



**The Actuarial Profession**

making financial sense of the future

Highlights of the Life Conference 2011 Seminar - London  
The Actuarial Profession Tax Working Party  
Matthew Little and Matthew Taylor



# Tax after Solvency II

28 March 2012

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# Tax after Solvency 2

## Overview

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- **Background (Matthew L)**
- **Solvency II (Matthew L)**
- Proposed Changes (Matthew T)
- Current Issues (Matthew T)
- What this might mean for Firms (Matthew L)
- Practicalities (Matthew L)
- Questions

# Background

## Solvency I Reporting Overview

- **Classes of Business**

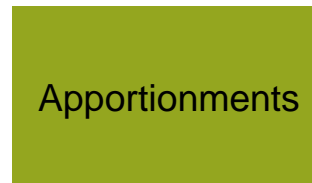
- BLAGAB (I-E)
- GRB (Trading Profits)
- PHI (Trading Profits)



- Companies in general taxed on Trading Profits
- Insurance Companies taxed on I-E, when writing BLAGAB
- Shareholder Profits

### FSA Form 40 (Revenue Account)

Premiums	P
Income & Gains	I
Expenses	E
Claims	C
Profit	$SP (= P + I - E - C)$



# Background

## Solvency I Reporting Overview

- Policyholder Profits

Claims	C
Premiums	P
Profit	PP (= C - P)



Policyholder  
Profits

- Consider both Policyholder and Shareholder Profits

$$\text{Shareholder Profits} = P + I - E - C = I - E - (C - P)$$

$$\text{Policyholder Profits} = C - P$$

$$\text{SP} + \text{PP} = I - E$$



I-E

# Background

## Solvency I Reporting Overview

- Life Assurance Trade Profits (LATP)
  - A Profits based test providing a minimum value for tax
  - Excess of LATP over I-E (including dividend income) is deemed to be additional I
  - This excess is carried forward as unrelieved E (future relief)
- Formerly known as NCI Test
- Not relevant for Mutual Society
- Identifies PH and SH share
- PH share taxed at 20%, SH share at corporation tax rate
- Shareholder Fund taxed as investment business

LTF/SHF

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# Solvency II

## Level 2 Text - Draft Implementing Measures Solvency II (Nov 2011)

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- Valuation of Assets and Liabilities
  - Deferred Tax Assets
  - Deferred Tax Liabilities
- Loss Absorbing Capacity of Deferred Tax
- Other Interactions
  - Calculation of Best Estimate Liabilities
  - Risk Margin
  - Own Funds
  - Group Issues

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# Solvency II

## Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

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- Deferred tax assets and Liabilities to be valued in accordance with Article 11 V7
  - Valuation basis to be in accordance with International Accounting Standards
  - The deferred tax value to be based on the difference in the value of the underlying assets and liabilities assumed in the valuation consistent with the Solvency II Directive and the value for tax purposes
  - Need to demonstrate ‘recoverability’ – Supervisory authority will require demonstration that future taxable profits are ‘probable’
  - ‘Probable’ to consider any legal or regulatory restrictions

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# Solvency II

## Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

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- Deferred Tax can therefore take the form of an asset or a liability
- Deferred Tax arises where there is a difference between the Solvency II economic balance sheet valuation and the corresponding tax assessed value
- Values should not be discounted
- DTA's are amounts of taxes recoverable in future periods:
  - Deductible temporary differences
  - Carry forward of unused tax losses
  - Carry forward of unused tax credits
- Examples of a Deferred Tax Asset (DTA)
  - Deferred Acquisition Expenses: Tax relief can be generated on acquisition expenses. This occurs on BLAGAB business when acquisition expenses are spread over future accounting periods.



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# Solvency II

## Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

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- Examples of a Deferred Tax Asset (DTA) continued
  - CGT Losses: This can take the form of unrealised losses on assets. A DTA is established where the current market value is less than that on purchase. Can also be carried forward realised capital losses.
  - Unused Tax Credits: A further example is the carry forward element of E, resulting from the LATP test within the I-E regime. The carried forward excess of E over I, XSE
- Example of a Deferred Tax Liabilities (DTL)
  - Unrealised CGT Gain: A liability to pay tax can arise where assets have increased in price since purchase and the asset has not been realised and therefore the tax is not yet due. Such unrealised gains can give rise to a DTL

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# Solvency II

## Loss-absorbing Capacity of Deferred Taxes (“LACDT”)

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- SF SCR = BSCR + Operational risk - Loss absorb of TP - LACDT
  - LACDT is change in value of deferred taxes from loss in the BSCR plus adjustment for loss absorbency of technical provisions and Operational Risk
  - Within the BSCR scenario, there should be no change in the value of DTA/DTL
  - Where the calculation gives a positive adjustment, it should be set to nil
- Comment
  - Implies that the BSCR permits reductions in **current tax** provisions within the base balance sheet or the creation of a DTA for taxes already paid. Trading losses and loan relationship deficits can be carried back to the prior year
  - For internal models, the model should encompass all scenarios, good and bad. Consideration should be given to reflecting tax on profits in good scenarios as it can impact the ranking of scenarios (BLAGAB interaction)

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# Solvency II

## Best Estimate Liabilities

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- Calculation of Best Estimate Liabilities
  - Tax payments to be reflected in the cash-flow projections
  - To include those charged to policyholders and those required to settle insurance obligations as well as the impact of expense relief.
  - This would include transaction based costs e.g. VAT within the BEL, but need to be aware of the possible double count where already reflected in the expense base
  - All other tax payments to be reflected in current or deferred tax within the balance sheet
  - Not assumed to include amounts relating to policyholders' income tax liability
  - Assumes a gross of tax discount rate

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# Solvency II

## Best Estimate Liabilities

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- Calculation of Best Estimate Liabilities cont'd
  - BEL provides for policyholder liabilities as they fall due
  - For BLAGAB (I-E), tax is suffered on future I less E. This needs to be reflected in the BEL or cash-flows will be overstated
  - For With-Profits business, future Shareholder profits are not reflected in the BEL so there is no requirement to reflect the associated Shareholder Tax within the calculation of the BEL.
  - But this implies there should be a DTL to recognise that tax will be payable when those profits do arise

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# Solvency II

## Risk Margin

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- Risk Margin
  - The Risk Margin forms part of the Technical Provisions (TP)
  - Defined as an amount to ensure that TP's are equivalent to an amount that an undertaking would be expected to pay to take on the insurance liabilities of a firm
  - The calculation of Risk Margin is to assume no loss-absorbing capacity of deferred taxes in the calculation of the SCR for the reference undertaking over the lifetime of the business
- Comment
  - This simplifies the calculation of the Risk Margin, similar methodology to that of QIS 5
  - It applies equally to standard formula and internal model SCRs
  - Appears penal to the extent that loss absorbency can be justified solely from the business which is being valued

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# Solvency II

## Own Funds and Group Issues

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- Own Funds (excess of assets over liabilities)
  - Net Deferred Tax Asset classified as Tier 3 Basic Own Funds if criteria met (Article 63 COF6)
  - Eligible Tier 3 restricted to 15% of total eligible Own Funds (Article 72 EOF1)
  - Eligibility restrictions also apply to MCR
- Group issues
  - Default assumption is no credit for group relief when assessing the value of DTA for group solvency
  - But credit can be included if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the supervisor

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# Tax after Solvency II

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# UK tax policy timetable





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# Proposed changes to life assurance taxation

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- 1) New basis of taxation of long-term business from 1 January 2013
- 2) I minus E and trade profit computations
- 3) Allocation
  - ▶ Income and gains
  - ▶ Pre-tax profits
  - ▶ Fiscal deductions
- 4) Life assurance fixed capital
- 5) Deductions
  - ▶ Liabilities
  - ▶ Policyholder profits
  - ▶ Policyholder tax
- 6) Exempt dividends
- 7) Mutual trading
- 8) Transfers of business

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# (1) New basis of taxation of long-term business from 1 January 2013

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- ▶ Taxable profit based upon profit before tax from the statutory accounts plus taxable items in other comprehensive income and taken to reserves, i.e. taxable profit will be accounting profit wherever it appears in the financial statements
- ▶ Tax relief for provisions for liabilities to policyholders including bonuses declared, provisions for bonuses, other provisions for liabilities to policyholders (both insurance and investment accounted contracts), and risk and residual margins as required under IFRS Phase II
- ▶ Possible carry-back of excess expenses

**Tax to be based on financial statements**

## (2) I minus E and trade profit computations

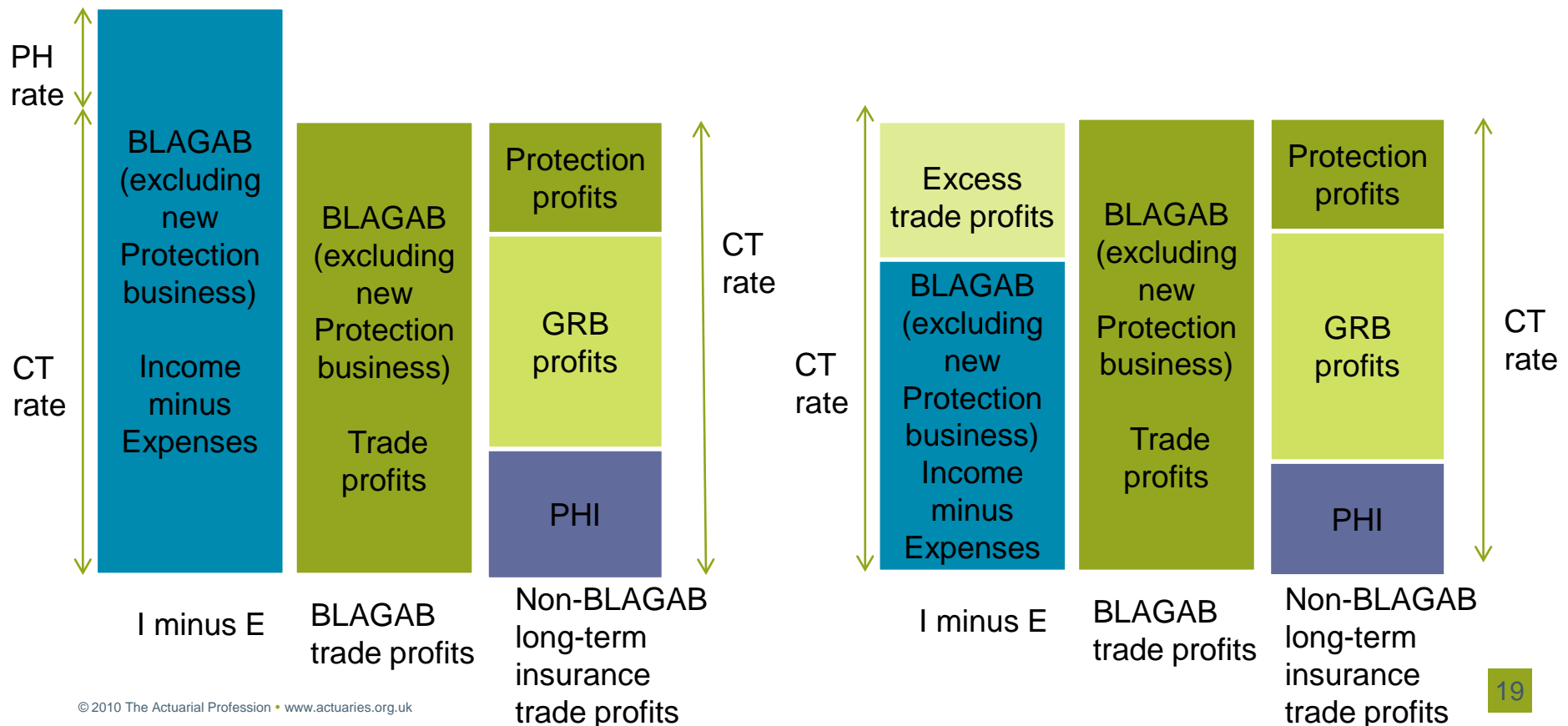
- ▶ Two categories of long term insurance business, basic life assurance and general annuity business (BLAGAB) and “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business”
- ▶ Protection business written on or after 1 January 2013 will be “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business”
- ▶ Once enacted, this will mean:
  - ▶ BLAGAB being dealt with as now on an I minus E basis subject to the minimum profits test
  - ▶ “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business” being taxed on the basis of trading profits that could be relievable against BLAGAB trading profits or group relieved.
  - ▶ Current GRB losses converting to “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business” trading losses on transition, but current life assurance trade losses only converting to BLAGAB trade losses if in excess of current GRB losses

Future “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business” losses obtain immediate relief and so avoids this business having to be written in subsidiaries

# I minus E and trade profits computations - illustrations

## Excess I

## Excess E

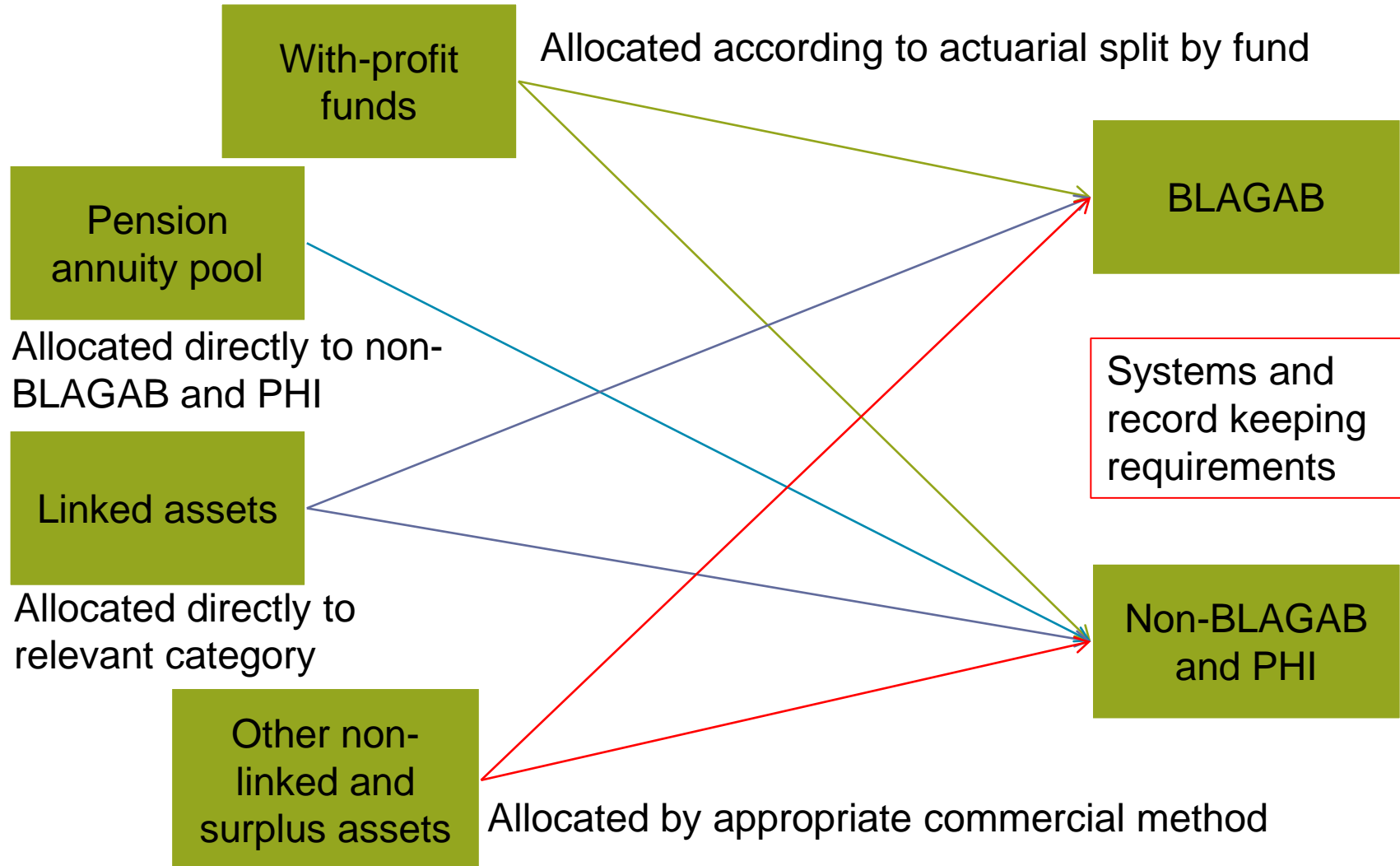


## (3) Allocation

- ▶ Commercially based allocations to be agreed with CRM rather than apportionments
- ▶ Regulations to limit range of possible allocations
- ▶ A commercial allocation of all items of income and outgo, accepting that some items may need to be sub-allocated on a formulaic basis
- ▶ Matching of tax treatment to underlying business will be particularly useful for annuity business
- ▶ For with-profit funds, pre-tax profit (after relief for UDS) potentially allocated pro rata to bonuses
- ▶ Consistent approach for I minus E and trade profits
- ▶ Direct attribution of fiscal adjustments to result in allocation of 100% of taxable profits

Tax payable likely to be consistent with allowance made for in modelling

# Allocation – income example



# Allocation - chargeable gains example

Non-BLAGAB linked  
/matched

Direct allocation

With profit fund 1

With profit fund 2

In proportion to asset  
shares

Separate pool  
records required  
with deemed  
disposals for  
inter-pool  
transfers

BLAGAB linked  
/matched

Direct allocation

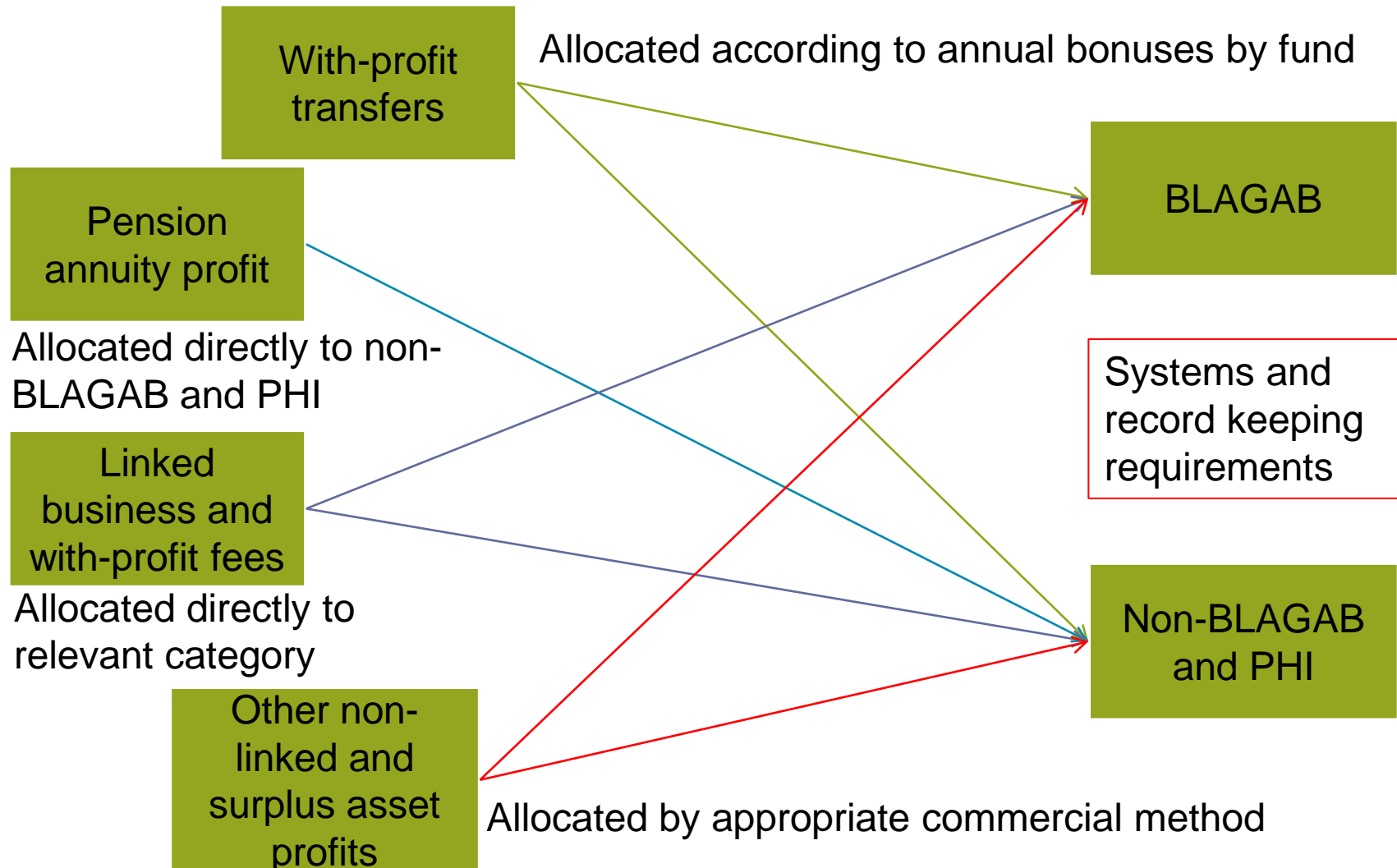
Balance of trade assets

Non-profit fund liabilities or  
Appropriate commercial method

Life assurance fixed  
capital

Not allocated – separate taxation

# Allocation – profits example





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## (4) Long-term insurance fixed capital

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- ▶ Return on assets and associated outgo will be dealt with as being on trading or on capital account from first principles, i.e. by reference to whether the assets were part of the trade or held as fixed assets to facilitate it.
- ▶ Consideration is being given to the possibility that a life company could hold a pool of investments separate from the trade assets (an ancillary investment business) but which would not normally qualify as “fixed assets”. Such a pool could be included with long-term insurance fixed capital.
- ▶ On transition, it is proposed that current shareholder fund assets and long-term fund insurance dependents be regarded as part of long-term insurance fixed capital.

Potential loss of realisations basis for shareholder fund equities

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## (5) Deductions in arriving at taxable profits

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- ▶ Relief for policyholder cash tax in the calculation of trading profits.
- ▶ Relief for movement in policyholder deferred tax balances in balance sheet.
- ▶ For with-profit funds:
  - ▶ relief for bonuses declared
  - ▶ relief for the provision for terminal bonuses
  - ▶ relief as a provision for liabilities to policyholders of the unallocated divisible surplus (UDS) or fund for future appropriations, but
  - ▶ not for “capital” bonuses.

HMRC will not give a deduction for regulatory capital

## (6) Exempt dividends

- ▶ The proposals here are to minimise change.
- ▶ For the minimum profits test, the comparison will continue to be between I minus E profit plus BLAGAB exempt dividends, and the BLAGAB trading profit including exempt dividends.
- ▶ Where a company is excess E but has trade profits less than BLAGAB exempt dividends, tax on trade profits would continue to be nil.
- ▶ The shareholders' share of exempt dividends would be subtracted from trade profits in determining the amount of profit taxable at the CT rate.
- ▶ The way in which the shareholders' share of exempt dividends will be determined has changed so that it is proportionate to total income.

Reducing taxable shareholder profits by a proportion of dividend income is expected to continue

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## (7) Mutual trading

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- ▶ Mutual trading either to result in a profit which is then not taxable or in no profit.
- ▶ If there is no profit, fiscal deductions are not important.
- ▶ Will “non-BLAGAB long-term insurance business” be mutual business as PHI currently is frequently not?

Need to avoid collateral damage

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## (8) Transfers of business

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- ▶ Development of an appropriate regime consistent with the general tax regime for life insurance business.
- ▶ Tax likely to follow the accounts for third party transfers but with “stand in the shoes” treatment for connected party transfers.
- ▶ Special rules for connected party transfers to or from with-profit funds
- ▶ Intangible asset regime extended to life assurance business.
- ▶ Anti-avoidance extended to I minus E as well as trade profits.

Part VII transfers to optimise use of E may be ineffective

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# Transitional adjustments

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- ▶ The total transitional adjustment will be calculated at 31 December 2012
- ▶ A transitional measure is to be introduced to provide for:
  - ▶ Identifiable components whose initial quantum can be established from the company's books and records and whose expected reversal pattern can be estimated *ab initio* using established actuarial or accounting techniques such as deferred acquisition costs and the value of in force business – spread in accordance with that expected reversal pattern
  - ▶ The establishment of an opening position for any policyholder deferred tax adjustment
  - ▶ Residual component – spread over a period of 10 years from 2013
- ▶ Specific transitional measures will also be required, for example to deal with the switch to an allocation basis for assets subject to tax on chargeable gains, contingent loans and FAFTS

# Summary impact of transitional adjustments

	Transitional adjustment	Impact on Tier 1	Tier 1 affected upfront?	Comment
<b>1</b>	<b>Upfront tax deduction</b>			
	Impacts CT only	Benefit	Yes	
	Creates/increases DTA	Benefit	No - Tier 3	Tier 1 affected as/when realised
	Reduces DTL	Benefit	Yes	
<b>2</b>	<b>Upfront taxable profit</b>			
	Impacts CT only	Cost	Yes	
	Reduces DTA	Cost	No - Tier 3	Tier 1 affected as/when realised
<b>3</b>	<b>Spread tax deduction</b>			
	Creates/increases DTA	Benefit	No - Tier 3	Tier 1 affected as/when realised
	Reduces DTL	Benefit	Yes	
<b>4</b>	<b>Spread taxable profit</b>			
	Creates/increases DTL	Cost	Yes	
	Reduces DTA	Cost	No - Tier 3	Tier 1 affected as/when realised

# When to recognise changes

- IAS 12 for the IFRS accounts requires substantive enactment, generally accepted as 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Finance Bill which can be expected in July 2012
- IAS 10 requires disclosure of changes enacted or announced after the reporting period that have a significant effect on tax balances
- MCEV principles require “*best estimate assumptions, applying current legislation and practice together with known future changes*”. “*Best estimate assumption*” is defined as being “*equal to the mean estimate (probability weighted average) of outcomes of that risk variable*”

Test for MCEV may be weaker than for financial statements and changes may need to be taken into account earlier



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# What is a known future change?

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- ▶ Statements by officials - looks too weak
- ▶ Statements by Ministers – stronger but still uncertain
- ▶ Budget Statements to the House of Commons – would need a “U turn” not to happen
- ▶ Draft legislation – subject to consultation so detail uncertain
- ▶ Published Finance Bill – subject to amendment but areas for amendment themselves likely to be known
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of Finance Bill – substantive enactment

What about CRM agreement of allocation methodology?

# How many transitions?

- ▶ 1 January 2013 – Solvency II for regulators
- ▶ 1 January 2014 – Solvency II for companies
- ▶ 1 January 2014 – UK GAAP reporting switches to FRSME including life assurance
- ▶ 1 January 2015 – effective date for IFRS phase II?

1 January 2013

1 July 2014

1 January 2015

Solvency II  
for regulators

Solvency II  
for companies  
End of UK GAAP

IFRS phase II

As the effective date for IFRS Phase II looks later than that for Solvency II, the tax basis for life assurance in the UK may change twice – first from Solvency I to IFRS 4, then from IFRS 4 to IFRS Phase II.

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# Tax after Solvency II

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# Impact on Firms

## Taxable profits based on financial statements

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- Managing IFRS profits becomes more important
- Taxable profits could be more volatile, especially for with profit companies with supporting non profit funds on which profits are currently smoothed via Form 14 investment reserves

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# Impact on Firms

## Protection business written after 1 Jan 2013

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- Most protection business creates more expenses than investment income
- “Excess I” companies gain by offsetting the excess expenses against income elsewhere
- Taxing new protection business on a profits basis will level the playing field but potentially result in higher prices to consumers

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# Impact on Firms

## Merging PHI and Gross Roll-up Business (GRB)

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- Enables PHI losses to be offset against GRB profits and vice versa
- Beneficial for solo firms as may enable additional access to or acceleration of relief on losses
- Could be bad for groups – Losses in other companies can be group relieved against PHI profits but not against GRB profits
- But, no transitional “streaming” rules so existing losses can be offset against profits from either source

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# Impact on Firms

## Factual allocation of investment returns

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- Current apportionment rules can give strange results
  - Unfairly penal in some cases
  - Scope for arranging business structure to gain value
- New rules should reflect reality
  - Less incentive for complex structures
  - And easier to model!

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# Impact on Firms

## Shareholder funds vs “Fixed capital”

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- Concept of shareholder funds disappears under Solvency II – there are just Ring Fenced Funds and everything else
- Actuaries might want to manage as a single asset pool
- **But** could follow concept of ancillary investment business
- This is work in progress.



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# Impact on Firms

## Policyholder Tax

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- Shareholder profits should exclude returns to policyholders
- Policyholder tax must be allowed for – otherwise income of 100 and credit to life liabilities of 80 would give rise to a shareholder profit of 20
- The intention is to maintain this credit and the credit will be based both on tax paid and the movement in deferred tax balances

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# Modelling practicalities

## Change in tax regime

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- Most actuarial models include projections of peak 1 reserves which drive the current tax calculations
- With tax based on IFRS, the consistency breaks down
  - Deferred tax impacts due to differences between opening peak 1 and IFRS bases
  - Some form of adjustment to move from projected peak 1 earnings to projected IFRS profits
- New apportionment basis should be easier to model
- New regime comes before Solvency II – unlikely to want to make large changes to Solvency I models just for one year
- Then just as Solvency II is embedded, IFRS phase II will introduce more change

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# Modelling practicalities

## Solvency II

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- Generally higher bar for quality of calculation approach
- Standard Formula SCR includes specific item for loss absorbency of deferred tax, whereas tax effects would typically be allowed for in each stress under ICA
- Requirement to perform Group SCR/ORSA heightens need to consider whether group relief can justifiably be assumed

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# Questions or comments?

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Expressions of individual views by members of The Actuarial Profession and its staff are encouraged.

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter.

