YOUR KEY TO BETTER DIRECT MAIL

19 time-proven tactics for more effective and profitable direct mail



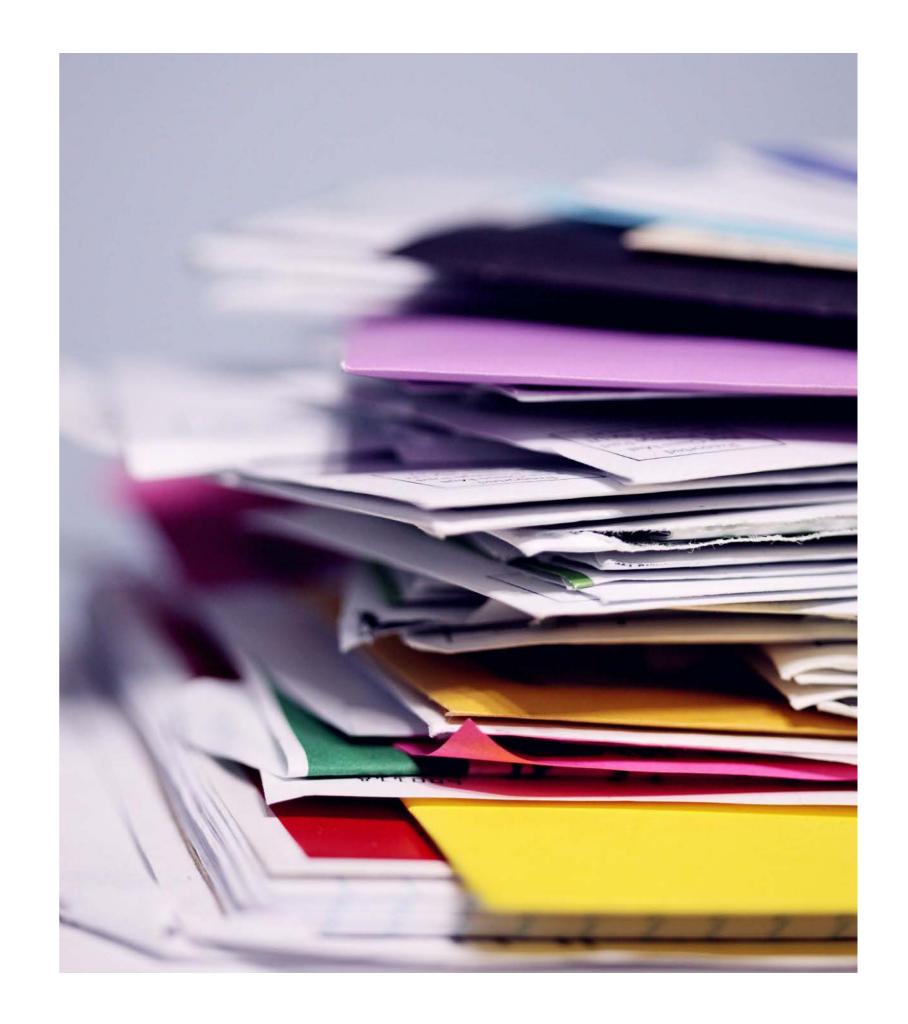
Despite your best efforts, the fact is that most of your carefully constructed direct mail packs end up in the same place: the bin.

What if there was a practical and effective way to reduce this loss?

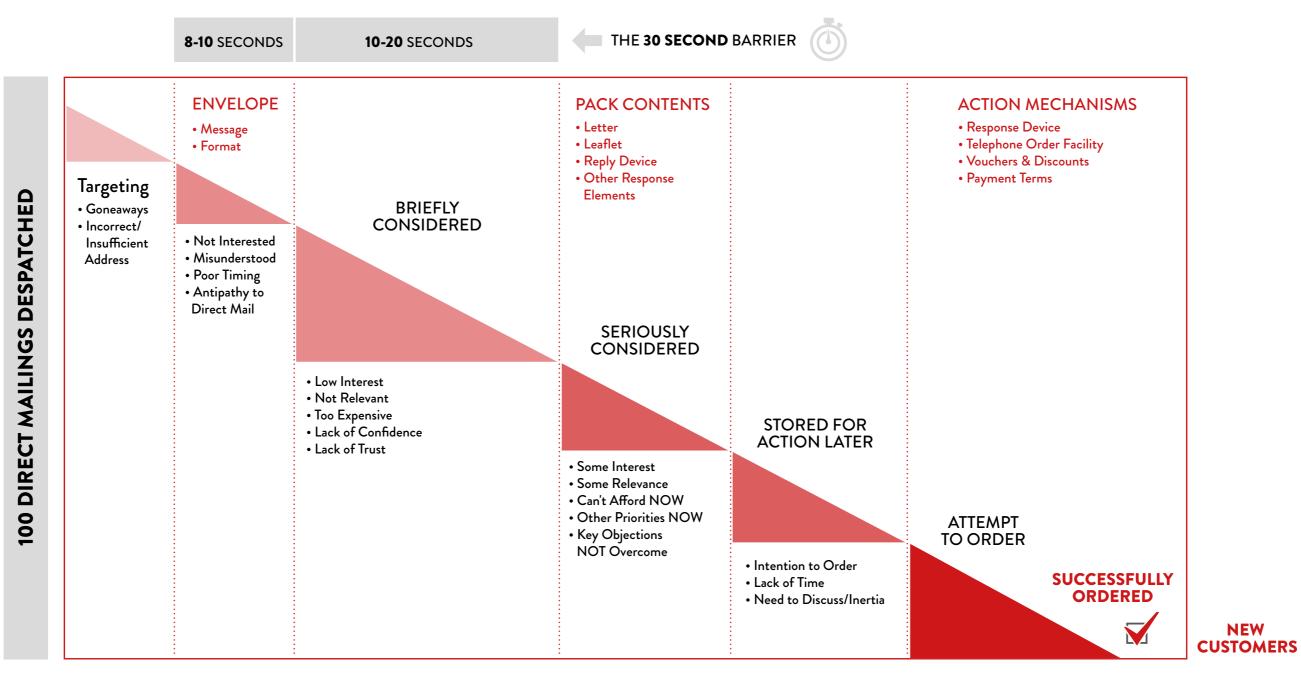
A simple tool that could help you create more responsive direct mail packs.

Over the past two decades, Red C has studied how consumers open, read and digest direct mail, and other direct marketing communications.

Using these studies, plus our extensive experience of what techniques work, we have created a model that we find consistently helpful in understanding how to develop more effective, more profitable direct mail.



WE CALL IT THE DIRECT MAIL FALL OUT MODEL



THE DIRECT MAIL FALL OUT MODEL EXPLAINED

The Direct Mail Fall Out Model explains the gradual loss (fall out) of readership in different stages as recipients absorb the contents of a direct mailing.

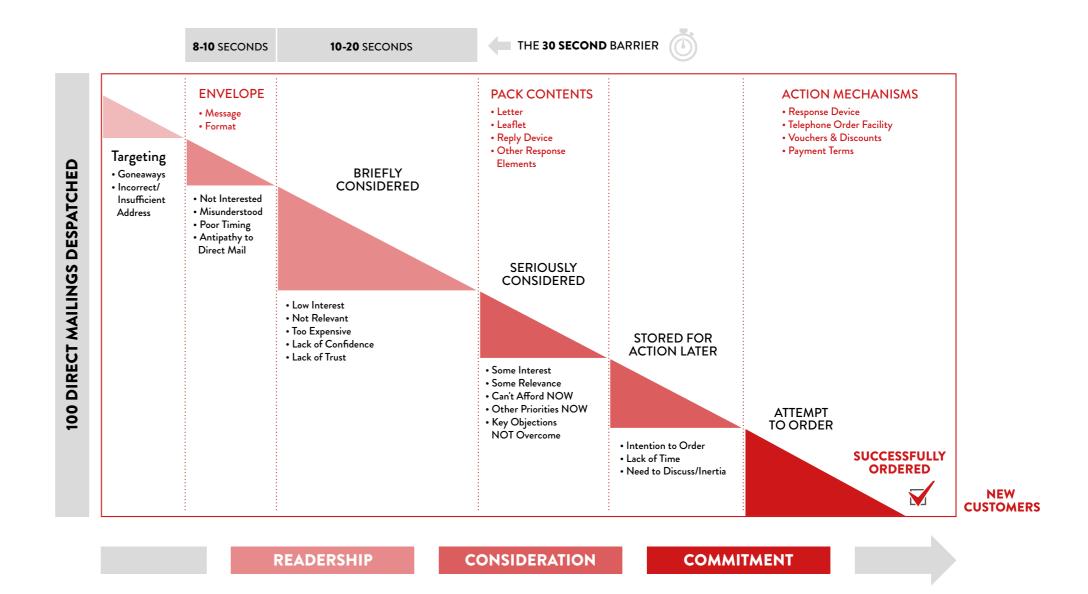
It imagines a mailing sent to 100 recipients, which results in a number of new respondents, customers, or applicants.

Along the diagonal, it details how many potential respondents you can expect to lose through the three stages of casual **Readership, Consideration** of the offer, and finally, **Commitment** to respond.

On the next pages, you'll find a closer analysis of these stages, plus many tactics you can employ to minimise fall out and boost response.

If you would like to create more responsive, more effective direct mail packs, get in touch with Red C today.

Call 0161 872 1361 or email Steve White at swhite@redcmarketing.com





The first stage in the persuasive process is getting your recipient to open the envelope. The biggest reason for 'fall out' at this stage is people reading the envelope message or company logo and binning your mailing unopened. You could try a plain white envelope - but be careful. You run the risk of displeasing your recipient when they open it to find just another promotional mailing.

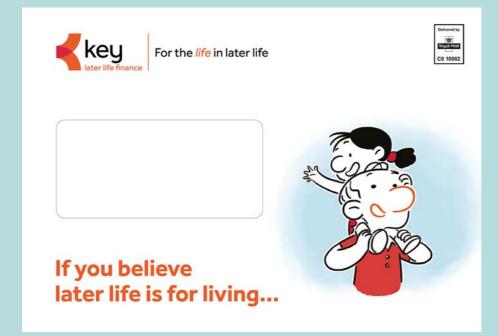
A stronger tactic is to 'put your best foot forward'

The people you most want to open your envelope are those who are most likely to be attracted to your offer once inside. So make your strongest proposition on the envelope using a single-minded, benefit-led headline... on both sides, don't forget the reverse of the envelope.

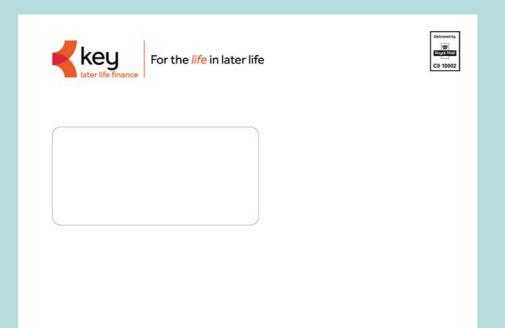
Overcoming inertia

However compelling the headline you also need to overcome inertia, so give recipients reasons to open your envelope immediately. For example:

- If your product or service includes an offer, give it a deadline
- If your prices are only valid for a while, or if your stocks are limited, say so
- Use an extra window to give the reader a glimpse of the offer or benefit, tempting them to open







We conducted an envelope test for equity release specialist Key Later Life. The brand was running a plain white outer to save on print costs.

However, in tests, our printed envelope delivered a significant uplift in response.

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Look at this hardworking envelope for leading natural wellness specialist, Tower Health.

The front promises a specific, emotional benefit to the reader - blissful relief from pain.

Open now for your exclusive triple offer

£5 OFF PainGone One £34.95 £29.95







The reverse presents a compelling offer with a tight deadline to encourage immediate action.

f undelivered please return to PainGone c/o Metromail, Unit 6 Foxcover Ind Estate, Admiralty Way, Seaham, Co Durham, SR7 7DN.

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Add intrigue and involvement

Anything that gets your prospects more involved in your message will help improve response. 3D mailings will always get opened by their intrigued recipients, and in B2B marketing the cost is easily offset by the value of the sale.

Dramatise the proposition

The beauty of mail is that you can use the format to really bring your proposition to life from the outset. Ask yourself: how could the shape of the package, or the way it opens, influence response?



For Current Lighting
Solutions, we mailed a
miniature grow kit to
prospects, using 'teaser'
messages on the outer to
intrigue the reader and
encourage the open.

The mailing helped open up a valuable pipeline of profitable new leads for the brand's new partnership programme.

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For martech brand ResponseTap, we targeted prospects with a prize incentive—a 24-hour trip to Paris for two. The highly successful mailing was specially designed to look like a pair of Eurostar tickets, guaranteeing it got opened.



Most of your recipients will spend no more than thirty seconds 'scanning' the inside of the pack and assessing your offer. In that short space of time they will decide if it's relevant, and whether they can afford it, or want it enough to consider your offer in more detail. It is at this 'briefly considered' stage that you will see the biggest 'fall out' of readership -anything from 30% to 70%

Get them nodding

Try to create a high nod factor rating for your pack... a series of small yes's which create the climate for a big yes (committing to buy) later.

Chunk your message to aid readership

Another technique for extending the time spent reading the pack is to include extras. Small inserts are a useful tool for chunking up your message and getting the reader to focus on a specific aspect of your offer.



Mrs Sample Sample Street Sample Town Sample City AB12 3CD

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Blissful drug-free, proven pain relief Try it today risk-free

Dear fellow pain sufferer

Living with pain is so frustrating, isn't it? When you've tried all the pills, creams, and exercises. When you've done everything your doctor or physio told you to, even paid for private treatments, but you're still suffering. It wears you down. If you put up with joint and back pain, arthritis, sciatica, or cervical spondylosis... you should try Paingone One. It's a proven, natural treatment used by over 2 million pain sufferers worldwide. Because it works.



Look at the opening paragraph of this letter for leading natural wellness specialist, Tower Health.

By empathising with the reader and showing you understand their problem, you have a better chance of persuading them that you can provide the solution.

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This 6-page leaflet presents the same pieces of information in multiple ways. Whether they read the promotional copy, the set of FAQs, or the customer testimonials, the reader will gain a solid understanding of the product's features and benefits.



Get blissful relief right at the point of your pain

Imagine being able to relieve your pain without drugs, gels, or expensive trips to your nhysical theranist PainGone One isn't like any treatment you've tried before.

Like TENS but much more convenient and it sumulates are helves around the spot that hur-giving you blissful and prolonged pain relief almost instantly. Yet unlike other TENS machines you might have tried, there's no wires to get tangled up in, no batteries to replace and no sticky pads. So, you can use your PrinGone One anytime anywhere

A clinically proven 'Class IIa' medical device



- 2. Small and light so you can carry
- Works through clothing so you don't have to get undressed or use it in private
- 5. No batteries, no pads, no cables, no mo it's so simple and IT WORKS!

60-day risk-free money-back guarantee



Your questions answered

What can I use PainGone One for? THIS CUTT I USE P'AINGONE ONE fo PainGone One has been used by over 150.000 people in the UK. People who suffer the pain coused by many conditions such as arthritis, back pain, osteoprosis, spondylitis, rileurmatis sciatios, theumatical carthrist, migraine and inflammatory conditions. While PainGone One is not a cure and shouldn't be used to treat any chronic condition, you can use it to safely relieve the pain associated with your condition.

Will PainGone One work for me?

Has PainGone One been clinically tested?

Independent tests show it stops or reli quickly in up to 87% of cases it is used. PainGone One meets the stringent requirements of the Medical Devices Directive and is a 'Class Ila' medical d Can I overdo it?

How long does

PainGone One take to work?



Is PainGone One easy to use? Yes. You press the tip of the PainGone One onto the point of your pain and click the red push button repeatedly for about 30 seconds to get blissful relief.

Is PainGone One augranteed? Yes. As well as a your 60-day, no-quibble, money-back guarantee, PainGone One carries a 2-year warranty against malfunction. In the unlikely ever



Read why 9 out of 10 people who try PainGone One keep it

just like these from people happy REALLY WORKS.

Back pain
"I suffer with back pain in the lower part of
my spine. Since I have been using my PainGor
pen I have not had to take any medication for
I couldn't be without one now." Mrs BJ Castle

Sciatica

Tam 45 and have suffered with chronic sciatic pain
for 7 years. I have had chiropractic treatment, physio,
osteo and most recently, under the direction of a
sports injury specialist in Harley St. injection of steroids
directly into my spins. Nothing has worked Yet in the
one week since receiving the PainGone I already note
an extreme reduction in the pain, which although still
present, definitely seems to be diminishing a little more
costs draw. Greea.

Osteaarthritis in the knees & hips

This is my second PainGone. My other one. I have had
for two years and have got a lot of relief, when, in the
night. I have a lot of pain in my knees and feet due to
asteoarthritis. I was dirigid my other one was running
out offer two years. I would not file to be without it. it is so handy to take out of my handbag too should I need to use it." **V.Syrett**

Spinal arthritis & tennis elbow "Amongst other things, I suffer from osteoarthritis o the whole of my spine, and even though I have beer the evening and night. I will certainly be passing or

Arthritis in the hips
"At first I used the pen four or five times a day, but now I only need to use it twice, once in the morning and again at night. I am partially disabled and so I am sure you understand that any pain makes moving around

results of the Patinovier One. They been in Continuous point, and I have regular physic and acupuncture which give relief from pain and I also use TENs. The TENs gives good temporary pain relief but is awkward to use by myself as the electrodes have to be placed at the base of my neck and I need help doing this. The

Pssst! Flip to the back page saying about PainGone One

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Allow for different reading sequences

Although over half of your readers will go to the letter first, just under half will start elsewhere, and may never get to the letter. So, it is a good idea to repeat and restate the key message and call-to-action in several places.

Use data to personalise your message

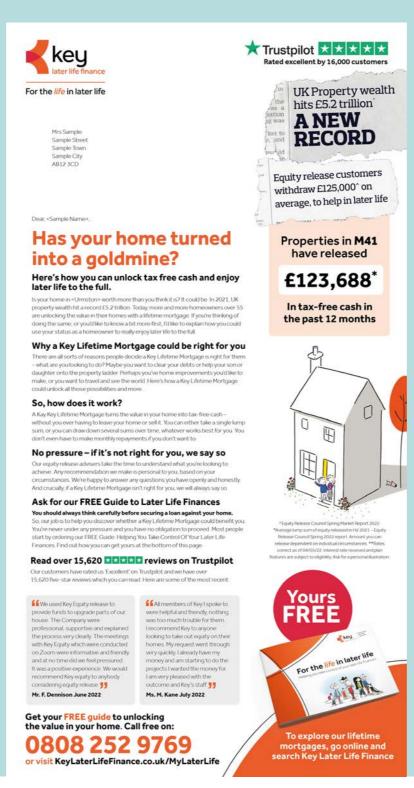
Perhaps the biggest driver of direct mail engagement is relevance. The more relevant you can make your message to your reader, the greater your chance of gaining and holding their attention.

Know the value of a good offer

A good offer should give the reader all the motivation they need to take action. It adds another reason why they should get in touch right away. The more you can do to make your offer feel tangible, the better.

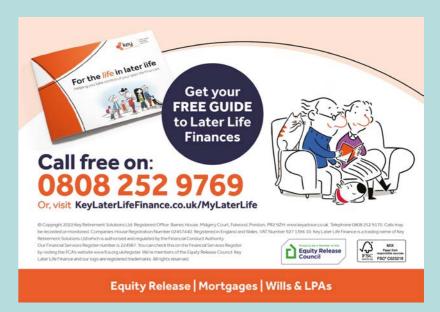
What we wanted from Key Later Life prospects was an enquiry.

So, we wrote a long-ish letter spelling out the benefits and overcoming objections.



But we also included this tiny little flyer, which gave the reader 2 simple reasons to get in touch immediately.





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Forest Holidays' customers often book a return break at a park they've stayed at before. So, we created this cost-effective, personalised 10-page brochure, using propensity data. With messages like 'Fancy staying at Sherwood Forest again?' and 'If you liked it there, you'll love the Forest of Dean' the mailing delivered a big upturn in bookings.

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Shearings wanted to reward its VIP customers - who travel several times a year - with an exclusive offer. So, we created a mailing offering loyal customers priority treatment via an exclusive pin badge.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive... with recipients' friends even contacting Shearings to request a pin badge!

ACCOMMODATE **SCAN READING**

In order to maximise the number of readers breaking the 30-second barrier you must design your pack to accommodate scan reading. For example:

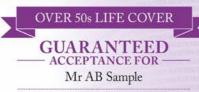
- People naturally fix on pictures, captions, headlines and sub-heads, panels of bullet points and graphic devices such as 'Johnson boxes'
- People 'zoom in' on personalised text such as use of their name or parts of their address
- · People commonly read the opening paragraph and then 'skip' via the sub-heads down to the signature (who is writing to me?) and the PS





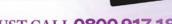
Would your offer be fully explained with this reading sequence?

Mr A B Sample 1 Sample Street, Sampletown AB1 2CD



GETA £50 M&S GIFT CARD WHEN YOU TAKE

OUT COVER



than memories behind

YOUR PERSONAL QUOTE BELOW —

is valid until XX/XX/XX

IUST CALL 0800 917 1853





As you are a valued customer of ours, we wanted to let you know about our Over 50s Life Cover... and a special offer that you are entitled to, a £50 M&S gift card.' Thinking about what will happen when you die is not the nicest of topics, but it could help your family in

Could your family find <£X,XXX> in a hurry?

Did you know that the average cost of a cremation in your region was $\mathcal{L}XXXX$ in 2015. This is an increase of £XXX in just one year. It's not a burden you want to leave to your family when you're gone. Take a look at your personal quote below and see how you could protect your loved ones from this expense.

IR. A B SAMPLE urrent age: XX uote valid until: Xth Month 2016	Your example monthly payment	Amount of money when you die (now, aged XX)
	£3.95	£X,XXX
an choose any monthly ent between £3.95 and	£5	£X,XXX
0. Some examples are	£10	£X,XXX
here. If you'd like to pay a	£20	£X,XXX
ent amount, call: 0800 917 3 and mention SLZ607	£30	£X,XXX
and mondon of the	£50	£X,XXX

Plan ahead and help lift the financial burden from your family

Taking out our cover is simple, payment is flexible and you can relax knowing you have helped to make a difficult time easier for your loved ones. Please see the important things to know section overleaf for more information.



Katherine Marrs Over 50s Team

P.S. Funerals can be expensive, so our plan is designed to help give you peace of mind. *Royal London National Funeral Cost Index 2015.

- Call 0800 917 1853 to talk to a UK-based expert, 7 days a week: MON-FRI 8am - 7pm SAT 9am - 5pm SUN 10am - 4pm, All calls are
- Complete and post the attached application form in the enclosed
- Or buy online at royallondon.com/fairminded

3 EASY WAYS **TO BUY**

If your readers were to take no more than a brief look over your mailing, would they get your proposition and what you want them to do?

> Look at the layout of this letter we created for Royal London.

Even at a glance, the reader can see instantly what's on offer, why they should consider it, and what they need to do to get it.

5 GREAT **REASONS TO CHOOSE US**

- health. If you're a 50-80 year old UK resident, vou're in.
- 2. Great value cover From as little as 13pa day.
- 3. Bigger payouts 95% of the time we pay out more than SunLife as at 13th June 2016."
- 4. Full cover after 1 year We will pay out the full amount of money if you die after only a year.
- family could still get some money.







Royal London, PO Box 409, Royal London House, Alderley Road, Wilmslow SK9 0EG

NOW PERSUADE ME

At this point, you've lost maybe half your readers. The good news is the readers you have left are interested. So now you have the opportunity to persuade them. You need to expand on each of your key benefits, as your reader is seeking more detailed information.

Overcoming objections

Your readers have different needs and concerns. Your job is to present the most compelling case to act. That means thinking like a salesperson, addressing all of the possible information needs, and overcoming all the possible objections one by one.

Use confidence boosters

Testimonials help overcome objections, because they are credible. Q & A panels also work, because they articulate the reader's concerns. Guarantees, explanatory copy about craftsmanship or quality control, and company history sections can all reassure the potential customer, too.



There are many misconceptions about using equity release that prevent people from benefiting from Key Later Life's products.

We've produced a variety of confidence boosters to help reassure prospects. For example, this 8-page FAQ-style leaflet debunks some of the most common equity release myths.



NOW PERSUADE ME

BOOSTER CHECKLIST

Testimonials	✓
Independent statements	
(Press, Industry Bodies)	/
Guarantees	✓
Money back disclaimers	✓
Frequently Asked Questions	✓
Send no money now	
messages	✓
Step-by-step guides	,
(to responding)	\
Contact details - telephone number,	
address, website	✓
Official accreditation,	
membership bodies	/

The 'don't say no' device or Director's Letter

This usually takes the form of a sincere, compelling message from an authority figure. It may focus on one specific benefit or summarise all of the reasons to take up the offer, but it reads in a non-promotional way. We've rarely known this device to fail to uplift response.





Note the tone of the director's letter above and the lift letter opposite. Both sound polite, personal, and sincere, offering a gentle nudge to place an order.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

I know only too well that advancing age and painful medical conditions can be pretty debilitating.

The aches and pains take their toll, slow you down and ultimately stop you from enjoying the active lifestyle you really want to live.

So, I wanted to do something about it.

My solution is the Paingone Fllow Expert — a breakthrough, drug-free CE-certified medical device that uses clinically-tested electrical muscle stimulation to improve circulation and soothe the pain from swollen legs, ankles and feet.

I'm so confident you'll enjoy the instant relief you get from Paingone Fllow Expert that I'm willing to let you try one at home without risk for 60 days.

I'll even have my team ship it to you for FREE. If you're not happy with the sweet, soothing relief you get from Paingone Fllow Expert, simply return it.

You too can get back to the mobile, active lifestyle you want to live — just like thousands of our customers have already. You'll find more information in the enclosed leaflet.

Thank you for reading



Jason Tir Founder

P.S Try the Paingone Fllow Expert risk-free for 60 days. You pay nothing for shipping.



Effectively, the recipients who remain at this point are all set to accept your offer... you have persuaded them to say YES. But it is a qualified yes. The direct marketer's greatest enemy, INERTIA, begins to take a hold! Here are a few simple ways to get things moving.

Amp up your call-to-action

It's vital you make it clear to the reader what you want them to do. The more compelling you make it, the more likely the reader is to act.

Use a QR code

QR code readers are now a standard feature on smartphones. Your reader can simply scan the code you put on your mailing and get taken straight to the content you want them to see.

Create a sense of urgency

You don't want action in a few days; you want it right now! So, talk up the product's immediate benefits or imply an imminent loss.

Justify the price

Muster every possible benefit and stack them up against the price. If possible, use price guarantees, or promises, especially one that increases the urgency such as 'Prices fixed until...'





A gift to spend on someone special (including you!)



To,

It means the world to us that
you're a Beaverbrooks Club Member.
So, let us be the first to wish you
a Merry Christmas! And to thank you,
we're giving you a special early
Christmas gift.



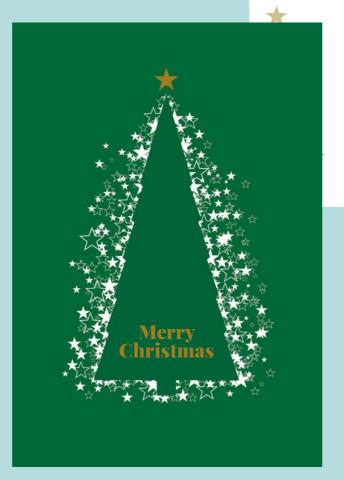
Get £50 off when you spend £200 or more in-store or online. See the back of your gift card for more details on how to redeem.

And because it's the season of giving, we've also gifted 100 cards with £1,000. See if you're a winner at beaverbrooks.co.uk/club-offer

Have a wonderful Christmas.

With love,

The Beaverbrooks family



We created this festive Christmas card mailer for Beaverbrooks. Rather than a standard 'shop our Christmas collection and save £50' message, the mailer presents the reader with a giftcard 'to spend on someone special (including you!)' and the chance to win £1,000.

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We tested sending Your Coop Travel magazine customers a roll-fold mailer with a QR code inside.



Popular destinations such as Prague are much-loved for good reason. A stroll across Charles Bridge offers panoramic views of medieval Prague across the Vituxa River. On one side is Prague Castle and the enchanting Golden Lane lined with colourful 16th-century houses, on the other is the famous Old Town Square, where the gothic spires of the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn dominate the magical scene.

Then there are the lesser considered cities such as Warsaw and Wroclaw in Poland. The most majestic of Poland's destinations, Warsaw is a treasure trove of palaces, medieval churches and museums, with the red-brick Royal Castle the crowning glory. Should you visit Poland closer to Christmas, Wroclaw is not to be missed. Alpine huts and dazzling lights fill the Main Market Square, as does the delicious aromas of Polish cuisine.

If you're multing over a European city break our online magazine has plenty more destination inspiration for any time of the year, including a wrap-up of the Christmas Markets you won't want to miss. If somewhere gives you itchy feet, just get in touch with our Travel Experts at Your Co-op Travel.







Sustainable, relaxing and convenient – more and more travellers are enjoying the big benefits of rail travel. Compared with flying, ra travel helps you to lower your carbon footprin With Eurostar you also get spacious seating ar generous luggage allowances for a comfortab journey. Plus, package deals booked through Co-op Holldays, including hotels and activities mean all you have to do is put your feet up un it's time for exploring.



If Paris is the only destination currently springing to mind for a holiday by rail, our online magazine puts you on track to discover the delights of Lille. Brussels and Amsterdam with no taking to the air necessary.

Find out how we make holiday planning personal. Scan the QR code to download the full magazine.



Once scanned, the code opened an online version of the full magazine.

The roll-fold + QR code test performed well, giving the brand a more cost-effective alternative to mailing every customer a full magazine.

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For call tracking specialist ResponseTap, we sent prospects a mysterious manilla envelope containing an urgent request to access an unredacted 'CIA' report. The campaign had an immediate effect, starting conversations, raising brand awareness, and generating hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of qualified marketing leads.



Your access code: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Effectively, the recipients who remain at this point are all set to accept your offer... you have persuaded them to say YES. But it is a qualified yes. The direct marketer's greatest enemy, INERTIA, begins to take a hold! Here are a few simple ways to get things moving.

Amp up your call-to-action

It's vital you make it clear to the reader what you want them to do. The more compelling you make it, the more likely the reader is to act.

Use a QR code

QR code readers are now a standard feature on smartphones. Your reader can simply scan the code you put on your mailing and get taken straight to the content you want them to see.

Create a sense of urgency

You don't want action in a few days; you want it right now! So, talk up the product's immediate benefits or imply an imminent loss.

Justify the price

Muster every possible benefit and stack them up against the price. If possible, use price guarantees, or promises, especially one that increases the urgency such as 'Prices fixed until...'



Look how hard this order form works. Instantly, the reader can understand everything they get, including precisely how much they save. The 60-day trial period provides reassurance and helps justify the price, too.

Customer number:	Email:
Name:	Daytime Tel. No.
Address:	Mobile:
	We'll text you to keep you updated of your order progress
Postcode:	
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat	
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat condition for at least 3 months. VAT relief is not available for short-te	ism, sciatica and back pain, provided you have suffered with the
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat condition for at least 3 months. VAT relief is not available for short-te	ism, sciatica and back pain, provided you have suffered with the irm injuries. The offer price of PainGone One with VAT is £35.94.
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat condition for at least 3 months. VAT relief is not available for short-te Payment Method By Credit/Debit Card. Please fill in your details below Visa Mastercard Amex	ism, sciatica and back pain, provided you have suffered with the rm injuries. The offer price of PainGone One with VAT is £35.94. Signature Date By Cheque/Postal Order made payable to Tower Health Ltd
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat condition for at least 3 months. VAT relief is not available for short-te Payment Method By Credit/Debit Card. Please fill in your details below Visa Mastercard Amex No.	sm, sciatica and back pain, provided you have suffered with the rm injuries. The offer price of PainGone One with VAT is £35.94. Signature Date By Cheque/Postal Order made payable to Tower Health Ltd I enclose my cheque/postal order for £
for use on chronic or disabling conditions such as arthritis, rheumat condition for at least 3 months. VAT relief is not available for short-te Payment Method By Credit/Debit Card. Please fill in your details below Visa Mastercard Amex	ism, sciatica and back pain, provided you have suffered with the rm injuries. The offer price of PainGone One with VAT is £35.94. Signature Date By Cheque/Postal Order made payable to Tower Health Ltd

Sealing the deal

Even at this late stage you haven't finished losing potential customers.

There are 3 three major reasons why:

- 1. Difficulty finding the offer online or website confusion
- 2. Lack of availability of customer's preferred payment method
- 3. Aborted calls and abandoned baskets online

Make it easy on the reader

Don't make the response mechanic the last thing you consider

Make the URL for your landing page simple but compelling...include a QR code too

On your website, make the offer prominent and provide clear navigation from the home page
Guide the reader through the checkout process step-by-step - make clear what they have to do
Offer the widest possible range of payment options

If you would like to create more responsive, more effective direct mail packs, get in touch with Red C today.

Call 0161 872 1361 or email Steve White at

swhite@redcmarketing.com



Make your landing page
URL a simple extension of
the URL for your main
website - using compelling
words. For example, on
this pack for call tracking
specialists, the URL for
the landing page was
ResponseTap.com/WIN





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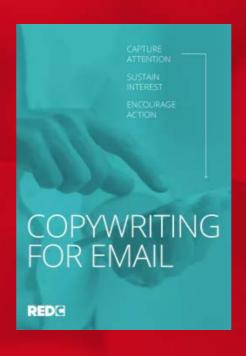
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