

[Press release: Charity Commission appoints interim manager to Ampleforth Abbey and the St Laurence Education Trust](#)

The Charity Commission, the regulator of charities in England and Wales, has announced today that it has appointed an interim manager to Ampleforth Abbey ([1026493](#)) and the St Laurence Education Trust ([1063808](#)) as a result of continued concerns about the extent to which current safeguarding risks to pupils at the schools run by the charities are being adequately managed.

The Commission [opened a statutory inquiry](#) into both charities in November 2016 to investigate the charities' trustees' approach to safeguarding and their handling of allegations of abuse. The Commission is not satisfied that the charities' current safeguarding policies, procedures and practices are adequate and working properly. This includes concerns about the charities' compliance with established safeguarding procedures.

It has therefore made an order under Section 76 (3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011 on 21 March 2018 to appoint Emma Moody of Womble Bond Dickinson as interim manager of both charities.

She will have all the powers and duties of a trustee, to the exclusion of the trustees, in respect of a number of safeguarding related matters.

Harvey Grenville, Head of Investigations and Enforcement at the Charity Commission said:

It is of paramount importance that beneficiaries, and others who come into contact with charities, are protected from harm. We are not satisfied that the trustees of these charities have made enough progress in improving the safeguarding environment for pupils in the schools connected to the charities. For this reason, we have appointed an interim manager to expedite changes in the safeguarding arrangements at the schools.

The appointment comes after the Commission reviewed the progress made by the trustees in implementing recommendations made in March 2017 by an independent review commissioned by the charities.

The interim manager's responsibilities will include:

- reviewing the sufficiency of the charities' governance, leadership, management, culture, policies and practices with regard to safeguarding;
- scrutinising and reviewing the charities' progress with implementing the recommendations arising from the independent review in 2017; and

- identifying and implementing any additional actions which are considered necessary or appropriate to provide a safe environment for children, young persons and vulnerable people at Ampleforth

Further information about the interim manager's contact details and appointment can be obtained from the Ampleforth website. The interim manager will periodically update parents on the progress of her assignment.

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.
2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
3. This appointment is a temporary and protective power that will be reviewed at regular intervals. It will continue until the Commission makes a further Order for its variation or discharge.
4. The trustees of the charities will continue to have all the other powers and duties of trustees with the exception of the safeguarding functions as outlined above.
5. In the context of safeguarding issues, the Commission has a specific regulatory role which is focused on the conduct of trustees and the steps they take to protect beneficiaries and other persons who come into contact with the charity. The Commission will not directly investigate allegations or incidents of abuse, although it may investigate the handling of such matters by charities. Anyone with concerns about specific incidents of alleged abuses, whether historic or recent, regarding any charity, should report their concerns to the police and the relevant safeguarding authorities.
6. 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.

[Press release: Government Property Agency launches](#)

The Government Property Agency (GPA) was launched as an Executive Agency of the Cabinet Office on 1 April. It will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government Estate and generate benefits of between £1.4 billion and £2.4 billion over the next ten years.

GPA's initial portfolio of 80 properties will grow to over 1,000 as it takes on increasing responsibility for managing the general purpose central

government estate. This is an unprecedented move to manage the government's property portfolio strategically in order to realise the benefits that departments cannot achieve on their own.

The GPA will partner with government departments to find innovative property solutions, and provide expertise to enable them to deliver wider business change more efficiently. More broadly, the GPA will also be an enabler for the delivery of Civil Service transformation, regional growth and the government's vision to strengthen the Union.

The GPA leads the Government Hubs programme and with HMRC has announced 12 Hubs to date across the UK, amounting to almost 261,000 sq/m. Each new hub has been the biggest pre-let in that city that year, and a huge boost in confidence and a source of investment for the locality. Furthermore the new hubs in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast were the biggest pre-let in those cities in the last ten years. Canary Wharf at 50,000 sq/m was the biggest pre-let in the UK in 2016.

The design of hubs will lead to more efficient use of the estate. The space needed for each civil servant to work is intended to reduce to 6 sq/m within strategic hubs, outperforming the current workspace standard for the office estate of 8 sq/m per FTE. Smart working will be the foundation for the new Government Hubs – supporting flexibility, productivity, engagement, career development and wellbeing.

GPA has operated in shadow form for over a year, testing systems and ways of working, to ensure readiness for go-live and a sustainable organisation. During this period it has delivered estates services to Cabinet Office and BEIS as its foundation clients, worked in partnership with HMRC to deliver Hubs and secured £38m income from vacant space.

Through creating a centre for expertise in government for estates management, the GPA will have a breadth of experience, bringing specific property expertise, negotiation ability and commercial savvy to bear on major market transactions. This will have a direct benefit in maximising capital receipts, generating income and mitigating both costs and risks. The GPA will provide credible medium to long term investment opportunities, in both delivery of the suitable buildings and the longer term management of assets.

Oliver Dowden, Minister for Implementation said: "The creation of the Government Property Agency will transform the way property is managed in the general purpose central government estate, generating savings of over £1 billion over the next ten years. The Hubs programme is a catalyst for growth in city centres across the UK, helping to boost jobs and economic growth, as well as demonstrating the government's commitment to strengthening the Union and enhancing regional career paths."

Liz Peace, Chair GPA said: "This is an exciting time for government property and demonstrates the focus on improving the commercial capability in estates management. The GPA team will bring the concept of a cross government corporate real estate organisation into reality. As well as the significant benefits to the Exchequer that will come from the GPA, its impact on

departmental transformation and quality of workspace will be key to delivering a truly modern and excellent Civil Service.”

[News story: Patent fee changes on 6 April 2018](#)

Patent fees are changing on 6 April 2018.

This follows [consultations on the statutory patent fees changes](#) in 2017.

There are new fees for patent applications and patents, and new fees for lengthy applications.

The changes will:

- help us maintain high quality, efficient services for our customers
- ensure that the IPO maintains a competitive fee structure
- improve cost recovery for the services we provide
- continue to meet the bulk of IPO patent granting costs through renewal fees

[Guidance for business](#) setting out the detail and how the new fees work in practice is available.

[News story: Extra checks make form DS1 more secure](#)

We have started to make more checks when customers apply to remove a mortgage from a title register. The new checks will help to identify and prevent fraudulent applications at the earliest opportunity, but some applications to remove a mortgage may take longer to complete.

Property fraud is a risk that is constantly evolving. The new checks are a

necessary part of the continuous improvement to our counter-fraud processes and systems.

Customers can apply to remove a mortgage from the register by using one of 3 ways:

When customers apply to remove a mortgage with form DS1, the extra checks mean it may take us longer to complete the application.

Customers can help by removing mortgages from the register using an e-DS1 or an electronic discharge. These are submitted directly by the lender or their agent and help to reduce the risk of property fraud. They will also help customers avoid delays with their applications.

Lenders can also help by responding quickly to our checks.

Maintaining the integrity of the Land Register is vital because it provides:

- a reliable record of information about the ownership of and interests affecting land and property
- land and property owners with a title which is guaranteed by the state
- the financial sectors capability to secure lending against property

[News story: Don't be a victim of 'Insolvency Service' telephony scam](#)

Don't be a victim of 'Insolvency Service' telephony scam – GOV.UK

Members of the public are being warned not to fall for a telephony scam which asks you to make unnecessary and premium-rate calls to the Insolvency Service.



The Insolvency Service has been made aware of a scam where members of the public are receiving telephone messages to make unscheduled and unnecessary calls to the Insolvency Service.

Not only are unsuspecting members of the public being asked to make unnecessary calls but they are being asked to dial a telephone number that although does connect to the Insolvency Service, is not one of our official numbers and is a premium-rate number that costs a lot of money.

The scam appears to be instigated by a website based outside of the UK, helplinecall.com, which provides direct telephone numbers of businesses in the UK but when used, will cost the caller a lot of money.

The following tips will help prevent you being made another victim of telephony scams:

1. If you're being asked to call the Insolvency Service but you are not going through a bankruptcy or insolvency matter – be careful as it could be a scam phone call
2. Take a look at the number you're being asked to call – if it looks like it's a premium rate number then it might not be legitimate
3. If you're still unsure about the number, check the official [Insolvency Service website](#) to see if it is one of our numbers
4. You can also check numbers using a standard search engine as if it is a legitimate number you will be taken to an official website
5. If you think you're a victim of a scam – report it to our friends at [Action Fraud](#) (0300 123 2040) or to the [Insolvency Service](#) directly

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Thank you for your feedback