



## **AIB launches range of SSIA savings options under new Government Savings Scheme**

**16th March 2001**

AIB has today announced that it will be offering a range of SSIA savings options under the new Government Savings Scheme.

From next week, savers can arrange to avail of this scheme at any AIB branch. AIB will offer three options, which will allow savers to participate in the Government Savings Scheme for as little as £10 a month.

Special features of the AIB's SSIA product options include the following:

- AIB will offer the choice of a variable and fixed interest rate SSIA Deposit. Both these SSIA options will be operated free of charge.
- The variable SSIA will earn 4% interest. The variable SSIA rate will not fluctuate by more than 1% below the European Central Bank rate for the duration of the scheme.
- The option of a 4% rate fixed for 5 years is also available. This rate will be held until at least 20th May 2001.
- Rather than waiting until the State bonus is paid, AIB will credit the extra 25% to the SSIA account at the same time as the monthly amount saved.
- AIB Deposit interest will be calculated daily on the increasing balance (including the savings plus the State bonus) and credited annually to the SSIA
- Savers have the option to increase / decrease payments over the five years
- During the first 12 months, in the event that a customer does not have sufficient funds available in their account to meet their committed monthly payment into the Deposit SSIA, AIB will take the minimum payment of £10.00, if available, to ensure the customers SSIA is not closed.( Applies to the Variable Rate SSIA option only)

PIP SSIA - The option of a Personal Investment Plan (PIP) SSAI is also available. For savers interested in a term longer than 5 years, the PIP SSIA provides the opportunity to achieve higher growth potential by investing in a choice of portfolios of professionally managed stocks and shares. The State bonus will only apply to the first 5 years of the PIP SSIA.

The Government Savings Scheme is being introduced to encourage residents over 18 years of age to save. The scheme offers a State bonus of 25% on top of the sum saved over the full 5 year term of the Scheme. This means that for every £4 saved, the Government will contribute

a further £1. The State Bonus together with the competitive interest rates announced today will make the AIB SSIA exceptional value for all savers.

Making the announcement, Eugene Sheehy, General Manager of AIB's Retail Operations said ; " This Government Savings Scheme is a unique offer which most people will want to avail of . The scale of our branch network, professionalism of our staff and the range of SSIA options introduced leave AIB well positioned to meet the needs of all savers wishing to benefit from the Scheme".

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