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MEDIA INFORMATION

FSCS default declarations open the way for consumers to claim compensation

Consumers may be entitled to compensation of up to £48,000 if they have lost money as a result of their dealings with any one of 43 firms recently declared in default by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). FSCS is the UK's statutory fund of last resort for customers of regulated financial services firms.

"The Scheme plays a vital role in reassuring consumers that if a financial services firm fails they will be protected," says Loretta Minghella, Chief Executive. "If they have had dealings with one of these firms, we may be able to help."

Declaring a firm in default opens the way for customers who have lost money, as a result of dealings with such a firm, to make a claim for compensation to FSCS. It is the final part of a process whereby a regulated firm (for example, a financial adviser) is deemed by FSCS to be unable to pay claims for compensation against it. Authorised financial services firms are regulated by the UK's independent financial watchdog, the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Consumers who believe they may have a claim should contact the Scheme on 020 7892 7300. The service is free. The limit for investment compensation is £48,000.

A list of the 43 investment firms is attached. Full address details are available from FSCS' website at www.fscs.org.uk. Consumers can also use the default database on the website to check to see if a firm they have dealt with previously has already been declared in default by the Scheme.

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).

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Website: www.fscs.org.uk

Declarations by FSCS

13 September 2005

East

L & C (Insurance Brokers) Limited, subsequently L & C Limited, Ipswich, Suffolk

Mary Laura Purnell trading as Porchworth, North Norwick NR12 0YA

Midlands

Geoffrey Stuart Pitts trading as G S Pitts & Company, Leicester LE2 0QS

Harry Whitehouse, Nottingham NG6 8AR

Independent Financial Services (Oswestry) Limited, Oswestry SY11 1PX

John Coverdale Associates Limited, Worcester WR1 1JL

Marcel Travers Smith and Anne Lewis, formerly trading as M Travers Smith & Co,
Wolverhampton WV5 0LB

P D C Insurance Services (Life & Pensions) Limited, Stafford ST16 2NQ

Mr V Patel, formerly trading as Patel Insurance Services, Derby DE3 6WD

North

Charter Financial Limited, formerly Wilcock, Woolley & Hopes Ltd, Charter Asset Management Ltd and Charter Financial Planning Limited, Preston PR2 2YH

David William Allison trading as David Allison Insurance Services, Cumbria CA5 4QL

Renee Lass, formerly trading as Lees Kirkham & Company, Manchester M4 3EY

Northern Ireland

James Hill trading as J F Hill & Co, Larne, Co Antrim BT40 1RF

Scotland

Kenneth Jeffries, formerly trading as Jeffries & Co, Glasgow G66 1NZ

South East (including London)

A & H Insurance Limited, London W1T 3JS

Adams Insurance Brokers Limited, formerly C R Adams (Insurance Brokers) Limited,
Wanstead E11 1QE

**Alder Broker Group Limited, formerly trading as Eltham Park Insurance Brokers
Limited**, Bexleyheath DA7 5AH

Blacktower Capital Limited, East Molesley KT8 9BY

**Colin Hart and Brindley Juliana-Jones (formerly Jones) trading as Park Financial
Consultants**, Horsham RH12 1EU

Financial Bureau Limited, Sevenoaks TN13 1JF

Heathercroft Financial Consultants Limited, Bromley BR2 0LQ

M P Saunders (Financial Services) Limited, formerly Prosperleague Limited, London
N3 1LP

Michael Nason trading as Carey Nason Esq, London SW14 7PH

P Newberry, formerly trading as Newberry Lane Insurance, Hook RG27 0BQ

Richard Grenville Associates Limited, formerly Richard Grenville Ltd, London N16 7HZ

Sansome & George Financial Services Limited, Reading RG7 5AN

W H Breeding Limited trading as W H Breeding & Son (Insurance Brokers) Ltd,
Canterbury CT1 2UD

Yvonne Jenkins, formerly trading as Y J Financial Services, London N8 8SJ

South West

Gordon and Rosemary Thomas trading as Gordon Thomas & Partners, Bristol BS8 2HL

Kensingtons Investment Management Limited, Bristol BS8 2PB

Keyte & Company Limited, Cheltenham GL52 4RG

Ludgate & Company, Gloucester GL1 3QG

Wales

Corwen Insurance Services Limited, , Corwen LL21 0DL

Crest (Life and Pensions) Limited, Chirk LL14 5LU

Mr Gareth David Thomas and Mrs Maureen Thomas trading as G Thomas Financial Services, Wrexham LL14 2SN

John Davies & Company, Aberdare CF44 0AE

Roy Lewis Insurance Brokers, Bridgend CF31 1LH

Yorkshire & Humberside

Mr Anthony Brown trading as Tony Brown & Company, Cottingham HU16 4DW

Arncliffe Holdings PLC, Harrogate HG3 1RU

Mr Barry and Mrs Jennifer Lowery, formerly trading as Lowery & Company, Barnsley
S73 0DA

Dixon & Bond (Insurance Brokers) Limited (In Liquidation), Doncaster DN1 2DY

Ebor Asset Management Limited, Bradford BD13 3EL

Mr John Russell trading as John Russell & Company, Sheffield S7 2LP