



# FLAS With-Profits Sub-Fund and Investment Summary

This guide provides a summary of how we manage the **Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited FLAS With-Profits 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 three main types of with-profits policies in the Sub-Fund:

**Conventional with-profits policies** – your investment provides a guaranteed amount (called the ‘sum assured’) at maturity or on death.

**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.

**Deposit administration policies** – used in connection with defined benefit pensions schemes. An account is kept for each scheme. We credit the account with payments into the scheme, any guaranteed interest payments due and bonuses allocated. We debit the account with the cost of members’ benefits and charges.

If your yearly statement or bonus notice shows units and/or unit prices, then you have a **unitised policy**. If you’re an employer with a pension scheme you may have a **deposit administration** contract. Otherwise, your policy is a **conventional** one.

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

There are also a large number of policies in the Sub-Fund which aren’t entitled to a share in profits of the Sub-Fund (‘non-profit policies’) so don’t receive bonuses.

# What's an Aviva with-profits investment?

## At a glance

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 FLAS With-Profits Sub-Fund is rated as a **low to medium volatility** fund.
- The objective of an Aviva with-profits investment is to provide steady capital growth over the medium to long term, whilst smoothing out fluctuations in investment markets.
- The value of the Sub-Fund can go down as well as up depending on the returns of the underlying mix of assets within 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 in more detail later, but basically it helps to reduce some of the significant ups and downs of investing in the stock market. We smooth the rises and falls in value by holding back some of the investment returns in good years. We then use them to top up bonuses in poor investment years.
- 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 11.



### What does it mean?

Aviva assesses its risk ratings using historical performance data.

#### Low to medium volatility - 3

Funds typically investing in assets like corporate bonds or a mix of assets where the day-to-day prices go up or down less than shares. There is 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 shares (equities), 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

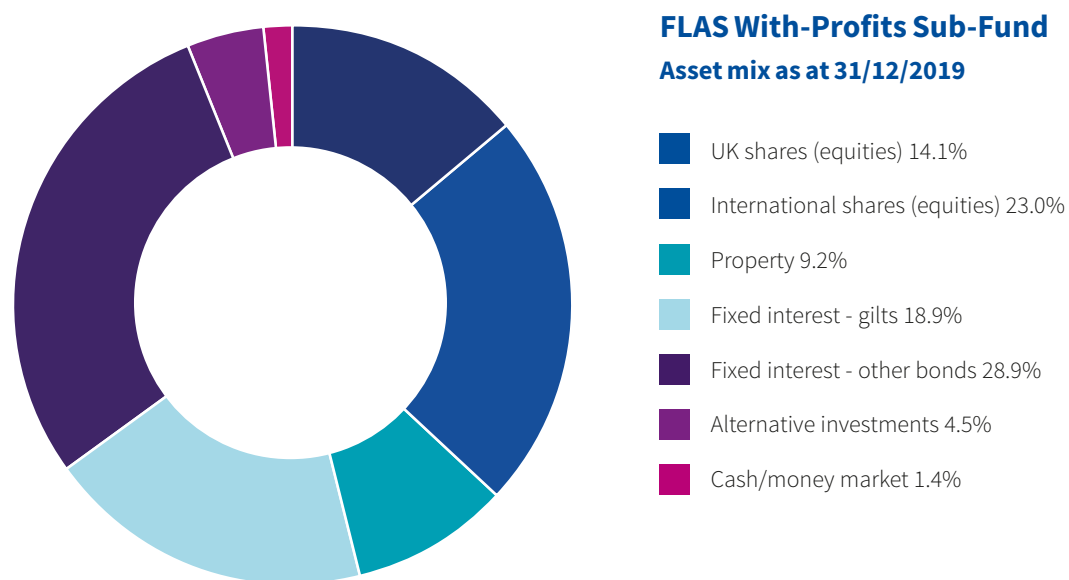
We invest your money in the FLAS With-Profits Sub-Fund, which invests in a mix of assets, including:

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

## 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 FLAS 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 objective.



# Asset mix (continued)

The performance of the different types of assets varies over time. Our fund managers may change the asset mix 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.

We've introduced some small changes to the asset class definitions to make it clearer that there are differences between traditional and alternative investments, and to simplify the classification of fixed interest assets.



## What does it mean?

### Shares (equities)

Shares (or equities) are shares in companies listed on stock exchanges around the world. As shares can rise and fall in value very easily, equities are riskier than most other investments. However, they usually offer the greatest chance of higher returns over the long term. In our Sub-Fund the equity part of the asset mix includes equity-type assets that aren't quoted on stock exchanges.

### Property

This is investment in commercial property such as shopping centres, business offices and industrial warehouses. The value of property can go down as well as up, and property may take longer to buy and sell than other types of investment.

### Fixed interest - gilts

These are bonds issued by the UK government. The government pays interest on the bonds and promises to pay back the principal amount (money borrowed) at a certain point in the future. If the government defaults on a bond, the principal amount and interest will not be paid. However, gilts are regarded as less risky than corporate bonds.

### Fixed interest - other bonds

This can be various types of non-gilt investments, including any corporate bonds (i.e. loans issued by companies to be paid at a point in the future) and alternative credit (including non-traditional corporate, private or emerging market debt). The value of fixed interest investments can go down as well as up. If a company defaults on a bond, the principal amount (money borrowed) and interest will not be paid. Corporate bonds are regarded as riskier than gilts.

### 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 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.

### Cash/money market

Cash means a range of short-term deposits – similar to a bank/building society account. Cash also includes money market securities, which are interest generating investments, issued by governments, banks and other major institutions. The value of cash and money market securities can go down as well as up.

# Investment returns and market overview

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

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>before tax (pensions)</b>	11.1%	-1.8%	7.5%	11.4%	3.9%
<b>after tax (life/savings)</b>	8.8%	-1.4%	6.3%	9.6%	3.4%

The investment returns above are on the whole Sub-Fund and aren't applicable to any individual policy or plan. These figures are before any deduction for investment expenses.

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

## Investment markets in 2019

In 2019 stock markets performed well, with many equity markets hitting all-time highs. This was largely due to declining interest rates globally as this helped keep borrowing costs low. Perceived moderation in geo-political risk was a material factor impacting market sentiment during 2019; this boosted investor confidence towards the end of the year following some resolution of the trade conflict between the US and China.

UK government bonds (gilts) and UK corporate bonds performed well, despite subdued economic conditions and uncertainty over the effects of Brexit.

The FTSE\*100 Share index, a commonly used indicator of the performance of UK shares, showed a total return of 17.3% (see Note 1). UK corporate bonds returned 9.2% (see Note 2) and UK government bonds (gilts) returned 6.9% (see Note 3).

### Notes:

1 Source: FE Analytics. (FTSE 100 Total Return Index)

2 Source: FE Analytics. (Markit iBoxx Sterling Non-Gilts TR Index)

3 Source: FE Analytics. (FTSE Actuaries UK Conventional Gilts All Stocks TR index).

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# 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
- 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

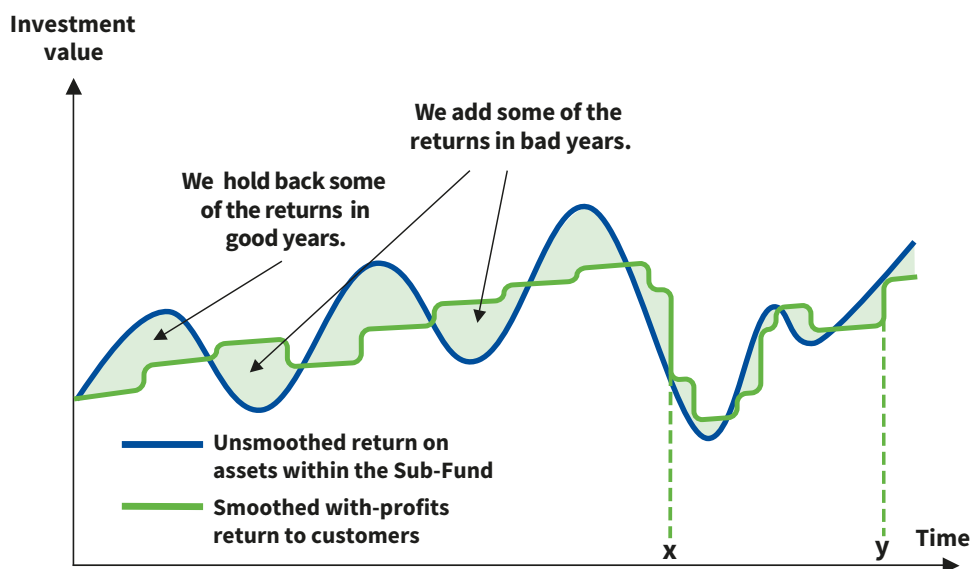
## At a glance

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 or fall. We don't change bonus rates as often as the value of the assets changes. Instead we aim to even out some of these variations in performance. This is known as smoothing. We show this with the green line in the diagram below. In contrast, the unsmoothed Sub-fund value changes each day as the value of the assets goes up and down. This is shown by the blue line in the diagram.

Smoothing applies to both **conventional** and **unitised** 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 your investment, as illustrated between points **x** and **y** in the diagram above. 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?'



# Bonuses – how do we add the bonuses?

## At a glance

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

### 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.

### 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.

## Bonuses

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; and
- what we expect to earn in future years, and the effect of smoothing.

## Regular bonus

### Unitised policies

We calculate your share of your investment in the Sub-Fund in units. In most cases we add the bonus 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.

For some types of policy, regular bonus is added by means of an annual addition of bonus units rather than an increase in unit price.

### 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.

### Deposit administration policies

We set regular bonus rates by taking into account the actual return on assets and any guaranteed interest payments due. Our aim is to produce a fair return for policyholders over the medium term.



## 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.

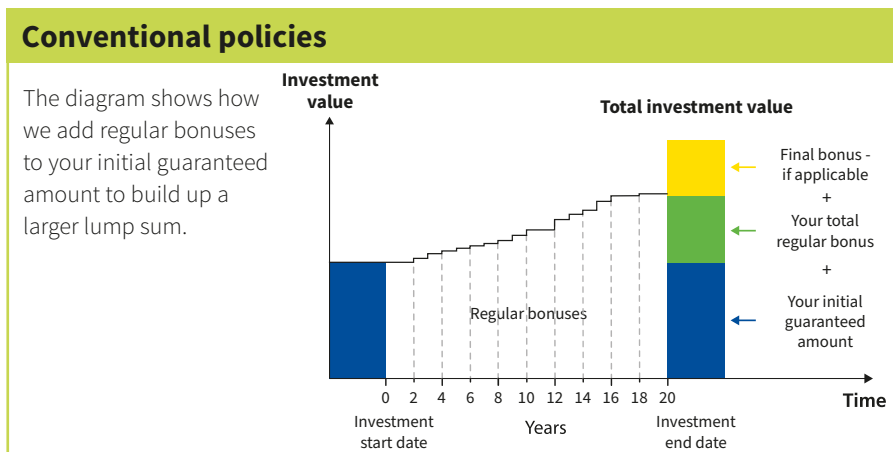
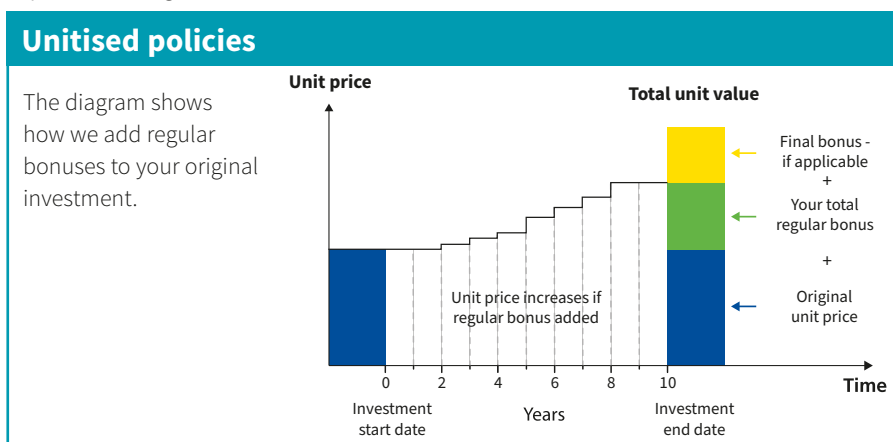
# Bonuses – how do we add the bonuses? (continued)

## Final bonus

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.



## 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.



## 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 policy rather than individual policies when setting final bonus rates for policies issued in the same year.
- Certain policies aren't entitled to receive a final bonus and as a result the regular bonus on these policies vary more than on others. Policies where we don't pay final bonuses include:
  - With-Profits Annuities
  - Deposit Administration Plans; and
  - pensions policies invested in the Group With-Profits Fund.

### 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, on maturity 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 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.

# Questions and answers

## 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://www.aviva.co.uk/wpcommittee)

## How are business risks managed?

The FLAS 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. 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.

In addition, certain capital support assets are available within other parts of Aviva Life & Pensions UK Limited, in all but extreme circumstances. Support assets may be used to pay policy benefits of the Sub-Fund should the reserves and estate prove insufficient. In certain circumstances the support assets will be transferred to the Sub-Fund. The assets will also be repaid when no longer required.

The estate and capital support assets support the operation of with-profits policies. In particular they:

- provide us with the flexibility to invest in a wider range of assets
- provide a cushion of extra security to protect our investors when investment returns are low
- enable bonuses on with-profits policies to be smoothed.

If at any time we believe that the amount of the estate is too low then we'll take action to increase it, for example by reducing future bonus rates or changing our investment strategy. Similarly, if we believe that the amount of the estate is too high, we will take action to reduce it, for example by increasing the amount we allocate to bonuses over a period of time.

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/keeping-you-informed](https://www.aviva.co.uk/keeping-you-informed)

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

The FLAS With-Profits Sub-Fund was closed to new business on 31 July 2009, 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 move money out of the Sub-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 allocated one ninth of surplus distributed to with-profits policyholders (that is 10% of the total profits are allocated to shareholders).



### What does it mean?

**Policyholders** have invested their money in the Sub-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 FLAS 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/#flas-with-profits](https://aviva.co.uk/ppfm/#flas-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

**0117 989 9000.**

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. 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](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.

## Braille, large text, audio material

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Our opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8.30am to 5pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded.