

U3A Insurance: a short summary of cover provided through membership fees

The national U3A provides insurance through 4 different policies covering:

Property

Money

Cyber Crime

Public & Products liability

(1) Property

A) Moveable items owned by u3a are covered upto £25k. Any such items stored in public buildings must be kept under lock and key.

Fixtures (e.g. broken window) would be covered.

B) Upto £25k can be claimed for damage to any u3a members' home that occurs whilst a u3a event is being hosted.

N.B This policy currently costs the u3a iro £2,500 pa but there is a risk of very significant increase (and therefore a concern that this may affect membership fees) in the future.

(2) Money

Cover is provided for upto £1000 loss or theft of cash during any u3a activity, including in members' homes

(3) Cyber Crime

Cover is provided for cyber data loss – and costs incurred in dealing with a security breach; there is a £25k limit for cyber crime claims

Compensation is payable to any 3rd party arising as a result of a data breach (caused by cyber crime)

(4) Public & Products Liability

Upto £5m payable for any claim. Cover is provided for legal liability for injury to any 3rd party arising from u3a activity.

Members are also treated as 3rd party if injured as the result of an accident for which the u3a is legally liable.

Risk assessment/checklist should be undertaken for any new activity groups.

Legal expenses of upto £500k can be claimed in any one period of insurance.

A free legal help-line is available.

The AIG Excess layer policy provides £20m worth of cover; the most expensive activity insured currently is Cycling.

Aviva Management Liability covers Trustees and officers who are insured for upto £3m (but a limit of £500k for any one u3a). This insurance covers personnel if any claim is made against them for breach of duty/negligence/defamation of character/breach of authority. A separate claim can be made for failure in governance of the organisation.

Cover is also available for the entity rather than individuals.

Examples of recent claims:

- Cycling – a u3a member was seriously injured when crossing the main road and knocked off their bike. £500k was paid out
- Church hall hire – a fire door was pulled off. This could not be claimed for within the hall's insurance as instructions were provided on correct use of the door
- Table tennis fall – the insurers of the hall denied liability as the poor condition of the floor had been made clear to the group. Denial of liability was therefore maintained.
- An individual was removed from the committee following an allegation of harassment. A successful claim was made by that member with costs of >£7k
- A claim was made by a u3a member who accused the committee of not accommodating her disability
- Payment was made to a u3a member when red wine was spilled on their carpet during a u3a activity
- A claim was settled for loss of Xmas party money when this money had been inadvertently paid to fraudsters who had hacked into a hotel's computer system
- Cyber claims - - 3 claims from Treasurers who had been called by fraudsters pertaining to be from their bank NB. These incidents would not have occurred if 2 signatories had been required

NB. Taster sessions for prospective new members are not covered, so if you are opening u3a activity to non-members these should only be for low risk activities.

Any insurance claims to be made via the advice line on the U3A website.