
FIRST SUPERVISORY NOTICE

To: **Brentwood Financial Services Limited**

Of: **Barton
Park Wood
Doddinghurst Road
Brentwood
CM15 0SN**

Dated: **4 August 2005**

TAKE NOTICE: The Financial Services Authority of 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS (“the FSA”) has taken the following action

1. ACTION

For the reasons listed below and pursuant to section 45 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (“the Act”), the FSA has decided to vary the permission granted to Brentwood Financial Services Limited (“BFSL”), pursuant to Part IV of the Act (“BFSL's Part IV permission”) by removing all regulated activities with immediate effect. Accordingly, BFSL's Part IV permission no longer includes the following regulated activities:

- (a) advising (excluding pension transfers/ opt-outs);
- (b) advising on pension transfers/ opt-outs;
- (c) agreeing to carry on a regulated activity;
- (d) arranging deals in investments; and
- (e) making arrangements with a view to transactions in investments.

2. REASONS FOR ACTION

Summary

The FSA has concluded, on the basis of the facts and matters described below, that BFSL is failing to satisfy the threshold conditions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the Act (“the threshold conditions”) in that, in the opinion of the FSA, BFSL's resources are not adequate in relation to the regulated activities BFSL has permission to carry on.

The FSA also considers, on the basis of those facts and matters, that it is necessary, in order to protect the interests of consumers, for the action specified above to take immediate effect.

Relevant Statutory Provisions

The FSA's regulatory objectives established in section 2(2) of the Act include the protection of consumers.

The FSA is authorised by section 45 of the Act to exercise the following powers:

- to vary an authorised person's permission where it appears to the FSA that such person is failing to satisfy the threshold conditions or that it is desirable in order to protect the interests of consumers; and
- to vary such a permission by removing a regulated activity from those for which the permission is given.

Section 53(3) of the Act allows such a variation to take effect immediately if the FSA reasonably considers that it is necessary for the variation to take effect immediately.

Relevant Guidance

In exercising its power to vary a Part IV permission, the FSA must have regard to guidance published in the FSA Handbook. The relevant considerations in relation to the action specified above are set out below.

Guidance concerning the relevant Threshold Condition

COND 2.4 - Threshold Condition 4: Adequate resources (paragraph 4, Schedule 6 to the Act)

COND 2.4.1(1) reproduces the relevant statutory provision that the resources of the person concerned must, in the opinion of the FSA, be adequate in relation to the regulated activities that he seeks to carry on, or carries on.

COND 2.4.1(2) permits the FSA, when forming its opinion as to whether the

resources of an authorised person are adequate in relation to the regulated activities that he carries on, to have regard to the provision he makes in respect of liabilities (including contingent and future liabilities).

COND 2.4.4(3) requires the FSA only to take into account relevant matters which are material in relation to the regulated activities for which the authorised person has permission.

ENF 3.5 The FSA's policy on exercising its own-initiative power to vary Part IV permission

ENF 3.5.2 requires the FSA to have regard to its regulatory objectives and the range of regulatory tools that are available to it.

ENF 3.5.8 provides that the circumstances in which the FSA will consider exercising its power include where the FSA has serious concerns that the authorised person has breached requirements imposed on it by or under the Act (including Principles and rules) and the breaches are material in number or individual seriousness.

ENF 3.5.13 includes among the factors which will determine whether the urgent exercise of the FSA's own-initiative power is an appropriate response to serious concerns, the extent of any loss or risk of loss or other adverse effect on consumers and the steps the authorised person has taken or is taking to address the issue.

Facts and matters relied on

BFSL is an independent financial adviser firm with two directors, Suzanne Bland and Stephen Bland. Stephen Bland holds all the controlled functions and is the only investment adviser at BFSL.

BFSL has had no Professional Indemnity Insurance since 25 October 2004. Since that date, and despite repeated requests and warnings from the FSA, BFSL has failed to demonstrate compliance with FSA Rule 13.1.4(1) in the Interim Prudential Sourcebook for Investment Businesses. That Rule requires that:

“A firm must take out and maintain at all times professional indemnity insurance that is at least equal to the requirements of 13.1.4(2) to 13.1.4(15).”

Conclusions

The facts and matters described above lead the FSA, having regard to its regulatory objectives, which include the protection of consumers, to the following conclusions:

- having failed to effect compliant PII, BFSL is failing to make adequate provision in respect of its liabilities, including contingent and future liabilities. That failing is material in relation to the regulated activities for which BFSL has permission and BFSL therefore fails to satisfy Threshold Condition 4: (Adequate resources);

- the risk of loss or other adverse effect on consumers by BFSL's failing, which is a material breach of a requirement imposed upon BFSL by the FSA's rules, causes the FSA to have very serious concerns about BFSL such that the exercise of the FSA's own-initiative power to vary BFSL's Part IV permission with immediate effect is an appropriate response to those concerns;
- specifically, the variation of BFSL's Part IV permission should take immediate effect to address the FSA's serious concern that claims for which BFSL is uninsured might arise from new investment business.

3. DECISION MAKER

The decision which gave rise to the obligation to give this Supervisory Notice was made by the Regulatory Decisions Committee.

4. IMPORTANT

This Supervisory Notice is given to you in accordance with section 53(4) of the Act. The following statutory rights are important.

The Tribunal

You may refer this matter to the Financial Services and Markets Tribunal ("the Tribunal"). Under section 133 of the Act, you have 28 days from the date you were sent this Supervisory Notice to refer the matter to the Tribunal or such other period as specified in the Tribunal Rules or as the Tribunal may allow. A reference to the Tribunal is made by way of a written notice signed by you and filed with a copy of this Notice. The Tribunal's address is: 15-19 Bedford Avenue, London WC1B 3AS (telephone 020 7612 9700). The detailed procedures for making a reference to the Tribunal are contained in section 133 of the Act and the Tribunal Rules.

You should note that the Tribunal Rules provide that at the same time as filing a reference notice with the Tribunal, you must send a copy of the notice to the FSA. Any copy notice should be sent to Lehong Mac at the FSA, 9th Floor, 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS.

Representations

You have the right to make written and oral representations to the FSA (whether or not you refer this matter to the Tribunal). If you wish to make written representations you must do so by 3 September 2005. Written representations should be made to the Regulatory Decisions Committee and sent to Lynn Richardson, Regulatory Decisions Committee Secretariat, at the above address. If you wish to make oral representations, you should inform Lynn Richardson not less than 5 business days before the expiry of the 28 day period.

Confidentiality and publicity

You should note that this Supervisory Notice may contain confidential information and should not be disclosed to a third party (except for the purpose of obtaining advice on its contents). You should also note that section 391 of the Act requires the FSA when the Supervisory Notice takes effect, to publish such information about the matter as it considers appropriate.

FSA contacts

If you have any questions regarding the procedures of the Regulatory Decisions Committee, you should contact either Lynn Richardson (direct line: 020 7066 3192 / fax: 020 7066 3193), or Brian Whitbread, Head of the Regulatory Decisions Committee Secretariat (direct line: 020 7066 3202 / fax: 020 7066 3203).

For more information concerning this matter generally, you should contact Lehong Mac at the FSA (direct line: 020 7066 5742 / fax: 020 7066 9721).

Tim Herrington
Chairman, Regulatory Decisions Committee