



Guide to  
investment  
platforms

# What we'll cover:

<i>Welcome to your guide to investment platforms</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>What is an investment platform?</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Maximising your tax advantages</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>The costs</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>How we can help reduce your charges</i>	<b>8</b>
<i>Protecting your money</i>	<b>9</b>
<i>We're here to help you</i>	<b>10</b>
<i>Your next steps</i>	<b>11</b>

# Welcome to your guide to investment platforms

*Technology, in the form of investment platforms, has reinvented the way people invest, meaning you now have far more flexibility and choice available at your fingertips.*

In this guide we will explain:

- ✓ What an investment platform is.

---

- ✓ How a platform gives you more control.

---

- ✓ Any tax implications.

---

- ✓ Platform costs and charges.

---

- ✓ How to protect your money.

---

- ✓ How we can help you.

“

*Technology has changed the way people invest, making things simple and easier to manage.*

”



# What is an investment platform?

*An investment platform is a single place where you hold your investments, for example your savings or shares.*

An investment platform gives you more control over your financial position. You and your financial adviser can manage your investments online, react more quickly to market developments and alter your asset choice whenever you want.

## Your adviser will guide you by:

- ✓ Offering advice and recommending funds from a range of fund managers that you can hold on your platform.
- ✓ Identifying ways to leverage the benefits of technology to make your money tax-efficient and maximise your savings.
- ✓ Discussing services and products that may benefit you.
- ✓ Explaining any costs involved.

## The benefits of having an investment platform

1. A platform provides you with real time visibility of your investments.
2. You can buy and sell funds as you see fit.
3. Everything is in one place.
4. Because you still hold individual products (also called 'wrappers') on the platform, you still benefit from all the relevant tax advantages that you always received when holding them separately.





## How your financial adviser and platform work for you

### *You*

Agree your goals and attitude to risk with your adviser.

Update them if anything changes.

Stay up to date with your money using your online account.

### *Your financial adviser*

Makes recommendations based on your objectives and risk level.

Monitors your investments and provides performance updates.

Reviews your financial circumstances.

### *Your platform*

Provides access to a range of products and investment solutions.

Makes changes to your portfolio when requested.

Keeps you updated with valuations and statements.

“

*Your adviser will ensure your investments receive the correct tax treatment so you avoid any nasty surprises.*

”



## Maximising your tax advantages

*Your adviser will use the technology provided by your chosen investment platform to maximise any tax benefits and allowances available to you. These advantages can apply to money you pay in, growth on your investments, money you take out, or a combination of all these.*

### Understanding tax advantages and what you are entitled to.

Just like online banking, with an investment platform your money is held in one place but you have sub-accounts for separate purposes - such as your pension, ISA, and general savings.

You may sometimes see these sub-accounts referred to as tax wrappers, or products. This enables each part of your investments to receive the correct tax treatment. This means you still benefit from all the tax advantages you're entitled to, and where you do need to pay tax, you pay the correct amount.

**Tax treatment varies according to individual circumstances and is subject to change.**



## The costs

*When you invest in a platform you will incur charges from **three service providers**:*



Your financial adviser, who helps you invest your money by offering professional advice and recommendations.



Your platform provider, who provides the technology and administers the platform.



Your fund managers, who provide and administer the funds in which you invest your savings.



You will agree with your adviser at outset how you will pay for the services you receive.

# How we can help reduce your charges

*When you invest in a platform you can also benefit from Quilter Financial Planning's buying power which helps drive down costs from providers and partners.*

## How to be cost-effective

The fees you pay your platform provider and fund managers will typically take the form of a percentage of your total platform assets, often on a sliding scale so the larger your assets the lower the percentage fee.



Instead of having several smaller funds each incurring charges, by amalgamating them into one large fund you can achieve savings by paying lower fees.

### There are three ways that you can benefit from Quilter Financial Planning buying in bulk for you:

- 1 As one of the largest financial advice communities in the UK Quilter Financial Planning has negotiated significant discounts.
- 2 Putting all your various investments under one roof can help to reduce overall costs and charges.
- 3 Should you have a family member who also invests on the same platform you can sometimes secure a discount for you both – effectively applying charges as if all your money was invested together.





# Protecting your money

*Your investments held on a platform are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). It's available to compensate consumers if an authorised financial services provider becomes insolvent or has insufficient assets to meet its obligations to customers.*

## The different protections covering your money



### Platform

The assets you invest in are held completely separately from the platform's own company assets.

The cash on the platform is 'ringfenced' from the company's money and held in a client money account usually spread across a number of banks.

Each holding with an FCA authorised UK based fund manager on the platform will qualify for protection from the FSCS. Which means, if that fund manager became insolvent and was unable to return your money, you would be protected for 100% of the first £85,000 held by that fund manager.



### Pension

Where the pension is a contract of insurance, the maximum amount an investor can claim for under the FSCS, in the event of the operator defaulting, is 100% of the value of the pension. This amount is currently uncapped.



### UK Life Assurance Bonds

The Life Assurance company that runs the bond would be protected by up to 90% of the claim with no upper limit. The individual funds within the bond are owned by the Life Assurance company and so the FSCS protection is divided between all the investors via that life company. This applies equally to bonds held on the platform and/or individually.



### Offshore Life Assurance Bonds

The Life Assurance company that runs the bond would be protected by an equivalent to the FSCS in its jurisdiction e.g.:

**Dublin:** FSCS same as UK

**Channel Islands:** Jersey Depositors' Compensation Scheme

**Isle of Man:** Isle of Man Depositors' Compensation Scheme



### ISAs and Direct Investment in Funds

Each holding with an FCA authorised UK based fund manager on the platform will qualify for protection from the FSCS. Which means, if that fund manager became insolvent and was unable to return your money, you would be protected for 100% of the first £85,000 held by that fund manager.



## We're here to help you

*Managing your finances effectively and making the right decisions for your future can seem a daunting prospect, so we're here to help make the process easy and stress-free.*

We take pride in offering a personal service that considers your individual circumstances. Your financial situation is unique, so we work hard to understand your goals and aspirations, and make financial recommendations based on a comprehensive and detailed analysis of your needs.

As well as helping you to manage your finances through an investment platform, our comprehensive offer means we will have an adviser who is able to help you with more of your financial planning needs, including:



Saving and investing for the future



Planning for your retirement



Estate and trust planning



Owning your own home



Protecting against risk

## Your next steps:

- 1 Reflect on what you want to achieve by working with us.
- 2 Think about your goals.
- 3 Contact your financial adviser to discuss your options.

We'll then get in touch to set up our next meeting together.

If you would like this document or any other document in an alternative format e.g. Braille, Clear and Large Print or Audio documents (Cassette, CD, MP3 or Wav) or any other languages please let your adviser know.



The Quilter Foundation is Quilter's charity. The Quilter Foundation provides vital funding to carefully selected charitable organisations, focusing on education, employment and health & wellbeing.

**To find out more visit:**  
**[plc.quilter.com/thequilterfoundation](http://plc.quilter.com/thequilterfoundation)**

*[www.quilter.com](http://www.quilter.com)*

**Tel. 0800 849 1279**

Approver Quilter Financial Services Limited & Quilter Mortgage Planning Limited. February 2024.