

# Stakeholder With-Profits Sub-Fund

and Investment Summary



This guide provides a summary of how we manage the **Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited Stakeholder 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)

## Contents

- 3 An Aviva with-profits investment
- 4 Asset mix
- 6 Historical asset mixes
- 6 Investment returns
- 6 What affects how much you might get?
- 7 Smoothing – how it works
- 8 Bonuses – how do we add the bonuses?
- 10 What are the guarantees?
- 11 What happens if you leave the Sub-Fund early?
- 12 A bit more about the Sub-Fund
- 13 Where can you find out more?

## 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’s one type of with-profits policy in the Sub-Fund:

**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.

# 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 Stakeholder With-Profits Sub-Fund is rated as a **low to medium risk** fund.
- 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 risk ratings using historical performance.

#### **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

Although the Sub-Fund is closed to new investments, some customers can invest in it. To find out more, please call the number on your annual statement for details.

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 Stakeholder 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

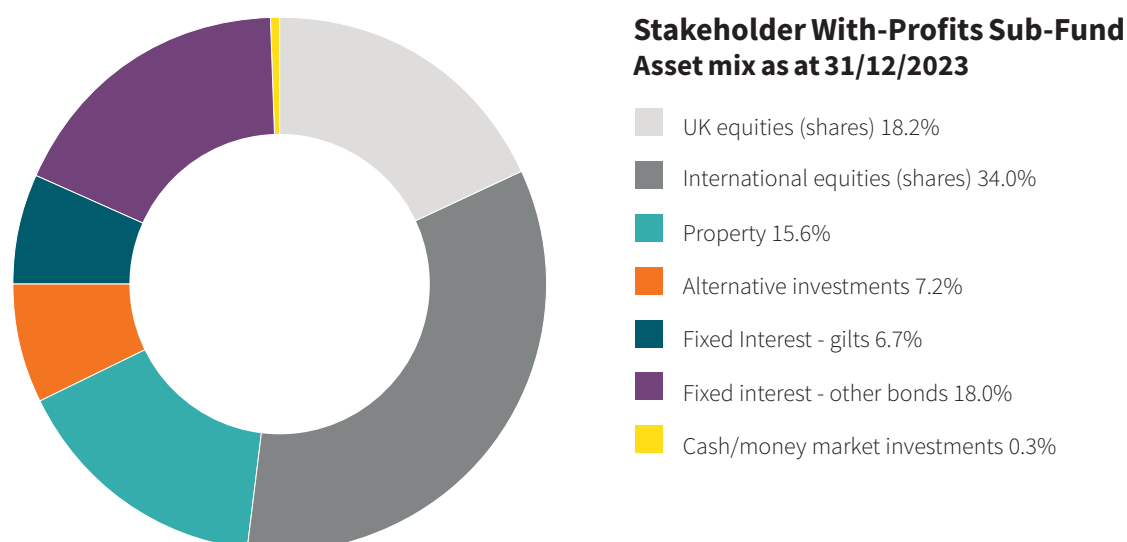
## How do we invest your money?

We invest your money into a broad mix of assets. The asset diagram below shows the type and percentage of each asset that the Stakeholder With-Profits Sub-Fund invests in.

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

The Sub-Fund holds a greater proportion of higher risk assets, such as **equities (shares)** and **property**. The rest is in medium and lower risk investments, such as **fixed interest**, **alternative investments** and **cash/money market investments**.

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)            | 18.2% | 20.0% | 21.9% | 22.4% |
| International equities (shares) | 34.0% | 31.2% | 31.3% | 31.8% |
| Property                        | 15.6% | 15.8% | 13.8% | 12.7% |
| Alternative investments         | 7.2%  | 7.5%  | 7.6%  | 7.3%  |
| Fixed interest – gilts          | 6.7%  | 5.2%  | 5.1%  | 5.1%  |
| Fixed interest – other bonds    | 18.0% | 19.6% | 15.9% | 19.4% |
| Cash/money market               | 0.3%  | 0.7%  | 4.4%  | 1.3%  |

## Investment returns

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

|                              | 2023 | 2022  | 2021  | 2020 | 2019  |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| <b>before tax (pensions)</b> | 8.1% | -6.3% | 10.2% | 1.9% | 11.8% |

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/)

The returns above are on the whole Sub-Funds and aren't applicable to any individual policy or plan. Figures are before any deduction for investment expenses. 'Before tax (pensions)' returns relate to the investment returns that apply to pension products. This is past performance. Past performance isn't a guide to future performance.

## 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.
- the 0.25% annual deduction to put into the smoothing account so we can operate smoothing effectively
- any tax we pay and any future tax changes (pensions currently receive favourable tax treatment)
- 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.

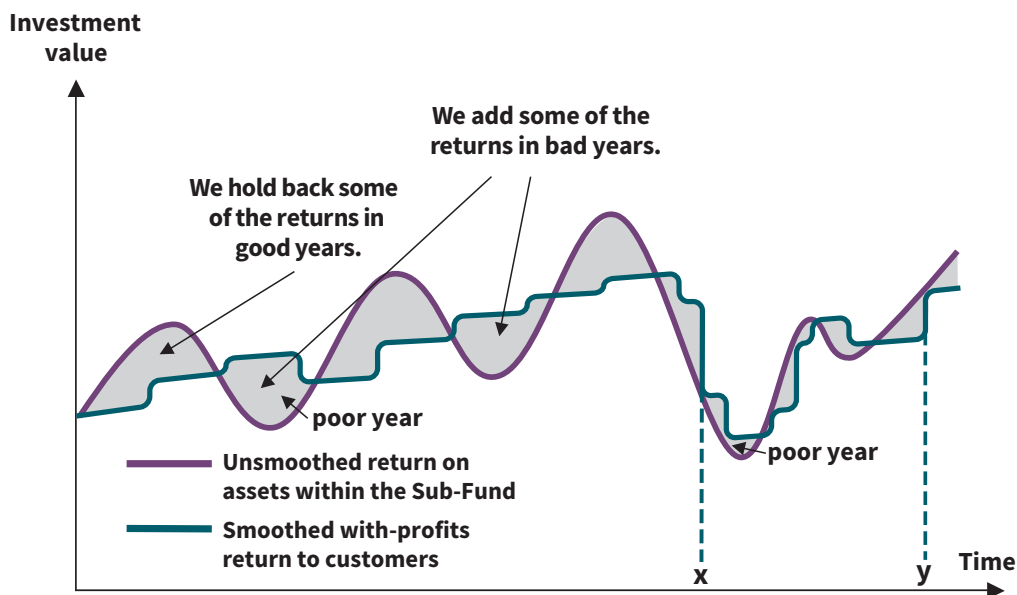
# Smoothing – how it works

## 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.

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 any regular 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. We add the regular bonus, if any, to your investment by increasing the price of the units you have. This means that the number of units you hold stays the same, but the value of these units increases and reflects the bonus rate we've set.



## 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 indicated at years 1 and 9 in the diagram on the next page.
- 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

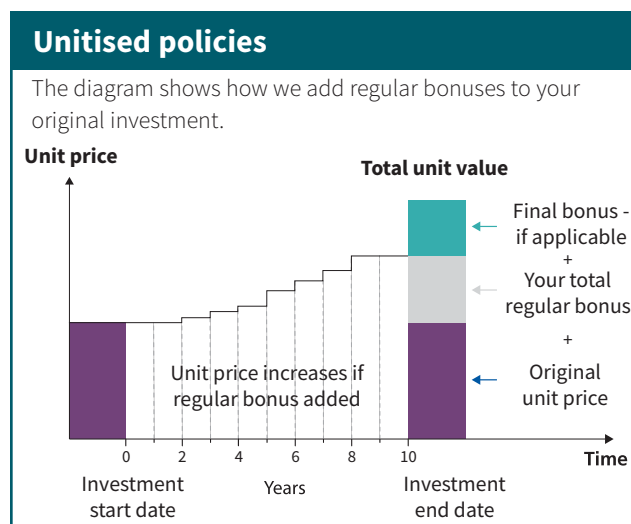
Final bonus aims to pay any balance between the regular bonuses we've already added and the performance of the Sub-Fund over the whole period of your investment. This makes sure that you get a fair share of the return your investment has earned.

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 or cash-in your pension
- at your chosen retirement date
- if you switch out of the Sub-Fund into another investment fund.

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.



The diagram shows how we add regular bonuses to your original investment. This is for illustration purposes only and shows a period of positive growth overall, which isn't guaranteed.

The term illustrated isn't the minimum or maximum period of investment for with profits.

## Things you need to be aware of

- 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 policy rather than individual policies when setting final bonus rates for policies issued in the same year.
- 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 products provide guaranteed policy benefits if certain events happen or on dates as set out in your policy document.

## Unitised policies

If you keep your money invested in the Sub-Fund until the retirement date you originally chose or your death, we won't apply a market value reduction.

However, we may apply a market value reduction at your originally selected retirement date if any of the following apply:

- you started your policy within five years of your original retirement date
- you've made any new one-off investments or increased your regular contributions (except those automatically increasing in line with average earnings) within five years of your original retirement date
- you've moved any existing investment into the Sub-Fund within five years of your original retirement date
- you've switched into the Sub-Fund within five years of your original retirement date.

Please refer to your policy documents for further details.

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.



## Things you need to be aware of

As these guarantees are valuable, we recommend you seek financial advice before transferring or switching 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

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 or on death. However, we may apply it on your selected retirement date if you've made any additional single payments, transfer payments or switches into the Sub-Fund within five years of your original retirement date. 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.

## 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](https://aviva.co.uk/wpcommittee)

## How are business risks managed?

Our Stakeholder With-Profits Sub-Fund is exposed to a number of risks that we call business risks. These may change over time and may include:

- the amount of incremental new business we sell and the terms we offer
- the cost of any guarantees we offer; and
- the Sub-Fund's expenses being higher than planned.

As business risks could affect the returns the Sub-Fund earns, we continually assess the risks to see if they:

- are acceptable to the Sub-Fund; and
- provide an acceptable return compared with the risk we take.

## Is the Sub-Fund closed to new business?

The Sub-Fund was closed to new business from 1 January 2023. No new business is written in the Sub-Fund except for incremental business.

## What are the policyholder interests?

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 Sub-Fund and those who keep their money invested in it

We take all this into consideration in the way we run the Sub-Fund.

## How are the profits shared?

Profits from the Sub-Fund are only distributable to its with-profits policyholders in the form of bonuses added to their policies.

# Where can you find out more?

We hope this guide has helped you understand how our Stakeholder 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/#stakeholder](https://aviva.co.uk/ppfm/#stakeholder)

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

**0800 068 6800**

Calls may be monitored and/or recorded.



Write to us at:

**Aviva, PO Box 520  
Surrey Street, Norwich  
NR1 3WG**



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

**[aviva.co.uk/ppfm](https://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](https://unbiased.co.uk)**

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



## Manage your products online with MyAviva

MyAviva brings together the products that help you protect your health, your loved ones, your future and your possessions, in one safe, secure and simple-to-use place.

It's quick and easy to register – either online or through the app - with a whole host of benefits at your finger tips.

## Need this in a different format?

Please get in touch if you'd prefer this summary (**SP56001**) in large print, braille or as audio.

## How to contact us

 0800 068 6800

 [contactus@aviva.com](mailto:contactus@aviva.com)

 [aviva.co.uk](https://aviva.co.uk)

| Retirement | Investments | Insurance | Health |

### Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited.

Registered in England No 3253947. Aviva, Wellington Row, York, YO90 1WR. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 185896..

CFPPFMSH SP56001 04/2024 © Aviva plc

