

Risk summary for non-mainstream pooled investments

Estimated reading time: 2 min

Due to the potential for losses, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) considers this investment to be very complex and high risk.

What are the key risks?

1. You could lose all the money you invest

- If the business offering this investment fails, there is a high risk that you will lose all your money. Businesses like this often fail as they usually use risky investment strategies.
- Advertised rates of return aren't guaranteed. This is not a savings account. If the issuer doesn't pay you back as agreed, you could earn less money than expected or nothing at all. A higher advertised rate of return means a higher risk of losing your money. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.
- These investments are very occasionally held in an Innovative Finance ISA (IFISA). While any potential gains from your investment will be tax free, you can still lose all your money. An IFISA does not reduce the risk of the investment or protect you from losses.

2. You are unlikely to be protected if something goes wrong

- The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), in relation to claims against failed regulated firms, does not cover investments in unregulated collective investment schemes. You may be able to claim if you received regulated advice to invest in one, and the adviser has since failed. Try the FSCS investment protection checker [here](#) or via the URL Link: <https://www.fscs.org.uk/check/investment-protection-checker/>
- Protection from the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) does not cover poor investment performance. If you have a complaint against an FCA-regulated firm, FOS may be able to consider it. Learn more about FOS protection [here](#) or via the URL Link: <https://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/consumers>

3. You are unlikely to get your money back quickly

- This type of business could face cash-flow problems that delay payments to investors. It could also fail altogether and be unable to repay any of the money owed to you.
- You are unlikely to be able to cash in your investment early by selling your investment. In the rare circumstances where it is possible to sell your investment in a 'secondary market', you may not find a buyer at the price you are willing to sell.
- You may have to pay exit fees or additional charges to take any money out of your investment early.

4. This is a complex investment

- This kind of investment has a complex structure based on other risky investments, which makes it difficult for the investor to know where their money is going.
- This makes it difficult to predict how risky the investment is, but it will most likely be high.
- You may wish to get financial advice before deciding to invest.

5. Don't put all your eggs in one basket

- Putting all your money into a single business or type of investment for example, is risky. Spreading your money across different investments makes you less dependent on any one to do well.
- A good rule of thumb is not to invest more than 10% of your money in high-risk investments. Read more about it [here](#) or visit the URL Link <https://www.fca.org.uk/investsmart/5-questions-ask-you-invest>

If you are interested in learning more about how to protect yourself, visit the FCA's website [here](#) or visit the URL Link or visit the URL Link: <https://www.fca.org.uk/investsmart>

For further information about unregulated collective investment schemes (UCIS), visit the FCA's website [here](#) or visit the URL Link: <https://www.fca.org.uk/consumers/unregulated-collective-investment-schemes>

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