



Press Release

27 March 2013

Central Bank of Ireland Issues Warning on Unauthorised Investment Firms

The Central Bank today (27 March 2013) published the names of three unauthorised investment firms, **Hermann Brothers Group (USA), Westhill Partners Inc. (USA) and Scott and Fischer Consultancy Limited (USA)**. **Hermann Brothers Group (USA), Westhill Partners Inc. (USA) and Scott and Fischer Consultancy Limited (USA)** have been offering investment services to members of the Irish public and are not authorised as investment firms in Ireland.

A list of unauthorised firms published to date is available on the Central Bank [website](#).

It is a criminal offence for an investment firm to operate in Ireland unless it has an authorisation from the Central Bank of Ireland. Consumers should be aware that, if they deal with an investment firm which is not authorised, they are not eligible for compensation from the Investor Compensation Scheme.

Any person wishing to contact the Central Bank of Ireland with information regarding such firms may telephone (01) 224 4000. 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, the names of 209 unauthorised firms have been published by the Central Bank.

Ends

Media queries: Press Office: (0)1 224 6299

Notes to editors

The names of the above firms are published under the European Communities (Markets in Financial Instruments) Regulations 2007.