

Pension investment advisor banned

Vamplw Charles Limited was incorporated in August 1999 before the company changed its name to Blakemore Wealth Management Limited in March 2012.

Gerard Charles Vamplw Blakemore (71) was the sole director of Blakemore Wealth Management and the company was authorised to provide investment advice around Self Invested Personal Pensions schemes.

Blakemore Wealth Management traded out of Gerard Blakemore's home in Wolverhampton and between April 2012 and October 2018 the company invested funds on behalf of 34 clients.

The company, however, entered into creditors voluntary liquidation in October 2018, which was brought to the attention of the Insolvency Service due to the substantial losses Blakemore Wealth Management caused its clients.

Following further enquiries, investigators uncovered that Gerard Blakemore, an authorised financial advisor, had caused Blakemore Wealth Management to invest customers' funds in high-risk schemes without carrying out adequate enquiries about their suitability.

Clients had originally been aware what their funds were being invested in. However, Gerard Blakemore knowingly breached the terms of a 2012 Intermediary Agreement with a Self-Invested Personal Pension operator when he caused Blakemore Wealth Management to invest £8.3 million of client funds without their knowledge in an unregulated overseas company.

Of the money invested, only £607,500 was repaid to Blakemore Wealth Management's clients and investigators uncovered that Gerard Blakemore was a director of the overseas company from July 2017.

Further enquiries proved that Gerard Blakemore had personally benefited from these unsuitable investments and at no point did Gerard Blakemore disclose the payments to his clients or seek their agreement.

He paid himself more than £247,000 through remuneration, dividends and benefits via commissions the company received.

Gerard Blakemore also caused the company to transfer funds from client investments totalling around £2.1 million to another company registered overseas, of which he was a director from July 2017, and Gerard Blakemore received £1.7 million.

As of 24 February 2020, Gerard Blakemore is disqualified from being a company director for 8 years after he signed a disqualification undertraining in which he did not dispute that he had breached his duties as a director of Blakemore Wealth Management Ltd.

Dave Elliott, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Gerard Blakemore was entrusted with millions of pounds to invest in legitimate pension investment schemes. The Wolverhampton director, however, totally disregarded his clients' interest and caused substantial losses when he invested £8 million in unsuitable products.

8 years is a significant ban and removing Gerard Blakemore from the corporate arena will protect investors from further harm due to his poor investment advice.

Gerard Charles Vamplew Blakemore is of Wolverhampton and his date of birth is April 1948.

BLAKEMORE WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD (Company number: 03828107).

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of restrictions](#).

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct](#).

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[The VMD switchboard service: update 8 April](#)

The VMD switchboard is now available.

We apologise for any inconvenience this intermittent problem may have caused.

Please note as usual, enquiries can be sent to us using our email at postmaster@vmd.gov.uk which is monitored throughout office hours Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:00pm and Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

[Supply Chain Covid-19 procurement notice](#)

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)

- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

1 May 2020: Update to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) fees

News story

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) fee structure changed on 1 May 2020.



The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) fee structure changed on 1 May 2020 and are as follow.

Transmittal Fee:

Search Fee:

International Fee:

- For the first 30 sheets: £1,085
- For each sheet over 30: £12

Restoration for Restoration of Priority:

*£150

Reductions for E – FILING

Fees for preparation of Priority Document:

Published 1 April 2020

Last updated 1 May 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 1 May 2020

A new fee structure for PCT applications is in effect from today 1 May 2020.

2. 1 April 2020

First published.

[Ambassador to Ireland discusses differences in the UK and Irish approach to tackling coronavirus](#)

We are living in extraordinary times. I celebrated 40 years as a diplomat on St Patrick's Day and have never known anything like the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis. Its impact is global and nobody is immune from it.

I want to begin by paying tribute to all our remarkable health workers, those keeping supermarkets stocked, those keeping law and order on the streets and the millions of other people across our across these islands who are keeping the essential fabric of society going so effectively.

I was inspired by the scenes last Thursday night across our cities – so many people clapping in the darkness, whilst key monuments were illuminated in the colours of our respective health services. They were a reminder of what unites us, and of the solidarity that will help us all through these challenging times.

The British Embassy continues to operate and provide services, including consular assistance. But in largely virtual form. Like so many of your readers, we are now mostly working from home.

It has been quite a learning curve and a top priority has been looking out for each other. We have been helped by lots of the great advice that's out there about looking after our mental health and by creative use of virtual alternatives to social interaction.

I know there has been a lot of interest in any differences in the UK and

Irish approach to tackling COVID-19. My message is simple. Both governments are doing everything they can to delay and to flatten the curve. To do so, we are following the advice of our expert scientists, especially our Chief Medical Officers.

Those who say we are not following the science are wrong. The advice we are following reflects the specific patterns of development of the virus in both countries and informs any new measures to counter the disease. So we will sometimes take different steps but our shared objectives are protecting our health services and saving lives.

As we do so, our two governments are in close contact recognising the unique circumstances of our across these islands, including of course the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, but also the Common Travel Area.

As well as the call between the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach, there have been recent conversations around common challenges between our Secretaries of State for Health, Foreign Affairs, Northern Ireland and Transport with the Tánaiste and other Irish counterparts. Our Chief Medical Officers are in contact too.

After speaking with Tánaiste Simon Coveney, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab underlined the importance of our countries working together more closely than ever as we pull through this crisis. And that is why the whole Embassy team is hard at work facilitating bilateral engagement.

A good practical example is the shared challenge of repatriating those of our citizens who have been stranded abroad. There has been strong collaboration in a number of countries, including the repatriation of a number of Irish citizens from Wuhan, the cruise ships Princess Diamond and Silver Shadow, and most recently from Peru. We are grateful for Irish Government assistance on repatriation of British citizens too.

Understandably, we are all focused on the situation where we are. But we cannot defeat this pandemic without international co-operation. To defeat COVID-19 once and for all we need to make this kind of cooperation truly global.

The UK sees several key strands to this. We believe we need to cooperate to build the resilience of vulnerable countries, develop a vaccine, and support the global economy.

The UK has so far pledged £544 million in aid to support the global efforts to combat COVID-19, including contributions to the WHO, Red Cross and UNICEF to help vulnerable countries. But much more is needed and we are encouraging other countries to consider what they can give.

Developing a vaccine and distributing this equitably to those who need it is going to be essential to tackling the disease and preventing it from returning. British researchers are working hard on this, just like their Irish counterparts. We have put £250 million towards the wider global effort to find a vaccine and some promising signs are emerging.

And finally, once the crisis eases, the international community will need to work together to help our economies to recover as quickly as possible and get all of those who have sadly lost their jobs through this crisis back into employment. These are the priorities we are supporting through the G7 and G20.

We do not know when the pandemic will end. It may take some time. But the remarkable spirit that I see right here in Dublin and across these islands convinces me that we will get through this and that the deep ties that bind us will be even stronger.

Robin Barnett, British Ambassador to Ireland