

# **Useful Information**

Kingston Unity is a thriving, well established Friendly Society which has offered savings and protection products since 1840. We are proud of our heritage, mutual status and providing for the investment and protection needs of our members. Our aim is to help people benefit from the valuable tax breaks that are available to everyone (including children) through Friendly Societies and to offer an alternative to high street names for savings and investments.

We have approximately 100,000 members and our Head Office is in Wakefield, West Yorkshire though we have members throughout Britain. As a mutual organisation owned by our members we do not have to make payments to shareholders so spare surplus is used for the benefit of our members. We currently offer a suite of products that invest in our With Profits fund.

We are authorised by the Prudential Regulation authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and included in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

## **Our With Profits Fund**

Our products all invest in our With Profits Fund. This is an investment fund where your money is combined with that of other members and invested in a range of different assets. The four main asset classes are equities, commercial property, fixed interest (eg. gilts and bonds) and cash. The mix of assets will vary from time to time to reflect market conditions.

The main investment objective of the fund is to ensure that on death, maturity or certain guaranteed dates, you will receive the guaranteed benefit under the policy along with any annual bonuses that have been added. Please note that once a bonus has been allocated, it cannot be taken away unless the policy is surrendered early or there are surrender penalties in force. Annual bonuses are not guaranteed to be paid and may vary, including the possibility of none being paid in a particular year or years, depending upon the investment performance of the fund. Some of our policies may also have a terminal bonus added but again this depends on the fund's performance.

## **Smoothing**

The fund aims to smooth some of the extreme ups and downs of short-term investment performance (eg Stocks and Shares) in order to provide a more stable return. We do this by holding back some of the investment returns in good years with the aim of using this to support bonus rates in the years where the investment returns are lower.

#### **Bonus Information**

- Products grow by the potential addition of bonuses. These bonuses are known as "reversionary", or declared, bonuses.
- We declare reversionary bonuses following the year-end and they depend on performance of the underlying fund. The bonus is applied to the previous year. As an example, in early 2016 we will declare the reversionary rate for 2015 and this bonus will apply to all plans entitled to a bonus for 2015.
- For deaths, maturities and surrenders during the year, we use an "interim" bonus rate as the actual bonus rate for the year will not have been declared.
- Actual declared reversionary bonus rates may be higher or lower than the interim rates and it is the reversionary rate that will be applied to a product that remains in force
- Charges are taken into account before bonuses are declared. Once a bonus is allocated, it cannot be taken away unless the policy is surrendered early, or at a point where there are penalties in force.
- Past performance of our bonuses is not an indicator or guarantee of future bonus rates. Future rates may be higher or lower than those previously declared.
- A terminal bonus may also be paid on maturity but this is not guaranteed.

## **Declared Bonus History (reversionary)**

Year	TESP	Regular Savings	Investment Bond	Investment NISA
2012	2.25%	1.75%	4.00%	-
2013	2.25%	1.75%	4.00%	-
2014	2.25%	1.75%	2.80%	3.40%
2015	1.75%	1.25%	1.00%	2.00%

#### Compensation

The Society is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). If we cannot meet our obligations, you may be entitled to compensation from the scheme. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. Most types of insurance business are covered for 90% of the claim with no upper limit. Information on compensation arrangements is available from the FSCS via www.fscs.org.uk or calling 0800 678 1100.

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