



# **Synergy approved retirement funds**

**Your guide to how they work**

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# Synergy approved retirement funds

**Having spent many years investing to build a pension, you're now getting nearer to reaping the benefits. It's an exciting time, but it's also a time to take stock of what you do next. After all, you want to make the most of the retirement fund you've worked so hard to build up.**

One of the options you have is keeping all or part of your retirement fund invested in a retirement policy called an approved retirement fund (ARF). That way, your money keeps on working for you and you control your retirement income.

A Synergy ARF is a flexible way for you to manage your fund during your retirement and make your own investment choices.

**Warning: If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest**

**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up**



# Why choose Standard Life?

Standard Life is a leading long-term savings and investments company. Headquartered in Edinburgh and operating internationally, we've been in Ireland since 1834 and have been helping generations of Irish customers plan for their future.

## Global investment expertise

Standard Life Investments manage the majority of our funds. Headquartered in Edinburgh, they are global active asset managers employing more than 1,100 talented professionals\*.

## Your policy is protected

Your policy is protected by the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme<sup>+</sup>. This covers 90% of the value of your claim - with no upper limit.

<sup>+</sup>See page 10

## You have a choice

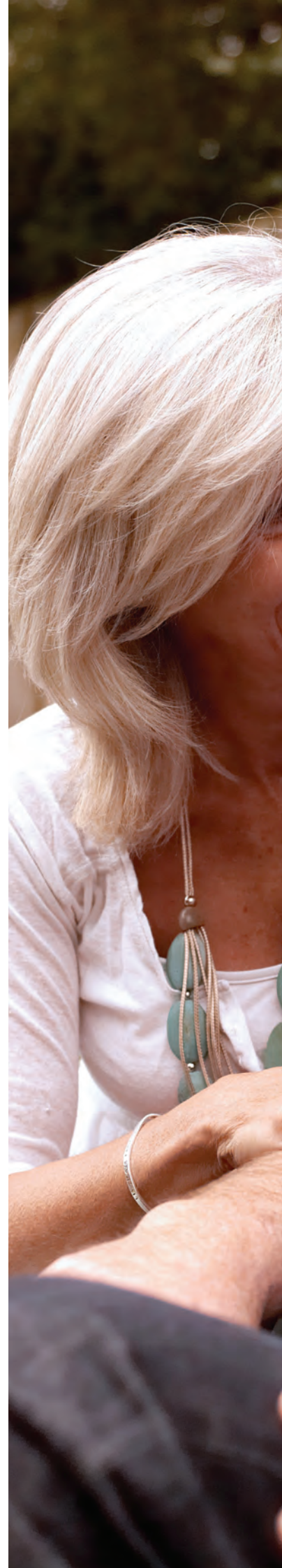
You can choose from a wide range of funds. You also have the option of deposits, direct property and stockbroking\*\*.

\* Source: Standard Life Investments, 31 December 2014

\*\*Execution-only



And if you need any help, our customer service team is only a phone call away on **(01) 639 7000**





**“I’ve worked hard for my pension,  
now I’m looking forward to  
deciding what to do with it.”**



# You decide how your money is invested

You could easily enjoy a long and happy retirement of thirty years or more. And when you're investing for the long term like this, it's important to have the freedom to choose where to invest your money and the freedom to change your investment choice.

Investing in an ARF gives you the opportunity to maximise your retirement income and control investment risk.

The Synergy ARF offers:



\*Execution-only

**Warning:** The value of your investment may go down as well as up

**Warning:** This investment may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates

**Your retirement can last a long time,  
so it's good to be in control of how  
your pension is performing.**

## Control and Choice

With Standard Life your investment can be as simple or as sophisticated as you like, offering you more control and choice over your investment.

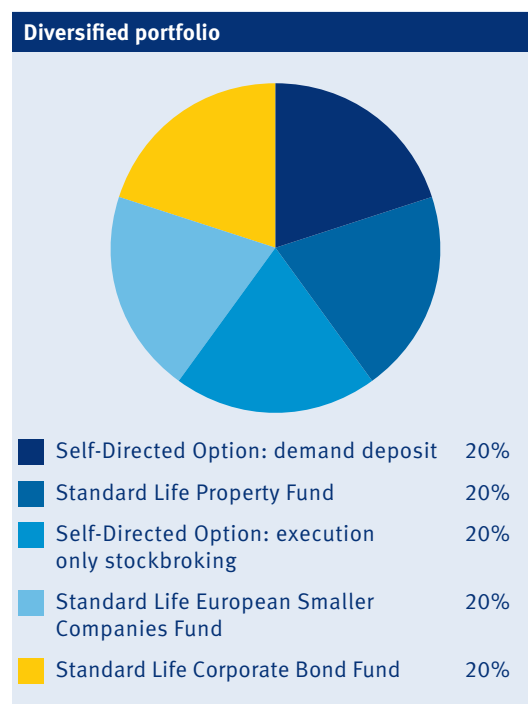
We've a wide range of funds for you to choose from.

With our self-directed options you can choose from deposits, direct property and execution-only stockbroking giving you the flexibility to select the right investment for you.

And...

You can combine all of this into a diversified portfolio.

Here's a sample:



You can find more information in our **Investment Options Guide (SYIO1)** and **Self-Directed Options guide (SYSD01)**



### Ask the experts first.

**This sample is not a recommendation. Because these investment options carry different levels of risk, we recommend that you talk to your financial adviser who'll be able to answer your questions and help decide what's right for you.**



# Why an ARF?

The main benefits of an ARF are that you can use it to take a retirement income when and how you want, and the remaining value of your investments will pass to your family after you've gone.

## You can choose an ARF if you have:

- ▶ a personal pension policy (retirement annuity contract)
- ▶ a Personal Retirement Savings Account
- ▶ additional voluntary contributions
- ▶ another ARF

The ARF option also extends to some occupational pension schemes and buy out bonds but there are lots of rules and restrictions. You should speak to your financial adviser about your own situation.

Although you are eligible to invest in an ARF you may have to invest €63,500 in an approved minimum retirement fund (AMRF) or an annuity. An AMRF is a similar kind of investment to an ARF, but it includes a safety net required by the Government to make sure that you are provided for in your retirement. You should speak to your financial adviser for more information.

To invest in an ARF or an AMRF, the money must come from an approved pension product. You can make an initial investment of €10,000 or more into either product, and you can top up by €5,000 or more at any time.

**...and it's good to know that  
the entire value of your policy  
can be left to your family  
when you're gone**



# It's your money, so you can access it any time

Although the Synergy ARF is designed for long term investments, you have the peace of mind of knowing that you can take out all or part of your money. Withdrawals (regular income from ARF or withdrawals from ARF and/or AMRF) are treated as income and are taxed under the PAYE system. The minimum occasional withdrawal you can make is €900.

If you withdraw all or part of your money (other than taking an ARF regular withdrawal) there may be an early encashment charge depending on what you've agreed with your financial adviser. You'll find more details in our Key Features Document (SYARFKF1).

## Taking a regular income

You can choose to take a regular income from the Synergy ARF in a couple of different ways:

- ▶ as a fixed amount before tax, up to 5% a year of your investment
- ▶ or as a percentage of your policy value before tax, up to 5% a year

There's no early encashment charge on regular income withdrawals and you can withdraw on a monthly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly basis. The minimum regular income you can take is €900 a year.

You must withdraw a certain percentage of the value of your ARF policy (as at 30 November) on an annual basis.

The percentage is:

- ▶ 4%, if you're 60 years of age or over for the full tax year, or
- ▶ 5%, if you're 70 years of age or over for the full tax year, or
- ▶ 6%, if you've combined ARF and vested PRSA assets of €2 million or more, and aged 60 or over for the full tax year.

## Your money goes into your estate

Because you own your ARF, you can leave it to your dependants after you've gone. Your ARF can be transferred to your spouse/civil partner's ARF tax-free, or if you intend to transfer it to someone else, income tax and/or Capital Acquisitions Tax may apply.

**Warning:** The income you get from this investment may go down as well as up



### Remember

**You can use your ARF or AMRF to purchase an annuity at any time.**



**You'll find information in our Key Features document (SYARFKF1).**

# Information about Synergy approved retirement funds

## Your policy is protected

Standard Life in Ireland operates as a branch of our UK parent company. This means that any policies taken out since 1 December 2001 are covered by the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in the event that Standard Life is in default. So if you invest in a Standard Life pension or investment policy, 90% of the claim is covered, with no upper limit.

For more information on FSCS cover, see **Your policy is protected (FSCSFAQ)**.

**There is no equivalent Irish compensation scheme.**

## Important things to consider

An approved retirement fund may not be suitable for you. Unlike an annuity, an ARF could run out of money if any of the following happens:

- ▶ your investments perform poorly
- ▶ you live a long time
- ▶ you take too much income.

Remember that different investment options have different levels of risk.

Laws and tax rules may change in the future. Your personal circumstances also have an impact on tax treatment. The information here is based on our understanding in June 2015.

We recommend that you get financial advice to help you decide what's right for you. You should not base your decision to invest solely on the information in this document.





## Find out more

Talk to your financial adviser about how to plan for your future, they'll give you the information you need to get you started. Also, you can call us or visit our website.

**(01) 639 7000**

Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm. Call may be monitored and/or recorded to protect both you and us and help with our training. Call charges will vary.

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