

[Press release: British Embassy Ljubljana statement on Ascent Resources](#)

The British Embassy in Ljubljana is working with the British Slovene Chamber of Commerce to support Ascent Resources as a British investor in Slovenia. Decisions on permits are rightly a matter for the Slovene Government. The Embassy will continue to make the point that foreign investors need to be given predictable timescales for decisions on these issues by Slovene authorities. Ambassador to Slovenia Sophie Honey raised this recently with Slovene Ministers, and will continue to press this case with local authorities.

We regret that the Embassy cannot engage individually with shareholders, who should contact Ascent directly if desired. However we remain in close contact with Ascent and the British Slovene Chamber of Commerce on this matter.

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Published 2 November 2018

Press release: Regulator announces statutory inquiry into housing charity

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, is today announcing a statutory inquiry into Alternative Housing ([1152412](#)).

The charity was established for the relief of those in need due to their age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in Bristol. The charity provided accommodation, support and care to some groups.

The charity came to the Commission's attention after it was convicted of several breaches of the Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006. A subsequent appeal against these convictions was dismissed.

The Commission opened a statutory on 4 July 2017 and has been examining:

- The extent to which there was misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity
- The extent to which there was a significant breach of trust or non-compliance with charity law
- The extent to which there was a significant risk to charity property and /or beneficiaries

The inquiry has found that the charity has ceased to operate and has removed it from the Register of Charities.

The Commission is unable to comment further on the inquiry's work which is continuing.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries by the Commission are available on [GOV.UK](#).

Ends.

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work see the about us page on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).
 2. Search for charities on our [check charity tool](#).
 3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
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[Press release: FC0 dedicates room in celebration of its LGBT+ staff and their contribution to the department.](#)

The head of the Diplomatic Service, Sir Simon McDonald, has officially opened the 'Watkins Room', demonstrating the FC0's recognition of the invaluable work of LGBT+ staff and coincides with the 20th anniversary of the founding of FLAGG, the department's LGBT+ staff association.

Sir Simon McDonald, the FC0's Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of HM Diplomatic Service said:

The Watkins Room honours the contribution and commitment of Graeme and all LGBT+ members of staff, past, present and future, to the Diplomatic Service.

This includes recognising the hard work of those colleagues who in the past may not have been able to be open about their identity at work. This month, we also mark the 20th anniversary of the FC0's LGBT+ Staff association, FLAGG, which Graeme co-founded. Since then, the FC0 has made important progress to become a more supportive environment for LGBT+ diplomats and continues to work to

ensure that our staff fully represent and champion the diversity of the UK today.

Jake Beesley and Lucy Monaghan, the co-chairs of FLAGG, said:

This marks a day of celebration for LGBT+ rights within the FC0, shining a spotlight on how far we've come since our staff association's founders, including Graeme, took a brave step to bring things up to date. We're proud to lead a community of LGBT+ staff, and straight allies, who continue this work today and who make the FC0 a champion for LGBT+ rights, at home and overseas.

The Watkins Room is named after Graeme Watkins, diplomat and co-founder of FLAGG. Graeme was born in 1961 and joined the FC0 in 1979, spending time in London, UKREP, Singapore and Managua. Sadly, he died in 2000. As a gay man working at the FC0, Graeme was subject to the bar on homosexuality which forbade openly gay men and lesbians from serving as diplomats until 1991.

As co-founder of FLAGG, Graeme left an important legacy to LGBT+ diplomats. His partner, friends and family were present at the opening of the 'Watkins Room' on 1 November to celebrate his contribution to the beginning of a campaign that has led to important changes within the FC0.

Today, FLAGG is a highly active staff association which works closely with the FC0 to champion the contribution of LGBT+ staff to UK diplomatic work overseas, including promotion of LGBT+ rights overseas. In the past year, a range of events have showcased this work, from the launch of a report into the history of homosexuality in the FC0 attended by Sir John Major (July 2017), to the month-long celebration of its 20th anniversary now underway.

Further information

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