

Warning to shareholders

Over the last year, many companies have become aware that their shareholders have received unsolicited phone calls or correspondence about investment matters. These communications can imply a connection to a particular financial company but typically come from overseas based 'brokers' who target UK shareholders and offer to sell them often worthless or high-risk shares. These are commonly known as 'boiler room' scams.

They can be very persistent and extremely persuasive, and a 2006 survey by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has reported that the average amount lost by investors is around £20,000. It is not just the novice investor that has been duped in this way; many of the victims had been successfully investing for several years. Shareholders are advised to be very wary of any unsolicited advice, offers to buy shares at a discount or offers of free reports.

If you receive any unsolicited investment advice:

- › Make sure you get the correct name of the person and organisation, and make a record of any other information they give you, e.g. telephone number, address etc.
- › Check that they are properly authorised by the FSA before getting involved. You can check at www.fsa.gov.uk/register
- › The FSA also maintains on its website a list of unauthorised overseas firms who are targeting, or have targeted, UK investors. Any approach from such organisations should be reported to the FSA so that this list can be kept up to date and any other appropriate action can be considered. If you deal with an unauthorised firm, you would not be eligible to receive payment under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. You can contact the FSA by completing an online form at www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/doing/regulated/law/alerts/overseas.shtml or, if you do not have access to the internet, on 0845 606 1234.
- › Inform our Registrars Equiniti Limited on 0871 384 2035. They are not able to investigate such incidents but will record the details, pass them on to Prudential plc and liaise with the FSA.

Details of any shareholding facilities that the Company endorses will be included in company mailings. You can find more detailed information at the FSA website www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

