

Company	<u>Collins Stewart Tullett PLC</u>
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Collins Stewart Tullett plc
Collins Stewart Limited:
Completion of FSA Investigation

Collins Stewart Tullett plc confirms that it has been informed by the FSA that its investigation of allegations made by a former employee of Collins Stewart Limited, Mr James Middleweek, has now been completed and that it does not intend to institute any further proceedings.

Terry Smith, Chief Executive, said: "The FSA has made it clear that the matter is now closed. Our view was always that the allegations were spurious and made by an individual whose credibility and motivation were at least highly questionable. Now they can be seen in that light. We look forward to seeing Mr Middleweek and others in court."

Chairman, Keith Hamill, said: "This episode has put enormous pressure on the firm over the last twelve months. Terry Smith and our teams at Collins Stewart and Tullett Liberty have done a remarkable job continuing to do outstanding innovative work for our clients and in generating record results. The reaction we have seen in responding to and managing the situation and continuing to grow the business in adverse circumstances shows the strength and potential of the Company."

Alongside legal actions against Mr Middleweek and the Financial Times newspaper, Collins Stewart Limited has also commenced defamation proceedings against Mr Dale Langley - Mr Middleweek's lawyer at the time of the alleged blackmail incident in July - and Mr Jeremy Benjamin, a Middleweek associate, who made damaging and defamatory remarks when the allegations first emerged in

public.

Mr Benjamin has since apologised personally and admitted that he did defame the firm. He has made an offer of amends. His public statement and details of costs and damages have yet to be settled.

- Ends -

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