ASIC FOI 021-2024

**From:** 22 @asic.gov.au
**Sent on:** Wednesday, March 5, 2014 11:22:19 PM
**To:** 22 @asic.gov.au>
**Subject:** URGENT - COLD CALLING SCAM: HANSON COMMODITIES (Treat as In Confidence) [DLM=Sensitive]

Dear Sir / Madam,

**URGENT - COLD CALLING SCAM: HANSON COMMODITIES**

The Australian Securities & Investments Commission (**ASIC**) has received information concerning a cold calling scam operating under the name of **Hanson Commodities.** After conducting further inquiries, ASIC confirms that Hanson Commodities is an unlicensed foreign entity that has made unsolicited calls to Australian victims to convince them to invest in non-existent financial products. Victims are then directed to deposit funds into an identified foreign bank account. Details of the bank account are listed below.

Beneficiary name: Aspison Trading
Account number: 0052022023949
Bank name: AM Bank
SWIFT Code: ARBKMYKL

ASIC has formed the view that Hanson Commodities' operations constitute a cold-calling scam. ASIC is aware that Australian investors have been induced to provide funds by the convincing telephone calls and associated websites used by the operators of these scams.

ASIC has added the details of Hanson Commodities to its public list of "unlicensed overseas callers and fake regulators" located at www.moneysmart.gov.au. You may access this list at the following specific address: http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/scams/companies-you-should-not-deal-with

**Action Required**

ASIC is seeking to prevent further transfers being made to these scams by Australian investors. To prevent further clients from falling victim to these operators, ASIC recommends that your financial institution establish a process whereby any future fund transfer requests to the account identified above are immediately detected and blocked.

Further, and importantly, you may wish to undertake internal searches to identify any clients that may have transferred funds into the above bank account and contact them directly, to bring to their attention the issues raised above and notify them that ASIC considers Hanson Commodities to be part of an international scam and that no further funds should be forwarded to the account.

In the event that your clients have further queries regarding these cold calling scams, please direct them to contact ASIC's Infoline on 1300 300 630. Alternatively, they may wish to lodge a confidential report of misconduct via ASIC's website or in writing to:

Misconduct & Breach Reporting
ASIC
GPO Box 9827
Brisbane QLD 4001

Should you have any queries or would like further information regarding this matter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

ASIC
Australian Securities & Investments Commission

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