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Comparing Platform Charges - Fundzone

The UK Platform Group (UKPG), established by the main platform providers in the UK, including Aberdeen, have developed this factsheet to help consumers compare platform charges. This factsheet outlines the main components of platform charges and the different names that are used across the industry to describe them.

What platforms do

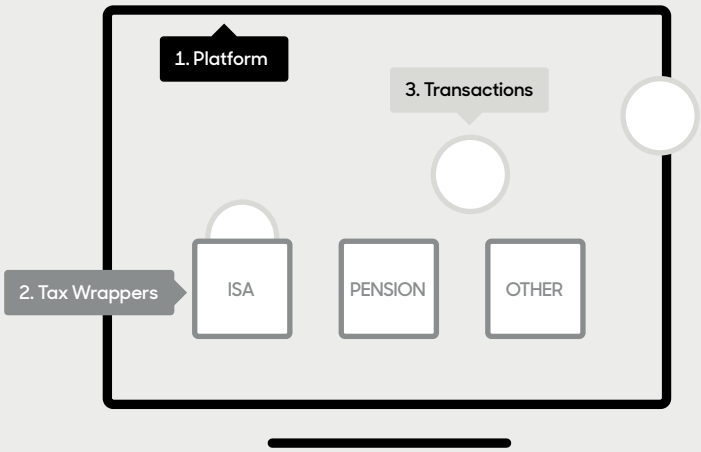
Investment platforms have been designed to help you and/or your financial advisor manage your savings and investments and your financial plan.

Platforms administer your savings and investments. They provide "custody" for your cash and investments, facilitate the administration of your investments and provide reports, information and online access to these investments.

Platforms provide "tax wrappers" in which to hold your savings/investments – these are accounts such as ISAs or pensions which have their own different rules about tax and access.

Platforms manage the trading of your investments – the buying and selling of both funds and shares.

These are the three main jobs a platform does.



Tax Wrappers sit inside a **Platform**. You and/or your financial advisor may make **Transactions**, buying or selling investments in these tax wrappers.

How platforms charge

Jargon in financial services can be confusing which makes it hard to compare services or to understand what you will pay. This document identifies the main components of platform charges and explains what these different charges might look like.

There are three main component parts of platform charging.

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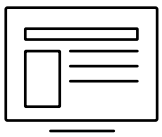

The annual platform charge

All platforms will charge at least an annual fee for use of their services. This can be a percentage of the amount of money you have on the platform or a fixed amount. It is usually expressed as a "per annum" charge and calculated and deducted on a monthly basis. Some of the more common names for these charges include:

Service Charge | Platform Charge | Custody Charge | Platform Management Fee | Account Fee | Annual Management Fee | Administration Fee | Ongoing Platform Fee | Portfolio Charge

There is no annual platform charge on our Fundzone platform

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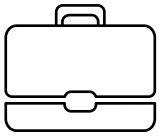

Charges for tax wrappers

Some platforms charge separately for different 'tax wrappers' such as pensions, ISAs or bonds. Tax wrapper charges can also be calculated as a percentage of the amount that you hold in the wrapper or as a fixed amount. Some of the more common names for these charges include:

Wrapper Charge | Portfolio Charges | Investment Wrapper Charge | Account on-going Charges | Pension or ISA Fee | Custody Charge

On our Fundzone platform we refer to this charge as the Product Charge

3

Trading charges

Some platforms charge separately for trading- buying and selling funds and shares for you. Trading charges can also be calculated as a percentage of the amount that you buy or sell or as a fixed amount. Some of the more common names for these charges include:

Transaction Fees | Buy Commission | Dealing Charges | Equity Dealing Charges | Asset Transaction Charge | Funds Dealing | Stockbroker Trading Charge | There is no trading charge on our Fundzone platform

Understanding platform charging

How we charge

Product Charge

Here are other things you may need to know to understand your platform's charging structure

Percentages or £s?

Charges may be expressed either as percentages or in pounds. For an account valued at £100,000, a charge of "£200 a year" or "0.2% per annum" are the same thing.

'Tiered' charges

The charges may also change depending on the value of an account or the size of a transaction. For example, a £50,000 account may attract a different charge rate than a £500,000 account. Different charge levels for different 'tiers' may also apply to your account. For example, a £500,000 account may be charged one rate for the first £50,000 and a different rate for the remaining £450,000.

Additional activity-based charges which may apply

Not every investor is the same and people have different needs at different times, which can lead to one-off costs and charges. These are mostly in relation to pensions or moving cash. Some of the more common examples are:

Drawdown Fee | Annuity Charge | Cheque Handling Fee | Manual Communication Charge | Phased Transactions | Dividend Reinvestment | Payment by CHAPS | Regular Income Drawdown

Beyond the platform – the bigger picture

This document explains how platform charging models work. For ease, we also include here other costs and charges which may apply to your account, which are administered or facilitated by the platform but are not charges kept by us.

If you have a financial adviser – in addition to these platform charges, you will also have agreed a charge with them for their service. In some cases, your platform may be able to arrange for some or all of your adviser's charges to be paid from your platform account for ease. This will be at your instructions and the amounts depend on what has been agreed with your adviser. This is not a fee levied by your platform – we are facilitating the collection and payment to your adviser.

Investment funds – some of the investments that you hold in your platform account may have charges of their own. For example, unit trusts and mutual funds do have such charges – but most shares don't. If there are charges associated with the investments you hold, they will be deducted from the value of your investment to pay the investment provider. This is not a charge by the platform.

If you have a financial adviser, they will be able to help with any questions you may have about the charges that apply to your account. Alternatively, if you don't have an adviser, you can call us on 0345 279 2002 and we'll be happy to help. Call charges can vary.

For more information visit aberdeenpersonal.com

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