



IMMEDIATE: 18.07.2007

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. It provides a free service 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's primary role is to help people who have lost money after doing business with an authorised firm if that firm is unable to meet claims made 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 nowhere else to turn."

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 FSCS 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.

Press Enquiries:

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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

18 July 2007

East

Primedale Financial Services Limited, CROWN OFFICE, 51CROWN STREET, IPSWICH,
IP1 3JA

Midlands

Amherst Financial Services Limited, SOMERSET HOUSE, CLARENDON PLACE,
LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 5QN

Bybrooke Insurance Services Limited, CARLTON HOUSE, 10-12 CARLTON STREET,
NOTTINGHAM, NG1 1NN

Central Properties Limited, 103 HIGH STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS,
B70 6NZ

Clarke Roxburgh & Willis Limited, 8 CHURCH GREEN EAST, REDDITCH,
WORCESTERSHIRE, B98 8PR

Greenchain Limited, HOLMFIELD HOUSE, 17 KNIGHTON DRIVE, STONEYGATE, LE2
3HD

H Appleton (Life & Pensions) Limited, CHESNUT FIELDS HOUSE, CHESNUT FIELDS,
REGENT PLACE, COVENTRY, CV21 2TL

Ian Murdoch & Company, SCHOOL HOUSE, 81 TALBOT STREET, NOTTINGHAM, NG1
5GN

Rawsthorn Lee & Company, BRIDGE HOUSE, STATION ROAD, STAFFORDSHIRE,
WS13 6HX

North

Garner & Son (Life & Pensions) Limited, STANLEY HOUSE, 15-17 LADYBRIDGE ROAD, CHEADLE HULME, CHESHIRE, SK8 5BL

T Roylance (deceased) t/a PLT Financial Services, 4 BROADWAY, BRAMHALL, CHESHIRE, SK7 3BR

Scotland

Clyde Associated Finance Limited (Formerly Clyde Associated Insurance Services Limited), 70 DRYMEN ROAD, BEARSDEN, GLASGOW, G61 2RP

R.A. Logan Financial Consultants Limited, 37 SANDGATE, AYR, SCOTLAND, KA7 1BG

Ross Anderson Management Limited, 8 WOODLANDS TERRACE, GLASGOW, G3 6DD

South East

Alvi's Investment Services Limited, 85 WATFORD WAY, HENDON, LONDON, NW4 4RS

D & J Edwards t/a Eastwood Life Assurance, 1540 LONDON ROAD, LEIGH ON SEA, ESSEX, SS9 2QG

D Wilkinson (deceased) formerly t/a The Wivenhoe (Military) Insurance Brokers, 59 HIGH STREET, WIVENHOE, ESSEX, CO7 9LB

Giles Leslie & Company Limited, MAGNUM HOUSE, 133 HALF MOON LANE, NORTH DULWICH, SE24 9JY

Martin Short and Partners Limited, 13-15 HIGH STREET, WITNEY, OXON, OX28 6RP

McHugh & Company Financial Services Limited, 71 PARKWAY, CAMDEN TOWN,
LONDON, NW1 7PP

Professional Indemnity Select Limited, NICHOLAS HOUSE, ENFIELD, EN1 3TF

Tooke Financial Services Limited, 100A NEW CAVENDISH STREET, LONDON, W1M 7FA

South West

Frilsons Insurance Brokers (formerly Frilsons Insurance Services), 34 MILTON ROAD,
SWINDON, WILTSHIRE, SN1 5JA

Heritage Investments (I.F.A.) Limited, HERITAGE HOUSE, PARK PLACE, CLIFTON, BS8
1JW

John H F Lacey Life & Pension Limited, 129 HIGH STREET, CREDITON, DEVON, EX17
3LQ

R M G Lemon t/a Michael Lemon & Co, ALPHA COTTAGE, TOWER LANE, TAUNTON,
TA1 4AR

Smith, Martyn & Company Limited, 10 ECLIPSE OFFICE PARK, HIGH STREET, STAPLE
HILL, BS16 5EL

Wales

**D Stock and M Halford t/a Halford Stock & Company Financial Advisory Service and D
Stock t/a David Stock & Co**, 73 BRIDGE SREET, NEWPORT, GWENT, NP20 4AQ