communications we send to you about it will be in English.

The law of England and Wales will apply to this contract unless:

- You and we agree otherwise or
- At the start date of the contract you are a resident of (or in the case of a business, the registered office or principal place of business is in) the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, in which case the law of that area of jurisdiction will apply

Our agreement – your insurance

The information you or your representative have supplied has been relied upon by us in offering the contract of insurance.

This policy document, certificate of motor insurance, schedule, any schedule of endorsements form the contract of insurance between you (the insured) and us (ERS).

You should read all parts of the contract as one document. Please remember to read the contract carefully, including all terms, conditions and exceptions to ensure it meets your needs.

The contract does not give, or intend to give, rights to anyone else. No-one else has the right to enforce any part of this contract. We may cancel or change any part of the contract without getting anyone else's permission.

Signed for and on the behalf of ERS



Martin Hall
Active Underwriter

About ERS

ERS (Syndicate 218 at Lloyd's) is managed by ERS Syndicate Management Limited, which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. (Registered number 204851).

ERS Syndicate Management Limited is registered in England and Wales number 426475. The registered office is:

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Definitions

The key words and terms that we use in this document

- **Accessories** – parts added to your vehicle that do not affect its performance
- **Approved repairer** – a motor vehicle repairer which is a member of our approved repairer network and is authorised by us to repair the insured vehicle after a valid claim under Section 2 of this insurance
- **Certificate of motor insurance** – a document which is legal evidence of your insurance and which forms part of this document, and which you must read with this document
- **Courtesy car** – a Group B (small standard private car) or PV1 (small car-derived van or similar) vehicle loaned to you by our approved repairer whilst the insured vehicle is being repaired after a valid claim under Section 2 of this insurance
***Note:** A courtesy car is intended to keep you mobile. It is not necessarily a like for like replacement of your vehicle. All courtesy cars are subject to the driver meeting the terms and conditions of hire from the approved repairer*
- **Endorsement** – a change in the terms of the insurance which replaces the standard insurance wording, and is printed on, or issued with, the current schedule and current schedule of endorsements
- **ERS** – is made up of the Lloyd's underwriters who have insured you under this contract. Each underwriter is only legally responsible for their own share of the risk and not for any other's share. You can ask us for the names of the underwriters and the share of the risk each has taken on
- **Excess** – a contribution by you towards a claim under this insurance
- **Hazardous goods** – goods as defined by; The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 ("CDG 2009") or any re-enactment or replacement of such regulations and any other legislation of similar intent (including subsequent legislation) if applicable
- **Market value** – the cost of replacing your vehicle with another one of the same make, model and specification and of similar age, mileage and condition at the time of an accident or loss
- **Period of insurance** – the period of time covered by this insurance (as shown on the schedule) and any further period for which we accept your premium
- **Road** – any place which is a road for the purpose of any compulsory motor insurance law that operates in the UK
- **Schedule / Policy schedule** – the document showing the vehicle we are insuring and the cover which applies. To be read in conjunction with the Schedule of endorsements
- **Schedule of endorsements** – the document showing endorsements that apply. To be read in conjunction with the policy schedule
- **United Kingdom (UK)** – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands
- **We, us** – ERS
- **You** – the person named as 'the insured' on the schedule, or as 'the policyholder' on any certificate of motor insurance or renewal notice applying to this insurance

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- **Your vehicle, the insured vehicle** - any vehicle shown on the schedule or described on the current certificate of motor insurance (and under section 1 only, an attached caravan or trailer) and is either:
1. Owned by you and registered in either the name of the insured, or a director or officer of the insured or
 2. Under a contract hire, hire purchase or leasing agreement to you or
 3. Loaned to you by our nominated supplier as a result of a claim made under this policy

Vehicles are defined as:

- **Agricultural vehicle** meaning a vehicle used solely for agricultural or forestry purposes
- **Articulated vehicle** meaning a goods carrying vehicle made up of a power unit and one or more semi-trailers
- **Bus** meaning a passenger carrying vehicle with 17 or more passenger seats
- **Car** meaning any private car, estate car or utility car
- **Coach** meaning a passenger carrying vehicle with 17 or more passenger seats
- **Commercial vehicle HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle), LCV (Light Goods Vehicle), Lorry** meaning any motor vehicle other than a car, coach, minibus, motorcycle, agricultural vehicle, articulated vehicle or bus
- **Motorcycle** meaning any motorcycle, motorcycle and sidecar or moped
- **Minibus** meaning a vehicle with between 9 and 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver
- **Trailer** meaning any trailer which is your property or for which you are responsible. The trailer does not include a disabled mechanically propelled vehicle

What to do if you need to make a claim

Nobody likes having to make a claim. But by following these two simple steps you can make sure it goes smoothly:

- You must tell us about any potential claim at the earliest opportunity. If applicable, and it is safe to do so, please call us from the scene of the accident
- Take photographs of any damage to the vehicles involved

Claims and windscreen helpline – 0330 123 5991

- Call this number if you need to report an accident, fire, theft or windscreen claim (if applicable)
- We're open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our expert staff will take down the details, and help you get back on the road as soon as possible
- If your claim is due to theft, attempted theft, malicious damage or vandalism, you should also notify the Police and obtain a crime reference number

You can count on us for all this:

- A market-leading customer experience
- A specialist team to handle your claim
- A network of approved suppliers to get you back on the road quickly
- Fraud prevention to keep your premiums low
- Positive handling of third-party claims to keep costs down
- Sophisticated tools to help claims go smoothly

Repairing your vehicle

If your insurance covers damage to your vehicle, we can talk you through the options for getting it repaired.

We'll take care of everything:

- If your vehicle can't be driven we will arrange for roadside recovery
- We'll collect the vehicle from you and deliver it back to you after the repairs
- Repairs will be carried out by a garage in our approved repairer network, provided that's the best option for you
- An expert claim handler will manage your claim for you

We want to get you back on the road as soon as possible.

Keeping your vehicle safe

Please make sure your vehicle is locked and the keys are in a safe place.

Your insurance won't cover loss of your vehicle or its contents by theft or attempted theft, or if it's been taken by an unauthorised person if:

- It was left unlocked or
- It was left with the keys (or any form of keyless entry / ignition control device), in or on it or
- It was left with the windows or roof panel open, or the roof of a convertible vehicle open (if your vehicle has these) or
- Reasonable precautions were not taken to protect it

If someone makes a claim against you

There are a few simple steps you can take to try to reduce the amount of any claim against you, and to protect yourself against fraudulent claims.

Don't apologise or admit it was your fault.

Make sure to take the other person's details, including:

- Their name, address and contact number
- The registration number and make and model of their vehicle
- Their insurer's name and policy number

Take photos of:

- Any damage to their vehicle
- Any damage to your own vehicle
- The scene of the accident, as long as it's safe to do so

Make a note of:

- Any injuries to anyone involved
- The number of passengers in the other vehicle
- The name, address and contact number of any witnesses
- The name and number of any police officer who attends the scene of the accident
- Any unusual behaviour from the other person and the direction they take when they leave the scene

Cover

The insurance cover you have

Your schedule shows you what cover you have. The different types of cover are listed below together with the sections of the policy that apply.

Section Name	Comprehensive	Accidental Damage Fire & Theft	Third party Fire & Theft	Fire & Theft	Third Party Only
Section 1 - Liability to others	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Section 2 - Loss of or damage to your vehicle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Accidental damage	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Malicious damage	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Fire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Flood	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Theft	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Vandalism	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Windscreen	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Section 3 - Loss of keys and replacing locks	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Section 4 - Unauthorised use	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Section 5 - Unlicensed drivers	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Section 6 - Medical expenses	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Section 7 - Personal belongings	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Section 8 - Personal accident	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Section 9 - Foreign Use	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓

The General Terms, Conditions and Exceptions apply to all sections of the policy.

IMPORTANT: You can only have Accidental Damage Fire & Theft cover and Fire & Theft cover if your vehicle is declared SORN (officially off the road) with the DVLA and is not being used.

Section 1 – Liability to others

Driving your vehicle

We will provide insurance for any accident you have while you are driving, using or in charge of your vehicle or while you are loading or unloading it.

We will insure you for all amounts you may legally have to pay for causing death or injury to other people.

The most we will pay for third party property damage for any claim or series of claims for property damage arising out of one incident is:

- £20,000,000 – Where your vehicle is a private car not used for hire purposes or
- £5,000,000 – for all other vehicle types or
- £1,200,000 – in respect of any vehicle carrying hazardous goods or
- £1,200,000 - for liability arising from an act of terrorism

We will also pay up to £5,000,000 for costs and expenses resulting from any property damage claim(s) that arise from one incident involving a private car covered by this insurance.

If there is a property damage claim made against more than one person covered by this insurance, we will first deal with any claim made against you.

Other people driving or using your vehicle

In the same way you are insured, we will also cover the following people:

- Any person you allow to drive or use your vehicle, as long as this is allowed by your current certificate of motor insurance and has not been excluded by an endorsement, exception or condition
- Any passenger who causes an accident while travelling in or getting into or out of the insured vehicle, as long as you ask us to cover the passenger

Legal personal representatives

After the death of anyone who is covered by this insurance, we will deal with any claim made against that person's estate, as long as the claim is covered by this insurance.

Cover for principals

As far as is necessary to meet the requirements of any agreement or contract entered into by you for the performance of work, we will insure the principal at your request - provided the principal complies with the terms and conditions of this insurance in so far as they can apply.

Contingent liability

We will insure you while an employee of yours uses, on your business, a vehicle you do not own or have supplied as long as:

- You have given express permission for the vehicle to be used on your business
- You have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that there is a separate motor insurance policy, in the employee's name, giving you cover for such use and
- There is no cover provided by any other insurance

We will not be liable:

- For any loss or damage to such vehicle or
- To cover any person driving such vehicle

Joint liability

If this document is in the name of more than one person, we will cover each person as if we had sent an individual document to each. We will cover each against the liability of the other, as long as the liability, loss or damage is not covered by any other insurance.

Unauthorised movement

We will insure you in respect of any accident caused by, through or in connection with the movement of any motor vehicle not belonging to you and not in your custody or control as long as the vehicle is preventing your vehicle from passing and:

- Is being moved by an employee of yours
- Is being moved in connection with your business
- Is not the property of the employee moving it and
- Is not covered by any other insurance covering such accident, damage or loss

Legal costs

In respect of any event which is covered under this Section, if we first agree in writing, we will arrange and pay:

- Up to £1,000,000 towards your legal fees and expenses for defending legal proceedings, including appeals, and;
- Up to £1,000,000 towards the cost of any prosecution awarded against you arising from any health-and-safety enquiry or criminal proceedings for breaking the:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 or
 - Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

We will not provide this cover:

- Unless the proceedings relate to an actual or alleged act, failure to act or accident that happens during the period of insurance within the United Kingdom and in connection with your business
- Unless the proceedings relate to an actual or alleged act, failure to act or accident arising from you, or a person on your behalf using, or you having or owning, a motor vehicle or trailer where compulsory insurance or security is required by the Road Traffic Act
- For any proceedings which result from your deliberate act or failure to act or
- Where cover is provided by any other policy

Emergency medical treatment

Where we must provide cover under the Road Traffic Act, we will pay for emergency medical treatment that is needed after an accident involving any vehicle which this insurance covers.

This cover only applies in the United Kingdom and where we must provide it under the Road Traffic Acts.

Towing

Under this section we will insure you while any vehicle covered by this insurance is towing a caravan, trailer or a broken-down vehicle (as allowed by law).

We will only provide this cover if:

- The caravan, trailer or broken-down vehicle is properly secured to your vehicle by towing equipment made for the purpose and
- The method of towing the caravan, trailer or broken-down vehicle stays within the manufacturer's recommended towing limits and any other relevant law

We will not pay any claim arising from:

- Loss of or damage to the towed caravan, trailer or broken-down vehicle
- Loss of or damage to any property being carried in or on the towed caravan, trailer or broken-down vehicle
- A caravan, trailer or broken-down vehicle being towed for reward
- Towing more trailers than the number allowed by law or
- If more than one caravan or broken-down vehicle is being towed at any one time

Exceptions to Section 1

This section of your insurance does not cover the following:

1. Anyone who can claim for the same loss from any other insurance
2. Loss of or damage to any premises belonging to or occupied by you, any other property owned by you or in your custody or control or any property or load being conveyed by the insured vehicle or trailer
3. Death of or bodily injury to any person arising out and in the course of their employment by the policyholder or by any other person claiming under this insurance. This does not apply if we need to provide cover due to the requirements of the relevant laws
4. Death, bodily injury or damage to property caused as a result of plant covered by this policy being used as a tool of trade
5. Any liability arising while any vehicle is being used in or on any part of an airport or aerodrome which is used for:
 - Aircraft take-off or landing
 - Aircraft parking including service roads
 - Ground equipment parking areasexcept where we need to provide the minimum insurance required by the Road Traffic Act.
6. Any liability arising directly or indirectly from acts of terrorism, as defined in the UK Terrorism Act 2000, except where we need to provide the minimum insurance (£1,200,000) required by the Road Traffic Act
7. Any legal responsibility, unless we need to provide the minimum insurance required by the Road Traffic Act, for claims for death, injury, illness, loss or damage to property arising directly or indirectly from pollution or contamination unless caused by a sudden identifiable unintended and unexpected event

This exception:

- Relates to contamination or pollution caused directly or indirectly by any substance, liquid, vapour or gas leaking or being released and
- Includes contamination or pollution of any building or other structure, water, land or the air

We will not pay for claims arising directly or indirectly from contamination or pollution if it is caused by any substance, liquid, vapour or gas being deliberately released or leaks caused by the failure to maintain or repair your vehicle, or any part of it.

8. Death, bodily injury or damage to property caused or arising beyond the limits of any carriageway or thoroughfare in connection with:
 - The bringing of any load to any commercial vehicle for loading on to or
 - The taking away of the load from any commercial vehicle after it has been unloaded by any person other than the driver or attendant of such vehicle

Section 2 – Loss of or damage to your vehicle

This cover only applies to your vehicle

We will insure your vehicle and accessories against loss or damage (less any excess that applies) caused by:

- Accidental or malicious damage, flood damage and vandalism
- Fire, lightning, self-ignition and explosion or
- Theft or attempted theft, or taking the vehicle away without your permission

For a claim under this section we will, at our absolute discretion, either:

- Pay for the damage to be repaired
- Pay an amount of cash to replace the lost or damaged item or
- Replace the lost or damaged item

The most we will pay will be either:

- The UK mainland market value of your vehicle as determined by us, immediately before the loss; up to the value shown on your schedule or
- The amount it would cost us to repair your vehicle at an ERS approved repairer or as otherwise agreed by our appointed engineer

Whichever is less.

We will not pay the cost of any repair or replacement which improves your vehicle or accessories to a better condition than they were in before the loss or damage. If this happens, you must make a contribution towards the cost of repair or replacement.

We will not pay the VAT element of any claim if you are registered for VAT.

Excesses

If an excess is shown on your schedule, you have agreed to pay that amount for each incident of loss or damage.

If more than one vehicle is insured on your policy and they are involved in the same incident, the excess shown on your schedule will apply to each vehicle separately.

Windscreen damage (comprehensive cover only)

You may claim for damage to your vehicle's windscreen or windows and for any bodywork scratched by broken glass from the window or windscreen.

The helpline number is 0330 123 5991.

A replacement will be subject to the excess shown on the schedule for each claim. There is no limit on the cost of the windscreen.

No excess will apply if the windscreen can be repaired instead of replaced.

This benefit does not apply to damaged sun roofs, roof panels, lights or reflectors whether glass or plastic.

Extra excesses for young or inexperienced drivers

If your vehicle is damaged while a young or inexperienced driver (including yourself) is driving, you will have to pay the first amount of any claim as shown below. This is on top of any other excess that you may have to pay.

Drivers	Amount
▪ Under 21 years of age	£300
▪ Aged 21 to 24 years	£200
▪ Aged 25 years or over who has a provisional driving licence or has not held, for 12 months or more, a full driving licence issued by any country which is a member of the European Union.	£200

These amounts do not apply if the loss or damage is caused by fire or theft.

Recovery and redelivery

After any claim under this section we will pay the cost of moving your vehicle from the place where the damage happened to the premises of the nearest competent repairer. We will also pay the cost of delivering your vehicle back to you in the United Kingdom after repair.

Do not try to move your vehicle yourself if this could increase the damage. If unnecessary damage is caused as a result of your attempts to move your vehicle, we will not pay any extra cost arising from that damage.

All arrangements for storage of a damaged vehicle must be agreed by us. If you arrange storage without our prior knowledge and consent we will not pay any extra cost arising from that arrangement where this is greater than the cost we negotiate with our approved supplier.

Repairs

If your vehicle is damaged in any way which is covered by this insurance, you should contact us immediately. We can, if you wish, organise for our approved repairers to repair your vehicle.

Where using our approved repairer for the repair of your vehicle, and your vehicle does not exceed 3.5 tonne GVW our approved repairer will:

- Guarantee the repairs for 5 years
- Endeavour to use original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts/equipment where feasible
- Upon request and subject to availability, supply you with a courtesy car for the duration of the vehicle repair or until your policy expires, whichever is the sooner

If your vehicle cannot be driven safely, you should allow us the opportunity of moving it to the premises of an approved repairer or repairer of your choice if previously agreed by us.

If repairs are completed without our prior knowledge and consent this may affect the amount we pay in final settlement of your claim. In all circumstances, any party handling repairs to an insured vehicle should retain the parts for our inspection: a fully costed estimate, all damaged parts and images of the damaged areas of the insured vehicle.

If you fail to provide all requested information, documentation and evidence of claim damage, we reserve the right not to pay for damages under this Section.

If you choose to not use our approved repairer, we will not:

- Be responsible for any delays incurred by the repairer
- Guarantee the provision of a courtesy car
- Guarantee the repairs
- Guarantee the use of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) paint/parts

We may arrange for your vehicle to go to a repairer we choose if we cannot reach an agreement with the repairer over costs.

It is not our policy to use recycled or non-original parts and equipment when repairing your vehicle, although on occasion it may be necessary.

Total loss

When deciding whether your vehicle is a total loss, we use the Association of British Insurers (ABI) Code of Practice for the Disposal of Motor Vehicle Salvage.

We alone will determine:

- When an insured vehicle is deemed a total loss
- The market value of the insured vehicle; and where applicable
- Any salvage value of that insured vehicle

In the event that we deem your vehicle a total loss, due to it being uneconomical to repair or subject to an unrecovered theft, we will, unless you qualify for a new vehicle replacement benefit, offer an amount in settlement of the claim.

The insurance cover for that insured vehicle will end when you accept that offer.

If your insurance covers more than one vehicle, cover will remain in force for any vehicles that have not been declared a total loss.

If the insured vehicle is owned by someone else, we will discuss the valuation and payments directly with the vehicle owner rather than with you.

When we determine the value of the insured vehicle, we will take into account any discount on the manufacturer's recommended retail price received at the point of purchase.

Our offer will not exceed the amount shown on the schedule.

Once we have made a payment, the insured vehicle becomes our property unless we agree otherwise.

Vehicles subject to a finance agreement

If the market value we place upon the insured vehicle is equal to or greater than the amount owed to the finance company: We will pay the finance company first and then settle the balance with the legal owner of the insured vehicle.

If the market value placed upon the insured vehicle is less than the amount owed to the finance company: We will pay the finance company the market value of the insured vehicle. You may be required by the finance company to pay them the balance, subject to the terms of your agreement with them.

Vehicles subject to a lease / hire agreement – No legal right to title

If the market value we place upon the insured vehicle is greater than the amount owed to the lease / hire company, we will pay them only the amount of the outstanding finance, which will settle the claim in full.

If the market value we place upon the insured vehicle is less than the amount owed, the amount we pay to the lease / hire company will settle the claim, and you may be required by the lease / hire company to pay them the balance, subject to the terms of your agreement with them.

Vehicles subject to a lease / hire agreement – Legal right to title or proceeds of sale

We will pay the lease / hire company the market value of the vehicle, which will settle the claim in full. Any transfer of legal title or distribution of the proceeds of the vehicle should be taken up directly with the lease / hire company in line with the specific terms of your agreement.

Salvage

Where applicable, your vehicle will have a salvage category placed upon it, in line with the ABI Code of Practice.

Only vehicles deemed eligible to go back on the road can be considered for retention. If retention is granted, the value of the salvage, as determined by us, will be deducted from the settlement.

At the point of payment the vehicle will become our property unless we agree otherwise.

If your vehicle has been subject to an insurance write off (total loss), you must be able to evidence the vehicle has been restored to a roadworthy condition.

In the event of the insured vehicle being subject to another claim, we will require documentary evidence of repairs and other documentation as we may require, to evidence, and to satisfy us, that the insured vehicle has been maintained in a roadworthy condition, otherwise the valuation will be affected.

If we ask, you must send us your vehicle registration document (V5c), MOT certificate (if applicable), the purchase receipt for the vehicle, all keys and any other relevant documentation before we agree to settle the claim.

New vehicle replacement

This cover applies to any car or commercial vehicle with a gross weight of 7.5 tonnes or less.

If the vehicle is less than one year old from the date of buying it new and the cost of repairing any damage (that is covered by this insurance) is more than 50% of the manufacturer's recommended retail price plus taxes, or is lost by theft or is stolen and not recovered, we will replace it with a new vehicle of the same make, model and specification, provided one is available.

The lost or damaged vehicle will then belong to us.

Audio, visual, communication, guidance or tracking equipment

The cover provided by this policy includes loss of, or damage to, permanently fitted audio, visual, communication, guidance or tracking equipment that formed part of your vehicle when it was originally made.

If it was not part of the vehicle when it was originally manufactured, we will only pay up to £500.

When your vehicle is being serviced

The cover provided under this section will still apply when your vehicle is being serviced or repaired. While your vehicle is in the hands of the motor trade for a service or repair, we ignore any restrictions on driving or use (as shown in your certificate of motor insurance).

Trailer cover

If you request and we agree, we will also insure any trailer declared by you against loss or damage while it is:

- Attached to the vehicle or
- Temporarily detached during the course of a journey or
- Detached from the vehicle on your premises or those of your customer provided that the premises are securely locked overnight or when otherwise unoccupied

Cover is restricted to trailers owned by you or which are in your care, custody or control.

The most we will pay in the event of a claim is the last value you told us about in respect of any one trailer.

There is no cover for contents in or on any trailer.

Exceptions to Section 2

This section of your insurance does not cover the following:

1. Any amount as compensation for you not being able to use your vehicle (including the cost of hiring another vehicle)
2. Wear, tear and depreciation
3. Failures, breakdowns or breakages of mechanical, electrical, electronic or computer equipment
4. The vehicle's value reducing, including loss of value as a result of damage, whether the damage is repaired or not
5. Repairs or replacements which improve the condition of the vehicle
6. Damage to tyres, unless caused by an accident to your vehicle
7. Damage due to liquid freezing in the cooling system, unless you have taken reasonable precautions as laid down by the vehicle manufacturer's instructions
8. Loss resulting from repossessing the vehicle and returning it to its rightful owner
9. Loss of or damage to your vehicle or its contents by theft or attempted theft or an unauthorised person taking and driving it if:
 - It has been left unlocked
 - It has been left with the keys (or any form of keyless entry / ignition control device), in it or on it
 - It has been left with the windows, roof panel or the roof of a convertible vehicle open or
 - Reasonable precautions have not been taken to protect it
10. Loss of or damage to your vehicle caused by an inappropriate type or grade of fuel being used
11. Loss of fuel.
12. Loss or damage due to confiscation, requisition or destruction by or under the order of any government, public or local authority

Section 3 – Loss of keys and replacing locks

We will pay up to £1,000 if the keys for your vehicle are lost or stolen and have not been recovered. We will pay the cost of replacing the entry key and transponders, ignition and steering locks that can be opened or operated with the lost items. This applies as long as:

- You let the Police know about the loss as soon as it is discovered and
- The address where your vehicle is kept would be known to any person who has your keys or lock transponder

You will not have to pay an excess for any claim under this section.

Section 4 – Unauthorised use

The insurance provided by this document will apply if an employee of yours uses your vehicle without authority but we will not be liable to cover your employee.

Section 5 – Unlicensed drivers

We will insure an unlicensed driver under this document when a licence is not required by law, provided the driver is old enough to have obtained a licence to drive the vehicle had one been required by law.

Section 6 – Medical expenses

We will pay up to £500 for each person for the medical expenses of anyone who is injured while they are in your vehicle as a result of an accident involving your vehicle.

You will not have to pay an excess for any claim under this section.

Section 7 – Personal belongings

We will pay up to £250 for personal belongings in or on your vehicle if they are lost or damaged because of an accident, fire, theft or attempted theft.

This personal belongings cover does not apply to:

- Money, stamps, tickets and documents
- Goods or samples connected with the work of any driver or passenger
- Property insured under any other contract
- Wear and tear or
- Property that was not protected

You will not have to pay an excess for any claim under this section.

Section 8 – Personal accident

If the driver of an insured vehicle is involved in an accident and within three months of that accident it is the only cause of death or injury, we will pay £10,000 for; death, the loss of any limb or the permanent loss of sight in one or both eyes.

Payment will be made direct to the insured person or to their legal representative.

Exceptions

- We will not pay more than £10,000 for any claim(s) resulting from one accident
- We will not pay any amount for injury arising from suicide or attempted suicide
- We will not pay any amount for death or injury to any person convicted of driving while under the influence of drink or drugs at the time of the accident
- We will not be liable to pay for death or injury to any person not wearing a seat belt when they have to by law

Section 9 – Foreign use

The cover shown on the schedule will apply to any member country of the European Union, Andorra, Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland (including Liechtenstein).

In respect of any countries other than shown above, you should contact us and if we agree to provide cover we may require an additional premium.

If cover is provided, the following benefits apply:

Insurance cover

We will extend your insurance to apply to claims which happen:

- In any country which we have agreed to provide cover for and
- While the vehicle is being transported (including loading and unloading), between ports in countries where you have cover, as long as the vehicle is being transported by rail or by a recognised sea route of not more than 65 hours

Customs duty and other charges

If your vehicle suffers any loss or damage covered by this insurance, and the vehicle is in any country for which we have agreed to provide cover, we will:

- Refund any customs duty you have to pay after temporarily importing your vehicle into any of the countries where you have cover
- Refund any general average contributions, salvage charges and sue and labour charges incurred during transit of your vehicle and
- Pay the cost of delivering your vehicle to you at your address in the United Kingdom after the repairs have been made if your vehicle cannot be driven because of any loss or damage

General terms

Payments for journeys (car sharing) – only applies to private cars

You can accept payments from passengers in your vehicle if you are giving them a lift for social or other similar purposes.

Accepting these payments will not affect your insurance cover if:

- Your vehicle cannot carry more than nine people (including the driver)
- You are not carrying the passengers in the course of a business of carrying passengers and
- The total of the payments you receive for the journey does not provide a profit

General exceptions

These general exceptions apply to the whole insurance

Your insurance does not cover you for:

Drivers and use

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) arising while any vehicle covered by this insurance is being:

- Used for a purpose for which your vehicle is not insured
- Driven by or is in the charge of anyone (including you) who is not mentioned on the certificate of motor insurance as a person entitled to drive or who is excluded by an endorsement
- Driven by or is in the charge of anyone (including you) who is disqualified from driving, does not hold a valid driving licence in line with current law or has never held a licence to drive your vehicle, does not keep to the conditions of their driving licence (including a certificate of professional competence where required) or is prevented by law from having a licence (unless they do not need a licence by law)
- Used on any race track, race circuit or toll road without a speed limit (such as the Nurburgring)
- Used for racing or pace-making, used in any contest (apart from treasure hunts, road safety and non-competitive rallies); or speed trial or is involved in any rigorous reliability testing

Drugs and alcohol

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) arising while any vehicle covered by this insurance is being driven by or is in the charge of anyone (including you) and is convicted of:

- Driving over the legal limit for alcohol or
- Driving under the influence of drugs, prescribed or otherwise

If convicted (which includes a conviction for failure to provide a breath, blood or urine sample) this shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence that the driver at the time of the loss or damage was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

We will provide the minimum insurance required by the Road Traffic Act but we reserve the right to seek recovery of any such amounts from you or the driver of your vehicle.

Construction and use

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) arising while any vehicle covered by this insurance is being used to carry:

- More passengers than the maximum seating capacity for the insured vehicle as set by the vehicle manufacturer or
- Passengers in a manner likely to affect the safe driving and control of your vehicle or
- Any load which is greater than the maximum carrying capacity as set by the vehicle manufacturer or if applicable; any plated weight limit of the insured vehicle

Criminal acts

Any legal responsibility for loss or damage (direct or indirect) caused whilst your vehicle is used by anyone insured under this insurance:

- In the course or furtherance of a crime or
- As a means of escape from, or avoidance of lawful apprehension

Deliberate acts

Any legal responsibility for the death of or injury to any person or loss or damage (direct or indirect) caused by a deliberate act or omission to act by anyone insured under this insurance.

Excess

The amount of any excess shown within this policy document and / or on your schedule.

Other contracts

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) that:

- Is also covered by any other insurance or
- You have accepted under an agreement or contract unless you would have had that responsibility anyway
- Happens outside the United Kingdom, other than where we have agreed to provide cover. (Please refer to the Foreign Use section of this policy document)

Jurisdiction

Any proceedings brought against you, or judgment passed in any court outside the United Kingdom, unless the proceedings or judgment arises out of your vehicle being used in a foreign country which we have agreed to extend this insurance to cover.

Earthquake, riot, war and terrorism

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) caused by, contributed to or arising from:

- An earthquake
- The result of war, riot, civil commotion, revolution or any similar event elsewhere than in Great Britain, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man (unless we need to provide cover to meet the minimum insurance needed by law)
- Acts of terrorism, as defined in the UK Terrorism Act 2000, unless we need to provide the minimum insurance required by the Road Traffic Act

Nuclear/radioactive contamination

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) caused by, contributed to or arising from:

- Ionising radiation or contamination from any radioactive nuclear fuel, or from any nuclear waste from burning nuclear fuel;
- The radioactive, toxic, explosive or other dangerous property of any explosive nuclear equipment or nuclear part of that equipment

Sonic bangs

Any legal responsibility, loss or damage (direct or indirect) caused by, contributed to or arising from pressure waves caused by aircraft or other flying objects.

General conditions

What we expect for your cover to be valid

Your responsibilities

Your premium is based on the information you gave at the start of the insurance and when it is renewed.

You are responsible for the information you or your appointed representative has provided to us. You should ensure that the information provided is, as far as you know, correct and complete.

If you have failed to give us complete and accurate information, this could lead to us changing the terms of your policy, refusing your claim or the insurance not being valid.

You must, if requested, provide us with all relevant information and documentation in relation to this insurance.

You must supply the details we need of any vehicles covered by this insurance for the purposes of the Motor Insurance Database (MID).

The vehicle must have an MOT (unless exempt), be taxed, insured and registered in the UK and you must:

- Take all reasonable steps to protect your vehicle from loss or damage
- Maintain your vehicle in a roadworthy condition and
- Let us examine your vehicle at any reasonable time

If the above requirements are not met, we may reject or reduce your claim, and/or cancel your policy or declare your policy null and void.

Changes to your details

You must tell us immediately about any changes to the information you have already provided. Please contact your broker if you are not sure if information is relevant. If you don't tell us about relevant changes, your insurance may not cover you fully, or at all.

Should the total number of vehicles declared under this policy increase during the period of insurance by more than 20 vehicles or 25% compared to the initial vehicle count declared to us (whichever is the greater), you must advise us immediately. We reserve the right to adjust the premium rates, terms and conditions of this insurance at that time.

Here are some examples of the changes you should tell us about:

- A change of vehicle (including extra vehicles and any temporary vehicles).
- All changes you or anyone else make to your vehicle if these make your vehicle different from the manufacturer's standard specification (whether the changes are mechanical or cosmetic).
- A change of address.
- A change of business activity.
- A change in the purpose for which you use your vehicle.
- Details of any driver you have not told us about before, or who is not specifically entitled to drive by the certificate of motor insurance or is excluded by an endorsement, but who you now want to drive.
- Details of any motoring conviction resulting in a driving disqualification or more than six penalty points being applied to the licence of any person allowed to drive.
- Details of any non-motor conviction or prosecution pending (where a case is being investigated but there is no conviction yet) for any person allowed to drive.
- If any driver suffers from a disability or medical condition that must be revealed to the DVLA, whether or not the driving licence has been restricted.

Claim notification

After any loss, damage or accident you must give us full details of the incident as soon as possible.

You must send every communication about a claim (including any writ or summons) to us without delay and unanswered. You must also tell us if you know about any future prosecution, coroner's inquest or fatal accident inquiry involving anyone covered by this insurance.

You must give us any information, documentation and help we need to help us deal with your claim. We will only ask for this if it is relevant to your claim.



You are required to notify us of a claim within 72 hours of its occurrence. If you fail to comply with this section, or otherwise prejudice our position, we reserve the right to seek recovery of any additional costs incurred due to your action or failure to act.

Claim requirements – rights and obligations

If a claim is made which you or anyone acting on your behalf knows is false, fraudulent, exaggerated, or provides false or stolen documents to support a claim we will not pay the claim and cover under this insurance will end.

If there are a number of claims for property damage arising out of any one cause, we may pay you up to the maximum amount due under Section 1 (We will take from this amount any amounts we have already paid as compensation). When we pay this amount, we will withdraw from any further action connected with settling these claims. We will cover any legal costs and expenses paid with our permission, up to the time we withdraw from dealing with the claims.

You must not admit to, negotiate on or refuse any claim unless you have our permission.

We can:

- Take over, carry out, defend or settle any claim and
- Take proceedings (which we will pay for, and for our own benefit) to recover any payment we have made under this insurance

We will take this action in your name or in the name of anyone else covered by this insurance.

You, or the person whose name we use, must co-operate with us on any matter which affects this insurance.

If we refuse to provide cover because you have failed to provide information or provided incorrect information, but we have a legal responsibility to pay a claim under the Road Traffic Acts, we can settle the claim or judgment without affecting our position under this policy. We can recover any payments that we make from you.

If you fail to provide all requested information, documentation and evidence of claim damage, we reserve the right not to pay for damages under Section 2 of this policy document.

Compulsory Insurance laws

If we are required to settle a claim in order to comply with the law applying to any country in which this policy operates, and which we would not otherwise be required to pay because of a breach of policy conditions, we shall be entitled to recover the amount paid and any associated costs, from either yourself or the person who incurred the liability.

Arbitration

If we accept your claim, but disagree with the claim amount, the matter will be passed to an independent arbitrator (to whom we must both agree). When this happens, the arbitrator must make a decision before you can start proceedings against us.

Cancellation

Where you may cancel your policy

You may cancel this insurance by declaring to us your requirement to cancel. We will work out the charge for the time you have been covered by your insurance (using our short-period rates shown below)

We will then refund any amount we owe you to your broker subject to the premium having been paid.

Period you have had cover for	Percentage of annual premium covering that period	Percentage of refund
Up to 1 week	15%	85%
8 days to 1 month	25%	75%
up to 2 months	30%	70%
up to 3 months	50%	50%
up to 4 months	60%	40%
up to 6 months	75%	25%
up to 8 months	90%	10%
over 8 months	Full annual premium	Nil

Where we may cancel your policy

We or your broker may cancel this insurance by sending seven days' notice, in writing, to your last known address. We will refund the part of your premium which applies to the remaining period of the insurance. We will send this refund to your broker.

Your insurance may be cancelled because:

- You have not paid when due, a premium on an instalment plan
- You or anyone else covered by this insurance has not met the terms and conditions of the insurance
- A change in your circumstances means we can no longer provide cover
- You misrepresent or fail to disclose information that is relevant to your insurance or
- You harass any member of our staff or show abusive or threatening behaviour towards them

This is not an exhaustive list.

Misrepresentation

Where we identify misrepresentation, non-disclosure or fraud, or any attempt to gain an advantage under this insurance to which you are not entitled, we may apply one or more of the remedies listed below:

- Agree with you to: amend your policy to record the correct information, apply any required change in; premium, policy terms and conditions
- Apply any administration costs
- Reject or pay only a proportion of your claim
- Not return to you any premium paid
- Cancel the policy
- Void the policy (which means to treat the policy as though it never existed)

Declaration frequency

Your schedule will show you the frequency of when you are required to provide us with a declaration of the vehicles covered by this insurance. You should tell us of any vehicles added or deleted during the period in question, along with details of any temporary vehicles. We will calculate any additional or return premium based upon our standard calculation formula. (Details available upon request).

Complaints

How to make a complaint if things go wrong

Our promise to you

We aim to provide a first class service. If you have any reason to complain about your insurance policy, or us, the complaints procedure is as follows.

The first step is to contact our dedicated complaint handling department who will review your case on behalf of our Chief Executive.

Address: ERS Customer Relations, PO Box 3937, Swindon, SN4 4GW

Tel: 0345 268 0279

Email: complaints@ers.com

If you are not satisfied with our response you may ask the Complaints department at Lloyd's to review your case.

Address: Complaints Department, Lloyd's, One Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA

Tel: 020 7327 5693.

Email: complaints@lloyds.com

Website: lloyds.com/complaints

If you are still not satisfied after contacting Lloyd's, you can refer your complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS.)

Address: The Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR

Tel: 0800 023 4567

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

Website: financial-ombudsman.org.uk

This does not affect your right to take legal action.

If you ask someone else to act on your behalf we will require written authority to allow us to deal with them.

If you have any questions, about complaints please contact the Company Secretary at:

ERS Insurance Group Limited, 52-54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2BJ

Important notices and information

Data Protection Notice

This section contains important information about your personal details. Please make sure to show it to anyone covered by the policy and ensure they are aware that their personal details may be provided to us.

ERS Syndicate Management Limited is the data controller in respect of your personal information. We will process the details you have given us in line with the UK's Data Protection laws and any other laws that apply. We may work with partner organisations and service providers who are located in other countries, and as a result your information may be processed outside the European Economic Area. In all cases we will make sure that your information is adequately protected. Any transfers of personal information outside Europe will be subject to the provisions of the US Privacy Shield, standard contractual clauses approved by the European Commission or other contracts which provide equivalent protection.

You can find more information about how we use your personal information on our website: www.ers.com/policy-pages/privacy-policy

Where we collect your personal information

We might collect personal information about you from:

- You
- Your family members
- Your employer or their representative
- Other companies in the insurance market
- Anti-fraud databases, sanction lists, court judgement and similar databases
- Government agencies such as the DVLA and HMRC
- The publicly available electoral register
- In the event of a claim, third parties including the other party to the claim, witnesses, experts, loss adjusters, legal advisers and claims handlers

How we use and disclose your personal information

To assess the terms of your insurance contract, or to deal with any claims, we may need to share information like your name, address, date of birth and details such as medical conditions or criminal convictions. The recipients of this information could include (but are not limited to) credit reference agencies, anti-fraud databases, other insurers, underwriters and other group companies who provide administration or support services. For claims handling, the recipients could include (but are not limited to) external claims handlers, loss adjusters, legal and other expert advisers, and third parties who are involved in the claim. More information about these disclosures is set out below.

The Data Protection laws classify information about your medical conditions, disabilities and criminal convictions as 'special category' personal data which warrants extra protection. We will only share this kind of personal data where it is essential to administer your insurance contract or deal with any claims, or for anti-fraud purposes and will only be used in accordance with appropriate laws and regulations.

Most of the personal information you provide to us is needed for us to assess your request for insurance, to enter into the insurance contract with you and then to administer that contract. Some of the information is collected for fraud prevention purposes, as described below. If we need your consent to use any specific information, we will make that clear at the time we collect the information from you. You are free to withhold your consent or withdraw it at any time, but if you do so it may impact upon our ability to provide insurance or pay claims. Further details about the legal basis for our processing of personal information, and the disclosure we may make, can be found on our website: www.ers.com/policy-pages/privacy-policy

Types of personal data	Details
Individual details	Name, address (including proof of address), other contact details such as email and phone numbers, gender, marital status, date and place of birth, nationality, employment status, job title, details of family members including their relationship to you
Identification detail	National insurance number, passport number, driving licence number, other relevant licences
Financial information	Bank account and/or payment details, income and other financial information
Policy information	Information about the quotes you receive and policies you take out
Telematics (where you use this technology)	Details of journeys made, locations, times and dates, driving behaviours and driving patterns
Credit and anti-fraud information	Credit history, credit score, sanctions and criminal offences, including information received from external databases about you
Previous and current claims	Information about previous and current claims (including under other insurance policies) which may include data relating to your health, disabilities, criminal convictions (including motoring offences) and in some cases surveillance reports; also dashcam recordings where this technology is used
Special categories of personal data	Health, disability, criminal convictions (including motoring offences)

Accepting and administering your policy

If you pay your premiums via a credit facility, we may share your information with credit reference agencies and other companies for use in credit decisions, to prevent fraud and to find people who owe money. We share information with other insurers, certain government organisations and other authorised organisations.

Insurance underwriting

We look at the possible risk in relation to your prospective policy (or anyone else involved in the policy) so that we can:

- Consider whether to accept a risk
- Make decisions about providing and dealing with insurance and other related services for you and members of your household
- Set price levels for your policy
- Confirm your identity to prevent money laundering
- Check the claims history for you or any person or property likely to be involved in the policy or a claim at any time. We may do this:
 - When you apply for insurance
 - If there is an accident or a claim or
 - At the time you renew your policy

Profiling

When calculating insurance premiums, we may compare your personal details against industry averages. Your personal information may also be used to create the industry averages going forwards. This is known as profiling and is used to ensure premiums reflect risk. Profiling may also be used to assess the information you provide so we can understand risk patterns.

Special categories of personal data may be used for profiling where this is relevant, such as medical history or past motoring convictions (including motoring offences).

We may also make some decisions (for example about whether to offer cover or what the premiums will be) without any intervention by our staff. These are known as automated decisions. You can find out more about how we make these decisions on our website: www.ers.com/policy-pages/privacy-policy. See also “Your Rights” below.

Motor Insurance Database (MID)

Information about your insurance policy will be added to the Motor Insurance Database (MID) which is managed by the Motor Insurers’ Bureau (MIB). Certain government or authorised organisations including the Police, DVLA, DVLNI, Insurance Fraud Bureau and other organisations allowed by law may use the MID and the information stored on it for purposes including:

- Continuous Insurance Enforcement (you can get information about this from the Department of Transport)
- Electronic vehicle licensing
- Law enforcement for the purposes of preventing, detecting, catching or prosecution offenders and
- Providing government services or other services aimed at reducing the level of uninsured driving

If you are involved in a road-traffic accident (either in the UK, the EEA or certain other territories), insurers or the MIB (or both) may search the MID to gather relevant information. Anyone making a claim for a road-traffic accident (including their appointed representatives and citizens of other countries) may also gather relevant information which is held on the MID.

It is vital that the MID holds your correct registration number. If it is not shown correctly on the MID, you are at risk of having your vehicle seized by the police. You can check that your correct registration number details are shown on the MID at askmid.com.

Managing claims

If you make a claim, we may need to release information to another person or organisation involved in that claim. This includes, but is not restricted to, others involved in the incident, their insurer, their solicitor or representative and medical teams, authorised repairers, the police or other investigators. We also may have to investigate your claim and conviction history. This may involve external claims handlers, loss adjusters, legal and other expert advisers.

Under the conditions of your policy, you must tell us about any incident (such as an accident or theft) which may or may not result in a claim. When you tell us about an incident, we will pass information relating to it to Insurance Database Services Limited (IDSL).

Call recording

You should note that some telephone calls may be recorded or monitored, for example calls to or from our claims department, customer services team or underwriting department. Call recording and monitoring may be carried out for the following purposes:

- Training and quality control
- As evidence of conversations
- For the prevention or detection of crime (e.g. fraudulent claims)

Preventing or detecting fraud

We will check your information against a range of registers and databases for completeness and accuracy. We may also share your information with law enforcement agencies, other organisations and public bodies.

If we find that false or inaccurate information has been given to us, or we suspect fraud, we will take appropriate action. If fraud is identified, details will be passed to fraud prevention agencies including the Claims Underwriting Exchange Register and the Motor Insurance Anti-Fraud and Theft Register run by Insurance Database Services Limited (IDSL). Law enforcement agencies may access and use this information.

We and other organisations, including those from other countries, may also access and use this information to prevent fraud and money laundering, for example, when:

- Checking details on applications for credit and credit related or other facilities
- Managing credit and credit related accounts or facilities
- Recovering debt
- Checking details on proposals and claims for all types of insurance
- Checking details of job applicants and employees

Details of the registers, databases and fraud prevention agencies we use may be requested from the Company Secretary at:

ERS Insurance Group Limited, 52-54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2BJ

Cheat line

To protect our policyholders, we are members of the Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB). If you suspect insurance fraud is being committed, you can call them on their confidential cheat line on 0800 422 0421.

Retention

We will keep your personal data only for as long as is necessary for the purpose for which it was collected. In particular, we will retain your information for as long as there is any possibility that either you or we may wish to bring a legal claim under or relating to your insurance, or where we are required to keep your information for legal or regulatory purposes.

Your rights

You have rights under the Data Protection laws including the right to access the information we hold about you (subject to any legal restrictions that may apply), to have the information corrected if it is inaccurate, and to have it updated if it is incomplete. In certain circumstances you may have the right to restrict or object to processing, to receive an electronic copy of your data ("data portability") or to have your data deleted. You can also find out about any automated decisions we make that affect your insurance or premiums.

If you wish to exercise any of your rights, please contact us at:

Compliance Officer

Address: 52-54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2BJ

Email: compliance@ers.com

Further details about all the rights available to you may be found on our website: www.ers.com/policy-pages/privacy-policy

If you are not satisfied with our use of your personal data or our response to any request by you to exercise your rights in relation to your personal data, please contact compliance@ers.com

You also have a right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545745 (national rate)

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

As we are members of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), you may be entitled to compensation under the scheme if we cannot pay out all valid claims under this insurance. This depends on the type of policy you have and the circumstances of the claim. The scheme will cover 90% of the claim with no upper limit. For types of insurance you must have by law (such as third party insurance for motor claims), the scheme will cover the whole claim. You can get more information about the scheme from the FSCS via:

Address: Financial Services Compensation Scheme, 10th Floor, Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7QU

Tel: 0800 678 1100 or 0207 741 4100

Email: enquiries@fscs.org.uk

Web: fscs.org.uk

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

01 Phone us immediately, preferably from the scene of the incident, using the 24 hour helpline number

02 Take photographs of damage to all vehicles and the scene of the accident, if safe to do so

03 Note the number of occupants in the other vehicle(s)

Phone us using the 24 hour helpline number on 0330 123 5991 which will allow us to arrange the following:

- Roadside recovery for immobile vehicles
- Collection and repair if cover is comprehensive
- A free loan car or car derived van (subject to policy terms)

Following the instructions above will help us protect you from fraudulent claims and keep costs to a minimum