



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

28 April 2009

**Clara Furse, Letters, *The Financial Times*
Media anxiety over Aim is wholly misplaced**

From Dame Clara Furse.

Sir, As Aim approaches its 14th anniversary, nobody should doubt the London Stock Exchange's commitment to the market or our care and attention to its development over the years. The anxiety expressed by [John Pierce](#) of the [Quoted Companies Alliance](#) (Letters, April 24) is wholly misplaced, overlooking in particular Aim's dramatic development during Martin Graham's tenure.

Aim has expanded substantially in the past five years and is now home to nearly 1,500 companies that have business operations and activities in more than 100 different countries, demonstrating its truly global reach. It is a source of finance for small and medium-sized companies, driving entrepreneurial activity. Investing in Aim companies is investing in the real economy.

These are tough times for all companies, especially smaller companies. Yet despite the media's preoccupation with falling company numbers, there are some good news stories: for instance, even in these extraordinarily difficult conditions, Aim companies have succeeded in raising more than £560m so far this year, demonstrating that Aim has become an essential rung in the funding ladder for UK and international entrepreneurs.

Aim is not a market run by or associated with a few individuals. It is fully integrated into the LSE's senior management structure, reflecting its global brand and the fact that it is an integral part of the LSE's purpose and strategy. It would therefore be encouraging to see some of the negative anxiety being expressed through the media turned into positive energy that supports this unique and valuable asset.

Clara Furse,
chief executive,
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