

VOLUNTARY APPLICATION FOR IMPOSITION OF REQUIREMENTS (VREQ)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 VOLUNTARY APPLICATION FOR IMPOSITION OF REQUIREMENTS

Q What is a Voluntary Application for Imposition of Requirements (VREQ)?

A A VREQ is a voluntary agreement by a firm regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to restrict how it carries out its business. An application is made to the FCA under section 55L of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 for the imposition by the FCA of certain requirements on the Company's Part 4A permissions to conduct business.

Q Why has Blankstone Sington Limited applied for a VREQ?

A Blankstone Sington Limited ('Blankstone' or the 'Company') has made the request because of a loss of several experienced staff who cannot easily be replaced. This has caused difficulties for the company to provide its normal standard of service. The Company is actively recruiting for replacement staff

The board took professional advice about applying for a VREQ.

Q What are the requirements that have been imposed on the Company?

A The main points are set out on our website at <https://blankstonesington.co.uk>. In summary the Company is not permitted to take on new clients or accept new money or assets from existing clients. There are also restrictions on how the Company uses its own money.

Q How long will these restrictions last?

A We are unable to say at the present time. The Company is in regular dialogue with the FCA and external advisers to reach a successful outcome to the situation.

Q As a client of the Company what does this mean for me?

A In the short term it means that you will not be able to add money or assets to your account. Our services are otherwise unaffected.

For Advisory and Execution-only portfolios where we provide a custody service we can only undertake sales and purchases using the money and assets currently in your account. We cannot accept new funds for purchases.

For discretionary managed portfolios, whether Bespoke, Model Portfolio Service or AIM, we will continue to manage your account in line with its investment requirements and attitude to risk. You will not be able to add money or assets to your portfolio.

Q What is the difference between Client Money and Custody Assets?

A Client Money is the cash held for clients by the Company.

Custody Assets are the individual stocks and shares and other investments that form the rest of a client's investment portfolio with the Company. They are often collectively called Client Assets.

Q Are my money and assets safe?

A Our clients' money and assets remain safe and they continue to be held in full accordance with the FCA's rules.

Q Can I withdraw money from my account?

A The restrictions do not apply to the withdrawal of client money. You retain full access to your account with money available on request in the usual way.

Q Will dividends / returns on investments continue to be added to my account?

A Dividends, interest, coupons and returns on investments accruing after the date of this notice will continue to be added to your account.

Q Can I transfer my assets to another firm?

A The restrictions do not apply to the transfer of client assets away from the Company. You can request that we do so in the usual way.

Q What is the position in relation to any unsettled trades?

A Any unsettled trades at the date of this notice will be unaffected.

Q Will Blankstone Sington facilitate corporate actions in relation to custody assets held on my behalf?

A We remain able to effect corporate actions in relation to custody assets held on their behalf, such as:

- participating in rights issues, bonus issues, open offers, tender offers, consolidations, and returns of capital.
- exercising conversion rights and redemption rights;
- exercising shareholder rights to vote:
 - at company general meetings;
 - on schemes of arrangement, takeover offers, de-listings, de-mergers, liquidations, and changes of name



Q What is the current value of my Custody Assets?

A Custody Assets continue to be held, and their value continues to be determined in the manner used prior to the invocation of this notice.

Where you are registered to access your account online, you can continue to view the value of your Custody Assets using our portal.

As you will be aware, the value of your Custody Asset investments can go down as well as up and you may get back less than you originally invested.

2 SCAMS

All clients should remain alert to the possibility of fraud. At this stage Blankstone Sington will not be calling you directly

If you are cold called by someone claiming to be from Blankstone Sington, please end the call. Updates will be provided to you in writing and uploaded Blankstone Sington's website.

SCAMS - stopping fraud

Fraudsters may sometimes approach investors claiming to be able to recover their investment in return for an advance fee. Sometimes the fraudsters claim to be from the company. You should be wary of any unexpected call, email or other contact which asks you for money in this manner. FCA guidelines are available at www.fca.org.uk/consumers/protect-yourself-scams

Clone websites - beware

Please note that Blankstone Sington's webpage is <https://blankstonesington.co.uk> and this is the only webpage currently on which we will be posting updates and relevant information. Should this position change we will notify parties accordingly.

3 CONTACT DETAILS

Website: <https://blankstonesington.co.uk>

Email: restrictions@blankstonesington.co.uk

Helpline: 0151 236 8200

Given the volume of calls, you may not be able to get through immediately. We apologise for this and request that you keep trying or visit the website for assistance with queries.

Post: Blankstone Sington Limited, Walker House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL

We will provide further updates once in a position to do so and therefore request you continue to monitor the website.



Please note that due to the volume of queries being received, we may only be responding via website updates at this time and not to individual email queries.

Blankstone Sington Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, reference number: 143694. Registered in England, Company number: 2378144. Registered Office: Walker House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3YL