



## **Press release**

**15 January 2009**

### **Should Cambridge have a Socially Responsible Investment Policy? CCLA joins in the debate**

CCLA, the specialist charity investment manager, has been invited to take part in a panel discussion next Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at Cambridge University entitled 'Does Cambridge University Need a Socially Responsible Investment Policy?'.

Organised by the Cambridge University Amnesty International and the Students' Union Campaign for Socially Responsible Investment, the panel discussion forms part of an ongoing campaign to persuade Cambridge University and its Colleges to adopt a Socially Responsible Investment Policy.

Says Mischa Foxell, a 20 year-old Classics undergraduate, who is leading the campaign: "At the moment Cambridge University does not take ethical considerations into account when making its investments, unlike several UK universities including Oxford. Cambridge University should be working to reflect its commitments to education, human rights and sustainability in its investment policy."

An online survey carried out by the Student Union revealed that 98% of the 250 students surveyed said that the University should take ethical considerations into account when making its investments.

Says James Bevan, who will represent CCLA at the event: "I'm delighted to be taking part in such an important discussion and, as a responsible investment company, CCLA absolutely supports this proposal. Organisations are increasingly realising the importance of reflecting their ethical principles in their investments and recognising that this does not have to mean compromising on financial return. It's encouraging to see that young people are taking such an active interest in socially responsible

investment, particularly as many of them will go on to be the fund managers of the future.”

## **Ends**

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## **Notes to editors**

1. CCLA is an independent company owned by its charity and not-for-profit clients. It provides the widest range of common funds designed specifically for the charity market and has more charity funds under management than any other UK investment manager. CCLA is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
2. James Bevan is Chief Investment Officer at CCLA. James started his career at BZW in 1988 having joined from research at Cambridge University.
3. Helen Wildsmith, a former Executive Director and current board member of the UK Social Investment Forum (UKSIF), joined CCLA as Head of Ethical and Responsible Investment in 2008.
4. Speakers that will also be attending include David Rice, an independent adviser on the social and environmental impacts of business, and Paul Watchman, a top tier environmental lawyer by a number of legal directories involved in ground breaking work for the UN on Socially Responsible Investment.