

Choosing a reliable and feature-rich trading platform is key to success for both beginner and seasoned traders in the UK. Among the top contenders, **CMC Markets** and **IG Group** stand out, each offering unique platforms — the well-known *Next Generation* platform by CMC Markets and IG's proprietary *IG Platform*. In this comprehensive **CMC Markets review UK** and **IG review UK**, we'll explore their platform features, FCA regulation, FSCS protection, minimum deposits, demo accounts, and how they stack up against competitors like **TIOmarkets** (**TIO Markets UK Ltd**) and **Plus500** (**Plus500UK Ltd**).

FCA Regulation and Safety Basics

Both CMC Markets and IG Group are firms authorised and regulated by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) — a vital factor for ensuring the safety of your funds and fair trading practices.



Broker FCA Authorised Name FCA Firm Reference Number (FRN) CMC Markets CMC Markets UK Plc 173730 IG Group IG Markets Ltd 195355 TIOmarkets TIO Markets UK Ltd 825631 Plus500 Plus500UK Ltd 509909

The FCA protects traders through strict regulation including segregation of client funds from the broker's operational funds. This means your money is held in separate, ring-fenced accounts, helping safeguard you in case the broker faces financial difficulties.

FSCS Protection Explained

Both CMC Markets and IG also offer coverage under the *Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)*, which can reimburse eligible UK clients up to **£85,000** if the broker becomes insolvent. However, it's important to note what FSCS protection covers and what it doesn't:



- **Covered:** Losses due to broker insolvency or failure to return client funds.
- **Not covered:** Trading losses due to market movements or poor trades.

FSCS is a strong safety net, but it is not insurance for your trading bets. Your strategy and risk management remain critical.

Minimum Deposits and Starting Small

Investors who want to explore platforms without committing significant capital will appreciate brokers with low minimum deposits. Here's a breakdown:

Broker	Minimum Deposit	Deposit Currency
CMC Markets	£0 (No minimum deposit)	GBP
IG Group	£250	GBP
TiOmarkets	£250	GBP
Plus500	£100	GBP

CMC Markets allows you to open live accounts with no minimum deposit, which is ideal for cautious traders and beginners looking to start small. IG's minimum deposit is £250, aligning with their focus on slightly more experienced retail clients. Always confirm the deposit currency (GBP here) to avoid hidden conversion costs.. Exactly.

Demo Accounts and Practice Routines

Testing a platform's features and user interface through practice is essential before risking actual money. Both CMC Markets and IG offer comprehensive demo accounts for this purpose.

- **CMC Markets Next Generation Demo:** Free, unlimited-time demo account with access to nearly 11,000 CFD and spread betting markets, including forex, indices, commodities, and shares.
- **IG Demo Account:** Access to the IG Platform with £10,000 in virtual funds, real-time pricing, and full platform capabilities for 30 days with option to extend.

Using a demo account allows traders to develop a trading rhythm, test strategies, and familiarize themselves with order types without risking money. Remember to transition carefully to live trading as emotional stakes change.

Platform Features: Next Generation by CMC Markets vs IG Platform

Both platforms offer web, desktop, and mobile versions along with powerful charting and trading tools, but their approaches differ slightly.

CMC Markets Next Generation Platform

- **Market Coverage:** 11,500+ trading instruments including forex, shares, indices, commodities, and cryptocurrencies.
- **Charting & Technical Tools:** Over 115 indicators, customizable chart styles, advanced drawing tools, and smart order tickets.
- **Ease of Use:** Intuitive interface with drag-and-drop customization, alerts, and watchlists.
- **Mobile Apps:** Fully functional iOS and Android apps with real-time streaming and order execution.
- **Integration:** Supports API trading for more advanced setups.
- **MetaTrader Support:** No native MT4 or MT5 support; CMC Markets relies on their proprietary platform.

IG Platform

- **Market Coverage:** Over 17,000 tradable markets including forex, shares, indices, cryptocurrencies, and bonds.
- **Charting & Tools:** Advanced charting with 17 drawing tools and 70+ indicators, plus sentiment data and price alerts.
- **Ease of Use:** Clean, user-friendly interface, supporting multi-screen layouts and market scanners.
- **Mobile Apps:** Available on iOS and Android with customizable watchlists and full trade functionality.
- **MetaTrader Support:** Yes, IG supports both MT4 and MT5 platforms for forex trading alongside their own platform.

For traders specifically interested in the MetaTrader ecosystem, IG's option to trade via MT4 and MT5 is valuable, as these platforms support automated trading via Expert Advisors (EAs) and offer numerous community-driven indicators and scripts. By contrast, CMC Markets has focused on refining its proprietary Next Generation platform, which provides very rich native charting and technical analysis features.

Comparing CMC Markets and IG with TIOmarkets and Plus500

Both **TIOmarkets** and **Plus500** serve as alternatives in the UK brokerage space:

- **TIOmarkets (TIO Markets UK Ltd)** is FCA regulated (FRN 825631) and primarily partners with liquidity providers, offering access to MT4 and an institutional-grade web trader. They require a minimum deposit of £250 and also offer demo accounts.
- **Plus500 (Plus500UK Ltd)** provides a very straightforward CFD trading app aimed at beginner traders, FCA regulated (FRN 509909), with a £100 minimum deposit and a purposely simplified, user-friendly platform but fewer advanced tools compared to CMC and IG.

If you are weighing options beyond CMC Markets and IG, it's worth considering your priorities: Do you want advanced analysis tools and deep market access (CMC), multi-platform flexibility and MT support (<https://www.deeside.com/best-7-beginner-friendly-forex-brokers-uk-2026/>) (IG), institutional-grade access (TIOmarkets), or simplicity and low start-up (Plus500)?

Which Forex Trading App UK Traders Should Choose?

If you're specifically looking for a **forex trading app UK** that blends FCA regulation, safety, wide market access, and rich features, both CMC Markets' Next Generation app and IG's mobile platform offer excellent choices. IG's support for MT4 and MT5 caters to traders wanting algorithmic trading, while CMC Markets offers arguably the most advanced native charting tools among UK brokers.

- **Key strengths of CMC Markets:** No minimum deposit, ultra comprehensive market access, award-winning Next Generation platform, excellent charting tools.
- **Key strengths of IG:** MetaTrader support, vast market range, solid mobile and desktop platforms, robust regulatory track record.

Whatever you choose, remember to always open a demo account first to practice and understand the interfaces. Verify the broker's FCA status via the register and be wary of promises of "easy profits" or vague claims like "tight spreads" without clear numbers—spread costs and commissions are key to long term profitability.

Summary Table: CMC Markets vs IG Platform Features

Feature	CMC Markets	Next Generation	IG Platform	FCA Regulation	Yes (FRN 173730)	Yes (FRN 195355)	FSCS
Protection	Up to £85,000	Up to £85,000	Minimum Deposit	£0 (No minimum)	£250	Demo Account	Unlimited
time, full features	30 days (renewable), full features	Market Coverage	11,500+ instruments	17,000+ instruments			
MetaTrader Support	No	Yes (MT4 & MT5)	Charting Tools	115+ indicators, advanced drawing	70+ indicators, sentiment data	Mobile App	Fully featured iOS/Android apps

Final Thoughts

For UK traders focused on flexible, professional-grade platforms with FCA-regulated safety, both CMC Markets' Next Generation platform and the IG Platform are outstanding. Your choice should depend on your trading style, preferred tools, and whether you need the MetaTrader environment or not.

Failing to check FCA registration or rushing to trade without demo practice can quickly lose your hard-earned funds, so always verify the broker's credentials (using their FRN), start on demo, and be realistic about risks and costs involved.

For more information, always consult the broker's official sites and FCA register before funding any account.