

Press release: Court winds-up asset investment company

Asset Backed Management Limited was wound up on 7 May 2019 by Judge Barton at the High Court in London following an investigation by the Insolvency Service. The Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator.

The court heard that Asset Backed Management, incorporated in January 2017, sold asset investment opportunities to members of the public, including corporate bonds and alternative bonds.

The company would contact prospective customers by cold-calling them, as well as promoting its business through the website www.assetbackedmanagement.com.

Asset Backed Management was paid commission by the issuers of the bonds, ranging between 27.5% and 40%, deducted from the customers' investments.

Following complaints, however, the Insolvency Service conducted a confidential investigation into the company's activities.

Investigators were able to establish that Asset Backed Management is not, and has never been, regulated by the FCA. Additionally, it hasn't employed an FCA-authorized person or had its marketing materials approved by an FCA-authorized person.

Additionally, the FCA carried out a regulatory enquiry into the company and it was agreed with Asset Backed Management and its director, Amir Damoussi, that they would not promote or invite investments in bonds or other controlled investments without approval of an FCA-authorized person.

The company's methods of attracting new customers, which included cold calling and targeting people who were not sophisticated investors, in some cases even vulnerable individuals, were in breach of financial regulations.

Although the company failed to provide its books and records, investigators examined Asset Backed Management's bank statements and revealed that income via commission received on the bonds amounted to £260,000. As a result, investigators have suggested that the company introduced unregulated investments to people in the region of £650,000 to £940,000.

Asset Backed Management failed to file any accounts, and had failed to preserve, maintain and/or deliver up any accounting records. The company also suddenly left its registered office on Threadneedle Street in November 2018 without informing its landlord, despite continuing to market itself as based there.

Helen Cosgrove, Chief Investigator at the Insolvency Service, said:

Asset Backed Management traded in wilful breach of FCA regulations

that exist to protect investors. Many members of the public have been impacted by their actions.

This behaviour will not be tolerated. The Insolvency Service will investigate any reports of such conduct and petition the court to wind-up companies found to be trading to the detriment of the public interest.

All public enquiries concerning the affairs of the company should be made to: The Official Receiver, Public Interest Unit, 4 Abbey Orchard Street, London, SW1P 2HT. Telephone: 0207 637 1110 Email: piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk.

Asset Backed Management Limited, company registration number 10586993, was incorporated on 27 January 2017. The company's registered office is at 32 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8AY, the address of an office services provider.

The petition was presented under s124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 29 March 2019, at which time the Official Receiver was appointed as provisional liquidator by Judge Barber. The winding up hearing will take place in the High Court on 7 May 2019.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Further information about live company investigations is available [here](#).

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is available [here](#).

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