

A: Background and accounting policies

A1: Nature of operations

Prudential plc (the Company) together with its subsidiaries (collectively, the Group or Prudential) is an international financial services group with its principal operations in Asia, the US and the UK. Prudential offers a wide range of retail financial products and services and asset management services throughout these territories. The retail financial products and services principally include life insurance, pensions and annuities as well as collective investment schemes.

In Asia, the Group has operations in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and other Asian countries. The life insurance products offered by the Group's operations in Asia include with-profits (participating) and non-participating term, whole life and endowment and unit-linked policies. In Asia, unit-linked policies are usually sold with insurance riders such as health covers.

In the US, the Group's principal subsidiary is Jackson National Life Insurance Company (Jackson). The principal products written by Jackson are fixed annuities (interest-sensitive, fixed indexed and immediate annuities), variable annuities (VA), life insurance and institutional products.

The Group operates in the UK through its subsidiaries, primarily The Prudential Assurance Company Limited (PAC), Prudential Annuities Limited (PAL), Prudential Retirement Income Limited (PRIL) and M&G Investment Management Limited. Long-term business products written in the UK are principally with-profits deposit administration, other conventional and unitised with-profits policies and non-participating pension annuities in the course of payment. Long-term business written in the UK also includes unit-linked products.

Prudential plc is a public limited company incorporated and registered in England and Wales. The registered office is:

Laurence Pountney Hill

London

EC4R 0HH

UK Companies House registered number: 1397169

A2: Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements consolidate the Group and the Group's interest in associates and jointly-controlled entities. The parent company financial statements present information about the Company as a separate entity and not about the Group.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared and approved by the directors in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and as endorsed by the European Union (EU) as required by EU law (IAS regulation EC 1606/2002). The Company has elected to prepare its parent company financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP). These are presented on pages 315 to 323. A reconciliation to IFRS has also been provided for shareholders' equity and profit for the year of the parent company.

The Group has applied all IFRS standards and interpretations adopted by the EU that are effective for financial years commencing on or before 1 January 2012. The Group has applied the same accounting policies in preparing the 2012 results as for 2011 except for the adoption of altered US GAAP reporting requirements for Group IFRS reporting, which is described in note A5.

A3: Accounting policies

1 Critical accounting policies

Prudential's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based upon Prudential's consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB and as endorsed by the EU. EU-endorsed IFRS may differ from IFRS as issued by the IASB if, at any point in time, new or amended IFRSs have not been endorsed by the EU. As at 31 December 2012, there were no unendorsed standards effective for the two years ended 31 December 2012 affecting the consolidated financial information of Prudential and there were no differences between IFRSs endorsed by the EU and IFRSs issued by the IASB in terms of their application to Prudential. Accordingly, Prudential's financial information for the two years ended 31 December 2012 is prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB. Prudential adopts mandatory requirements of new or altered EU-adopted IFRS standards when required, and may consider earlier adoption where permitted and appropriate in the circumstances.

The preparation of these financial statements requires Prudential to make estimates and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, Prudential evaluates its estimates, including those related to long-term business provisioning and the fair value of assets.

Critical accounting policies are defined as those that are reflective of significant judgements and uncertainties, and potentially give rise to different results under different assumptions and conditions. Prudential believes that its critical accounting policies are limited to those described below.

The critical accounting policies in respect of the items discussed below are critical for those that relate to the Group's shareholder-financed business. In particular this applies for Jackson which is the largest shareholder-backed business in the Group. The policies are not critical in respect of the Group's with-profits business. This distinction reflects the basis of recognition of profit and accounting treatment of unallocated surplus of with-profits funds as a liability, as described elsewhere in these financial statements.

Insurance contract accounting

With the exception of certain contracts described in note D1, the contracts issued by the Group's life assurance business are classified as insurance contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participating features. As permitted by IFRS 4, 'Insurance Contracts', assets and liabilities of these contracts are accounted for under previously applied GAAP. Accordingly, except as described below, the modified statutory basis (MSB) of reporting as set out in the revised Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) issued by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) in 2003 has been applied.

- **With-profits funds**

With-profits funds are those in which the policyholder has a contractual right to receive at the discretion of the insurer, additional benefits based on factors such as the performance of a pool of assets held within the fund as a supplement to any guaranteed benefits.

- **UK regulated with-profits funds**

For Group IFRS reporting, UK regulated with-profits funds are accounted for by the voluntary application of the UK accounting standard FRS 27, 'Life Assurance'. Under this standard, for such funds, policyholder liabilities are measured on a 'realistic basis' as discussed in section 2(a) of this note.

- **Unallocated surplus of with-profits funds**

Unallocated surplus represents the excess of assets over policyholder liabilities for the Group's with-profits funds that have yet to be appropriated between policyholders and shareholders. The Group has elected to account for unallocated surplus wholly as a liability with no allocation to equity. This treatment reflects the fact that shareholders' participation in the cost of bonuses arises only on distribution. The unallocated surplus is shown separately in the statement of financial position.

Overseas operations:

For Jackson, applying the MSB as applicable to overseas operations, which permits the application of local GAAP in some circumstances, the assets and liabilities of insurance contracts are accounted for under insurance accounting prescribed by US GAAP. For the assets and liabilities of insurance contracts of Asian operations, the local GAAP is applied with adjustments, where necessary, to comply with UK GAAP. For the operations in India, Japan, Taiwan and, until 2012, Vietnam (as discussed in note A5), the local GAAP is not appropriate in the context of the previously applied MSB. For these countries the insurance assets and liabilities are measured principally by reference to US GAAP. For participating business the liabilities include provisions for the policyholders' interest in investment gains and other surpluses that have yet to be declared as bonuses.

The usage of these bases of accounting has varying effects on the way in which product options and guarantees are measured. For UK regulated with-profits funds, options and guarantees are valued on a market consistent basis. The basis is described in section 2(a) below. For other operations a market consistent basis is not applied under the accounting basis described in section 2(a) below. Details of the guarantees, basis of setting assumptions and sensitivity to altered assumptions are described in notes D3 and D4. Additional details on the Group's accounting policies for insurance assets and liabilities are shown in section 2 below.

Valuation and accounting presentation of fair value movements of derivatives and debt securities of Jackson

These policies are critical because of their significance to the volatility of the income statement result and shareholders' equity. Under IAS 39, 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement', derivatives are required to be carried at fair value. Unless net investment hedge accounting is applied, value movements on derivatives are recognised in the income statement.

For derivative instruments of Jackson, the Group has considered whether it is appropriate to undertake the necessary operational changes to qualify for hedge accounting so as to achieve matching of value movements in hedging instruments and hedged items in the performance statements. In reaching the decision a number of factors were particularly relevant. These were:

- IAS 39 hedging criteria have been designed primarily in the context of hedging and hedging instruments that are assessable as financial instruments that are either stand-alone or separable from host contracts, rather than, for example, duration characteristics of insurance contracts;
- The high hurdle levels under IAS 39 of ensuring hedge effectiveness at the level of individual hedge transactions;
- The difficulties in applying the macro hedge provisions under IAS 39 (which are more suited to banking arrangements) to Jackson's derivative book;
- The complexity of asset and liability matching of US life insurers such as those with Jackson's product range; and finally
- Whether it is possible or desirable, without an unacceptable level of costs and constraint on commercial activity, to achieve the accounting hedge effectiveness required under IAS 39.

Taking account of these considerations the Group has decided that, except for occasional circumstances, it is not appropriate to seek to achieve hedge accounting under IAS 39. As a result of this decision the total income statement results are more volatile as the movements in the value of Jackson's derivatives are reflected within it. This volatility is reflected in the level of short-term fluctuations in investment returns, as shown in note B1.

Under IAS 39, unless carried at amortised cost (subject to impairment provisions where appropriate) under the held-to-maturity category, debt securities are also carried at fair value. The Group has chosen not to classify any financial assets as held-to-maturity. Debt securities of Jackson are designated as available-for-sale with value movements, unless impaired, being recorded as movements within other comprehensive income. Impairments are recorded in the income statement.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A3: Accounting policies continued

Presentation of results before tax

The total tax charge for the Group reflects tax that in addition to relating to shareholders' profits is also attributable to policyholders and unallocated surplus of with-profits funds and unit-linked policies. This is explained in more detail in note F5. Reported profit before the total tax charge is not representative of pre-tax profits attributable to shareholders. Accordingly, in order to provide a measure of pre-tax profits attributable to shareholders the Group has chosen to adopt an income statement presentation of the tax charge and pre-tax results that distinguishes between policyholder and shareholder components.

Segmental analysis of results and earnings attributable to shareholders

The Group uses operating profit based on longer-term investment returns as the segmental measure of its results. The basis of calculation is disclosed in section 2(d) below.

For shareholder-backed business, with the exception of debt securities held by Jackson and assets classified as loans and receivables at amortised cost, all financial investments and investment property are designated as assets at fair value through profit and loss. The short-term fluctuations affect the result for the year and the Group provides additional analysis of results before and after short-term fluctuations in investment returns, together with other items that are of a short-term volatile or one-off nature. Short-term fluctuations in investment returns on such assets held by with-profits funds, do not affect directly reported shareholder results. This is because (i) the unallocated surplus of with-profits funds is accounted for as a liability and (ii) excess or deficits of income and expenditure of the funds over the required surplus for distribution are transferred to or from unallocated surplus.

2 Other significant accounting policies

a Long-term business contracts

Income statement treatment

Insurance contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participation features (DPF)

Premium and annuity considerations for conventional with-profits policies and other protection type insurance policies are recognised as revenue when due. Premiums and annuity considerations for linked policies, unitised with-profits and other investment type policies are recognised as revenue when received or, in the case of unitised or unit-linked policies, when units are issued. These amounts exclude UK premium taxes and similar duties where Prudential collects and settles taxes borne by the customer.

Policy fees charged on linked and unitised with-profits policies for mortality, asset management and policy administration are recognised as revenue when related services are provided.

Claims paid include maturities, annuities, surrenders and deaths. Maturity claims are recorded as charges on the policy maturity date. Annuity claims are recorded when each annuity instalment becomes due for payment. Surrenders are charged to the income statement when paid and death claims are recorded when notified.

Acquisition costs are deferred and amortised as described in note A4.

Investment contracts other than those with DPF

For investment contracts which do not contain discretionary participating features, the accounting is carried out in accordance with IAS 39 to reflect the deposit nature of the arrangement, with premiums and claims reflected as deposits and withdrawals and taken directly to the statement of financial position as movements in the financial liability balance.

Under IFRS, investment contracts (excluding those with discretionary participation features) accounted for as financial liabilities in accordance with IAS 39 which also offer investment management services, require the application of IAS 18, 'Revenue', for the revenue attached to these services. Incremental, directly attributable acquisition costs relating to the investment management element of these contracts are capitalised and amortised in line with the related revenue. If the contracts involve up-front charges, this income is also deferred and amortised through the income statement in line with contractual service provision.

UK regulated with-profits funds

Prudential's long-term business written in the UK comprises predominantly life insurance policies with discretionary participating features under which the policyholders are entitled to participate in the returns of the funds supporting these policies. Business similar to this type is also written in certain of the Group's Asian operations subject to local market and regulatory conditions. Such policies are called with-profits policies. Prudential maintains with-profits funds within the Group's long-term business funds, which segregate the assets and liabilities and accumulate the returns related to that with-profits business. The amounts accumulated in these with-profits funds are available to provide for future policyholder benefit provisions and for bonuses to be distributed to with-profits policyholders. The bonuses, both annual and final, reflect the right of the with-profits policyholders to participate in the financial performance of the with-profits funds. Shareholders' profits with respect to bonuses declared on with-profits business correspond to the shareholders' share of the cost of bonuses as declared by the Board of directors. The shareholders' share currently represents one-ninth of the cost to the with-profits fund of bonuses declared for with-profits policies.

Annual bonuses are declared and credited each year to with-profits policies. The annual bonuses increase policy benefits and, once credited, become guaranteed. Annual bonuses are charged to the profit and loss account in the year declared. Final bonuses are declared each year and accrued for all policies scheduled to mature and for death benefits expected to be paid during the next financial year. Final bonuses are not guaranteed and are only paid on policies that result from claims through the death of the policyholder or maturity of the policy within the period of declaration or by concession on surrender. No policyholder benefit provisions are recorded for future annual or final bonus declarations.

The policyholders' liabilities of the regulated with-profits funds are accounted for under FRS 27, under which realistic basis liabilities are underpinned by the FSA's Peak 2 basis of reporting. This Peak 2 basis requires the value of liabilities to be calculated as:

- A with-profits benefits reserve (WPBR); plus
- Future policy-related liabilities (FPRL); plus
- The realistic current liabilities of the fund.

The WPBR is primarily based on the retrospective calculation of accumulated asset shares but is adjusted to reflect future policyholder benefits and other outgoings. Asset shares broadly reflect the policyholders' share of the with-profits fund assets attributable to their policies.

The FPRL must include a market consistent valuation of costs of guarantees, options and smoothing, less any related charges, and this amount is determined using either a stochastic approach, hedging costs or a series of deterministic projections with attributed probabilities.

The assumptions used in the stochastic models are calibrated to produce risk-free returns on each asset class. Volatilities of, and correlations between, investment returns from different asset classes are as determined by the Group's Portfolio Management Group on a market consistent basis.

The cost of guarantees, options and smoothing is very sensitive to the bonus, market value reduction (MVR) and investment policies the Group employs and therefore the stochastic modelling incorporates a range of management actions that would help to protect the fund in adverse scenarios. Substantial flexibility has been included in the modelled management actions in order to reflect the discretion that the Group retains in adverse investment conditions, thereby avoiding the creation of unreasonable minimum capital requirements. The management actions assumed are consistent with management's policy for with-profits funds and the disclosures made in the publicly available Principles and Practices of Financial Management.

The realistic basis liabilities representing the Peak 2 basis realistic liabilities for with-profits business included in the FSA regulatory returns include the element for the shareholders' share of the future bonuses. For accounting purposes under FRS 27, this latter item is reversed because, consistent with the current basis of financial reporting, shareholder transfers are recognised only on declaration.

Unallocated surplus

The unallocated surplus represents the excess of assets over policyholder liabilities for the Group's with-profits funds. As allowed under IFRS 4, the Group has opted to continue to record unallocated surplus of with-profits funds wholly as a liability. The annual excess (shortfall) of income over expenditure of the with-profits funds, after declaration and attribution of the cost of bonuses to policyholders and shareholders, is transferred to (from) the unallocated surplus each year through a charge (credit) to the income statement. The balance retained in the unallocated surplus represents cumulative income arising on the with-profits business that has not been allocated to policyholders or shareholders. The balance of the unallocated surplus is determined after full provision for deferred tax on unrealised appreciation on investments.

Other insurance contracts (ie contracts which contain significant insurance risk as defined under IFRS 4)

For these contracts 'grandfathered' UK GAAP has been applied, which reflects the MSB. Under this basis the following approach applies:

i Other UK insurance contracts

Other UK insurance contracts that contain significant insurance risk include unit-linked, annuity and other non-profit business. For the purposes of local regulations, segregated accounts are established for linked business for which policyholder benefits are wholly or partly determined by reference to specific investments or to an investment-related index. The interest rates used in establishing policyholder benefit provisions for pension annuities in the course of payment are adjusted each year. Mortality rates used in establishing policyholder benefits are based on published mortality tables adjusted to reflect actual experience.

ii Overseas subsidiaries

The assets and liabilities of insurance contracts of overseas subsidiaries are determined initially using local GAAP bases of accounting with subsequent adjustments where necessary to comply with the Group's accounting policies.

Jackson

The future policyholder benefit provisions for Jackson's conventional protection-type policies are determined under US GAAP principles with the locked in assumptions as to mortality, interest, policy lapses and expenses plus provisions for adverse deviations. For non-conventional protection-type policies, the policyholder benefit provision included within policyholder liabilities in the consolidated statement of financial position is the policyholder account balance. Acquisition costs are accounted for as explained in note A4.

Jackson accounts for the majority of its investment portfolio on an available-for-sale basis (see investment policies above) whereby unrealised gains and losses are recognised in other comprehensive income. As permitted by IFRS 4, Jackson has used shadow accounting. Under shadow accounting, to the extent that recognition of unrealised gains or losses on available-for-sale securities causes adjustments to the carrying value and amortisation patterns of deferred acquisition costs (DAC) and deferred income, these adjustments are recognised in other comprehensive income to be consistent with the treatment of the gains or losses on the securities. More precisely, shadow DAC adjustments reflect the change in DAC that would have arisen if the assets held in the statement of financial position had been sold, crystallising unrealised gains or losses, and the proceeds reinvested at the yields currently available in the market.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A3: Accounting policies continued

Asia operations

Except for the operations in India, Japan, Taiwan and, until 2012, Vietnam, the future policyholder benefit provisions for Asian businesses are determined in accordance with methods prescribed by local GAAP adjusted to comply, where necessary, with UK GAAP. Refinements to the local reserving methodology are generally treated as change in estimates, dependent on the nature of the change.

For the Asia operations referred to above where local GAAP is not appropriate in the context of the previously applied MSB, accounting for insurance contracts is based on US GAAP. For these operations the business written is primarily non-participating linked and participating business. The future policyholder benefit provisions for non-linked business are determined using the net level premium method, with an allowance for surrenders, maintenance and claim expenses. Rates of interest used in establishing the policyholder benefit provisions vary by operation depending on the circumstances attaching to each block of business. Where appropriate, liabilities for participating business for these three operations include provisions for the policyholders' interest in investment gains and other surpluses that have yet to be declared as bonuses.

Although the basis of valuation of Prudential's overseas operations is in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and ABI SORP, the valuation of policyholder benefit provisions for these businesses may differ from that determined on a UK MSB for UK operations with the same features. These differences are permitted under IFRS 4.

Liability adequacy

The Group performs liability adequacy testing on its insurance provisions to ensure that the carrying amounts of provisions (less related DAC) and, where relevant, present value of acquired in-force business is sufficient to cover current estimates of future cash flows. Any deficiency is immediately charged to the income statement.

Reinsurance

The measurement of reinsurance assets is consistent with the measurement of the underlying direct insurance contracts.

The treatment of any gains or losses arising on the purchase of reinsurance contracts is dependent on the underlying accounting basis of the entity concerned amongst other things.

Investment contracts (contracts which do not contain significant insurance risk as defined under IFRS 4)

For investment contracts with discretionary participation features, the accounting basis is consistent with the accounting for similar with-profits insurance contracts. Other investment contracts are accounted for on a basis that reflects the hybrid nature of the arrangements whereby part is accounted for as a financial instrument under IAS 39 and the investment management service component is accounted for under IAS 18, 'Revenue'.

For those investment contracts in the US with fixed and guaranteed terms, the Group uses the amortised cost model to measure the liability.

Those investment contracts without fixed and guaranteed terms are designated at fair value through profit and loss because the resulting liabilities are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. Where the contract includes a surrender option its carrying value is subject to a minimum carrying value equal to its surrender value.

b Financial instruments other than financial instruments classified as long-term business contracts

Investment classification

Under IAS 39, subject to specific criteria, financial instruments are required to be accounted for under one of the following categories: financial investments at fair value through profit and loss, financial investments held on an available-for-sale basis, financial investments held-to-maturity or loans and receivables. These IAS 39 classifications have been changed by IFRS 9 'Financial Investments: Classification and Measurement' which is not required to be adopted until 2015 and is still subject to EU endorsement. In addition, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) continues to consult on future possible changes to IFRS 9. This standard has not been adopted by the Group in 2012. The Group holds financial investments on the following bases:

- i Financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit and loss – this comprises assets and liabilities designated by management as fair value through profit and loss on inception and derivatives that are held for trading. These investments are measured at fair value with all changes thereon being recognised in investment return in the income statement;
- ii Financial investments on an available-for-sale basis – this comprises assets that are designated by management and/or do not fall into any of the other categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus attributable transaction costs. For available-for-sale debt securities, the difference between their cost and par value is amortised to the income statement using the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset. Available-for-sale financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value. Interest income is recognised on an effective interest basis in the income statement. Except for foreign exchange gains and losses on debt securities, not in functional currency, which are included in the income statement, unrealised gains and losses are recognised in other comprehensive income. Upon disposal or impairment, accumulated unrealised gains and losses are transferred from other comprehensive income to the income statement as realised gains or losses; and

iii Loans and receivables – except for those designated as at fair value through profit and loss or available-for-sale, these instruments comprise non-quoted investments that have fixed or determinable payments. These investments include loans collateralised by mortgages, deposits, loans to policyholders and other unsecured loans and receivables. These investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs. Subsequently, these investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

As permitted under IAS 39 the Group has designated certain financial assets as fair value through profit and loss as these assets are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis. These assets represent all of the Group's financial assets other than those loans and receivables, carried at amortised cost, and debt securities accounted for on an available-for-sale basis by Jackson. The use of the fair value option is consistent with the Group's risk management and investment strategies.

The Group uses the trade date method to account for regular purchases and sales of financial assets.

Use of fair values

The Group uses current bid prices to value its investments with quoted prices. Actively traded investments without quoted prices are valued using prices provided by third parties. If there is no active established market for an investment, the Group applies an appropriate valuation technique such as a discounted cash flow technique. Additional details are provided in note G1.

Impairments

If, in subsequent periods, an impaired debt security held on an available-for-sale basis or an impaired loan or receivable recovers in value (in part or in full), and this recovery can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment, then the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through the income statement (in part or in full).

Derivatives and hedge accounting

Derivative financial instruments are used to reduce or manage investment, interest rate and currency exposures, to facilitate efficient portfolio management and for investment purposes.

The Group may designate certain derivatives as hedges.

For hedges of net investments in foreign operations, the effective portion of any change in fair value of derivatives or other financial instruments designated as net investment hedges is recognised in other comprehensive income. The ineffective portion of changes in the fair value of the hedging instrument is recorded in the income statement. The gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised directly in other comprehensive income while the foreign operation is held.

For fair value hedges, movements in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognised in the income statement.

The Group does not regularly seek to apply fair value or cash flow hedging treatment under IAS 39. The exceptions, where hedge accounting has been applied in 2012 and 2011, are summarised in note G3.

All derivatives that are not designated as hedging instruments are carried at fair value with movements in fair value being recorded in the income statement.

The primary areas of the Group's continuing operations where derivative instruments are held are the UK with-profits funds and annuity business, and Jackson.

For UK with-profits funds the derivative programme derivatives are used for the purposes of efficient portfolio management or reduction in investment risk.

For shareholder-backed UK annuity business the derivatives are held to contribute to the matching as far as practical, of asset returns and duration with those of liabilities to policyholders. The carrying value of these liabilities is sensitive to the return on the matching financial assets including derivatives held.

For Jackson an extensive derivative programme is maintained. Value movements on the derivatives held can be very significant in their effect on shareholder results. Further details on this aspect of the Group's financial reporting are described in notes B1 and D3.

Embedded derivatives

Embedded derivatives are present in host contracts issued by various Group companies, in particular Jackson. They are embedded within other non-derivative host financial instruments and insurance contracts to create hybrid instruments. Embedded derivatives meeting the definition of an insurance contract are accounted for under IFRS 4. Where economic characteristics and risks of the embedded derivatives are not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host instrument, and where the hybrid instrument is not measured at fair value with the changes in fair value recognised in the income statement, the embedded derivative is bifurcated and carried at fair value as a derivative in accordance with IAS 39.

In addition, the Group applies the option of IFRS 4 to not separate and fair value surrender options embedded in host contracts and with-profits investment contracts whose strike price is either a fixed amount or a fixed amount plus interest. Further details on the valuation basis for embedded derivatives attaching to Jackson's life assurance contracts are provided in note D3(e).

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A3: Accounting policies continued

Securities lending including repurchase agreements

The Group is party to various securities lending agreements under which securities are loaned to third parties on a short-term basis. The loaned securities are not derecognised; rather, they continue to be recognised within the appropriate investment classification. The Group's policy is that collateral in excess of 100 per cent of the fair value of securities loaned is required from all securities' borrowers and typically consists of cash, debt securities, equity securities or letters of credit.

In cases where the Group takes possession of the collateral under its securities lending programme, the collateral, and corresponding obligation to return such collateral, are recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

The Group's policy is to derecognise financial assets when it is deemed that substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred.

The Group derecognises financial liabilities only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or has expired.

Borrowings

Although initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs, borrowings, excluding liabilities of consolidated collateralised debt obligations, are subsequently accounted for on an amortised cost basis using the effective interest method. Under the effective interest method, the difference between the redemption value of the borrowing and the initial proceeds (net of related issue costs) is amortised through the income statement to the date of maturity or for hybrid debt, over the expected life of the instrument.

Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss

Consistent with the Group's risk management and investment strategy and the nature of the products concerned, the Group has designated under IAS 39 classification certain financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss as these instruments are managed and their performance evaluated on a fair value basis. These instruments include liabilities related to consolidated collateralised debt obligations and net assets attributable to unit holders of consolidated unit trusts and similar funds.

c Other assets, liabilities, income and expenditure

Basis of consolidation

The Group consolidates those entities it is deemed to control. The degree of control is determined by the ability of the Group to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity in order to obtain benefits. The results of subsidiaries are included in the financial statements from the date control commences to the date control ceases. All inter-company transactions are eliminated on consolidation. Results of asset management activities include those for managing internal funds.

The Group holds investments in internally and externally managed open-ended investment companies (OEICs) and unit trusts. These are consolidated where the Group's percentage ownership level is (i) 50 per cent or greater, and (ii) where the Group's ownership of internally managed funds declines marginally below 50 per cent and the decline in ownership is expected to be temporary.

Where the Group exercises significant influence or has the power to exercise significant influence over an entity, generally through ownership of 20 per cent or more of the entity's voting rights, but does not control the entity, then this is considered to be an investment in an associate. With the exception of those referred to below, the Group's investments in associates are recorded at the Group's share of the associates' net assets including any goodwill and intangibles arising upon initial acquisition. The carrying value of investments in associates is adjusted each year for the Group's share of the entities' profit or loss. This does not apply to investments in associates held by the Group's insurance or investment funds including the venture capital business or mutual funds and unit trusts, which as permitted by IAS 28, 'Investments in Associates', are carried at fair value through profit and loss.

The Group's investments in joint ventures are recognised using proportional consolidation whereby the Group's share of an entity's individual balances are combined line-by-line with similar items into the Group financial statements. Other interests in entities, where significant influence is not exercised, are carried as investments at fair value through profit and loss.

Investment properties

Investments in leasehold and freehold properties not for occupation by the Group, including properties under development for future use as investment properties, are carried at fair value, with changes in fair value included in the income statement. Properties are valued annually either by the Group's qualified surveyors or by taking into consideration the advice of professional external valuers using the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors guidelines. Each property is externally valued at least once every three years. Fair value is based on active market prices. If this information is not available, the Group uses alternative valuation methods such as discounted cash flow projections or recent prices in less active markets.

Leases of investment property where the Group has substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as finance leases (leasehold property). Finance leases are capitalised at the lease's inception at the lower of the fair value of the leased property and the present value of the minimum lease payments.

Pension schemes

For the Group's defined benefit schemes, if the present value of the defined benefit obligation exceeds the fair value of the scheme assets, then a liability is recorded in the Group's statement of financial position. By contrast, if the fair value of the assets exceeds the present value of the defined benefit obligation then the surplus will only be recognised if the nature of the arrangements under the trust deed, and funding arrangements between the Trustee and the Company support the availability of refunds or recoverability through agreed reductions in future contributions. In addition, if there is a constructive obligation for the Company to pay deficit funding, this is also recognised such that the financial position recorded for the scheme reflects the higher of any underlying IAS 19, 'Employee Benefits', deficit and the obligation for deficit funding.

The Group utilises the projected unit credit method to calculate the defined benefit obligation. This method sees each period of service as giving rise to an additional unit of benefit entitlement and measures each unit separately to build up the final obligation. Estimated future cash flows are then discounted at a high-quality corporate bond rate, adjusted to allow for the difference in duration between the bond index and the pension liabilities where appropriate, to determine its present value. These calculations are performed by independent actuaries.

The plan assets of the Group's pension schemes exclude several insurance contracts that have been issued by the Group. These assets are excluded from plan assets in determining the pension obligation recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position.

The aggregate of the actuarially determined service costs of the currently employed personnel and the unwind of discount on liabilities at the start of the period, less the expected investment return on scheme assets at the start of the period, is charged to the income statement. Actuarial gains and losses as a result of changes in assumptions or experience variances are also charged or credited to the income statement.

Contributions to the Group's defined contribution schemes are expensed when due.

Share-based payments

The Group offers share award and option plans for certain key employees and a Save As You Earn plan for all UK and certain overseas employees. Shares held in trust relating to these plans are conditionally gifted to employees.

The compensation expense charged to the income statement is primarily based upon the fair value of the options granted, the vesting period and the vesting conditions. The Company has established trusts to facilitate the delivery of Prudential plc shares under employee incentive plans and savings-related share option schemes. The cost to the Company of acquiring these treasury shares held in trusts is shown as a deduction from shareholders' equity.

Tax

Current tax expense is charged or credited to operations based upon amounts estimated to be payable or recoverable as a result of taxable operations for the current year. To the extent that losses of an individual UK company are not offset in any one year, they can be carried back for one year or carried forward indefinitely to be offset against profits arising from the same company.

Deferred taxes are provided under the liability method for all relevant temporary differences. IAS 12, 'Income Taxes' does not require all temporary differences to be provided for, in particular, the Group does not provide for deferred tax on undistributed earnings of subsidiaries where the Group is able to control the timing of the distribution and the temporary difference created is not expected to reverse in the foreseeable future. Deferred tax assets are only recognised when it is more likely than not, that future taxable profits will be available against which these losses can be utilised.

The tax charge for long-term business includes tax expense attributable to both the policyholders and the shareholders. Different tax rules apply under UK law depending upon whether the business is life insurance or pension business.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability settled, based on tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or are substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period.

Business acquisitions and disposals

Business acquisitions are accounted for by applying the purchase method of accounting, which adjusts the net assets of the acquired company to fair value at the date of purchase. The excess of the acquisition consideration over the fair value of the assets and liabilities of the acquired entity is recorded as goodwill. Expenses related to acquiring new subsidiaries are expensed in the period in which they are incurred. Income and expenses of acquired entities are included in the income statement from the date of acquisition.

Goodwill

Goodwill arising on acquisitions of subsidiaries and businesses is capitalised and carried on the Group statement of financial position as an intangible asset at initial value less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill impairment testing is conducted annually and when there is an indication of impairment. For the purposes of impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to cash generating units.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired on the purchase of a subsidiary or portfolio of contracts are fair valued at acquisition. Other intangible assets, such as software, are valued at the price paid to acquire them. Intangible assets are carried at cost less amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation calculated is charged on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A3: Accounting policies continued

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank and in hand, deposits held at call with banks, treasury bills and other short-term highly liquid investments with less than 90 days maturity from the date of acquisition.

Segments

Under IFRS 8, 'Operating Segments', the Group determines and presents operating segments based on the information that is internally provided to the Group Executive Committee which is the Group's chief operating decision maker.

The operating segments identified by the Group reflect the Group's organisational structure, which is by both geography (Asia, US and UK) and by product line (insurance operations and asset management).

Insurance operations principally comprise of products that contain both significant and insignificant elements of insurance risk. The products are managed together and there is no distinction between these two categories other than for accounting purposes. This segment also includes the commission earned on general insurance business and investment subsidiaries held to support the Group's insurance operations.

Asset management comprises both internal and third-party asset management services, inclusive of portfolio and mutual fund management, where the Group acts as an advisor, and broker-dealer activities. The nature of the products and the managing of the business differ from the risks inherent in the insurance operations segments, and the regulatory environment of the asset management industry differs from that of the insurance operations segments.

The Group's operating segments determined in accordance with IFRS 8, 'Operating Segments', are as follows:

Insurance operations

- Asia
- US (Jackson)
- UK

Asset management operations

- M&G (including Prudential Capital)
- Eastspring Investments
- US broker-dealer and asset management (including Curian)

The Group's operating segments are also its reportable segments with the exception of Prudential Capital (PruCap) which has been incorporated into the M&G operating segment for the purposes of segment reporting.

The performance measure of operating segments utilised by the Company is IFRS operating profit attributable to shareholders based on longer-term investment returns, as described below. This measure excludes the recurrent items of short-term fluctuations in investment returns and the shareholders' share of actuarial and other gains and losses on defined benefit pension schemes. In addition for 2012 this measure excluded a gain arising upon the dilution of the Group's holding in PPM South Africa and the amortisation of the acquisition accounting adjustments arising on the purchase of REALIC as described further in note I1. Operating earnings per share is based on operating profit based on longer-term investment returns, after tax and non-controlling interests. Further details on the determination of the performance measure of operating profit based on longer-term investment returns is provided below.

Segment results that are reported to the Group Executive Committee include items directly attributable to a segment as well as those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis. Unallocated items are mainly in relation to the Group Head Office and the Asia Regional Head Office.

d Operating profit based on longer-term investment returns

The Group provides supplementary analysis of profit before tax attributable to shareholders that distinguishes operating profit based on longer-term investment returns from other constituent elements of the total profit.

Except in the case of the assets backing the UK annuity business, unit-linked and US variable annuity separate account liabilities, operating profit based on longer-term investment returns for shareholder-financed business is determined on the basis of expected longer-term investment returns. In the case of assets backing the UK annuity business, unit-linked and US variable annuity separate account liabilities, the basis of determining operating profit based on longer-term investment returns is as follows:

- Assets backing UK annuity business liabilities. For UK annuity business, policyholder liabilities are determined by reference to current interest rates. The value movements of the assets covering liabilities are closely correlated with the related change in liabilities. Accordingly, asset value movements are recorded within the 'operating results based on longer-term investment returns'. Policyholder liabilities include a margin for credit risk. Variations between actual and best estimate expected impairments are recorded as a component of short-term fluctuations in investment returns; and
- Assets backing unit-linked and US variable annuity business separate account liabilities. For such business, the policyholder unit liabilities are directly reflective of the asset value movements. Accordingly, the operating results based on longer-term investment returns reflect the current period value movements in unit liabilities and the backing assets.

In the case of other shareholder-financed business, the measurement of operating profit based on longer-term investment returns reflects the particular features of long-term insurance business where assets and liabilities are held for the long term and for which the accounting basis for insurance liabilities under current IFRS is not generally conducive to demonstrating trends in underlying performance of life businesses exclusive of the effects of short-term fluctuations in market conditions. In determining the profit on this basis, the following key elements are applied to the results of the Group's shareholder-financed operations as reflected in the segment results shown in note B1.

i Debt, equity-type securities and loans

Longer-term investment returns for both debt, equity-type securities and loans comprise longer-term actual income receivable for the period (interest/dividend income) and longer-term capital returns.

In principle, for debt securities and loans, the longer-term capital returns comprise two elements. The first element is a risk margin reserve (RMR) based charge for the expected level of defaults for the period, which is determined by reference to the credit quality of the portfolio. The difference between impairment losses in the reporting period and the RMR charge to the operating result is reflected in short-term fluctuations in investment returns. The second element is for the amortisation of interest-related realised gains and losses to operating results based on longer-term investment returns to the date when sold bonds would have otherwise matured.

Jackson is the shareholder-backed operation for which the distinction between impairment losses and interest-related realised gains and losses is in practice relevant to a significant extent. Jackson has used the ratings by Nationally Recognised Statistical Ratings Organisations (NRSRO) or ratings resulting from the regulatory ratings detail issued by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) developed by external third parties such as PIMCO or BlackRock Solutions to determine the average annual RMR to apply to debt securities held to back general account business. Debt securities held to back separate account and reinsurance funds withheld are not subject to RMR charge. Further details of the RMR charge, as well as the amortisation of interest-related realised gains and losses, for Jackson are shown in note B1(iv) to the consolidated financial statements.

For debt securities backing non-linked shareholder-financed business of the UK insurance operations (other than the annuity business) and of the Asia insurance operations, the realised gains and losses are principally interest related. Accordingly, all realised gains and losses to date for these operations are being amortised over the period to the date those securities would otherwise have matured, with no explicit RMR charge.

At 31 December 2012, the level of unamortised interest-related realised gains and losses related to previously sold bonds for the Group was a net gain of £498 million (31 December 2011: £462 million).

For equity-type securities, the longer-term rates of return are estimates of the long-term trend investment return for income and capital having regard to past performance, current trends and future expectations. Equity-type securities held for shareholder-financed operations other than the UK annuity business, unit-linked and US variable annuity are of significance for the US and Asia insurance operations. Different rates apply to different categories of equity-type securities.

As at 31 December 2012, the equity-type securities for US insurance non-separate account operations amounted to £1,004 million (31 December 2011: £902 million). For these operations, the longer-term rates of return for income and capital applied in 2012 reflects the combination of risk free rates and appropriate risk premium are as follows:

	2012	2011
Equity-type securities such as common and preferred stock and portfolio holdings in mutual funds	5.5% to 6.2%	5.9% to 7.5%
Other equity-type securities such as investments in limited partnerships and private equity funds	7.5% to 8.2%	7.9% to 9.5%

For Asia insurance operations, investments in equity securities held for non-linked shareholder-financed operations amounted to £659 million as at 31 December 2012 (31 December 2011: £590 million). The rates of return applied in the years 2012 and 2011 ranged from 1.0 per cent to 13.8 per cent, with the rates applied varying by territory. The investment amounts for 2011 of £590 million included the Group's investment in China Life Insurance Company of Taiwan (China Life (Taiwan)) of £88 million which was sold in 2012, as described in note B1.

The longer-term rates of return discussed above for equity-type securities are determined after consideration by the Group's in-house economists of long-term expected real government bond returns, equity risk premium and long-term inflation. These rates are broadly stable from period to period but may be different between countries reflecting, for example, differing expectations of inflation in each territory. The assumptions are for returns expected to apply in equilibrium conditions. The assumed rates of return do not reflect any cyclical variability in economic performance and are not set by reference to prevailing asset valuations.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A3: Accounting policies continued

ii US variable and fixed index annuity business

The following value movements for Jackson's variable and fixed index annuity business are excluded from operating profit based on longer-term investment returns:

- Fair value movements for equity-based derivatives;
- Fair value movements for embedded derivatives for Guaranteed Minimum Withdrawal Benefit (GMWB) 'not for life' and fixed index annuity business, and Guaranteed Minimum Income Benefit (GMIB) reinsurance (see note);
- Movements in accounts carrying value of Guaranteed Minimum Death Benefit (GMDB) and GMWB 'for life' liabilities, for which, under the 'grandfathered' US GAAP applied under IFRS for Jackson's insurance assets and liabilities, the measurement basis gives rise to a muted impact of current period market movements;
- Fee assessments and claim payments, in respect of guarantee liabilities; and
- Related changes to amortisation of deferred acquisition costs for each of the above items.

Note: US operations – embedded derivatives for variable annuity guarantee features

The GMIB liability, which is fully reinsured, subject to a deductible and annual claim limits, is accounted for in accordance with FASB ASC Subtopic 944-80 Financial Services – Insurance – Separate Accounts (formerly SOP 03-1) under IFRS using 'grandfathered' US GAAP. As the corresponding reinsurance asset is net settled, it is considered to be a derivative under IAS 39, and the asset is therefore recognised at fair value. As the GMIB benefit is economically reinsured the mark to market element of the reinsurance asset is included as a component of short-term fluctuations in investment returns.

iii Other derivative value movements

Generally, derivative value movements are excluded from operating results based on longer-term investment returns (unless those derivative value movements broadly offset changes in the accounting value of other assets and liabilities included in operating profit). The principal example of non-equity based derivatives (for example interest rate swaps and swaptions) whose value movements are excluded from operating profit arises in Jackson. Non-equity based derivatives are primarily held by Jackson as part of a broadly based hedging programme for features of Jackson's bond portfolio (for which value movements are booked in the statement of comprehensive income rather than the income statement), product liabilities (for which US GAAP accounting as 'grandfathered' under IFRS 4 does not fully reflect the economic features being hedged), and the interest rate exposure attaching to equity-based embedded derivatives.

iv Other liabilities to policyholders and embedded derivatives for product guarantees

Under IFRS, the degree to which the carrying values of liabilities to policyholders are sensitive to current market conditions varies between territories depending upon the nature of the 'grandfathered' measurement basis. In general, in those instances where the liabilities are particularly sensitive to routine changes in market conditions, the accounting basis is such that the impact of market movements on the assets and liabilities is broadly equivalent in the income statement, and operating profit based on longer-term investments returns is not distorted. In these circumstances, there is no need for the movement in the liability to be bifurcated between the elements that relate to longer-term market conditions and short-term effects.

However, some types of business movements in liabilities do require bifurcation to ensure that at the net level (ie after allocated investment return and change for policyholder benefits) the operating result reflects longer-term market returns.

Examples where such bifurcation is necessary are:

Asia

i Hong Kong

For certain non-participating business, the economic features are more akin to asset management products with policyholder liabilities reflecting asset shares over the contract term. For these products, the charge for policyholder benefits in the operating results should reflect the asset share feature rather than volatile movements that would otherwise be reflected if the local regulatory basis (which is applied for IFRS balance sheet purposes) was used.

For other Hong Kong non-participating business, longer-term interest rates are used to determine the movement in policyholder liabilities for determining operating results. Similar principles apply for other Asia operations;

ii Japan Guaranteed Minimum Death Benefit (GMDB) product features

For unhedged GMDB liabilities accounted for under IFRS using 'grandfathered' US GAAP, such as in the Japanese business, the change in carrying value is determined under FASB ASC subtopic 944-80, Financial Services – Insurance – Separate Accounts (formerly SOP 03-1), which partially reflects changes in market conditions. Under the Company's segmental basis of reporting the operating profit reflects the change in liability based on longer-term market conditions with the difference between the charge to the operating result and the movement reflected in the total result included in short-term fluctuations in investment returns;

UK shareholder-backed annuity business

The operating result based on longer-term investment returns reflects the impact of value movements on policyholder liabilities for annuity business in PRIL and the PAC non-profit sub-fund after adjustments to allocate the following elements of the movement to the category of 'short-term fluctuations in investment returns' in the Group's supplementary analysis of profit:

- The impact on credit risk provisioning of actual upgrades and downgrades during the period;
- Credit experience compared to assumptions; and
- Short-term value movements on assets backing the capital of the business.

Credit experience reflects the impact of defaults and other similar experience, such as asset exchanges arising from debt restructuring by issuers that include effectively an element of permanent impairment of the security held. Negative experience compared to assumptions is included within short-term fluctuations in investment returns without further adjustment. This is to be contrasted with positive experience where surpluses are retained in short-term allowances for credit risk for IFRS reporting purposes. The effects of other changes to credit risk provisioning are included in the operating result, as is the net effect of changes to the valuation rate of interest due to portfolio rebalancing to align more closely with management benchmark.

v Fund management and other non-insurance businesses

For these businesses, the particular features applicable for life assurance noted above do not apply. For these businesses it is inappropriate to include returns in the operating result on the basis described above. Instead, it is appropriate to generally include realised gains and losses (including impairments) in the operating result with unrealised gains and losses being included in short-term fluctuations in investment returns. For this purpose impairments are calculated as the credit loss determined by comparing the projected cash flows discounted at the original effective interest rate to the carrying value. In some instances it may also be appropriate to amortise realised gains and losses on derivatives and other financial instruments to operating results over a time period that reflects the underlying economic substance of the arrangements.

Shareholders' dividends

Interim dividends are recorded in the period in which they are paid. Final dividends are recorded in the period in which they are approved by shareholders.

Share capital

Where there is no obligation to transfer assets, shares are classified as equity. The difference between the proceeds received on issue of the shares, net of share issue costs, and the nominal value of the shares issued, is credited to share premium. Where the Company purchases shares for the purposes of employee incentive plans, the consideration paid, net of issue costs, is deducted from retained earnings. Upon issue or sale any consideration received is credited to retained earnings net of related costs.

Foreign exchange

The Group's consolidated financial statements are presented in pounds sterling, the Group's presentation currency. Accordingly, the results and financial position of foreign subsidiaries must be translated into the presentation currency of the Group from their functional currencies, ie the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates. All assets and liabilities of foreign subsidiaries are converted at year end exchange rates whilst all income and expenses are converted at average exchange rates where this is a reasonable approximation of the rates prevailing on transaction dates. The impact of these currency translations is recorded as a separate component in the statement of comprehensive income.

Foreign currency borrowings that are used to provide a hedge against Group equity investments in overseas subsidiaries are translated at year end exchange rates and movements recognised in other comprehensive income. Other foreign currency monetary items are translated at year end exchange rates with changes recognised in the income statement.

Foreign currency transactions are translated at the spot rate prevailing at the time.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A4: Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In determining the measurement of the Group's assets and liabilities estimates and judgements are required. The critical aspects are described below.

Investments

Determining the fair value of financial investments when the markets are not active

The Group holds certain financial investments for which the markets are not active. These can include financial investments which are not quoted on active markets and financial investments for which markets are no longer active as a result of market conditions eg market illiquidity. When the markets are not active, there is generally no or limited observable market data to account for financial investments at fair value. The determination of whether an active market exists for a financial investment requires management's judgement.

If the market for a financial investment of the Group is not active, the fair value is determined by using valuation techniques. The Group establishes fair value for these financial investments by using quotations from independent third parties, such as brokers or pricing services or by using internally developed pricing models. Priority is given to publicly available prices from independent sources when available, but overall the source of pricing and/or the valuation technique is chosen with the objective of arriving at a fair value measurement which reflects the price at which an orderly transaction would take place between market participants on the measurement date. The valuation techniques include the use of recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, option adjusted spread models and, if applicable, enterprise valuation and may include a number of assumptions relating to variables such as credit risk and interest rates. Changes in assumptions relating to these variables could positively or negatively impact the reported fair value of these financial investments.

The financial investments measured at fair value are classified into the following three level hierarchy on the basis of the lowest level of inputs that is significant to the fair value measurement of the financial investment concerned:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable either directly or indirectly (ie derived from prices); and
- Level 3: Significant inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

At 31 December 2012, £6,660 million (2011: £4,565 million) of the financial investments (net of derivative liabilities) valued at fair value were classified as level 3. Of these £861 million (2011: £800 million) are held to back shareholder non-linked business and so changes to these valuations will directly impact shareholders' equity. Further details of the level 3 investments and the classification of financial instruments are given in note G1.

Determining impairments relating to financial assets

i Available-for-sale securities

The majority of Jackson's debt securities portfolio are accounted for on available-for-sale basis. The consideration of evidence of impairment requires management's judgement. In making this determination the factors considered include, for example:

- Whether the decline of the financial investment's fair value is substantial; a substantial decline in fair value might be indicative of a credit loss event that would lead to a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows;
- The impact of the duration of the security on the calculation of the revised estimated cash flows; the duration of a security to maturity helps to inform whether assessments of estimated future cash flows that are higher than market value are reasonable;
- The duration and extent to which the amortised cost exceeds fair value; this factor provides an indication of how the contractual cash flows and effective interest rate of a financial asset compares with the implicit market estimate of cash flows and the risk attaching to a 'fair value' measurement. The length of time for which that level of difference has been in place may also provide further evidence as to whether the market assessment implies an impairment loss has arisen; and
- The financial condition and prospects of the issuer or other observable conditions that indicate the investment may be impaired.

If a loss event that will have a detrimental effect on cash flows is identified an impairment loss in the income statement is recognised. The loss recognised is determined as the difference between the book cost and the fair value of the relevant impaired securities. This loss comprises the effect of the expected loss of contractual cash flows and any additional market-price-driven temporary reductions in values.

For Jackson's residential mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, all of which are classified as available-for-sale, the model used to analyse cash flows begins with the current delinquency experience of the underlying collateral pool for the structure, by applying assumptions about how much of the currently delinquent loans will eventually default, and multiplying this by an assumed loss severity. Additional factors are applied to anticipate ageing effects. After applying a cash flow simulation an indication is obtained as to whether or not the security has suffered, or is anticipated to suffer, contractual principal or interest payment shortfalls. If a shortfall applies an impairment charge is recorded. The difference between the fair value and book cost for unimpaired securities designated as available-for-sale, is accounted for as unrealised gains or losses, with the movements in the accounting period being included in other comprehensive income.

The Group's review of fair value involves several criteria, including economic conditions, credit loss experience, other issuer-specific developments and future cash flows. These assessments are based on the best available information at the time. Factors such as market liquidity, the widening of bid/ask spreads and a change in cash flow assumptions can contribute to future price volatility. If actual experience differs negatively from the assumptions and other considerations used in the consolidated financial statements, unrealised losses currently in equity may be recognised in the income statement in future periods. Additional details on the impairments of the available-for-sale securities of Jackson are described in notes D3 and G5.

ii Assets held at amortised cost

Except for certain loans of the UK insurance operations and Jackson National Life, which are accounted for on a fair value through profit and loss basis, and as described below, financial assets classified as loans and receivables under IAS 39 are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The loans and receivables include loans collateralised by mortgages, deposits and loans to policyholders. In estimating future cash flows, the Group looks at the expected cash flows of the assets and applies historical loss experience of assets with similar credit risks that has been adjusted for conditions in the historical loss experience which no longer exist or for conditions that are expected to arise. The estimated future cash flows are discounted using the financial asset's original or variable effective interest rate and exclude credit losses that have not yet been incurred.

The risks inherent in reviewing the impairment of any investment include: the risk that market results may differ from expectations, facts and circumstances may change in the future and differ from estimates and assumptions, or the Group may later decide to sell the asset as a result of changed circumstances.

Certain mortgage loans of the UK insurance operations and, consequent upon the purchase of REALIC in 2012, policy loans held to back funds withheld under reinsurance arrangements have been designated at fair value through profit and loss as these loan portfolios are managed and evaluated on a fair value basis.

Insurance contracts

Product classification

IFRS 4 requires contracts written by insurers to be classified as either 'insurance contracts' or 'investment contracts' depending on the level of insurance risk transferred. Insurance risk is a pre-existing risk, other than financial risk, transferred from the contract holder to the contract issuer. If significant insurance risk is transferred by the contract then it is classified as an insurance contract. Contracts that transfer financial risk but not significant insurance risk are termed investment contracts. Furthermore, some contracts, both insurance and investment, contain discretionary participating features representing the contractual right to receive additional benefits as a supplement to guaranteed benefits:

- a That are likely to be a significant portion of the total contract benefits;
- b Whose amount or timing is contractually at the discretion of the insurer; and
- c That are contractually based on asset or fund performance, as discussed in IFRS 4.

IFRS 4 permits the continued usage of previously applied GAAP for insurance contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participating features. Except for UK regulated with-profits funds, as described subsequently in section A3(2)(a), this basis has been applied by the Group.

For investment contracts that do not contain discretionary participating features, IAS 39 and, where the contract includes an investment management element, IAS 18, 'Revenue', apply measurement principles to assets and liabilities attaching to the contract.

Valuation assumptions

i Contracts of with-profits funds

For UK regulated with-profits funds, the contract liabilities are valued by reference to the UK Financial Services Authority's (FSA) realistic basis as described in section A3(2)(a). This basis has the effect of placing a value on the liabilities of UK with-profits contracts, which reflects the amounts expected to be paid based on the current value of investments held by the with-profits funds and current circumstances. An explanation of the basis of liability measurement is contained in section A3(2)(a).

The Group's other with-profits contracts are written in with-profits funds that operate in some of the Group's Asian subsidiaries. The liabilities for these contracts and those of Prudential Annuities Limited, which is a subsidiary company of the PAC with-profits fund, are determined differently. For these contracts the liabilities are estimated using actuarial methods based on assumptions relating to premiums, interest rates, investment returns, expenses, mortality and surrenders. The assumptions to which the estimation of these reserves is particularly sensitive are the interest rate used to discount the provision and the assumed future mortality experience of policyholders.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A4: Critical accounting estimates and judgements continued

ii Other contracts

Contracts, other than those of with-profits funds, are written by shareholder-backed operations of the Group. The significant shareholder-backed product groupings and the factors that may significantly affect IFRS results due to experience against assumptions or changes of assumptions vary significantly between business units. For some types of business the effect of changes in assumptions may be significant, whilst for others, due to the nature of the product, assumption setting may be of less significance. The nature of the products and the significance of assumptions are discussed in notes D2, D3 and D4.

UK insurance operations

From the perspective of shareholder results the key sensitivity for UK insurance operations are the assumptions for allowance for credit risk and mortality for UK annuity business.

Jackson

With the exception of institutional products and an incidental amount of business for annuity certain contracts, which are accounted for as investment contracts under IAS 39, all of Jackson's contracts are accounted for under IFRS 4 as insurance contracts by applying US GAAP, the previous GAAP used before IFRS adoption. The accounting requirements under these standards and the effect of changes in valuation assumptions are considered below for fixed annuity, variable annuity and traditional life insurance contracts.

Fixed annuity contracts, which are investment contracts under US GAAP terminology, are accounted for by applying in the first instance a retrospective deposit method to determine the liability for policyholder benefits. This is then augmented by potentially three additional amounts, namely deferred income, any amounts previously assessed against policyholders that are refundable on termination of the contract, and any premium deficiency, ie any probable future loss on the contract. These types of contracts contain considerable interest rate guarantee features. Notwithstanding the accompanying market risk exposure, except in the circumstances of interest rate scenarios where the guarantee rates included in contract terms are higher than crediting rates that can be supported from assets held to cover liabilities, the accounting measurement of Jackson's fixed annuity products is not generally sensitive to interest rate risk. This position derives from the nature of the products and the US GAAP basis of measurement.

Variable annuity contracts written by Jackson may provide for guaranteed minimum death, income or withdrawal benefit features. In general terms, liabilities for these benefits are accounted for under US GAAP by using estimates of future benefits and fees under best estimate assumptions.

For traditional life insurance contracts, provisions for future policy benefits are determined using assumptions as of the issue date as to mortality, interest, policy lapses and expenses plus provisions for adverse deviation.

Except to the extent of mortality experience, which primarily affects profits through variations in claim payments and the guaranteed minimum death benefit reserves, the profits of Jackson are relatively insensitive to changes in insurance risk. This reflects the principally spread and fee-based nature of Jackson's business.

Asia operations

The insurance products written in the Group's Asia operations principally cover with-profits business, unit-linked business and other non-participating business. The results of with-profits business are relatively insensitive to changes in estimates and assumptions that affect the measurement of policyholder liabilities. As for the UK business, this feature arises because unallocated surplus is accounted for by the Group as a liability. The results of Asia unit-linked business are also relatively insensitive to changes in estimates or assumptions due to the matching of asset value and liability movements. For other Asia non-participating business the degree of sensitivity of results to changes in interest rates depends upon the degree to which the liabilities under the 'grandfathered' IFRS 4 measurement basis reflects market interest rates from period to period for example, for those countries, such as those applying US GAAP, the results can be more sensitive as the effect of interest rate movements on the backing investments may not be offset by liability movements due to the US GAAP basis of measurement of insurance contracts.

Deferred acquisition costs for insurance contracts

Except for acquisition costs of with-profits contracts of the UK regulated with-profits funds, which are accounted for under the realistic FSA regime, costs of acquiring new insurance business are accounted for in a way that is consistent with the principles of the ABI SORP with deferral and amortisation against margins in future revenues on the related insurance policies. Costs of acquiring new insurance business, principally commissions, marketing and advertising and certain other costs associated with policy insurance and underwriting that are not reimbursed by policy charges, are specifically identified and capitalised as part of deferred acquisition costs (DAC). In general, this deferral is presentationally shown by an explicit carrying value for DAC in the balance sheet. However, in some Asia operations the deferral is implicit through the reserving methodology. The recoverability of the explicitly and implicitly deferred acquisition costs is measured and are deemed impaired if the projected margins are less than the carrying value. To the extent that the future margins differ from those anticipated, then an adjustment to the carrying value will be necessary.

For UK regulated with-profits funds where the realistic FSA regime is applied, the basis of setting liabilities is such that it would be inappropriate for acquisition costs to be deferred, therefore these costs are expensed as incurred. The majority of the UK shareholder-backed business is individual and group annuity business where the incidence of acquisition costs is negligible.

The deferral and amortisation of acquisition costs is of most relevance to the Group's results for Jackson and Asia operations. The DAC for Jackson and some Asia operations is determined with reference to US GAAP principles.

Jackson

Under IFRS 4, the Group applies 'grandfathered' US GAAP for measuring the insurance assets and liabilities of Jackson. In the case of Jackson term business, acquisition costs are deferred and amortised in line with expected profits. For interest-sensitive business, the key assumption is the long-term spread between the earned rate on investments and the rate credited to policyholders, which is based on an annual spread analysis. In addition, expected gross profits depend on mortality assumptions, assumed unit costs and terminations other than deaths (including the related charges), all of which are based on a combination of Jackson's actual industry experience and future expectations. A detailed analysis of actual mortality, lapse and expenses experience is performed using internally developed experience studies.

For US variable annuity business the key assumption is the investment return from the separate accounts, which for 2012 and 2011 was 8.4 per cent per annum (after deduction of external fund management fees) determined using a mean reversion methodology. Under the mean reversion methodology, projected returns over the next five years are flexed (subject to capping) so that, combined with the actual rates of return for the current and the previous two years the 8.4 per cent rate is maintained. The projected rates of return are capped at no more than 15 per cent for each of the next five years. Further details are explained in note D3(e). These returns affect the level of future expected profits through their effects on the fee income with consequential impact on the amortisation of DAC.

The level of acquisition costs carried in the statement of financial position is also sensitive to unrealised valuation movements on debt securities held to back the liabilities and solvency capital. Further details are explained in notes D3(e) and H1.

As explained in note A5, the Group has adopted the US Financial Accounting Standards Board measurement and recognition requirements in Accounting Standards update No 2010-26 on 'Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts' (the 'Update') from 1 January 2012 into its IFRS reporting for the results of Jackson and those Asia operations whose IFRS insurance assets and liabilities are measured principally by reference to US GAAP principles. Under the Update insurers are required to capitalise only those incremental costs directly relating to acquiring a contract from 1 January 2012. For Group IFRS reporting Prudential has chosen to apply this new basis retrospectively for the results of these operations.

On adoption of the new DAC policy for Jackson the deferred costs balance for business in force at 31 December 2011 was retrospectively reduced from £3,880 million to £3,095 million (31 December 2010: DAC balance reduced from £3,543 million to £2,829 million).

Asia operations

For those territories applying US GAAP to insurance assets and liabilities, as permitted by the ABI SORP, principles similar to those set out in the Jackson paragraph above are applied to the deferral and amortisation of acquisition costs. For other territories in Asia, the general principles of the ABI SORP are applied with, as described above, deferral of acquisition costs being either explicit or implicit through the reserving basis.

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A5: New accounting pronouncements

The following standards, interpretations and amendments have either been adopted for the first time in 2012 or have been issued but are not yet effective in 2012, including those which have not yet been adopted in the EU. This is not intended to be a complete list as only those standards, interpretations and amendments that could have an impact upon the Group's financial statements have been discussed.

a Accounting pronouncements adopted in 2012

Amendments to IFRS 7, 'Financial instruments: Disclosures - Transfers of financial assets'

The amendments introduce new disclosure requirements about transfers of financial assets which include disclosures for financial assets that are not derecognised in their entirety and financial assets that are derecognised in their entirety but for which the entity retains continuing involvement. The adoption of these amendments did not have a significant impact on the Group's disclosures.

Amendments to IAS 12, 'Income taxes'

These amendments require the measurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from investment properties and plant, property and equipment valued at fair value on the presumption that the carrying amount of the asset will be, normally, recovered through sale. The adoption of these amendments did not have a material effect on the Group's financial statements.

b Adoption of updated US GAAP reporting requirements for Group IFRS reporting in 2012

Background

In October 2010, the Emerging Issues Task Force of the US Financial Accounting Standards Board issued update No 2010-26 on 'Accounting for Costs Associated with Acquiring or Renewing Insurance Contracts' (the 'Update'). The Update was issued to address perceived diversity in practices by companies preparing financial statements in accordance with US GAAP as regards the types of acquisition costs being deferred. Under US GAAP, costs that can be deferred and amortised are those that 'vary with and are primarily related to the acquisition of insurance contracts'. The Update requires insurers to capitalise only those incremental costs directly relating to acquiring a contract for financial statements for reporting periods beginning after 15 December 2011. All other indirect acquisition expenses are required to be charged to the income statements as incurred expenses. Accordingly, the main impact of the Update is to disallow insurers from deferring costs that are not directly related to successful sales.

The Group's IFRS accounting policies include that under IFRS 4, 'Insurance Contracts', insurance assets and liabilities other than those for UK regulated with-profits funds, are measured using the GAAP basis applied prior to IFRS adoption in 2005. On this basis insurance assets and liabilities are measured under the UK Modified Statutory Basis (MSB) which was codified by the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) on accounting for insurance business issued by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) in 2003. The SORP also permits the use of local GAAP subject to the requirement for adjustments to be made to ensure sufficient consistency of measurement under the UK GAAP framework under which the SORP was developed.

In applying this overarching basis, the Group has chosen to apply US GAAP for measuring the insurance assets and liabilities of Jackson. In addition, for the Group's operations in India, Japan, Taiwan and, until 2012, Vietnam*, where the local GAAP basis would not be appropriate as the start point for deriving MSB insurance asset and liabilities, the measurement has been determined substantially by reference to US GAAP requirements.

For 2012, the Group had the option to either continue with its current basis of measurement or improve its accounting policy under IFRS 4 to acknowledge the issuance of the Update. Prudential has chosen to improve its accounting policy in 2012 to apply the US GAAP update, on a retrospective basis, to the results of Jackson and the affected Asia operations.

The 2011 comparatives in these consolidated financial statements have been adjusted accordingly for the retrospective application of this Update.

* Separately from the DAC change noted above, in Vietnam, the Company has improved its estimation basis for liabilities in 2012 from one determined substantially by reference to US GAAP requirements. After making this change, the estimation basis for Vietnam is aligned substantially with that used in Singapore, Malaysia and some other Asia operations.

Effect of the change in accounting policy

(a) The effect of the change in accounting policy for deferred acquisition costs (DAC) on the income statement, earnings per share, comprehensive income, changes in equity and statement of financial position is shown in the tables below:

Consolidated income statement

Year ended 31 December	2012 £m			2011 £m		
	Under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy	As reported under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy
Total revenue, net of reinsurance	55,476	–	55,476	36,506	–	36,506
Acquisition costs and other expenditure	(5,908)	(147)	(6,055)	(5,005)	(115)	(5,120)
Total other charges, net of reinsurance	(46,233)	–	(46,233)	(29,575)	–	(29,575)
Profit before tax (<i>being tax attributable to shareholders' and policyholders' returns</i>)	3,335	(147)	3,188	1,926	(115)	1,811
(Less) Add tax (charge) credit attributable to policyholders' returns	(378)	–	(378)	17	–	17
Profit before tax attributable to shareholders	2,957	(147)	2,810	1,943	(115)	1,828
Total tax charge attributable to policyholders and shareholders	(1,039)	48	(991)	(432)	40	(392)
Adjustment to remove tax charge (credit) attributable to policyholders' returns	378	–	378	(17)	–	(17)
Tax charge attributable to shareholders' returns	(661)	48	(613)	(449)	40	(409)
Profit for the year	2,296	(99)	2,197	1,494	(75)	1,419
Profit for the year attributable to equity holders of the Company	2,296	(99)	2,197	1,490	(75)	1,415
Earnings per share (in pence)						
Based on profit attributable to the equity holders of the Company:						
Basic	90.4p	(3.9)p	86.5p	58.8p	(3.0)p	55.8p
Diluted	90.3p	(3.9)p	86.4p	58.7p	(3.0)p	55.7p

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A5: New accounting pronouncements continued

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity

Year ended 31 December	2012 £m			2011 £m		
	Under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy	As reported under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy
Profit for the year	2,296	(99)	2,197	1,494	(75)	1,419
Exchange movements on foreign operations and net investment hedges, net of related tax	(236)	20	(216)	(100)	(5)	(105)
Unrealised valuation movements on securities of US insurance operations classified as available-for-sale	862	–	862	811	–	811
Related change in amortisation of deferred income and acquisition costs	(314)	44	(270)	(331)	56	(275)
Related tax	(190)	(15)	(205)	(168)	(19)	(187)
Net unrealised gains	358	29	387	312	37	349
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,418	(50)	2,368	1,706	(43)	1,663
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to equity holders of the Company	2,418	(50)	2,368	1,702	(43)	1,659
Shareholders' equity:						
Net increase in shareholders' equity	1,845	(50)	1,795	1,086	(43)	1,043
At beginning of year	9,117	(553)	8,564	8,031	(510)	7,521
At end of year	10,962	(603)	10,359	9,117	(553)	8,564

Consolidated statement of financial position

Year ended 31 December	2012 £m			2011 £m		
	Under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy	As reported under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy
Assets						
Deferred acquisition costs and other intangible assets attributable to shareholders	5,173	(906)	4,267	5,069	(835)	4,234
Total other assets	305,986	–	305,986	268,511	–	268,511
Total assets	311,159	(906)	310,253	273,580	(835)	272,745
Liabilities						
Deferred tax liabilities	4,273	(303)	3,970	4,211	(282)	3,929
Total other liabilities	295,919	–	295,919	260,209	–	260,209
Total liabilities	300,192	(303)	299,889	264,420	(282)	264,138
Equity						
Shareholders' equity	10,962	(603)	10,359	9,117	(553)	8,564
Non-controlling interests	5	–	5	43	–	43
Total equity	10,967	(603)	10,364	9,160	(553)	8,607

(b) The effect of the change in accounting policy for deferred acquisition costs on the Group's supplementary analysis of profit is shown in the table below:

Segment disclosure - profit before tax

Year ended 31 December	2012 £m			2011 £m		
	Under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy	As reported under previous policy	Effect of change	Under new policy
Operating profit based on longer-term investment returns						
Asia insurance operations ^{note (i)}	922	(9)	913	704	–	704
US insurance operations ^{note (ii)}	1,081	(117)	964	694	(43)	651
Other operations	656	–	656	672	–	672
Total	2,659	(126)	2,533	2,070	(43)	2,027
Short-term fluctuations in investment returns on shareholder-backed business	225	(21)	204	(148)	(72)	(220)
Shareholders' share of actuarial and other gains and losses on defined benefit pension schemes	50	–	50	21	–	21
Gain on dilution of Group's holdings	42	–	42	–	–	–
Amortisation of acquisition accounting adjustments arising on the purchase of REALIC	(19)	–	(19)	–	–	–
Profit before tax attributable to shareholders	2,957	(147)	2,810	1,943	(115)	1,828
Basic EPS from operating profit based on longer-term investment returns after tax and non-controlling interests	80.2p	(3.4)p	76.8p	63.9p	(1.1)p	62.8p
Basic EPS based on total profit after tax and non-controlling interests	90.4p	(3.9)p	86.5p	58.8p	(3.0)p	55.8p

Notes on the effect of the change in the accounting policy on operating profit based on longer-term investment returns

(i) Asia insurance operations

	Effect of change	
	2012 £m	2011 £m
New business		
Acquisition costs on new contracts not deferred under the new policy	(14)	(16)
Business in force at beginning of period		
Reduction in amortisation on reduced DAC balance under the new policy	5	16
Total	(9)	–

(ii) US insurance operations

	Effect of change	
	2012 £m	2011 £m
New business		
Acquisition costs on new contracts not deferred under the new policy	(174)	(156)
Business in force at beginning of period		
Reduction in amortisation on reduced DAC balance under the new policy	57	113
Total	(117)	(43)

A: Background and accounting policies continued

A5: New accounting pronouncements continued

c Accounting pronouncements endorsed by the EU but not yet effective

The following accounting pronouncements potentially relevant to the Group have been issued and endorsed for use in the EU but are not mandatory for adoption for the 31 December 2012 year end.

Amendments to IAS 19, 'Employee benefits'

In June 2011, the IASB published amendments to IAS 19 on accounting for pensions and other post-employment benefits effective from annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013. The key revisions to the standard are:

- The removal of the corridor option for actuarial gains and losses
The Group does not apply the corridor option, therefore, its removal has no impact to the Group;
- Presentation of actuarial gains and losses
The Group currently presents actuarial gains and losses in the income statement. Under the revised standard actuarial gains and losses will be presented in 'other comprehensive income'. Details of the 2012 and 2011 actuarial gains and losses on the current basis are shown in note 13;
- The replacement of the expected return on plan assets with an amount based on the liability discount rate in the determination of pension costs
This revision alters the pension costs included in the Group's income statement with a corresponding equal and opposite effect on the actuarial gains and losses included in other comprehensive income. The effect of this change for Prudential is not expected to be significant; and
- Enhanced disclosures, specifically on risks arising from defined benefit plans.

Adoption of the revised IAS 19 standard will have no impact on shareholders' equity.

Standards on joint arrangements and disclosures: IFRS 11, 'Joint arrangements', IFRS 12, 'Disclosures of interest in other entities' and IAS 28, 'Investments in associates and joint ventures'

In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 11, 'Joint arrangements' to replace IAS 31, 'Interests in Joint Ventures'. The standard also incorporates the guidance contained in related interpretation in SIC 13, Jointly Controlled Entities – Non-Monetary Contributions by Venturers. The standard requires a joint venture to be recognised as an investment and be accounted for using the equity method in accordance with IAS 28. The attaching changes to disclosure requirements for parties to joint arrangements are specified in IFRS 12, 'Disclosures of interest in other entities', which replaces the disclosure requirements of IAS 28, 'Investments in associates and joint ventures' and IAS 31, 'Interests in Joint Ventures'.

The standards are effective from annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013 for IFRS as issued by the IASB and 1 January 2014 for IFRS as endorsed by the EU but with early adoption permitted. The Group's investments in joint ventures are currently accounted for using proportionate consolidation. At 31 December 2012, this approach gave rise to consolidated gross assets and liabilities for the joint ventures of £3,946 million and £3,595 million respectively. With the application of IFRS 11, the Group's investments in joint ventures will be accounted for on a single line equity method thus giving rise at 31 December 2012 to a net interest of £351 million included within gross assets.

Similarly, the 2012 gross revenue and charges of £1,040 million and £942 million respectively, which are currently included on a line-by-line basis within the income statement will, after adoption of the standard, be presented as a single net contribution of £98 million. As a consequence, the standard will also have a small impact on profit before tax as the tax on the profits of the joint ventures will no longer be presented in the tax line, instead the tax charges will be required to be netted against the Group's share of joint ventures' income included in profit before tax. The tax charges for 2012 for the Group's share of joint ventures' income was £19 million. Adoption of the standard will have no impact on net of tax profits or shareholders' equity.

Standards on consolidation and disclosures: IFRS 10, 'Consolidated financial statements', IFRS 12, 'Disclosures of interest in other entities' and IAS 27, 'Separate financial statements'

In May 2011, the IASB issued these three standards to replace IAS 27, 'Consolidated and separate financial statements' and SIC 12, 'Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities'.

The standards are effective from annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013. The standards are expected to have a minor impact on the Group's assessment of its interests in investment funds (including OEICs and unit trusts) and is likely to increase the number of funds consolidated. The Group is currently determining those additional funds that will require consolidation under the requirements of IFRS 10 and the effect of retrospective adjustment to comparative results. The principal effect will be to 'gross up' the consolidated balance sheet for:

- (i) The difference between the net value of the newly consolidated assets and liabilities and the previous carrying value for the Group's interest; and
- (ii) The equal and opposite liability or minority interest for the external parties' interests in the funds.

The grossing up effect on the 2012 statement of financial position is not expected to exceed £1 billion. Adoption of the standard is expected to have an insignificant effect on the retrospectively adjusted comparative 2012 profit and shareholders' equity in the 2013 results.

IFRS 13, 'Fair value measurement'

In May 2011, the IASB issued IFRS 13, 'Fair value measurement' standard which creates a uniform framework to explain how to measure fair value and aims to enhance fair value disclosures, but it does not change when to measure fair value or require additional fair value measurements. The standard requires additional disclosure on the fair value of non-financial assets and liabilities and enhanced disclosures of recurring level 3 fair value measurements.

The standard is effective from annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013, with no adjustment to comparative results. The Group is currently assessing the impact of the standard but it is not expected to have a material impact on the fair value measurement of the Group's assets and liabilities. Disclosures will be enhanced in providing detail of the methodology and underlying assumptions used to determine fair value of the Group's assets and liabilities, in line with the new requirements.

Amendments to IAS 1, 'Presentation of financial statements'

These amendments, effective on or after 1 January 2013, change the requirement for the disclosure of items presented in other comprehensive income, requiring items to be presented separately based on whether or not they may be recycled to profit or loss in the future. The Group is expecting the amendments to be purely presentational with no significant impact on the Group's results and financial position.

Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (Amendments to IAS 32, 'Financial instruments: Presentation' and IFRS 7, 'Financial instruments: Disclosures')

The two amendments, effective on or after 1 January 2013 and 2014, respectively clarifies the offsetting criteria for financial assets and financial liabilities in the statement of financial position. The Group is currently assessing the impact of these amendments.

d Accounting pronouncements not yet endorsed by the EU

The following accounting pronouncement potentially relevant to the Group has been issued but not yet endorsed for use in the EU.

IFRS 9, 'Financial instruments: Classification and measurement'

The new standard, effective on or after 1 January 2015, will automatically replace IAS 39, 'Financial Instruments – Recognition and measurement'. Under the new requirements the classification and hence measurement of financial assets would be on two bases, either amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss, rather than the existing four bases of classification. These requirements maintain the existing amortised cost measurement for most liabilities but will require changes in fair value due to changes in the entity's own credit risk to be recognised in the other comprehensive income (OCI) section of the comprehensive income statement, rather than within profit or loss for liabilities measured at fair value. On 28 November 2012, the IASB released an Exposure Draft proposing amendments to IAS 9. The proposed changes would introduce a fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) category which would include certain financial assets that contain contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest and are held in a business model in which assets are managed both in order to collect contractual cash flows and for sale. The Group is still assessing the full impact of this standard.