

AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD  
Form 4  
August 16, 2012

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**BUTT MICHAEL A**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED, 92 PITTS BAY ROAD**

(Street)

**PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LTD [AXS]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**08/14/2012**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Shares	08/14/2012		M	80,000 A \$ 12.65	1,187,130	D	
Common Shares	08/14/2012		F	29,599 D \$ 34.19	1,157,531	D	
Common Shares	08/14/2012		M	40,000 A \$ 14.5	1,197,531	D	
Common Shares	08/14/2012		F	16,964 D \$ 34.19	1,180,567	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option	\$ 12.65	08/14/2012		M	80,000	<u>(1)</u>	09/29/2012	Common Shares	80,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 14.5	08/14/2012		M	40,000	<u>(2)</u>	12/11/2012	Common Shares	40,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BUTT MICHAEL A AXIS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LIMITED 92 PITTS BAY ROAD PEMBROKE, D0 HM 08		X		

## Signatures

Richard T. Gieryn, Jr.,  
Attorney-in-Fact

08/16/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The Employee Stock Option vested in three equal installments commencing September 30, 2002.

(2) The Employee Stock Option vested in three equal installments commencing December 12, 2002.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.