

# AQSE Regulatory Guide

Guide to the regulatory status of the AQSE markets and what this means for investors



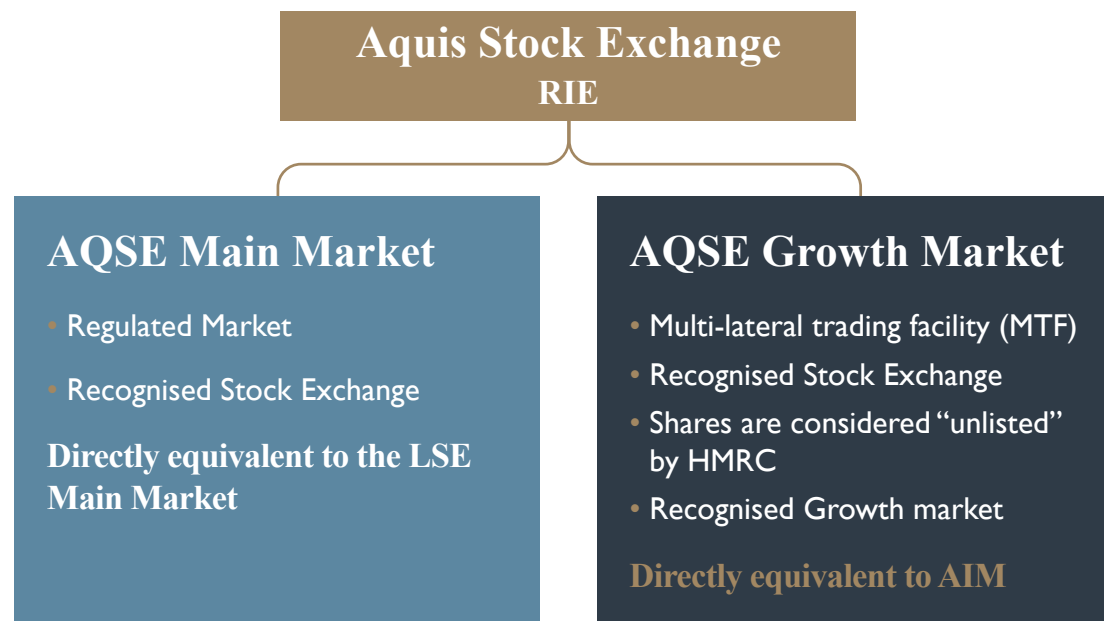
## Market Structure

Aquis Stock Exchange (AQSE) is a Recognised Investment Exchange (RIE) under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA). It is one of 6 such exchanges in the UK, authorised and supervised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and **one of only two equity exchanges\***.

As an RIE, AQSE operates two primary markets:

- the AQSE Main Market for larger, more established companies admitted to the UK Official List.
- the AQSE Growth Market for growth companies.

The two markets have different regulatory status, and this can be important for investors, especially those wishing to take advantage of the full range of available tax reliefs. We have set out the key differences and their implications for investors below.



## AQSE Main Market

### Status

### What does this mean for investors?

A UK Regulated Market for officially listed securities

There are 6 Regulated Markets in the UK, including the AQSE Main Market and the LSE Main Market.  
**The AQSE Main Market has direct equivalence to the LSE Main Market.**

A Recognised Stock Exchange (HMRC designation)

HMRC permits ISAs to invest only in qualifying investments which are listed or admitted to trading on a market operated by Recognised Stock Exchange. Companies on the AQSE Main Market are listed and are admitted to trading on a market operated by a Recognised Stock Exchange. This means their shares are eligible investments for ISAs.

### Scan the QR code for further information



The FCA register



HMRC Table of Recognised Stock Exchanges












S1005 (1)(a) Income Tax Act 2007



HMRC Guidance on stocks and shares investments for ISA managers

*The home of growth companies*

## AQSE Growth Market

Status	What does this mean for investors?	Scan the QR code for further information		
<b>SIPPs: A Multilateral Trading Facility (MTF)</b>	<p>In its list of eligible investments for SIPP providers, the Personal Pension Scheme Operators Instrument includes “Securities admitted to trading on a regulated venue”.</p> <p>The FCA defines regulated venues as “exchanges and multilateral trading facilities (MTFs) .... that are authorised by a regulator or a governmental agency”.</p> <p><b>As an MTF operated by an RIE, the AQSE Growth Market is considered a regulated venue, which means that shares traded on the market are eligible for inclusion in SIPPs.</b></p>			<p>The Personal Pension Scheme Operators (capital requirements) (amendment) Instrument 2015</p> <p>FCA Handbook Notice December 2015</p>
<b>Capital Gains/EIS and IHT: “Not listed”</b>	<p>Investment in growth companies can benefit from additional government support. For example, shares that are “not listed” are eligible for EIS relief as well as tax reliefs, including capital gains and IHT relief. The term “listed” in the UK is interpreted by HMRC as shares that are included in the UK Official List as maintained by the Financial Conduct Authority in their role as the UK Listing Authority.</p> <p><b>Companies trading on the AQSE Growth Market qualify for these tax reliefs because their shares are not included in the UK Official List. They are considered by HMRC to be “not listed” or “unquoted”.</b></p>			<p>HMRC Table of Recognised Stock Exchanges</p> <p>HMRC Guidance “Tax when you sell shares”</p>
<b>ISA Eligibility: A Recognised Stock Exchange (HMRC designation)</b>	<p>HMRC permits ISAs to invest in qualifying investments which are listed or admitted to trading on a market operated by Recognised Stock Exchange.</p> <p><b>Companies on the AQSE Growth Market are admitted to trading on a market operated by a Recognised Stock Exchange. This means their shares are eligible investments for ISAs.</b></p>			
<b>Stamp Duty: A Recognised Growth Market (HMRC designation)</b>	<p>A Recognised Growth Market must be operated by a Recognised Stock Exchange and must have satisfied HMRC that companies traded on the market are predominantly “growth companies”.</p> <p><b>AQSE Growth Market has been designated as Recognised Growth Market which means that trades executed on the market in UK companies are exempt from UK Stamp Duty and Stamp Duty Reserve Tax.</b></p>			<p>HMRC Stamp Taxes on Shares Manual</p> <p>Recognised Growth Market List</p>

\*You can find a list of all UK RIEs in the FCA register <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/search?predefined=RIE>

## Contact

For more information, please contact our regulatory team at [AQSERegulation@aqis.eu](mailto:AQSERegulation@aqis.eu) | [www.aqis.eu](http://www.aqis.eu)

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