



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

26 March 2010
David Blackwell, *The Financial Times*
Budget hints at change

After all the campaigning by the London Stock Exchange, the Quoted Companies Alliance and other City luminaries, and after numerous mentions in this column, a positive sign emerged in the Budget that the importance of help in funding smaller companies is finally being recognised.

The government is to work with the industry to examine the evidence behind the argument that the rules for the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts should be modified.

It will look at increasing the employee limit from 50 to either 100 or 250; at doubling the gross asset limit to £15m; and at increasing the annual investment limit from £2m to £5m for qualifying companies.

Elsewhere the Budget revealed plans to consider making Aim shares eligible for individual savings accounts.

It's a start.