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"The need for workers to formally protect income is apparent, and yet the income protection gap is yawning. Many workers simply avoid trying to understand their financial resilience and their financial planning suffers as a result. Providers may be able to increase sales through group policies and by exploring the potential for direct online distribution."

**Patrick Ross, Senior Financial Services Analyst** 

### This report looks at the following areas:

- Group schemes can continue to expand the market for income protection
- People are used to relying on contingency plans that lack certainty
  The facts

This Report looks at the performance of the market and the key drivers that influence it, while considering how providers can look to grow relative to their peers. Mintel's exclusive consumer research covers the ownership of income protection in comparison with other protection products and explores the reasons that workers avoid engagement with the industry. The research also investigates the importance of different aspects of income protection products and cover.

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**DID YOU KNOW?** 

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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People are used to relying on contingency plans that lack certainty

The facts

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### The Market - What You Need to Know

New individual policies and premiums are on the up

Advisers remain the leading distribution channel

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### Companies and Brands - What You Need to Know

LV= faces challenge from combined forces of Aviva and Friends Life

The income protection gap has enticed investment from providers

Providers look to use events to improve understanding and awareness

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Providers invest in income protection products to enhance value

The Exeter replaces IP product range

Aviva launches Income Protection+ following Friends Life integration

Insurers upgrade digital platforms to support advisers and customers

The Exeter launches new protection platform

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Providers due to adopt paperless GP reporting technology

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Affordability perceptions are holding the market back

41% would struggle after an absence from work of six months or less

Home-related outgoings represent an opportunity for product propositions

Fixed premiums and flexible cover are preferred by potential customers

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One in ten adults has a form of income protection product

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Two fifths say an absence from work of six months or less would leave them struggling

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### Appendix - Data Sources, Abbreviations and Supporting Information

Product definitions

Income protection

Accident, sickness and unemployment (ASU) insurance

Personal accident and sickness insurance

Unemployment cover

Personal accident insurance

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Mortgage payment protection insurance (MPPI)

Critical illness cover

Life insurance

Abbreviations

Consumer research methodology

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Forecast methodology

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