

Speech: PM speech at the Africa 'Call to Invest' UNGA event

I am delighted to be here, alongside President Kagame, President Akufo-Addo and Prime Minister Trudeau, to open this meeting.

Today we make a call to invest in Africa.

Africa stands on the cusp of playing a transformative role in the global economy. A more prosperous, growing and trading Africa is in all of our interests. But its incredible potential will only be realised through a concerted partnership between governments, global institutions and business.

That's why we are bringing together today, political leaders, business leaders and the African leaders of tomorrow. For together we can work in partnership to unleash the transformative power of trade and investment to work across the continent of Africa.

Last month, I made my first official visit to Africa – I met leaders, entrepreneurs and young people who are building an exciting future for their countries and their continent.

I saw a continent full of potential. One with a young population that is eager to embrace the opportunities of the 21st century – and ready to play its part in tackling the challenges we all face.

I was delighted when I was there to meet a young fashion designer in Nigeria, and a young jewellery designer in Kenya – examples of the next generation.

I am delighted that we are also joined by representatives of that next generation today.

But Africa's potential will only be realised if we invest in the next generation.

Just to keep pace with its growing population, Africa will need to create 18 million new jobs every year between now and 2035.

And creating those jobs is not just important for Africa's future. In our interconnected world, where new jobs in Africa drive new markets, new trade and investment opportunities, and greater global stability, these new jobs are important for everyone's future.

That is why high-quality investment and job creation forms the centrepiece of the UK's new partnership with Africa.

It is why I want the UK to be the G7's number 1 investor in Africa by 2022, with our companies investing billions into African economies.

It is why the UK is ensuring that the 0.7% of gross national income we spend

on development will do more to support investment and job creation in Africa and in developing economies across the world.

While in South Africa, I announced plans for £4 billion of new UK government investment in African economies that will pave the way for at least another £4 billion of private sector financing.

And next year the UK will host an Africa investment summit in the UK – bringing African leaders together with private and institutional businesses and investors.

This partnership working is vital to delivering the high-quality investment we want to see.

Today, I am delighted to welcome the Sustainable Development Capital Initiative which, in partnership with UK Government, will develop the City of London's role in raising the capital needed to meet the sustainable development goals.

I am also pleased that the UK played a role in the International Finance Corporation doubling the investment it supports in Sub-Saharan Africa, to \$10-12 billion a year by 2030.

These and wider shifts in the multilateral system are encouraging foreign investment in African countries by improving business environments, and addressing market barriers, such as regulation and risk mitigation.

But like everyone here today, I want us to go further still.

So together today, we are issuing a 'Call to Invest' in Africa. A challenge to governments, businesses, investors and organisations the world over, to redouble our efforts to address the youth jobs challenge, and to bring fresh ideas and practical commitments to the table.

When Africa succeeds, the world succeeds.

So let us together invest in Africa and – in doing so – invest in all our futures.

Press release: Pension bosses banned for 34 years after abusing members' funds

Karl Dunlop, Stuart Grehan and Ian Dunsford previously accepted disqualification undertakings for their management roles within the group of companies involved in the transfer of pension funds.

Stuart Greehan, Director of Sycamore Crown Ltd, agreed to a 9-year voluntary ban as a result of false and misleading statements made to encourage investors to transfer their pension pots.

Karl Dunlop (9 years), Director of Imperial Trustee Services Ltd, and Ian Dunsford (7 years), Director of Omni Trustees Ltd, agreed to voluntarily bans for failing to act in the best interests of pension members and subsequently failing to ensure investments were adequately diverse.

And despite not formally being appointed a director of Transeuro Worldwide Holdings Ltd, Stephen Talbot recently accepted a 9-year disqualification undertaking for failing to explain what happened to millions pounds worth of assets.

The investigation, led by the Insolvency Service, centred on the conduct of the directors connected with Transeuro Worldwide Holdings Ltd (TWH), who helped fund two introducer firms Sycamore Crown Ltd (Sycamore) and Jackson Francis Ltd (JF).

The introducer firms cold-called members of the public, inviting them to transfer their pension pots into Self Invested Personal Pension plans (SIPPs) and pension schemes operated by Omni Trustees Ltd (Omni) and Imperial Trustee Services Ltd (Imperial), who provided trustee and administrator services for two occupational pension schemes – Henley Retirement Benefit Scheme (HRBS) and Capita Oak Pension Scheme (COPS).

However, investigators found that the introducers from both Sycamore and Jackson Francis misled clients about their expertise and experience, offering 'guaranteed' returns designed to encourage them to transfer their existing pension funds.

As a result, more than £39m was paid into SIPPs, over £10m into COPS and more than £8m to HRBS. Members' funds were then largely invested in unregulated investments in storage units which ultimately did not yield the level of returns promised to members.

Ken Beasley, Official Receiver for the Insolvency Service's Public Interest Unit, said that unfortunately he has seen an increase in cases where members of the public have been persuaded to transfer their hard-earned pension pots into new schemes on the basis of unsubstantiated promises of higher returns which inevitably never materialise.

He said:

You may have seen the current campaign by the Financial Conduct Authority, where they recommend that you reject unexpected offers, especially those originating from a cold call. You should check who you are dealing with, avoid being rushed or pressured into making decisions and seek out impartial advice before going ahead with any pension transfer.

Suspicious should also be raised if you are promised high or guaranteed returns, unusual investments or complicated structures, high-pressure sales tactics, involvement of several parties, all taking a fee which significantly cuts into your pension pot, and long-term pension investments which could take years before you realise something is wrong.

Omni and Imperial are currently the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) who are inviting members of HRBS and COPS to [complete a questionnaire](#).

On 21 January 2017 The Pension Regulator appointed Dalriada Trustees Ltd as trustee of HRBS and COPS. Work is still ongoing in relation to the status and value of individual members' pensions.

About the directors

Stephen Michael Talbot

Director of Transeuro Worldwide Holdings Ltd (Company number: 103954) from Salford and DOB: Jan 1972

On 6 July 2018, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Stephen Michael Talbot, who whilst acting as a director of TWH despite not being formally appointed as such:

- failed to ensure that TWH maintained or delivered up adequate accounting records.
- as a result of this it has not been possible to ascertain whether payments out of the bank account of over £37 million were for a purpose connected with the business, the reason over £740k was paid out to Mr Talbot, the reason why £7.5 million (net) was paid out to a Panamanian foundation for which Mr Talbot was protector, show commissions due to or received from the company, show the nature of receipts into the company or establish the presence of any claims for the liquidator to pursue.

His ban was effective from 27 July 2018 and lasts for 9 years.

Ian Dunsford

Director of Omni Trustees Ltd (Company number: 08175702) from Barnet, Hertfordshire and DOB: Jan 1974

On 19 July 2017, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Ian Dunsford, after he admitted that he:

- failed to ensure that Omni, as trustee of a retirement benefit scheme, had acted in the best interest of members.
- took the appointment as director despite lacking the relevant knowledge and understanding to manage a pension scheme, allowed a third party to make investment decisions, failing to ensure that the investments were sufficiently diverse.

- failed to take sufficient steps to safeguard returns on investments promised to members resulting in potential losses to the scheme of at least £560k.
- failed to take sufficient steps to prevent the transfer of £3.7 million of scheme assets to a third party outside the jurisdiction.

His ban was effective from 10 August 2017 and lasts for 7 years.

Karl Dunlop

Director of Imperial Trustee Services Ltd (Company number: 08133190) from Worcester and DOB: May 1965

On 3 July 2017, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Karl Dunlop, after he admitted that he:

- failed to ensure that Imperial, as trustee of a retirement benefit scheme, had acted in the best interest of members.
- took the appointment as director despite lacking the relevant knowledge and understanding to manage a pension scheme
- failed to ensure that adequate accounting records had been maintained (in particular relating to member transfers in of over £4 million when he was director)
- failed to ensure that over £9m investments were sufficiently diverse
- failed to take sufficient steps to safeguard returns on investments promised to members resulting in potential losses to the scheme of at least £1.6 million.

His ban was effective from 25 July 2017 and lasts for 9 years.

Stuart Grehan

Director of Sycamore Crown Ltd (Company number: 08023102) and Jackson Francis Ltd (Company number: 07763545) from Salford Worcester and DOB: August 1981

On 6 October 2016, the Secretary of State accepted a disqualification undertaking from Stuart Grehan, after he admitted:

- false and misleading claims had been made about Sycamore and JF's level of expertise and experience to induce prospective investors to transfer their pension funds.
- claims were also made about the companies offering a range of investment products and 'unbiased advice' despite the only product actively promoted being unregulated investments in storage units which the companies had a vested interest in promoting due to the way in which they were funded.
- claims were made that a strict due diligence process was followed but there was no evidence that independent checks were carried out meaning so called 'guaranteed' returns were not received by pension members.

His ban was effective from 27 October 2016 and lasts for 9 years.

Disqualifications

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

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 other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service administers the insolvency regime, investigating all compulsory liquidations and individual insolvencies (bankruptcies) through the Official Receiver to establish why they became insolvent. It may also use powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK. In addition, the agency deals with disqualification of directors in corporate failures, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

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

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7674 6910 or 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Detailed guide: Report a tree pest or disease: overview](#)

Understand which tree pests or diseases are notifiable

Some tree pests and diseases are notifiable, which means that, in England, they must be reported to the Forestry Commission or the [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\)](#).

Notifiable tree pests and diseases are the ones that have the potential to

cause the greatest damage to our trees, woods and forests. See [the downloadable matrix](#) (PDF, 201KB, 2 pages)

to find out which ones are notifiable. The matrix also includes a quick guide to how each pest and disease is spread, and whether disinfectant should be used after working with affected material.

Anyone can report a notifiable pest or disease. Reports from the public are valuable. They supplement the Forestry Commission's annual surveys.

The preferred way to make a report is with [Tree Alert](#), the online pest and disease reporting tool. Note that Tree Alert requires you to upload good quality photographs.

You can use Tree Alert to report suspected pests and diseases found anywhere in the UK. Reports from Scotland and Wales will be passed to [Forestry Commission Scotland](#) and [Natural Resources Wales](#) for follow-up.

Report suspected cases in Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Forest Service using [TreeCheck](#), the all-Ireland pest and disease reporting tool.

Note that reports of tree pests and diseases in trade locations, such as nurseries, should be reported to the [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\)](#).

What to expect if you make a report

The report will be acknowledged and you may be contacted again if further detail is required. If a notifiable pest or disease is confirmed, the Forestry Commission's response will be one of the following:

- plot the location so it can inform local tree and woodland managers of its presence, and advise them how best to manage it
- take action to prevent or minimise spread of the pest or disease to other areas
- take action to eradicate the pest or disease before it can become established and spread

Get involved in monitoring tree health

Visit [Observatree](#) if you would like more information about monitoring the health of the UK's trees. You can only join Observatree if you're selected to do so but you'll find a range of helpful resources available on their website.

[Detailed guide: Manage a tree pest or disease: overview](#)

Updated: Incorrect text summarising one of the strategies. Replaced with summary of strategy paper.

There's a lot you can do to help prevent or minimise the introduction, establishment, spread and impacts of tree pests and diseases.

The threat to our trees, woods, forests, parks and gardens from damaging insect pests and organisms such as bacteria and fungi is significant. Some organisms can damage or kill dozens of different plant species, including trees. They can be spread in many ways. such as:

- in the movements of plants, wood, and wood products
- by wind and water
- on vehicles, clothing, footwear, equipment and tools

As well as causing economic losses for the forestry, timber and plant-based industries, they can disrupt other sectors, such as tourism, and threaten woodland biodiversity, ecosystems and native species. The gardens of private homes are also under threat from tree pests and diseases, and private homeowners can help minimise the impact of tree diseases.

The following documents explain the approach to preventing and managing tree pests and diseases:

[England tree health management plan](#)

This document covers a range of diseases and gives specific examples. It sets out management approaches to tackling a range of important pests and diseases. It also provides a framework for managing future threats, and the strategy underpinning the approaches.

[England tree health resilience strategy](#)

This strategy builds on the Tree Health Management Plan and explains how the government will improve protection against pests and diseases, and how it will work with the industry and others to build resilience in our trees.

[Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain](#)

Overview of the activity that Defra and the devolved administrations are undertaking to improve plant biosecurity.

Useful resources

See the [UK Plant Health Information Portal](#), a hub for plant health information, data and resources.

Use the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#), a tool to help guide action against pests and diseases that threaten our crops, trees, woods, forests, gardens and countryside.

Tree health funding

If your woodland has been affected by a pest or disease, you might be eligible for [funding to improve tree and woodland health](#).

Wood and timber products: import and export

Importing and exporting wood, timber and wood products provides information about the plant health regulations governing the import, export and some inland movements of wood and wood products.

[Detailed guide: Identify a tree pest or disease: overview](#)

Monitoring tree health and protecting our trees, woods and forests from pests and diseases is an increasingly important part of sustainable tree and forest management. This means you need to be able to identify specific pests and diseases to tackle any obvious problems. Once you know what's affecting your trees, you can find advice on what action to take.

Specific tree pests and diseases

If you know the name of the tree pest or disease affecting your trees, see the Forestry Commission guidance giving detailed information on specific tree pests or diseases known to be present in the UK. You can also find out about those that pose a potential risk to the UK but are not present yet.

Identify by tree species

If you're unsure what's causing the problem, use the alphabetical table below to narrow down the options for the relevant tree species and find out which pests and diseases can affect it.

Once you've found the likely culprit for your tree species, you can read

Forestry Commission guidance giving detailed information on that specific pest or disease and how to deal with it.

A

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Alder (<i>Alnus</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, <i>Phytophthora alni</i>
Apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>)	Citrus longhorn beetle
Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer

B

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Beech (<i>Fagus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, Citrus longhorn beetle, <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> , <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
Birch (<i>Betula</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, Citrus longhorn beetle

C

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Cedar (<i>Cedrus</i> species)	Pinewood nematode, Sirococcus blight
Cherry (<i>Prunus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Citrus trees (<i>Citrus</i> species)	<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>
Common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer
Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight
Cypress (<i>Cupressus</i> species)	No significant threats

D

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>)	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> , pine-tree lappet moth

E

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)	No significant threats
Elm (<i>Ulmus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, Dutch elm disease, elm zig-zag sawfly, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>

F

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)	No significant threats

G

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Grand fir (<i>Abies grandis</i>)	No significant threats

H

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	No significant threats
Hazel (<i>Corylus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus</i> species)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle
Horse chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, horse chestnut leaf miner, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>

J

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	<i>Phytophthora austrocedri</i>

L

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Larch (<i>Larix</i> species)	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> , pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth
Lawson cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>)	<i>Phytophthora austrocedrae</i> , <i>Phytophthora lateralis</i>
Lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight, pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth

M

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, sweet chestnut blight
Mountain ash or rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle

N

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Narrow-leaved ash (<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, chalara ash dieback, emerald ash borer
Noble fir (<i>Abies procera</i>)	No significant threats
Norway spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode

0

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Oak – holm (<i>Quercus ilex</i>)	Sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth, <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i>
Oak – northern red (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>
Oak – pedunculate or ‘English’ (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Acute oak decline, Asian longhorn beetle, sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth, <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> , <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>
Oak – sessile (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	Sweet chestnut blight, oak pinhole borer, oak processionary moth
Oak – turkey (<i>Quercus cerris</i>)	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
Olive (<i>Olea europaea</i>)	<i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>

P

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Pear (<i>Pyrus species</i>)	Citrus longhorn beetle
Pine – Corsican (<i>Pinus nigra</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight
Pine – lodgepole (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight, pinewood nematode, pine processionary moth
Pine – Scots (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Plane (<i>Platanus species</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle, <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>
Plum (<i>Prunus species</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle
Poplar (<i>Populus species</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn beetle

R

Tree species	Pest or disease name
Rowan or mountain ash (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Asian longhorn beetle

S

Tree species	Pest or disease names
Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)	<i>Dothistroma</i> needle blight, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Spruce – Norway (<i>Picea abies</i>)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode
Spruce – Sitka (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>)	Great spruce bark beetle, 8-toothed spruce bark beetle, pine-tree lappet moth, pinewood nematode, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
Sweet chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>)	Sweet chestnut blight, Oriental chestnut gall wasp, <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>

Tree species**Pest or disease names**

Sycamore (Acer
pseudoplatanus)

Asian longhorn beetle

W**Tree species****pest or disease names**

Western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla)

Sirococcus blight

Western red cedar (Thuja plicata)

Sirococcus blight

Willow (Salix species)

Asian longhorn beetle, citrus longhorn
beetle

Y**Tree species****pest or disease name**

Yew (Taxus baccata) Phytophthora lateralis

Note: this list of trees is not exhaustive.

Request a diagnosis

The information in the table above is not exhaustive. You may discover a different pest or disease attacking your trees and you should [report it](#) or request a diagnosis from Forest Research's [Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service](#). There might be a fee for this service.