

WL With-Profits Sub-Fund

and Investment Summary



This guide provides a summary of how we manage the **Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited WL With-Profits Sub-Fund (the 'Sub-Fund')**, along with details of the asset mix and investment returns.

Your policy document will show the name of the company your policy was taken out with. If you're unsure which with-profits sub-fund you're invested in, you can find further details at [aviva.co.uk/ppfm](https://www.aviva.co.uk/ppfm)

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Making sense of it

You may find some of the terms in this guide unfamiliar. To help, we've provided an explanation of the terms in **What does it mean?** boxes.

There are two main types of with-profits policies in the Sub-Funds:

Unitised with-profits policies –

your investment is used to buy units of equal monetary value based on the unit price on the day of the investment.

Conventional with-profits policies –

your investment provides a guaranteed amount (sometimes referred to as the 'sum assured') at maturity or on death.

If your yearly statement or bonus notice shows units and/or unit prices, then you have a **unitised policy**. Otherwise, your policy is a **conventional** one. Where there is a different explanation between types of policy, to make it easier to spot which one applies, you'll find the 'Unitised policy' explanation on the left and the 'Conventional policy' one on the right.

There can be other differences between the two types – where appropriate these are highlighted throughout the guide.

An Aviva with-profits investment

At a glance

A number of our products allow investment into with-profits. An Aviva with-profits investment is a low to medium risk investment that has the advantage of pooling your money with that of other investors, so you can benefit from investing in a wide spread of assets.

We explain assets in greater detail on page 5.

- The WL With-Profits Sub-Fund is rated as a **low to medium risk** fund. It offers the possibility of higher returns than you may get from an average savings account with a bank or building society.
- An Aviva with-profits investment aims to provide steady capital growth over the medium to long term by investing in a broad range of assets, while smoothing out some of the fluctuations of investment markets.
- The value of the Sub-Fund can go down as well as up depending on the returns made by the assets that make up the Sub-Fund, so you may get back less than has been paid in. We share out the profits and losses of the Sub-Fund through a system of bonuses, with the aim of smoothing the returns on your with-profits investment over the long term. We explain smoothing on page 7.
- Some products provide guaranteed policy benefits if certain events happen or on specified dates. We explain some of these guarantees in greater detail in the What are the guarantees? section on page 10.

What does it mean?

Aviva assesses its risk ratings using historical performance data.

Low to medium - 3

Funds typically investing in **assets like corporate bonds** or a mix of assets where day-to-day changes in value have historically been less than for shares. There's still a risk that the value of your investment could fall.

You can find out more about our risk ratings at [aviva.co.uk/retirement/fund-centre/investment-funds/risk-ratings](https://www.aviva.co.uk/retirement/fund-centre/investment-funds/risk-ratings)

Assets

An asset is a type of investment. Different types of assets include equities (shares), property, fixed interest (gilts and other bonds), alternative investments and cash/money market. Assets can rise and fall in value.

Things you need to be aware of

Investing in with-profits may not be appropriate if you:

- expect to need your money in the short term
- aren't prepared to accept any risk of losing money
- would prefer the certainty of the interest from a bank or building society savings account, which you're guaranteed to receive once it's earned.

Asset mix

At a glance

We invest your money in the WL With-Profits Sub-Fund, which invests in a mix of assets, including:

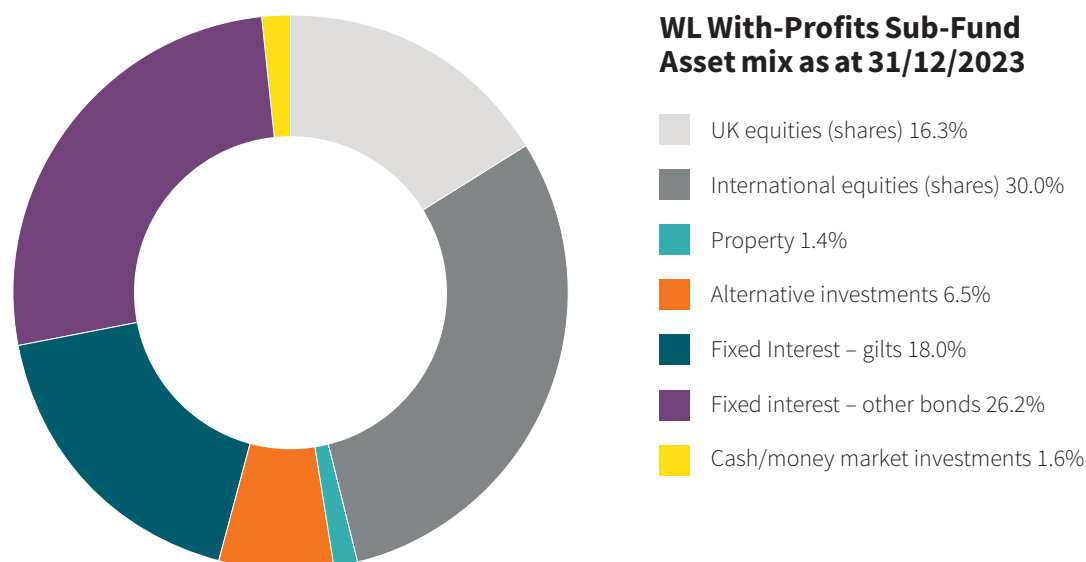
- equities (shares) (UK & international)
- property
- fixed interest
- alternative investments
- cash/money market investments

How do we invest your money?

We invest your money into a broad mix of assets. The asset diagram below shows the type and percentage of each asset that the WL With-Profits Sub-Fund invests in. This is applicable to most with-profits policies. Policies with significant guarantees and those that are close to the end of their term will have a higher proportion of fixed interest and a lower proportion of shares.

The Sub-Fund your policy invests in will always hold a mixture of higher and lower risk assets to achieve its objective.

For details of the December 2023 asset mix see the illustration below. Historical asset mixes are shown on page 6.



Asset mix (continued)

The performance of the different types of assets varies over time, and all asset types can go down in value as well as up. Our fund managers may change the asset mix to:

- try to improve the long term performance of the Sub-Fund
- make sure that the Sub-Fund can meet its obligations.

From time to time the Sub-Fund may include investments in other Aviva group companies. However, this won't have a direct effect on the asset mix backing your policy.

What does it mean?

Equities – UK and International (Shares)

Equities are company shares. They represent part-ownership in a company. Companies issue shares on stock exchanges such as the London Stock Exchange, and the shares are then bought and sold on stock markets. Their value can go up or down.

While there is more potential for gains with shares than some types of investment, there is also greater risk that they will fall in value.

Property

This usually refers to commercial property. Shops, offices and warehouses are examples of commercial property. There are two components to an investment in commercial property – the value of the property itself and the rental income received from the tenants of the property.

Commercial property can be subject to heavy falls and sharp increases in value. **Property isn't always easy to sell because it can take time for the purchase or the sale to be completed, and as a result, to access the money from the property.** Property funds may also invest in indirect property investments, including quoted property trusts and unregulated collective investment schemes.

Alternative investments

Alternative investments are assets which tend to behave differently to more traditional asset classes such as equities, bonds or property. These investments can include multi-strategy funds (that offer a larger number or broader range of investment strategies within a single fund) which seek to take advantage of investment opportunities not always found in the approach used by more traditional asset classes. Adding alternative investments to a portfolio may provide broader diversification, reduce risk and enhance returns.

Fixed interest

Government bonds and corporate bonds are examples of fixed interest assets. In the UK, government bonds are also called gilts. Government bonds are loans issued by governments to pay for things such as public services. They're a way for them to borrow money, usually for a fixed term. Governments then pay interest on the loans.

International and UK Corporate bonds are loans issued by companies to pay for their operations or to grow the business among other things.

UK gilts issued by the UK Government are generally seen as lower risk investments than bonds issued by companies (corporate bonds).

Bonds pay the holder of the bond a regular income, and then the full value of the bond is paid when the bond comes to the end of its lifetime. Bonds carry interest rate risk - **changes in interest rates or inflation can contribute to the value of the bond going up or down. For example, if interest rates rise, the bond's value is likely to fall.** There's also the risk of the bond issuer becoming unable to pay back the money it has borrowed.

Cash/Money market investments

Money market investments are also known as cash investments. They are short-term deposits of cash amounts, usually held with a financial company for less than 12 months. Please note they are not deposit accounts with banks or building societies.

Although these investments are less risky than other asset classes, they can sometimes fall in value, for example if an organisation is unable to pay back money it has borrowed. Their value can also be gradually affected over time by inflation and the effect of charges.

Historical asset mixes

	2023	2022	2021	2020
UK equities (shares)	16.3%	18.3%	17.3%	18.0%
International equities (shares)	30.0%	27.0%	25.0%	24.8%
Property	1.4%	1.8%	2.2%	2.2%
Alternative investments	6.5%	6.5%	6.2%	5.9%
Fixed interest – gilts	18.0%	17.2%	19.0%	18.6%
Fixed interest – other bonds	26.2%	27.6%	28.8%	29.0%
Cash/money market	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%

Investment returns

The investment returns achieved by the Sub-Fund in recent years are:

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
before tax (pensions)	8.5%	-8.4%	5.3%	3.7%	12.4%
after tax (life)	7.7%	-7.4%	5.4%	3.0%	12.1%

Further historical investment returns together with other useful updates are available at [aviva.co.uk/help-and-support/managing-your-policy/investments/with-profits-bonus-information/](https://www.aviva.co.uk/help-and-support/managing-your-policy/investments/with-profits-bonus-information/)

Figures are before any deduction for investment expenses. 'Before tax (pensions)' returns relate to the investment returns that apply to pension products. 'After tax (life)' returns relate to non-pension products, such as endowment policies.

This is past performance. Past performance isn't a guide to future performance.

The investment returns and asset allocations above are applicable to most with-profits policies. However, they don't apply to certain policies such as those invested wholly in fixed interest to cover guarantees or those in the last 3 years of their term, where investments are gradually moved into money market investments.

What affects how much you might get?

The amount you get back will depend on the amount you invest, plus:

- how the Sub-Fund has performed during the time you've invested with us
- the way we apply the smoothing process (this is explained on page 7).
- the effect of any guarantees (shown in your policy documents)
- our charges, such as administration costs, investment management fees and any financial adviser commission or charges
- any tax we pay and any future tax changes (pensions currently receive favourable tax treatment)
- for unitised policies any early exit charges (where applicable), withdrawals (where these are allowed), and whether we're applying a **market value reduction** when you move money out of the Sub-Fund.

Smoothing – how it works

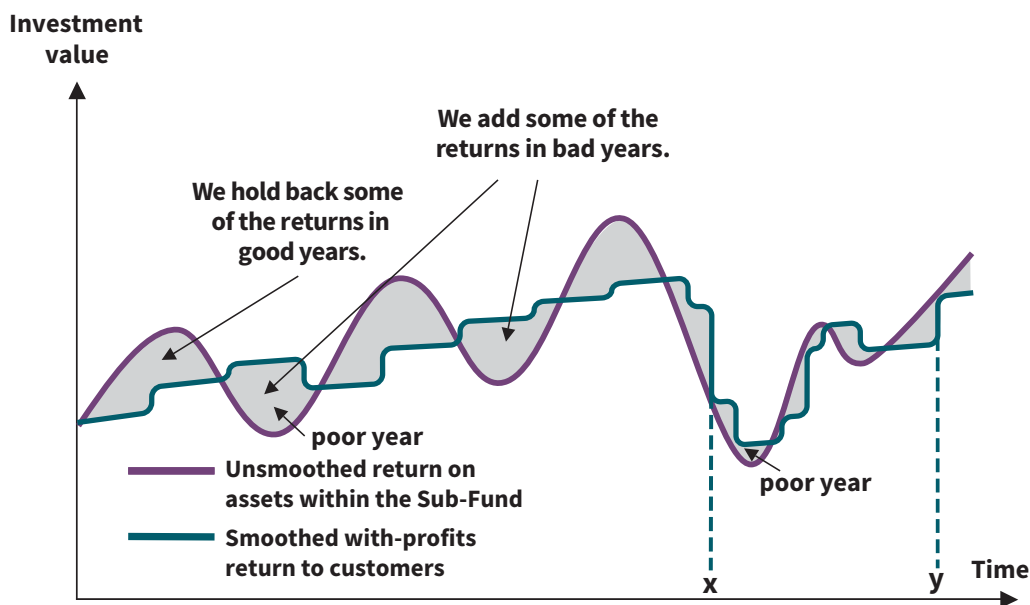
At a glance

One of the main features of a with-profits investment is that it aims to grow in value smoothly from year to year rather than being affected by the significant ups and downs of the stock market.

Over time the value of the assets held by the Sub-Fund will rise and fall. We even out these variations in performance through changes to the bonus rates that apply, and typically this occurs at least twice a year. This is known as smoothing. We show this with the green line in the diagram below. In contrast, the unsmoothed Sub-Fund's value changes each day as the value of the assets goes up and down. This is shown by the purple line in the diagram.

Smoothing applies to both **unitised** and **conventional** policies.

The following diagram is for illustration purposes only and shows a period of positive growth overall, which isn't guaranteed.



⚠ Things you need to be aware of

There may be times in poor market conditions when smoothing can't fully protect the value of your investment. This is illustrated in the diagram above between points x and y where the teal green line showing the smoothed with-profits value has fallen.

This can happen following a large or sustained fall in the stock markets or when investment returns are below the level we normally expect. If you leave the Sub-Fund under these circumstances, this could reduce the value of your investment.

This is explained in more detail under the heading 'What happens if you leave the Sub-Fund early?' on page 11.

Bonuses – how do we add the bonuses?

We share out the returns the Sub-Fund earns through a system of bonuses. There are different types of bonuses: regular and final.

Regular bonus

Regular bonuses are designed to be sustainable and provide steady growth over time in the value of your investment. We decide regular bonus rates at least once a year.

You can usually see bonus details in your yearly statement. The rate will vary over the period of your investment.

We decide the bonuses by looking at:

- how the Sub-Fund has performed in the current year
- any returns or losses from earlier years that we haven't already shared out through smoothing
- what we expect to earn in future years, and the effect of smoothing.

Unitised policies

We calculate your share of your investment in the Sub-Fund in units.

For most unitised policies we add regular bonuses, if there are any, once a year by adding extra units. For the remaining unitised policies, we add regular bonuses, if any, at least monthly by increasing the unit price or by a combination of this and by adding extra units.

Conventional policies

We may add regular bonuses, if any, once a year to the guaranteed amount

Conventional with-profits policies can receive two types of regular bonus, which are added on top of the initial guaranteed amount. This is calculated as:

- a proportion of the initial guaranteed amount; and
- a proportion of any bonuses we've added previously.

Once added, we guarantee that the regular bonus will be paid at your chosen retirement date, the policy's maturity date or on death.



Things you need to be aware of

- A regular bonus isn't the same as interest from a bank or building society.
- We don't guarantee to add a regular bonus to your investment each year. This is illustrated on the diagrams on the next page at years 1 and 9 for unitised policies, and at years 1, 11, 17 and 19 for conventional policies.
- It's likely that bonuses will be smaller in poor investment years than in good years.

Bonuses – how do we add the bonuses? (continued)

Final bonus

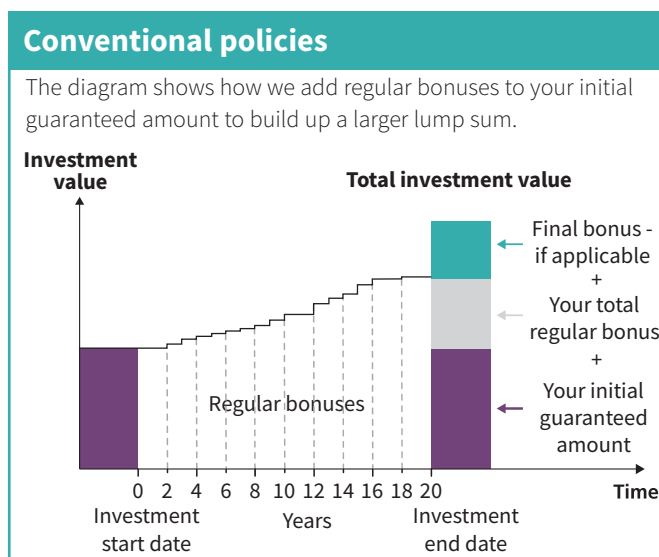
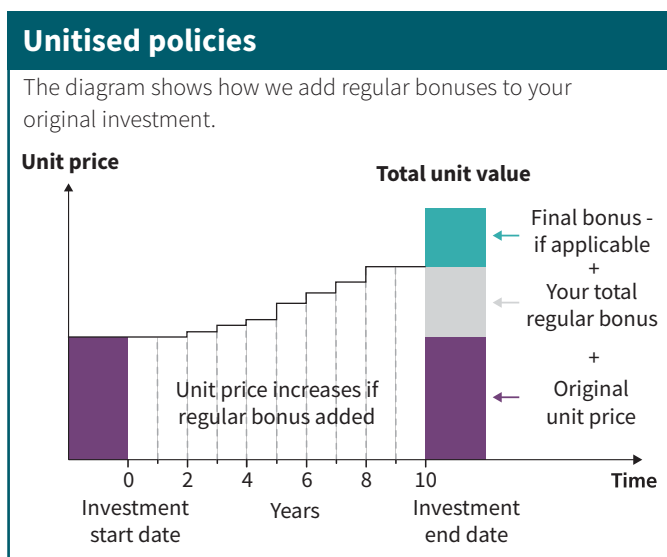
Final bonus aims to pay any balance between the regular bonuses we've already added and the performance of the Sub-Fund over the whole period of your investment. This makes sure that you get a fair share of the return your investment has earned.

Bonuses can vary and aren't guaranteed.

We aim to pay a final bonus to increase the value of your policy:

- if you die
- if you transfer your pension or cash-in your policy
- at maturity, for endowments, or at your chosen retirement date, for pensions.
- if you switch out of the Sub-Fund into another investment fund (unitised policies only).

We normally review final bonus rates twice a year. However, we may review them more frequently if there are large changes in investment markets. Final bonus rates can change at any time, aren't guaranteed and could be zero.



These diagrams are for illustration purposes only and show periods of positive growth overall, which isn't guaranteed. The terms illustrated aren't the minimum or maximum period of investment for with-profits.

Things you need to be aware of

For unitised and conventional policies

- The final bonus is based on the year in which you invested and the point at which you leave the Sub-Fund. It may vary depending on the returns earned over the lifetime of your investment and isn't guaranteed.
- If the investment return has been low over the period you invested, you may not receive a final bonus as you'll have already received your share of the returns through regular bonuses.
- We use a typical plan rather than individual plans when setting final bonus rates for plans issued in the same year.

For unitised policies

- If a **market value reduction** is in place then this can reduce the effect of any final bonus and you may get back less than you invested. We'll tell you if a market value reduction is applying before you take money out of the Sub-Fund so you have the opportunity to change your mind.

What are the guarantees?

Some conventional and unitised products provide guaranteed policy benefits if certain events happen or on dates as set out in your policy document.

For example, the event may be your policy's maturity date as agreed when you took it out. Or, for a pension policy, it may be the date you chose to retire when you started the policy. Your policy documents will set out any guarantees.

Unitised policies

We won't apply a market value reduction to your policy on your original retirement date, on maturity or on death. However, for pensions policies we may apply one on your selected retirement date if you've made any additional single payments, transfer payments or switches into the Sub-Fund in the previous five years.

We can't guarantee the amount you'll get back if you move out of the Sub-Fund before or after your originally selected retirement date or before your maturity date.

Conventional policies

At the end of your policy term or on death, we'll pay the basic guaranteed benefit as well as any regular bonus we've already added. We'll do this even if the stock market falls significantly. You won't receive any guarantees if you decide to cash in your policy early.

Some pension policies may offer **guaranteed annuity options**. Please read your policy document to find out if this applies to you.

What does it mean?

Guaranteed annuity options

Some pension policies may offer guaranteed annuity options, such as a guaranteed annuity rate. A guaranteed annuity rate is a valuable benefit, and usually means you can get a higher income from us than you could from another company.

Please read your policy document to find out if this applies to you.

Things you need to be aware of

As these guarantees are valuable, we recommended you seek financial advice before withdrawing, switching or surrendering any benefits in the future.

What happens if you leave the Sub-Fund early?

You may decide to move some or all of your investment out of the Sub-Fund early. For example, where your policy allows, you might:

- cash-in your policy
- transfer to another company; or
- switch to another type of fund (only available for unitised with-profits policies).

You should view with-profits investments as a long-term investment. This means leaving the Sub-Fund early may be the wrong option for you, especially if you have guarantees.

If you're considering leaving the Sub-Fund, we'd strongly suggest that you talk to your financial adviser or contact us directly. You can call us on the telephone number shown on your annual statement.

Unitised policies

We work out the cash-in, transfer or switch value by looking at the value of units in your policy and then apply any deduction as described in your policy documents. We may then add a final bonus.

There may be times in poor market conditions or when investment returns are below the level we normally expect when we would apply a **market value reduction** if you move out of the Sub-Fund.

Market value reductions only apply to unitised with-profits policies. It's a reduction made to ensure that policyholders who remain in the Sub-Fund aren't disadvantaged when others leave.

If you move out of the Sub-Fund when a market value reduction is in place it'll reduce the value of your investment. This means you could get back less than you've invested. We won't apply it to your policy on your selected retirement date, at maturity, on death, or if, for pension policies only, we've received appropriate medical evidence that you have less than 12 months to live.

However, we may apply a market value reduction on your selected retirement date if you've made any additional single payments, transfer payments or switches into a with-profits fund in the previous five years. Please refer to your policy documents for further details.

If you tell us you want to move your money out of the Sub-Fund, we'll let you know if a market value reduction will be applied before taking your money out of the Sub-Fund. This gives you the chance to change your mind.

Conventional policies

If you move your money out of a conventional with-profits policy (eg. surrender before the maturity date or transfer before the selected retirement date) we'll reduce the policy's guaranteed benefits to reflect that you've paid fewer premiums and been invested in the Sub-Fund for a shorter time than we expected when you took out the policy. We may add a final bonus.

In adverse financial conditions, for example if investment markets fall significantly, we may change the way we determine how much is due to you. This may mean that we reduce the amount we pay you in order to be fair to all policyholders.

For pension policies only, where we've been provided with appropriate medical evidence that you have less than 12 months to live, any claim will be treated in the same way as a death claim.

What does it mean?

Market value reduction

This is a reduction we sometimes have to make so that customers who remain invested in the Sub-Fund aren't disadvantaged when others choose to leave.

An example showing why we may make a market value reduction

If there are three investors in a fund who each invest £10,000, the total fund is worth £30,000. If stock markets fall by 20% and the total fund value drops to £24,000, this would mean that if one investor withdraws their original £10,000 without a market value reduction in place, it would only leave £14,000 to be shared between the remaining two investors. In this example, it would be fairer for the investor wanting to withdraw their investment to only receive £8,000, leaving £16,000 to be shared between the other two investors.

A bit more about the Sub-Fund

What's the With-Profits Committee?

Our customers are at the heart of everything we do and we're fully committed to treating them fairly at all times.

To support this, we have a With-Profits Committee which oversees our work with independent expertise to make sure our decisions relating to with-profits investments are fair.

You can find out more about our With-Profits Committee at aviva.co.uk/wpcommittee

How are business risks managed?

The WL With-Profits Sub-Fund is exposed to a number of risks. The cost of risks is normally allocated to the Sub-Fund as a whole, not to individual policies.

Our biggest risks come from the need to pay the guaranteed payments on all with-profits and non-profit policies when they become due, and from the possibility of falls in asset values. We control the risks to the Sub-Fund by monitoring the various risk factors, and taking action to reduce our exposure to risk, for example by changing investment strategy.

What are the estate and the capital support?

Each of our with-profits sub-funds has a buffer over and above the amount needed to make pay-outs to policyholders. This buffer is known as the estate and we use this to support smoothing and guarantees and to provide security for our policyholders.

The size of the estate is important as it gives us:

- the flexibility to invest in a wider range of assets
- a cushion of extra security to protect our investors when investment returns are low
- a greater ability to smooth the returns you receive.

We review the size of the 'buffer' in each with-profits sub-fund every year to determine whether they have additional surplus that can be shared between eligible policies.

We aim to distribute all of the assets attributable to the with-profits policies in the Sub-Fund over the remaining lifetime of those policies. You can find out about the estate distributions that are currently applying at aviva.co.uk/estate-distributions

We're required to maintain a support account for the Sub-Fund. Other than in extreme circumstances we won't use the support account of the Sub-Fund to cover the support account of another with-profits sub-fund.

Support assets will be used to maintain the value of ex-Colonial Life conventional with-profits policies in certain circumstances. Once an amount of support has been transferred to the Sub-Fund it can't be repaid.

Is the Sub-Fund closed to new business?

The WL With-Profits Sub-Fund is closed to new business, although we still accept increments to existing policies and new members to existing group schemes.

What are policyholder and shareholder interests?

There are two groups who have an interest in the Sub-Fund – **policyholders** and **shareholders**. We must make sure that any decisions we make about how we run the Sub-Fund are fair to everyone. This means we have to balance the interests of:

- policyholders whose investments start at different times
- policyholders who leave the fund and those who keep their money invested in it
- our shareholders.

We take all this into consideration in the way we run the Sub-Fund. Shareholders are currently entitled to an amount equal to one ninth of the surplus distributed to most with-profits policyholders.

What does it mean?

Policyholders have invested their money in the fund.

Shareholders own a stake in our total business.

Where can you find out more?

We hope this guide has helped you understand how our WL With-Profits Sub-Fund works.

This guide is only meant to be a summary. We also have a detailed document, called the **Principles and Practices of Financial Management (PPFM)**, which is produced in line with guidance from our regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority. You can find it and more on our website: aviva.co.uk/ppfm/#wl-with-profits

If there are any differences between the information in the two guides, you should take the Principles and Practices of Financial Management as the final word.

You can see a summary of any changes to our PPFM on our website together with our yearly compliance statement.



You can also contact us for a copy of these guides or for more information by calling

0345 304 0401

Calls may be monitored and/or recorded.



Write to us at:

**Aviva, PO Box 582
Bristol
BS34 9FX**



You can use the link below to find out more about our Sub-Funds at:

aviva.co.uk/ppfm



If you have any questions about your investment you can talk to your financial adviser. They'll be able to consider your current circumstances and financial goals.


If you don't have a financial adviser, you can find one at **unbiased.co.uk**

Please note, your financial adviser may charge you for any advice provided.


Need this in a different format?

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How to contact us

 0345 304 0401

 contactus@aviva.com

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