

[UN Human Rights Council 46: Interactive Dialogue with the High Comissioner on Venezuela](#)

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[Government investment supports M&G Shared Ownership Fund](#)

The Government's housing agency, Homes England, has agreed a £10 million investment with M&G Investments to support the launch of its new Shared Ownership Fund.

Homes England's commitment to the fund is part of its aim to provide investors with greater confidence that housing, including shared ownership, has strong government backing and can play a more prominent part in residential investment strategies.

The recoverable investment from Homes England will help accelerate the delivery of 2,000 affordable homes through M&G's partnership with The Hyde Group. The partnership will provide Hyde with the capital to grow its development ambitions and build additional homes in the areas it serves.

The fund has so far attracted £215m of initial investment from two local authority pensions schemes, Hyde and two M&G client funds. The fund forms part of M&G's established residential platform, alongside the £1 bn UK Residential Property Fund established in 2013.

Homes England is keen to support the growth and evolution of housing in institutional portfolios. This is the second time that the government's housing agency has supported M&G, after it provided funding for the construction of over 500 private rental homes, which were subsequently acquired by M&G's UK Residential Property Fund in 2013. The establishment of funds such as the M&G Shared Ownership Fund provide institutional investors with the structures they need to invest in affordable housing.

Gordon More, Interim Chief Executive at Homes England, said:
“Securing new institutional capital to increase the delivery of new affordable homes is a priority for Homes England. Today’s investment is a signal to both domestic and international institutional capital that the government supports sustainable long-term investment in affordable housing to meet the needs of communities across the country.

“M&G has been innovative and successful investing in both market rent and affordable housing. We welcome the opportunity to work with M&G again and to support our Strategic Partner, Hyde. We look forward to seeing the fund grow and provide access to high quality new homes.”

Alex Greaves, Head of Residential Investment at M&G, said: “Well managed shared ownership is a brilliant first step onto the housing ladder for aspirational homeowners. As trusted investors with access to deep pools of client capital, we are fully committed to innovating and improving standards – adding scale and efficiency to the Fund – as we have done in the private rented sector.

“Working in partnership with Homes England is a great example of how the private and public sector can combine forces to make a positive impact on this under-served sector.”

For more information about the fund, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

About M&G Investments

M&G Investments is part of M&G plc, a savings and investment business which was formed in 2017 through the merger of Prudential plc’s UK and Europe savings and insurance operation and M&G, its wholly owned international investment manager. M&G plc listed as an independent company on the London Stock Exchange in October 2019 and has £339 billion of assets under management (as at 30 June 2020). M&G plc has over 5 million customers in the UK, Europe, the Americas and Asia, including individual savers and investors, life insurance policy holders and pension scheme members.

For nearly nine decades M&G Investments has been helping its customers to prosper by putting investments to work, which in turn creates jobs, homes and vital infrastructure in the real economy. Its investment solutions span equities, fixed income, multi asset, cash, private debt, infrastructure and real estate.

M&G recognises the importance of responsible investing and is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) and is a member of the Climate Bonds Initiative Partners Programme.

M&G plc has committed to achieve net zero carbon emissions on its total book of assets under management and administration by 2050 and committed to reduce

operational carbon emissions as a corporate entity to net zero by 2030.

For more information, please visit: <https://global.mandg.com/>

UK sends tough message to abusers in the aid sector and launches new programme of support for survivors

The UK has today launched a new programme which will help bring perpetrators of sexual abuse, exploitation or sexual harassment in the aid sector to justice and provide vital support for survivors.

The programme will build on the extensive work the UK has done to stamp out abuse in the aid sector. It will strengthen the support available to survivors and make it easier for them to report abuse.

This will include developing a new way of reporting abuse anonymously through an online platform which will be piloted in Zambia. It will connect survivors with organisations who can help them access further support, including taking their case to the police or the perpetrator's employer, if they wish.

New UK aid will also fund investments for local and community based organisations so that they can give a range of direct support to survivors including counselling and psychosocial support, financial help and access to justice.

A new training scheme will also be introduced to improve the quality of safeguarding investigations carried out by NGOs and international bodies like the UN.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The UK is taking action to ensure the aid sector cannot be a safe haven for the perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation of the vulnerable. We have led in driving up safeguarding standards across the aid sector. Our new support will help survivors get the assistance they need and report their abusers without fear.

Since the Safeguarding Summit in October 2018, the UK has taken a number of concerted steps to drive up standards in the delivery of aid around the world. The focus has been led by the need to support survivors, prevent further abuse and bring perpetrators to justice.

Steps taken include a new tougher screening system for aid workers to allow

charities and other organisations to share data on staff misconduct and prevent perpetrators from moving job-to-job. This has seen at least 75 people rejected for jobs because of negative or absent data.

The UK Government and ACRO Criminal Record Office has worked with Interpol to improve criminal records checks and promote information sharing between aid and law enforcement agencies. We have launched a Resource and Support hub which is actively supporting aid organisations operating on the ground to improve safeguarding standards and support provided to victims.

The UK is clear all organisations bidding for UK aid must meet the high standards of safeguarding required and do everything in their power to keep the people they work with safe. Today, the Government confirmed that Oxfam GB can once again bid for funding, after the Charity Commission found last month that its approach to safeguarding had been “significantly strengthened” and that the charity should return to standard regulatory oversight.

The report found that the people Oxfam GB helps are now better protected against abuse, exploitation, and other forms of harm, in line with the high standards required of UK aid partners.

[Circular 001/2021: Antique firearms](#)

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[Beware of Work Visa Scams Targeting Bangladesh Nationals](#)



The British High Commission, Dhaka is seeing an increase in online employment scams targeting Bangladesh nationals. People fall victim to these scams when they receive false offers of employment in the UK from websites and e-mail addresses for jobs that do not exist.

The scammers provide the victims with multiple false documents, including

some they claim are issued by the Home Office and other UK government departments, which is untrue. They ask the victims to make payments to secure their “work permit” and “visa application”, but this information is false.

Fraudsters may advertise overseas employment through different job websites or contact potential victims directly.

Typical tactics include

1. Setting up fictitious job offers using details of UK businesses who are not actually offering any employment;
2. Using fictitious telephone numbers, names of officials and email addresses that may appear official but are not;
3. Asking for a registration fee to secure a work permit and UK visa. There is no such thing as an ‘employee registration fee’ in relation to UK visas.

To obtain a UK visa you should NOT be

1. Asked to deposit any payment prior to making a visa application. The correct entry clearance application process can be found at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website;
2. Asked to send your personal documents, e.g. certificates, bank details, professional details to anyone claiming to be from the Home Office or United Kingdom Visas & Immigration;
3. Offered a job which includes obtaining a UK work permit and visa. A genuine employer would direct you to the official GOV.UK website, where you make an official visa application.

If you receive any suspicious emails or other communication from someone claiming to be from the Home Office and requesting personal information; please report them to your nearest local police station.

You can also Report an immigration (visa) or customs crime [here](#). You can submit information anonymously or you can give us your name and address if you wish. We will treat any information you give us as confidential. Answer the questions as fully as you can but do not put yourself at risk by trying to find out more information.

Further information

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