

## **COOKSON GROUP PLC WARNING TO SHAREHOLDERS – UNSOLICITED PHONE CALLS**

The Company has recently been made aware that a number of shareholders have received unsolicited phonecalls from unregulated overseas based “brokers” offering to buy their Cookson shares at an inflated price. This is a typical “Boiler Room Scam” and whilst it may sound like a great deal, the “broker” will typically come back with a request up front for a bond or other form of market security, which is then never paid back. They may also request your bank details and then use these to make unauthorised deductions from your account. **We would strongly urge all shareholders to treat all unsolicited phonecalls with extreme caution.**

The FSA warning notice on Boiler Room Scams provides further advice on the subject:

### **WARNING TO SHAREHOLDERS - BOILER ROOM SCAMS**

In recent years, many companies have become aware that their shareholders have received unsolicited phone calls or correspondence concerning investment matters. These are typically from overseas based ‘brokers’ who target UK shareholders, offering to buy their shares or sell them what often turn out to be worthless or high risk shares in US or UK investments. These operations are commonly known as ‘boiler rooms’. These ‘brokers’ 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 company reports. If you receive any unsolicited investment advice:

- Make sure you get the correct name of the person and organisation
- Check that they are properly authorised by the FSA before getting involved by visiting **[www.fsa.gov.uk/register/](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/register/)** and contacting the firm using the details on the register
- Report the matter to the FSA either by calling **0845 606 1234** or visiting **[www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/consumerinformation](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/consumerinformation)**
- If the calls persist, hang up.

If you deal with an unauthorised firm, you will not be eligible to receive payment under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The FSA can be contacted by completing an online form at **<http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Doing/Regulated/Law/Alerts/form.shtml>**

Details of any share dealing facilities that the Company endorses will be included in Company mailings.

More detailed information on this or similar activity can be found on the Consumer Information section of the FSA website at:  
**[www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/consumerinformation](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/consumerinformation)**

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