

Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
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Questions on the Position of Bradford & Bingley (B&B) Shareholders and Call for a Public Inquiry

Dear Mr Darling,

I wrote to you on the 10th November on behalf of the UK Shareholders' Association [UKSA] and the Bradford & Bingley Shareholders who have formed a group to promote and protect their interests. In my letter I asked why Bradford & Bingley [B&B] was nationalised, on what basis will compensation be paid and when will it be paid. To date I have not received a reply or indeed an acknowledgement of my letter. Although a "Compensation Order" has been published that gives the basis of compensation, no details have been forthcoming as to why Bradford & Bingley was nationalised.

In the last four weeks we have had some two thousand enquiries from former B&B shareholders. There is a strong sense of outrage amongst these shareholders many of whom are using highly emotional language, e.g. references to criminal deception by the board and questions such as why has the Government thrown money at the big banks based in London and Scotland whilst small banks like Northern Rock and B&B whose roots are based in the North of England have been disadvantaged. Unfortunately there appears to be a total lack of trust in either the Government or the Financial Services Authority (FSA). We have attempted to reassure these shareholders but it is extremely difficult to do so in the absence of more information.

Moreover it is the interaction between the FSA and the B&B board prior to the rights issue and thereafter in the days and weeks prior to the nationalisation which is of particular concern to the B&B shareholders. We feel it would be in the Government's own interest to hold a public inquiry into this matter as in my view it has a duty to these investors to ascertain what actually happened and why.

Yours sincerely

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