



IMMEDIATE: 23.12.10

MEDIA INFORMATION

Default declarations pave the way for consumers in the UK to claim compensation from the FSCS

Consumers may be entitled to up to £50,000 if they have lost money as a result of their dealings with any of the eight credit unions that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has declared in default. The FSCS is the UK's statutory compensation scheme for customers of regulated financial services firms and does not charge individual consumers for using its service.

The FSCS declared eight credit unions in England, Scotland and Wales in default during 2010. A declaration of default means the FSCS is satisfied the firms are unable to pay claims for compensation themselves, and opens the way for customers to apply to the FSCS for compensation if they believe they may have lost money as a result of their dealings with these firms. Details of the firms are included below.

Kate Bartlett, Director of Operations at the FSCS says, "We have already started paying compensation in respect of these firms, but we're encouraging anyone else who believes they may be owed money as a result of their dealings with these firms but has not yet made a claim, to contact our Customer Services Team."

The FSCS can pay up to the higher of £50,000 or €50,000 per person per firm declared in default on or after 30 June 2009.

The FSCS Customer Services Team can be contacted on 0800 678 1100 or 020 7892 7300 or by email at enquiries@fscs.org.uk. Further information about the FSCS is available on its website at www.fscs.org.uk.

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Declarations by FSCS

NORTH EAST

Elswick And Cruddas Park Credit Union Limited, UNIT 15, CRUDDAS PARK,
WESTMORLAND ROAD, TYNE AND WEAR, NULL, NE4 7QY

NORTH WEST

Three Bee's Credit Union Limited, COMMUNITY ADVICE OFFICE FIFTH AVENUE,
MANOR GREEN BEECHWOOD, BIRKENHEAD, MERSEYSIDE, L43 9XW

Tower View Community Credit Union Limited, 57 COOKSON STREET, BLACKPOOL,
LANCASHIRE, FY1 3DR

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Hackney Cab Trade Credit Union Limited, 18 FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH,
LOTHIAN, EH1 3LH

South Kintyre Credit Union Limited, 25 LONGROW, CAMPBELTOWN, ARGYLL, PA28
6ER

SOUTH EAST

Hackney Credit Union Limited, 225 MARE STREET, HACKNEY, LONDON E8 3QE

SOUTH WEST

Forest of Dean Credit Union Limited, 5 HIGH STREET, COLEFORD,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE, NULL, GL16 6HA

WALES

Splotlands Credit Union Limited, 34 SPLOTT ROAD, CARDIFF, SOUTH GLAMORGAN,
CF24 2DN

Notes to Editors:

1. About FSCS

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is the UK's statutory compensation scheme for customers of authorised financial services firms. It protects investment business, deposits, home finance (mortgage) advice, general insurance and insurance broking. The FSCS can pay compensation for financial loss if a firm is unable, or likely to be unable, to pay claims against it. The FSCS is an independent body, set up under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and does not charge individual consumers for using its services.

2. Declaring a firm in default

Before the FSCS can pay compensation it must be satisfied that a firm does not have sufficient assets to meet claims. It describes this as being 'in default'. The Scheme will declare a firm in default if:

- it has received at least one claim; and
- it is satisfied that the firm is unable (or likely to be unable) to pay claims against it.

The FSCS is required to do this before it can pay compensation to eligible claimants.

Declaring a firm in default allows consumers who believe they may have lost money as a result of their dealings with that firm to apply to the Scheme for compensation.

3. Authorised firms

Dealing with an FSA authorised firm gives consumers access to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) and the FSCS. Consumers can check that the firm they are dealing with is authorised by contacting the FSA's Consumer Helpline on 0845 606 1234.

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