
FIRST SUPERVISORY NOTICE

To: Hamilton-Lesser and Company

**Of: 5 Sherwood Place
Victoria Gardens
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3TH**

Dated: 16 December 2004

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

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 you, Peter Hamilton-Lesser trading as Hamilton-Lesser and Company, pursuant to Part IV of the Act (“your Part IV permission”) by removing all regulated activities with immediate effect. Accordingly, your Part IV permission no longer includes the following regulated activities:

- (a) advising on investments (except on Pension Transfers and Opt Outs);
- (b) agreeing to carry on a regulated activity;
- (c) arranging (bringing about) deals in investments; and
- (d) making arrangements with a view to transactions in investments.

The FSA has further decided to vary your Part IV permission by including the following requirements, namely that within 14 days you must:

- (i) advise in writing all clients for your regulated activities that you do not have professional indemnity insurance ("PII") in place and that you are no longer permitted by the FSA to carry on regulated activities; and
- (ii) provide the FSA with a copy of the written advice sent to all clients for your regulated activities pursuant to (i) above, together with a list of all clients to whom such advice has been sent.

REASONS FOR ACTION

Summary

The FSA has concluded, on the basis of the facts and matters described below, that you are 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, your resources are not adequate in relation to the regulated activities you have 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;
- to vary such a permission by removing a regulated activity from those for which the permission is given; and
- to include any provision in the permission as varied that could be included if a fresh permission were being given in response to an application under section 40 of the Act, including the imposition pursuant to section 43 of the Act of such requirements as the FSA considers appropriate.

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.

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

Paragraph 2.4.1(1) says:

“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.”

Paragraph 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).

Paragraph 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

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

Paragraph 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.

Paragraph 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

You, Peter Hamilton-Lesser, are an independent financial adviser, and the only approved person. Prior to 1 December 2001, you were regulated by PIA. From 1 December 2001 you have been regulated by the FSA.

Hamilton-Lesser and Company has had no PII since 25 June 2004. Since that date, and despite repeated requests and warnings from the FSA, Hamilton-Lesser and Company has failed to demonstrate compliance with FSA Rule 13.1.4(1) IPRU(INV). The Rule, which came into effect on 1 February 2004, 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 or otherwise satisfy the FSA that you have adequate resources, you are failing to make adequate provision in respect of your liabilities, including contingent and future liabilities. That failing is material in relation to the regulated activities for which you have permission and you therefore fail to satisfy Threshold Condition 4: Adequate resources;
- the risk of loss or other adverse effect on consumers by your failing, which is a material breach of a requirement imposed upon you by the FSA's rules, causes the FSA to have very serious concerns about you such that the exercise of the FSA's own-initiative power to vary your Part IV permission with immediate effect is an appropriate response to those concerns;
- specifically, the variation of your Part IV permission should take immediate effect to address the FSA's serious concern that claims for which you are 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 Leanne Paul 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. If you wish to make written representations you must do so by Wednesday 26 January 2005 (you have been given more than the usual 28 days in order to allow for the Christmas / New Year holidays) Written representations should be made to the Regulatory Decisions Committee and sent to Liane Silvester, Regulatory Decisions Committee Secretariat, at the above address. If you wish to make oral representations, you should inform Liane Silvester by Thursday 20 January 2005.

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 Leanne Paul at the FSA (direct line: 020 7066 9808 / fax: 020 7066 9809).

Tom Luce CB
Deputy Chairman, Regulatory Decisions Committee