



FINANCIAL REGULATOR
Rialtóir Airgeadais

Pursuant to Regulation 163 (1) of the EC (Markets in Financial Instruments) Regulations 2007, the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority ('Financial Regulator') hereby advises that:

**Guardian Asset Management
(Japan)**

**London Equities
(Ireland and Belgium)**

are **not** authorised to provide investment services in Ireland.

Any person with information about the above firms or who wishes to make enquiries about any other investment firm, whether authorised or not, should contact the Financial Regulator enquiry line at:

Locall 1890 200 469

A list of warning notices issued to date by the Financial Regulator is available on the following website:

www.financialregulator.ie

18 February 2009



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Press Release

18 February 2009

EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE

18 February 2009

Financial Regulator Issues Warning on Investment Firms

The Financial Regulator today (Wednesday, 18 February 2009) published a warning notice on two firms, Guardian Asset Management (Japan) and London Equities (Ireland and Belgium). Guardian Asset Management is not authorised as an investment firm in Ireland and has been offering investment services and/or investment advice to members of the Irish public. London Equities is not authorised as an investment firm in Ireland and may be claiming to be an investment firm based here. The notice is published today in Irish daily newspapers under the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulations 2007.

It is a criminal offence for an investment firm to operate in Ireland unless it has an authorisation from the Financial Regulator. Clients of unauthorised firms are not eligible for compensation from the Investor Compensation Scheme.

Any person wishing to contact the Financial Regulator with information regarding such firms may telephone **1890-200-469**. This line is also available to the public to check if an investment firm is authorised. Since obtaining the necessary legal powers in August 1998, 74 warnings naming 136 firms have been issued. A list of all warning notices issued to date is available on the website www.financialregulator.ie

The Financial Regulator's personal finance website, itsyourmoney.ie has information, in plain English, on frauds and scams and tips on how to protect yourself. It also has a section on savings and investments, which details the issues you should consider before you start saving and investing and gives information on the most common types of savings and investment products.

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For further information please contact:

Press Office - Nicola Faulkner (01) 4104512

Note for Editors:

The Financial Regulator was established on 1 May 2003. It is the single regulator for most financial services in Ireland. Its overall mandate is to:

- Help consumers make informed decisions on their financial affairs in a safe and fair market; and
- Foster sound, growing and solvent financial institutions which give consumers confidence that their deposits and investments are secure.

The Financial Regulator's consumer Information Centre is located on 6-8 College Green, Dublin 2. All publications available in the Information Centre can be downloaded from the Regulator's website at www.itsyourmoney.ie / www.financialregulator.ie or requested from the consumer help-line on lo-call 1890 77 77 77.