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MEDIA INFORMATION

Consumers could claim up to £48,000 in compensation after FSCS steps in

Consumers can claim compensation of up to £48,000 if they have lost money as a result of their dealings with any one of 28 firms that the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has recently declared in default. FSCS is the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of regulated financial services firms. The service is free to consumers.

Declaring a firm in default is the final part of a process whereby a regulated firm (such as a financial adviser) has been found by FSCS to be unable to pay claims. This means that customers who have lost money as a result of dealings with one of these firms can make a claim for compensation to FSCS.

"FSCS helps protect consumers against financial loss when the firm they dealt with has ceased trading and is unable to pay claims against it," says Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive. "It is important that we let consumers know that FSCS may be able to help if they have lost money and the firm can't pay."

The kinds of investment claims FSCS handles usually relate to advice – for example, if somebody has been advised to buy an investment product such as an endowment policy, but it was unsuitable for them and they have lost money as a result of the advice they received. FSCS can also pay compensation for financial loss arising from negligent investment management and fraud, or if an authorised investment firm stops trading and cannot return its customers' investments or money.

A list of the 28 investment firms is attached. Consumers who believe they may have a claim should contact the Scheme on 020 7892 7300, or by email at enquiries@fscs.org.uk . Further information about FSCS's work is available from its website at www.fscs.org.uk .

FSCS covers investments, deposits, insurance, mortgage advice and arranging (from 31 October 2004), and advice about general insurance and the arranging of policies (from 14 January 2005).

See Notes to Editors for more information about FSCS.

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Notes to Editors:

1. About FSCS

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) is the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of authorised financial services firms. This means that FSCS can pay compensation if a firm is unable, or likely to be unable, to pay claims against it. FSCS is an independent body, set up under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). Our service is free to consumers.

2. Declaring a firm in default

Before FSCS can pay compensation it must be satisfied that a firm is unable 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.

FSCS is required to do this before we 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 us for compensation.

3. Authorised firms

Our rules are made by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the independent watchdog set up by government under FSMA to regulate financial services in the UK and protect the rights of consumers. The rules tell us which types of claim are eligible for compensation, and limit how much compensation we are allowed to pay. Firms need permission from the FSA to carry out a regulated activity, which covers activities such as accepting deposits, insurance business and investment business.

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

4. Fund of last resort

As a fund of last resort, FSCS can only pay compensation for financial loss where a firm is unable to meet claims. For investment claims, compensation aims to put consumers back into the position they would have been in had they not invested. The compensation limit for investment claims is £48,000 per person.

Declarations by FSCS

13 February 2007

East

Aldridge and Chambers Limited, 39 HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE,
AL1 4JE

A S General Insurance Brokers Limited (formerly A S General Insurance Brokers Public Limited Company), 230 HIGH STREET, POTTERS BAR, HERTFORDSHIRE, EN6 5DB

M Dalby t/a Ingatestone Mortgage Shop, 90 HIGH STREET, INGATESTONE, ESSEX,
CM4 9DU

Midlands

Davies & Co. (Financial Services) Limited, DEVAN HOUSE, LEEK, BROOK JUNCTION,
STAFFORDSHIRE, ST13 7AU

Granville Financial Services Limited (formerly Granville Insurance Brokers Limited, Granville Farrant Limited, Granville Insurance Services (Leicester) Limited and Queens Road Insurance Agency Limited), 39 CASTLE STREET, LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE,
LE1 5WN

Kingsley Neville Limited formerly t/a Neville Pensions & Investments Limited formerly t/a Warwick Financial Planning Limited, PORTLAND HOUSE, 29 PORTLAND STREET,
LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE, CV32 5EY

Michael Aspinall Associates Financial Planning & Services Limited t/a Baxendale Baines & Company Independent Financial Advisers, FINANCIAL HOUSE, 27 VICTORIA ROAD, DRAYCOTT, DE72 3PS

North

James Samuel Greener Esq, 531 STANHOPE ROAD, SOUTHSHIELDS, TYNE & WEAR,
NE33 4QX

J Brown t/a The Mortgage Advice Centre formerly Jack William Brown (Mortgage Advice Centre), 2 BENTON ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE7 7DR

Maxwell Financial Investment Group t/a Maxwell Financial Advisers, PO BOX 3241
HERMITAGE ROAD, SAUGHALL, CHESTER, CH1 6WG

R W Crosbie (Deceased) formerly t/a Charnley Investment Services, 28 WILLOWS PARK
LANE, LONGRIDGE, NR PRESTON, PR3 3HJ

Scotland

**Allied Provincial Securities Limited Formerly Allied Provincial Limited and Allied
Provincial Investment Management Limited**, 155 ST VINCENT STREET, GLASGOW, G2
5NN

Taylor Graham Financial Planning, 25 BRIDGE STREET, MUSSELBURGH, EAST
LOTHIAN, EH21 6AA

South East

**Addiscombe Group Limited formerly Addiscombe Group Plc, Inter-Alliance Group Plc,
Inter-Alliance Limited and Branston Abbey Limited**, INTER-ALLIANCE HOUSE, WEST
HALL, PARVIS ROAD, WEST BYFLEET, KT14 6EY

Havelock Sones & Company, PENSHURST PLACE, 90-92 SOUTHBRIDGE ROAD,
CROYDON, CR0 1AJ

Hometown Finance Consultants Limited, 664A HIGH ROAD, NORTH FINCHLEY,
LONDON, N12 ONL

Mr B Jackson t/a Futureplan Financial Investment Consultants, 60 PEABODY ROAD,
FARNBOROUGH, HAMPSHIRE, GU14 6HA

Kingswood Law Independent Limited, FELCOURT ROAD, EAST GRIMSTEAD, WEST
SUSSEX, RH19 2RR

L H Cannon Limited, LYNDUM HOUSE, HIGH STREET, PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE,
GU32 3JG

M Wallace t/a Financial Marks, 104 LITTLE GREEN LANE, CHERTSEY, SURREY, KT16
9QA

Redgate Financial Services Limited, 352 MALDEN ROAD, WORCESTER PARK,
SURREY, KT4 7NW

South West

Gerald Sherwood Insurance, 55 VICTORIA ROAD, ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL, PL25 4QF

P Owens t/a Independent Insurance Advice Centre, 53 MIDDLE STREET, BROCKHAM,
BETCHWORTH, RH3 7JT

R Pridham & A Park Formerly t/a Senate Independent Financial Advisers, 691
WIMBORNE ROAD, WINTON, BOURNEMOUTH, BN9 9AT

The Insurance & Mortgage Centre, HEYWOOD HOUSE, 5 HEYWOOD ROAD,
CINDERFORD, GL14 2PL

Wales

Fielding Financial Services, 2 FLANNEL STREET, ABERGAVENNY, GWENT, NP7 5EG

Yorkshire

C Lloyd (Insurances) Limited, 189-191 CROOKES, SHEFFIELD, S10 1TE

M Dunning t/a Northern Services Finance & Investments, 33 BONDGATE GREEN LANE,
RIPON, NORTH YORKSHIRE, HG4 1QQ