

11 June 2025

Our Ref: CAL/ADM/LL/CL/ADM1

TO ALL KNOWN CLIENTS

:

Dear Client,

CAMBRIAN ASSOCIATES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATION)

Company number: 02493669

High Courts of Justice, Business and Property Courts in Manchester, Insolvency and Companies List (ChD) CR-2025-MAN-000849

Key things you should know

- Cambrian Associates Limited (the “**Firm**”) entered Administration on 11 June 2025. Administrators from Beggies Traynor have been appointed to manage the Firm’s affairs, business and property.
- The Firm’s regulated business and certain assets have been acquired by a connected financial planning firm, H C I Financial Services Limited (“**HCI**”).
- HCI will trade from the same location as the Firm and employees of the Firm have transferred to HCI. This means that will continue to deal with the same advisers as you have dealt with previously and continue to receive financial advice from the same advisers and support staff.
- You will be contacted by HCI in writing in due course to request your consent for them to continue servicing your Self Invested Personal Pension (“**SIPP**”).
- Further information and a Frequently Asked Questions document is available on the dedicated webpage <http://www.beggies-traynorgroup.com/cambrian>. This webpage will be updated periodically and we ask that you monitor this webpage for further updates.
- Should you wish to contact the Administrators you may email cambrian@btguk.com or telephone 0161 529 7431.

340 Deansgate, Manchester M3 4LY

E: cambrian@btguk.com W: www.beggies-traynorgroup.com/cambrian

Beggies Traynor is a trading name of Beggies Traynor (Central) LLP, a limited liability partnership, registered in England No: OC306540, registered office 340 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 4LY

Dean Watson is licensed in the United Kingdom to act as Insolvency Practitioner by the Insolvency Practitioners’ Association. Paul Stanley is licensed in the United Kingdom to act as Insolvency Practitioner by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Please be aware that our licensed insolvency practitioners are bound by the Insolvency Code of Ethics when carrying out professional work relating to an insolvency appointment.

Any reference to a partner is to a member of the limited liability partnership. A list of partners is available for inspection at the registered office. A member of the Beggies Traynor Group; Specialist Professional Services www.beggies-traynorgroup.com

Partners, Directors, and Consultants acting as administrators or administrative receivers contract as agents and without personal liability.

Purpose of this letter

This letter is being sent to you as the Firm's records indicate that you were a client of the Firm. Its purpose is to notify you of the appointment of the Administrators and to provide you with further information on the acquisition of the Firm's assets by HCI.

Appointment of Administrators

On 11 June 2025, the Director placed the Firm into Administration and appointed Dean Watson and Paul Stanley each of Begbies Traynor as Joint Administrators (the "**Joint Administrators**"). The Joint Administrators are both authorised to act as insolvency practitioners in the United Kingdom. Dean Watson is regulated by the Insolvency Practitioners' Association and Paul Stanley is regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Formal notice of the Joint Administrators' appointment is attached and can also be found online at <http://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/cambrian>.

What is Administration?

Administration is a formal insolvency process that typically lasts 12 months. It is generally used to maximise the value of assets and achieve a better outcome for creditors or enable a distribution to be made to one or more secured and/or preferential creditors. The procedure facilitates an orderly wind down of a Firm's affairs. The Joint Administrators are officers of the Court and act as agents of the Firm for the duration of their appointment.

Effect of Administration

The Firm will remain authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("**FCA**") despite its entry into Administration. The Administrators are in regular dialogue with FCA.

You should be aware that whilst in Administration the Firm has the protection of a wide-ranging moratorium pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986 (the "**Act**"). The effect of the moratorium is to prevent any proceedings, legal action or 'self-help' remedies being commenced or continued against the Firm except with the Joint Administrators' consent or with the permission of the Court.

What does this mean for me?

The Firm ceased to trade upon entry into Administration.

The remaining regulated business and certain assets of the Firm have subsequently been acquired by a connected financial planning firm, H C I Financial Services Limited.

The remaining regulated business undertaken by the Firm prior to the sale to HCI was to service the investments of clients who had transferred from a defined benefit pension scheme into a Self-Invested Personal Pension ("**SIPP**").

Following the transaction, HCI has acquired the following assets from the Firm:

- Customer list, goodwill and SIPP servicing rights contracts

- IT Equipment
- Connected company debts

Please note clients will not automatically transfer to HCI.

You will be contacted by HCI, in writing, in due course to request your consent for them to continue servicing your SIPP. Providing consent will enable your SIPP to be continued to be managed by HCI in the same way as the Firm. You are however under no obligation to provide consent. In the event that you choose not to consent to HCI continuing to service your SIPP you are strongly encouraged to seek advice from another suitably qualified and regulated financial adviser.

The transaction was undertaken following a marketing and due diligence process and consultation with FCA.

HCI will trade from the same location as the Firm at Cambrian House, St David's Park, Hawarden, CH5 3XA. Employees of the Firm have transferred to HCI. This means that clients will continue to deal with the same advisers as they have dealt with previously and will continue to receive financial advice from the same advisers and support staff.

Why did the Firm enter Administration?

Effective from 21 March 2022, the Company has been subject to restrictions on its regulated activities. The restrictions limited the Firm's ability to, amongst other things, sell or dispose of its assets. A principal reason for the imposition of the restrictions were the costs involved with the Redress Scheme to review Defined Benefit Transfer advice. We understand the Firm subsequently settled the majority of redress liabilities arising from complaints.

The Firm has been litigating a claim with a former authorised representative related to unpaid commissions. The Firm was ultimately not in a position to fund a negotiated settlement having used its cash reserves to defend the claim and pay redress liabilities. The Firm was also restricted from selling its remaining business to generate funds to settle the claim.

A Court hearing was scheduled to take place in January 2025 to determine the unpaid commission claim. A conditional temporary stay to proceedings was subsequently granted upon notification that Begbies Traynor had been instructed to assist the Firm with a view to entering Administration.

Marketing of the opportunity to acquire the remaining business resulted in three offers. Negotiations, due diligence and consultation with FCA in relation to a sale of the remaining business have been ongoing since January 2025 with two parties.

A connected firm, H C I Financial Services Limited were subsequently able to satisfy regulatory requirements to complete a transaction. The former authorised representative subsequently agreed to extend the legal proceedings whilst a sale of the Firm's remaining business was finalised. The Firm entered Administration once a legal contract had been finalised with HCI.

What happens next?

HCI will contact you to explain more about them and provide you with information to allow you to make an informed decision on consenting to the transfer of your SIPP servicing agreement to HCI. Should you choose not to consent to use HCI going forward we strongly encourage you to seek independent advice on your investments from another suitably qualified and regulated financial adviser.

What should I do if I have a new or ongoing complaint against the Firm?

It has been agreed that HCI will be responsible for dealing with any complaint against the Firm related to past advice for a 36 month period following their acquisition. Clients should therefore contact HCI if they have a complaint.

HCI may be contacted as follows:

Tel: +44 (0) 1244 539595

Email: info@hcifs.co.uk

Post: Complaints Officer
HCI Financial Services Limited
Cambrian House
St. David's Park
Hawarden
CH5 3XA

For any complaint which is not related to past advice provided by the Firm, clients should contact the Administrators by emailing cambrian@btguk.com or telephoning 0161 529 7431.

Am I protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme?

FSCS is not currently open to customer claims against the Firm.

As above, it has been agreed that HCI will be responsible for dealing with any complaint against the Firm related to past advice for a 36-month period following their acquisition. Clients should therefore make any complaint directly to HCI using the contact details provided above.

If recourse to FSCS compensation becomes available, clients will be notified accordingly. Clients should note that there are rules around who and in what circumstances FSCS protection applies. FSCS cannot compensate investors for poor investment performance alone, or for losses arising from an inability to sell assets or settle transactions. General guidance may be found on the FSCS website www.fscs.org.uk.

Use of personal information

Please also note that as part of our role we may need to access and use personal data. This is information from which a living person can be identified. Where this is necessary, we are required

to comply with data protection legislation. If, as a creditor, you would like further information about your rights in relation to our use of your personal data, you can access the same at <http://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com/privacy-notice>. If you require any hard copy of the information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Other Matters

Please note that we are required by best practice guidance to make enquiries of creditors as to whether they wish to raise any concerns regarding the way in which the Firm's business has been conducted, or wish to bring to our attention any potential recoveries for the estate. If you have any matters you wish to bring to our attention, please email us at cambrian@btguk.com. This request for information is standard practice and does not imply any criticism or cause of action against any person concerned in the management of the Firm's affairs.

If you have any questions in relation to the contents of this letter, please contact my office at cambrian@btguk.com or by telephoning 0161 529 7431.

Yours faithfully

For and behalf of

CAMBRIAN ASSOCIATES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATION)



Dean Watson

Joint Administrator

The affairs, business and property of the Company are being managed by the Joint Administrators who act as agents of the Company without personal liability.