

# News story: Priti Patel: taxpayers' money is making the difference between life and death in East Africa but Britain cannot act alone

This year the world is facing humanitarian crises in greater number and scale than ever before. Extreme hunger is stalking East Africa, pushing millions of families to the brink of starvation.

My readers will be rightly shocked and saddened by the harrowing stories of Somali children and their families. Babies whose bodies are shutting down because they are so starved, mothers who are fighting to keep their children alive.

These people are many miles away and their lives, wracked by conflict and drought, are totally unimaginable from our own. But they are our fellow human beings and they desperately need our help.

The UN suggests that half the population of Somalia is without reliable access to food, and 1.4 million children are acutely malnourished. Of those, 275,000 children are so severely undernourished they could soon die without urgent treatment.

The British Government has acted without hesitation. Earlier this year, I visited Somalia and saw first-hand that all the signs were pointing to famine. In response, the UK quickly stepped up support and right now, food is urgently being shipped into Somalia and distributed across the country – including to Somaliland.

We are giving one million people access to safe drinking water, food and emergency healthcare. This is the difference between a child having something to eat and having nothing; it is the difference between life and death.

The British public have also shown typical generosity; £60 million has been raised by the Disasters Emergency Committee's East Africa crisis appeal, including £10 million of matching funds from the British Government.

British people are helping to alleviate the suffering but the UK cannot act alone on this. The swift action we have taken to save lives must be matched by others. That is why I have called on the whole international community to play their part to avert tragedy. UN organisations are now on the ground in Somalia developing response plans and scaling up efforts. The World Bank has pledged \$50 million to Somalia to help people in drought affected areas access food assistance, water and health services.

To date, over \$948 million has been raised for Somalia and this is more than was pledged for the whole of 2016. Over a fifth of this is from the British

government alone – totalling £170 million – but more than a third of the humanitarian appeal for 2017 still remains unfunded.

Together, we have so far managed to avert a repeat of the famine which killed 260,000 people in 2011. But the job is far from done. The risk of famine still looms over Somalia; millions of people remain in dire need and hundreds of thousands of lives are at risk. Unquestionably, more people will die if we do not continue our collective efforts.

To maximise our impact, we must focus on the most urgent actions, collaborate properly and improve transparency. Funds must go where the need is greatest.

This is ultimately in all our interests. Somalia is one of the world's most fragile countries and the humanitarian crisis threatens to undermine recent political and economic progress at a vital time. Meanwhile, extreme hunger is forcing people from their homes and threatens to swell the refugee crisis in Africa and Europe.

The British Government's support for Somalia is enduring. We hosted a landmark London Somalia Conference in May this year, where we convened global leaders, the UN and key players from Somali government to end this desperate situation and help build a more prosperous, stable and peaceful Somalia for the future.

My message to the rest of the international community is clear: we must all step up our efforts before it is too late to stop innocent people starving to death. International leaders cannot and must not turn their backs or shut their eyes. That would be a stain on our collective conscience.

**This article was [originally published on the i newspaper](#).**

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## **[News story: Animal medicines prosecution: Mrs Marie Darnborough](#)**

Details of the prosecution of Mrs Marie Darnborough Published in August 2017.

On 28 July 2017 at Huddersfield Magistrates Court, Mrs Marie Darnborough pleaded guilty to 10 charges under sections 1 and 2 of the Fraud Act 2006.

Mrs Darnborough was fined £290, with £30 victim surcharge and £85 costs were awarded against her.

This case related to prescription fraud in which Mrs Darnborough dishonestly made false representations on multiple occasions, namely by submitting prescriptions for veterinary medicines to online pharmacies, purporting that

they had been issued by a veterinary surgeon.

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## **News story: Animal medicines seizure: Parcelforce International Hub**

Details of the seizure of veterinary medicines at the Parcelforce International Hub, Coventry. Published in August 2017.

A parcel was detained and subsequently seized at the Parcelforce International Hub, Coventry, West Midlands. This parcel was addressed to a residential premise in the UK and contained 2 x 1 litre bottles of Alben. This product is an anthelmintic for sheep and goats which is not authorised in the UK.

The medicine was seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

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## **Press release: Butchering breast surgeon has sentence increased by 5 years**

Paterson, 59, was originally sentenced to 15 years imprisonment when he appeared at Nottingham Crown Court in May after being found guilty of wounding with intent. The Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, presented this case at the Court of Appeal and successfully argued that the sentence was unduly lenient.

The doctor specialised in cancer diagnosis and treatments of breast conditions, and was revered as the 'go-to' specialist. Between 1997 and 2011, Paterson deliberately exaggerated or invented the risk of cancer to vulnerable patients and then carried out unnecessary operations on the victims, including mastectomies.

The surgeries caused serious lasting physical and physiological harm to all the victims. One woman was unable to breast feed her baby as a result.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

“Throughout our lives, we are told and expected to trust doctors. Paterson woefully abused that trust – he deliberately prayed on peoples worst fears and then mutilated them on the operating table.

“This is a truly sickening crime and my thoughts are with the victims and their families. I hope the increased sentence will help bring some closure for them.”

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## **Press release: £65 million government support for UK’s largest Build to Rent site**

The biggest development of homes built specifically for private rent in the UK is set to receive a £65 million boost from the government, Housing Minister Alok Sharma announced today (3 August 2017).

The deal will help to unlock over 7,600 new, high quality homes at the Wembley Park development in Brent, London – one of the largest strategic regeneration projects in the country. At least 6,800 of these homes will be for rent.

It will offer more choice for Londoners and comes as the government confirmed widespread support for its proposals to open up the choice of rental properties on the market, to help those currently priced out.

The measures include:

- changing planning rules so councils proactively plan for more Build to Rent homes where there is need
- making it easier for Build to Rent developers to offer affordable private rent in place of other types of affordable home
- introducing longer tenancies which are more family friendly to provide better security for renters – government action in this area has already seen the offer of 3 year or longer tenancies being made available to 35,000 tenants across the country according to British Property Federation estimates.

Build to Rent homes are built at scale for the primary purpose of being rented long-term, they can boost choice and quality in the private rented sector.

Across England the sector is expanding, with 80,855 homes either completed or planned. The industry estimates investment in the private rented sector could grow to £70 billion by 2022. This could provide a further 15,000 homes each year – with the potential to reach at least 240,000 homes built specifically

for private rent – by 2030.

Housing and Planning Minister Alok Sharma said:

Whether renting or owning all families should have the security they need to be able to plan for the future.

That's why as part of our plan to fix the broken housing market we've been taking action to create a bigger and better private rental market, supporting new Build to Rent developments so that tenants can have greater choice.

Developments like Wembley Park are a great example of doing just that, boosting the choice and quality of homes on the market – meeting the needs of renters in cities and towns across England.

The Wembley Park development is backed by a loan from the government's £3 billion [Home Building Fund](#). It will bring over 8,000 jobs to the area and support infrastructure to free up land for development.

Delivered in phases over the next 7 years, the flats will include a mix of studios, 1, 2 or 3-bedroom properties, all located closely to the underground station. The site next to the National Stadium will also include up to 2,350 affordable homes.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Chief Executive Nick Walkely said:

This autumn, the HCA will relaunch as Homes England with the ambition of creating a better housing market. We're determined to get more homes built now and increase the rate of future development.

This development is a fantastic example of how we fund vital infrastructure to speed up the construction of much-needed quality homes for people to rent

Quintain Chief Executive, Angus Dodd said:

This £65 million government loan will be match funded by Quintain to provide a £130 million infrastructure investment into Wembley Park to deliver new car and coach parking, an energy centre and the first phase of the new 7 acre public park. Not only will this funding allow these critical elements to be brought forward, it will also support the more rapid delivery of new homes.

We are delighted to welcome the Housing Minister to Wembley Park today. The area is already home to a thriving community and will become the largest build to rent development anywhere in the UK.

Work on the new homes at Wembley Park has already begun and is set to be completed in 2026.

## **Additional support**

Measures in the government's [Housing White Paper](#) set out plans to open up the choice of rental properties on the market.

This includes plans to help people in the private rented sector by banning letting agent fees when they sign a new tenancy agreement. This will stop tenants being hit with unfair charges averaging £223 per tenancy.

Government has also introduced new powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to crack down on rogue landlords. Local authorities can now impose civil penalties of up to £30,000 as well as prosecute and we have extended Rent Repayment Orders.

## **Further information**

Responses to the government's consultation '[Planning and affordable housing for Build to Rent](#)' showed widespread support for plans to create a new national planning policy to support Build to Rent and the introduction of Affordable Private Rent as the mechanism to provide affordable housing on schemes. By allowing for affordable private rent, it can drive greater efficiencies in design, density and management of schemes by not having separate landlords in control of private and social housing.

Build to Rent homes are built for the primary purpose of being rented long-term. They can boost choice and quality in the private rented sector, particularly in cities and towns.

According to the British Property Federation, there are 80,855 Build to Rent homes either completed or planned across England. Knight Frank estimates that investment in the sector could grow to £70 billion by 2022. Research by Savills suggests the sector could provide up to 15,000 homes per annum over the period to 2030, resulting in up to 240,000 units by 2030.

The funding will be given to housing developers Quintain through the Homes and Communities Agency to build vital new infrastructure to speed up the building of 6,800 quality new rented homes.

A bond of £39.4 million was guaranteed by government for the first completed private rented blocks of 141 homes at Wembley Park, under the £3.5 billion PRS Guarantee Scheme, last December.