

The **co-operative** investments
good with money

Platinum Bond Plus

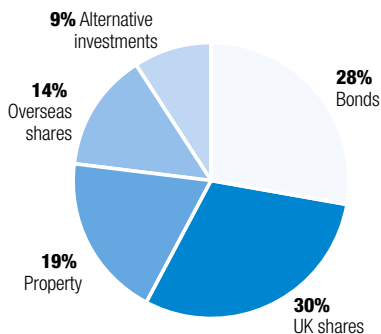
An overview of your with-profits investment

A brief introduction

Platinum Bond Plus invests in a with-profits fund which is made up of the money of thousands of policyholders. We aim to make profits for the fund by investing in a mix of investments such as property, bonds and shares. Our goal is to achieve the best possible returns for you over the long term.

By investing in a mix of investments, we create a diversified portfolio for you, meaning that this product is less risky than, for example, a product that invests solely in the stock market.

The mix of investments as at 31st December 2011 is shown below:



Your returns are 'smoothed' over time, so that you are cushioned from the daily ups and downs of the stock market. In this way, with-profits investments are suitable for cautious, long-term investors looking for better returns than cash savings while not wanting full exposure to stock market volatility.

What you receive each year

We add annual bonuses and review these on a regular basis, providing you with returns that don't fully reflect the ups and downs of markets. Please note that the addition of bonuses is not guaranteed.

What happens when you cash in

When you cash in your investment, we ask the question: *'What is a reasonable proportion of the fund for you to receive, which enables other policyholders to also retain their fair share of the fund?'*

We may apply a final bonus which will increase your payment when you cash in. However, to ensure that those policyholders who leave the fund do not take more than their fair share at the expense of those customers who remain in the fund, we may apply a 'Market Value Reduction' (or MVR) which will reduce your cash-in value.

MVRs explained

MVRs will only apply in certain circumstances, such as after deep or prolonged periods of market falls. When this happens, annual bonuses paid out will be higher than the actual returns earned by the fund. MVRs bring the payout amount back in line with the actual returns earned by the fund.

If we didn't do this, we would pay out more than the policy is worth. This would reduce the amount available for other customers when they leave the fund in the future, which would be unfair.

MVRs ensure that we only pay out what each policy actually earns. This protects customers who remain in the fund while giving a fair value to customers who leave the fund.

MVR rates depend on the bonuses paid and the fund's performance during the life of the policy.

When do MVRs not apply?

Importantly, MVRs only apply if you cash in your investment. MVRs do not apply:

- from the 10th anniversary of investments made before 1st April 2000
- if you don't cash in
- to payments on death
- to regular income payments.

Details of the MVR were provided in the Key Features document you received when you made your investment and can also be found in your Terms and Conditions document.

How does an MVR apply?

When you cash in your investment, if an MVR applies, we apply a charge to each investment made within a range of dates. The charges and dates that apply from 17th February 2011 are as follows:

Investments made between	MVR (% of invested capital)
16/09/06-15/12/07	9.0
16/12/07-15/03/08	6.0

How do we decide on the level of bonuses and MVRs?

We take decisions about applying an MVR very seriously. All decisions about bonus and MVR rates go through a rigorous governance process which includes obtaining the approval of our Board of Directors. To ensure that we are fair to our policyholders, we follow the Principles and Practices of Financial Management, which is a technical document that defines how we run our with-profits fund. This document is available to all policyholders (see 'How can I find out more information about the with-profits fund?').

PPFM changes – notification to policyholders

We have updated the PPFM for the Long Term Business Fund for the following reasons:

- We hold assets in the fund in excess of those we need to meet the liabilities of the fund. These excess assets are known as the working capital of the fund. We have recently enhanced the security of the fund by investing such assets in UK Government fixed-interest securities (known as gilts).
- We currently hold a separate shareholder-owned fund (the General Reserve) outside the Long Term Business Fund which, if available, may be used in exceptional circumstances to help meet the Long Term Business Fund's solvency requirements. We recently assessed the level of risks within the Long Term Business Fund

and this showed that the fund was expected to remain strong under a wide range of future financial and other conditions. Therefore our Board, with the agreement of the FSA, decided to reduce the size of the General Reserve by £117m to a new level of £200m.

The General Reserve could be reduced further or removed altogether, subject to our Board ensuring that with-profits policyholders are treated fairly.

- We've introduced some actions which our Board may decide to take, in exceptional circumstances, to protect the strength of the fund. These actions include reducing the proportion of riskier assets held for accumulating with-profits business as well as reductions to future annual bonuses for such business.

How can I find out how bonuses and MVRs affect my current investment?

In the statement we send you each year, we show you the cash-in value that applies to you at that time. You can also phone our Customer Contact Centre on 08457 46 46 46 to obtain an up-to-date cash-in value.

How can I find out more information about the with-profits fund?

The way in which we manage our with-profits fund is explained in detail in a technical document known as the 'Principles and Practices of Financial Management of the CIS Long Term Business Fund'.

This document is also available in a customer friendly format. You can view and download these documents, together with the most recent report about how we have complied with the PPFM from our website **co-operativeinvestments.co.uk** or alternatively you can ask us to send you a copy by calling us.

How to contact us

Call us on **08457 46 46 46** between 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 8am-5pm Saturdays.

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Please call 08457 46 46 46 if you would like to receive this information in an alternative format such as large print, audio or Braille.

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