

RSH announces statutory appointments to Board of Prospect Housing Limited

Press release

The move aims to address the weaknesses in registered provider's governance and operational arrangements.



The Regulator of Social Housing (the regulator) has made three statutory appointments to the Board of Prospect Housing Limited.

The not-for-profit, lease-based provider of supported housing operates in Birmingham and the West Midlands. It provides supported accommodation to adults at risk of homelessness, often people with complex needs, including a history of offending, substance misuse, and mental health. In its 2019 Statistical Data Return, Prospect Housing was reported as having 1,860 supported housing units.

The new appointments are:

- Chan Kataria, Group Chief Executive at emh group
- John Ghader, Chief Executive at Prima Group
- Paul Dolan, Chief Executive, Accent Group

Harold Brown, Senior Assistant Director and head of the regulator's Investigation and Enforcement team, said:

Following the publication of the regulatory judgement on Prospect Housing in May 2020 we have been working with the provider to ensure it takes action to address the weaknesses in its governance and operational arrangements. We have made these three appointments following our most recent engagement to ensure that the existing Board has additional capacity and access to the expertise and skills needed to resolve the failures.

Our priority in taking this regulatory action is to ensure that the interests of Prospect Housing's tenants remain protected. We will

publish an updated regulatory judgement in due course.

The current [regulatory judgement](#) is available on the regulator's website.

Notes to editors

1. The statutory appointments have been made under [s269 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008](#).
2. As stated in the [guidance on the regulator's approach to intervention, enforcement and use of powers](#) a provider is responsible for ensuring that the organisation is properly governed and viable, and achieves the [standards](#) set by the regulator. In circumstances where there has been a failure against a standard or where a provider has been mismanaged, the regulator will assess the most appropriate course of action – this includes the appointment of officers to give the provider a range of relevant additional skills and expertise to assist in resolving the failure against standards or mismanagement.
3. The regulatory judgements and notices, and gradings under review are available on our [website](#).
4. RSH promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants. For more information about RSH, visit our [website](#).
5. For press office contact details, see the [Media enquiries page](#). For general queries, please email enquiries@rsh.gov.uk or call 0300 124 5225.

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[First space mission for Dstl](#)

Press release

Dstl will conduct the the first tasking of a commercial satellite by a UK Government-owned and operated ground station for nearly 20 years



Dstl's growing space capability will support the MOD in enabling freedom of action in future operations for the UK and its allies

In early October the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), the science inside UK defence and security, will demonstrate its satellite operation capability using its relocatable ground station to task and receive data from multiple commercial satellites. This will represent the first time in nearly 20 years that a UK Government-owned and operated ground station will communicate with a satellite.

The demonstration will occur in collaboration with Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, who will provide control of two low-Earth orbit satellites to the Dstl ground station for tasking validation and verification purposes.

Lessons learnt from this demonstration will be used to enhance Dstl's satellite operations capability as it looks to lead a growing number of space and ground demonstrator missions in the future.

Mike O'Callaghan, Dstl's Space Programme Manager, said:

"Space is increasingly recognised as a critical domain for the maintenance of UK and global security. Dstl's growing capability will support the MOD in enabling freedom of action in future operations for the UK and its allies."

Air Vice Marshal Harv Smyth, MOD's Director Space, commented:

"This capability demonstration and collaboration between Dstl and SSTL is extremely important for Defence. Dstl and the Space Directorate are working closer than ever before as we take forward an ambitious space R&D programme, and the experiences gained from initiatives such as this help enormously to underpin our space capability planning for the future."

Phil Brownnett, Managing Director of SSTL, said

"SSTL is pleased to support Dstl's ambitions to develop new space technologies and innovations and welcomes this opportunity for collaboration to progress its satellite operations capability."

Huge increase in UK Personal Protective Equipment production

- Large stockpiles in place for items such as face masks, visors and gowns
- Almost three quarters of expected demand for PPE to be met by UK manufacturers from December

Health and social care workers treating COVID-19 patients have access to an uninterrupted supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the Government has confirmed today.

Four-month stockpiles of items such as face masks, visors and gowns will be in place from November to provide a continuous flow to the frontline, helping to ensure staff always have the equipment they need. Overall, 32 billion items have now been purchased.

Thanks to the unprecedented domestic production of PPE, for items such gowns and FFP3 facemasks, 70 per cent of the expected demand for PPE will be met by UK manufacturers from December. Businesses have been supporting the national effort by creating hundreds of new jobs and reducing reliance on overseas companies. Before the pandemic, just 1 per cent of PPE was produced in the UK.

The Government has today published a new PPE strategy setting out a data-driven approach to building further resilience in the supply chain to respond to rising rates of coronavirus infection

Health and Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

At the start of the pandemic, meeting the huge demands for PPE was a massive challenge.

That's why we have worked every day since to ensure we have an uninterrupted supply to meet the challenges in the coming months and protect those who are protecting us.

We have built robust and resilient supply chains from scratch and thanks to an absolutely phenomenal effort from UK businesses, almost three quarters of demand for PPE will soon be met by UK manufacturers.

As we take every step to combat this virus we are setting out this plan to reassure our health and social care workers that they will have the PPE they need to carry out their tireless work.

Since February 2020, over 3.5 billion PPE items have been distributed to the frontline, including GPs, social care providers, community pharmacists, dentists and hospices.

Amid unparalleled demand, the average number of items of PPE distributed increased considerably. For example:

- During the peak of the pandemic from 20 April to 26 April, 102 million items of PPE were delivered. 121 million items were delivered between 14 and 20 September now we have more resilient supply chains;
- The normal supply chain for PPE was designed to accommodate delivery to 226 NHS Trusts, but essential supplies are now being sent to 58,000 different settings after a new distribution network was built from scratch.
- We have rapidly processed over 23,000 cases from over 15,000 suppliers to ensure they meet the safety and quality standards that our NHS staff need, as well as prioritising offers of larger volumes. We have actively engaged with over 99% of the companies that have offered PPE. We now have sufficient contracted supplies for our foreseeable demand in all product areas.
- We announced free PPE to support care homes as part of our new [Adult Social Care Winter Plan](#).

More than 300 deals have been struck to provide PPE. We have been working with many household names including the Royal Mint, Royal Mail, eBay. Through the 'Make' initiative we are working with companies like Honeywell to manufacture and deliver PPE at scale and pace, levelling up jobs and skills across the country, reducing our reliance on overseas manufacturers and lowering our carbon footprint.

Lord Deighton, the government's advisor on PPE who previously led the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, was also appointed to oversee supply and ramp up manufacturing of PPE from UK-based companies.

Lord Paul Deighton, adviser to the Health Secretary on PPE, said:

COVID-19 has presented many challenges and none more critical than ensuring the right PPE equipment is available at the right time to protect frontline health and social care staff.

We have brought together a team that unites our procurement expertise and have overhauled the distribution network to rely less on overseas imports and more on our excellent businesses at home to ensure there is a reliable supply over the years to come.

It has been an extraordinary effort by so many to get to this point but we will not lose our focus – the PPE strategy outlines how we are building further resilience in order to be ready for a new wave of infections in the autumn, winter or beyond.

Further information

- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Strategy: Stabilise and build resilience](#)
 - For case studies of individual businesses taking part in the MAKE initiative, visit:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-deals-will-bring-millions-more-ppe-items-to-frontline-healthcare-staff>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>
 - From the beginning of the outbreak, the government has worked tirelessly to find new ways of getting more PPE to staff across the health and care system as quickly as possible.
 - In April, the government launched the PPE action plan, setting out clear, decisive actions on securing enough PPE to last through the crisis and ensuring those who need PPE can get the right type at the right time. The temporary team rapidly mobilised by Lord Deighton to source UK manufactured PPE included many senior executives from the private sector, many of whom were involved in the delivery of London 2012.
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[New legal duty to self-isolate comes into force today](#)

- Legal duty to self-isolate comes into force today (Monday 28 September), to ensure compliance and reduce spread of COVID-19
- Support is now available for people on low incomes who are unable to work while self-isolating through the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment
- Fines for those breaking the rules now in place starting at £1,000 and increasing up to £10,000 for repeat offenders

Those on lower incomes who cannot work from home and have lost income as a result will also be eligible for a new £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

Local authorities will be working quickly to set up Test and Trace Support Payment schemes and we expect them to be in place by 12 October. Those who are told to self-isolate from today will receive backdated payments, if they are eligible, once the scheme is set up in their local authority.

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

Anyone can catch coronavirus and anyone can spread it. We all have

a crucial part to play in keeping the number of new infections down and protecting our loved ones.

As cases rise it is imperative we take action, and we are introducing a legal duty to self-isolate when told to do so, with fines for breaches and a new £500 support payment for those on lower incomes who can't work from home while they are self-isolating.

These simple steps can make a huge difference to reduce the spread of the virus, but we will not hesitate to put in place further measures if cases continue to rise.

As the infection is now spreading rapidly again, these new measures will help ensure compliance and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

A number of steps will also be taken to make sure that people are complying with the rules. These include:

- NHS Test and Trace call handlers increasing contact with those self-isolating
- using police resources to check compliance in highest incidence areas and in high-risk groups, based on local intelligence
- investigating and prosecuting high-profile and egregious cases of non-compliance
- acting on instances where third parties have identified others who have tested positive but are not self-isolating

Recognising that self-isolation is one of the most powerful tools for controlling the transmission of COVID-19, this new Test and Trace Support payment of £500 will ensure that those on low incomes are able to self-isolate without worry about their finances.

Just under 4 million people who are in receipt of benefits in England will be eligible for this payment, which will be available to those who have been notified that they must self-isolate from today

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

These new measures are about saving lives. Everyone must take personal responsibility and self-isolate if they test positive or if told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

For those who fail to do so, the police will enforce the law. These new fines are a clear sign that we will not allow those who break the rules to reverse the hard-won progress made by the law-abiding majority.

Local Government Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

Councils across the country are working at pace to set up new self-isolation support payment schemes and ensure people in their communities have the information and advice they need to stay safe and reduce the spread of the virus.

Since the start of the pandemic councils have played a crucial role in supporting businesses and their communities, and I want to thank them for their hard work as they roll out this new support for those who need to self-isolate.

Fines will also be introduced from today for those breaching self-isolation rules, starting at £1,000, in line with the existing penalty for breaking quarantine after international travel. This could increase to up to £10,000 for repeat offences and the most serious breaches, including for those preventing others from self-isolating.

Employers who force or allow staff to come to work when they should be self-isolating will also be liable for fines of up to £10,000, sending a clear message that this will not be tolerated.

If someone or another member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus, they should, as now, isolate immediately. If someone receives a positive test result, they are now required by law to self-isolate for the period ending 10 days after displaying symptoms or after the date of the test, if they did not have symptoms. Other members of their household must self-isolate for the period ending 14 days after symptom onset, or after the date of the initial person's positive test.

If someone is instructed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, because they have had close contact with someone outside their household who has tested positive, they are legally required to self-isolate for the period notified by NHS Test and Trace. Both household and non-household contacts must self-isolate for the full period, regardless of whether they have symptoms and, if they develop symptoms and take a test, regardless of whether any test taken gives a negative result.

Individuals will receive this payment on top of any Statutory Sick Pay or benefits they receive. Currently individuals in employment who are self-isolating and cannot work from home are entitled to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) if they earn more than £120 a week from a single employer. Depending on their circumstances, they might also be able to claim Universal Credit and/or new style Employment and Support Allowance.

The criteria for self-isolation payment is:

- have been instructed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they've tested positive or are the close contact of a positive case
- are employed or self-employed
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result
- are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-

based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit

This will initially be England-only, but we are engaging with devolved administrations to explore opportunities for a UK-wide scheme seeking as much alignment as possible.

Councils will also have discretion to make payments to those who don't receive the qualifying benefits, but are on a low income and could suffer financial hardship as a result of not being able to work.

As per the current guidance, the legal obligation to self-isolate will afford specific exemptions including for those who need to escape from illness or harm during their isolation, and those that require care.

Local Authorities will focus on the principle of encouraging, educating and supporting self-compliance. Where there is clear evidence that someone is not following the rules, the police will determine what follow-up action to take.

Users of the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app are anonymous and we cannot force them to self-isolate or identify them if they are not self-isolating. The app will advise a user to self-isolate if they have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. Users should follow that advice to protect their loved ones and stop the spread of the virus.

PM commits to protect 30% of UK land in boost for biodiversity

The Prime Minister is committing today (Monday 28 September) to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030.

Existing National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other protected areas already comprise approximately 26% of land in England. An additional 4% – over 400,000 hectares, the size of the Lake District and South Downs national parks combined – will be protected to support the recovery of nature.

The government will work with the Devolved Administrations to agree an approach across the UK, and with landowners and civil society to explore how best to increase the size and value of our protected land.

The announcement comes as the Prime Minister is set to sign the Leaders Pledge for Nature at a virtual United Nations event later today, committing to put nature and biodiversity on a road to recovery by 2030.

Boris Johnson will warn that countries must act now to reverse devastating biodiversity loss and prevent more species from being lost forever, with a 68% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970 alone.

Addressing the virtual signing ceremony today, the Prime Minister will say:

We must turn these words into action and use them to build momentum, to agree ambitious goals and binding targets.

We must act now – right now. We cannot afford dither and delay because biodiversity loss is happening today and it is happening at a frightening rate. Left unchecked, the consequences will be catastrophic for us all.

Extinction is forever – so our action must be immediate.

The Leaders Pledge for Nature commits world leaders to take ten urgent actions, including on sustainable food production, ending the illegal wildlife trade and implementing nature-based solutions for climate change.

The UK has played a key role in negotiating the Pledge, alongside partners such as Costa Rica and the EU, and is now driving the campaign to bring other countries on board.

The government has already led, since 2019, the Global Ocean Alliance promoting a target to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. The Alliance now has 30 countries signed up, with Guatemala joining this week.

It will now support the same commitment to protect land – the 30 by 30 campaign – and champion it with other countries as part of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

The government has committed significant new investment to support environmental enhancement and protection in England through the Nature for Climate Fund and the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.