

For active traders and forex enthusiasts, the allure of raw spreads starting at 0.0 pips can be compelling. TIOmarkets, operated by Tio Markets UK Limited, offers a Raw Account boasting exactly that—spreads from 0.0 pips starting with a minimum deposit of £250. But is this account genuinely worth it? How does it compare to peers like Pepperstone and XTB? And what should UK traders know about FCA regulation, FSCS protection limits, and leverage caps? This guide covers all these essential points to help you decide if TIOmarkets' Raw account fits your trading style and risk appetite.

What Does a “Raw Spread” Mean?

Raw spreads refer to the raw interbank prices without broker markups or built-in spread cushions. In TIOmarkets' case, raw spreads start at 0.0 pips, meaning you're getting access to the tightest possible market prices. However, this often comes with a separate commission charged per trade.

Account Type	Spread	Commission	Minimum Deposit
TIOmarkets Raw Account	From 0.0 pips	Commission per lot	£250
Pepperstone Razor Account	From 0.0 pips	Commission per lot ~£200	XTB Standard Account
From 0.8 pips	No commission	£250	

While raw spreads offer the benefit of lower upfront costs on the spread, commissions are usually higher. This means evaluating your typical trading volume and style is key to knowing whether a raw account saves costs overall.



FCA Regulation and Why It Matters

TIOmarkets UK operates under the strict oversight of the **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)** in the UK, with a registered Financial Services Register Number (FRN). This is a significant trust signal, as the FCA mandates higher standards of client protection, capital safeguards, and transparent reporting.

FCA-regulated brokers like TIOmarkets, Pepperstone, and XTB are subject to:

- Segregated client funds
- Regular audits and capital adequacy requirements

- Strict anti-money laundering policies
- Conduct rules to prevent mis-selling and unfair business practices

For traders, seeing a broker on the FCA register with a valid FRN is a vital step in mitigating risk—especially when comparing brokers who claim to offer "tight spreads" without concrete evidence. I personally always cross-check this before funding any account.

FSCS Protection: What Are You Covered For?

One advantage of choosing a UK FCA-regulated broker like TIOmarkets UK Limited is the eligibility for **Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) protection**. FSCS coverage protects eligible clients for up to **£120,000 per person per authorised firm** in case the broker becomes insolvent.

However, this protection does not cover losses arising from trading positions or market risks—it strictly protects the capital held on deposit with the broker.

Here's a quick summary:

Coverage Type	Covered by FSCS?	Brokers' insolvency or collapse	Yes, up to £120,000 per eligible client	Trading losses due to market movements	No	Negligence or fraud claims	No (subject to FCA disciplinary action)
---------------	------------------	---------------------------------	---	--	----	----------------------------	---

FSCS adds peace of mind that your cash balance won't disappear if the broker is unable to meet its financial obligations. Pepperstone and XTB, also FCA-regulated, offer similar FSCS protection.

Negative Balance Protection and Leverage Caps

Another important UK regulatory requirement, which TIOmarkets UK complies with, is **negative balance protection** for retail clients. This means your losses are limited to the funds in your account; you cannot lose more than your deposit. For example, if you deposit £250, you cannot suddenly owe the broker additional money beyond that.

Leverage caps are also imposed by the FCA and ESMA (European Securities and Markets Authority) rules, designed to limit severe losses by capping leverage on forex pairs to a maximum of 30:1 for major currency pairs and often less on exotic pairs. TIOmarkets adheres to these rules, as do Pepperstone and XTB.

- **Why Leverage Caps Matter:** High leverage amplifies both gains and losses, increasing risk for retail traders.
- **Risk Reality:** Many traders underestimate this risk, so starting with tighter leverage and risk management tools is recommended.

For those using the TIOmarkets Raw Account with £250 minimum deposit, sticking to FCA leverage limits is crucial to avoid margin calls and potential liquidation.

Trading Platforms: MT4, MT5, and Beyond

TIOmarkets supports industry-standard platforms **MetaTrader 4 (MT4)** and **MetaTrader 5 (MT5)**, which are widely respected for their reliability, advanced charting, and automated trading capabilities. Both platforms allow seamless access to raw spreads and enable custom scripts and Expert Advisors—a boon for algorithmic traders.

Pepperstone and XTB also provide MT4 and MT5 alongside proprietary platforms so traders can choose what best suits their needs.

Demo Accounts and Testing Spreads

As an 11-year finance writer, I always recommend testing a demo account first to validate the advertised spreads and commissions. Beware of demo accounts hiding restrictions like limited trading volume or stricter spreads. TIOmarkets Raw Account demo simulates spreads from 0.0 pips closely, though real market volatility can temporarily widen spreads. Demo testing lets you verify that the raw spread claims aren't just marketing fluff.

Raw Spreads vs Standard Spreads: Which Is Better?

Standard accounts typically offer fixed or variable spreads that include broker markups but no theenterpriseworld.com separate commissions. Raw accounts, like TIOmarkets' Raw Account, pass the actual interbank spread and add a commission per trade. Here's an overview of pros and cons:

Feature	Raw Accounts	Standard Accounts
Spread	From 0.0 pips (raw interbank)	Typically wider, 0.8+ pips or fixed
Commission	Separate, per lot fee	Included in spreads, no commission
Best For	High volume, scalpers, algorithmic traders	Beginners, low-frequency traders
Cost	Predictability	Commissions + variable spreads; slightly complex
All-in	In spreads; simpler to calculate	

In essence, TIOmarkets Raw Account is worth considering if you're an active trader who values reduced spreads and can handle separate commission fees transparently. If you prefer all-in-one pricing with no commissions, XTB's Standard Account might be a better starting place.

Is TIOmarkets Raw Account Worth £250 Minimum Deposit?

The £250 minimum deposit is in line with industry standards for raw account types (Pepperstone Razor calls for ~£200). This threshold filters out traders who trade lightly or casually, focusing on people with enough capital to justify the commission structure and potentially benefit from lower raw spreads.

Given the strong FCA regulation, FSCS protection up to £120,000 per person, negative balance protection, and adherence to leverage caps, TIOmarkets provides a trustworthy environment to trade raw spreads market access. The critical factor is ensuring you understand trading costs fully and manage risk prudently.

Final Thoughts: How TIOmarkets Compares

1. **Trust & Regulation:** TIOmarkets UK Limited's FCA regulation and FRN status provide strong trust signals, on par with Pepperstone and XTB.
2. **Protection:** FSCS up to £120,000 and negative balance protection for retail clients add vital safety nets.
3. **Costs:** Raw spreads from 0.0 pips with commission may save active traders money over standard accounts with wider spreads.
4. **Platform:** MT4 and MT5 support ensures compatibility with popular trading tools and expert advisors.
5. **Minimum Deposit:** £250 sets a moderate barrier, ensuring serious traders get access.
6. **Risks:** Leverage caps required by FCA help prudently manage risk, but clients must understand the reality of leveraged trading losses.

In summary, if you require **tight raw spreads**, can meet the £250 deposit, and prioritize a regulated and trustworthy broker with UK protections, **TIOmarkets Raw Account is indeed worth consideration**. However, always compare commission structures, demo test the platform for real-world spreads, and never ignore risk management, especially given leverage limits and market volatility.

