

# Levelling Up Secretary tightens council accounting rules

Press release

The Secretary of State has written to council leaders amending council accounting rules.



The Secretary of State for Levelling Up Greg Clark has written to all council leaders amending rules which saw some councils attempting to circumvent rules allowing for the flexible use of capital receipts.

The change makes clear these flexibilities can be used to fund transformation projects only where councils do not retain either direct or indirect control of disposed assets.

The move will prevent councils from using novel practices which put taxpayer money at risk and drain resource. It will also help put a stop to accounting firms and consultancies wasting taxpayer money advising councils on creative accounting.

## **Levelling Up Secretary Greg Clark said:**

Every council has a duty to use the tax they receive from hardworking people in a responsible way.

It's not right that some councils have been using unorthodox accounting practices which put taxpayer cash at risk. That's why we've tightened the rules which some authorities have been attempting to bypass.

The Secretary of State retains the ability, on an exceptional basis, to provide councils with permission to capitalise revenue costs where there is a compelling case to do so.

See the [full letter](#).

## [Applications for the Chevening Scholarships open 2 August 2022](#)

Applications for Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK are open between 2 August and 1 November 2022, with applications to be submitted via [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply).

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change, and can show how a UK master's degree will help them do that. The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Since the programme was created in 1983, over 50,000 professionals have had the opportunity to develop in the UK through Chevening. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2023/2024 academic year, demonstrating the UK's ongoing commitment towards developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Head of Scholarships at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Naomi Rayner, said:

As the world continues to tackle major global issues such as climate change, international cooperation is more essential than ever. Chevening seeks to build an international community of people who are committed to working together to drive positive change. We do this by bringing together incredible people from around the world and supporting them, through education, to achieve their goals.

In the UK we are proud of our world class universities and we know that our learning environments are enriched by the wide diversity of cultures, experiences and viewpoints represented on our campuses. Chevening scholars make a significant contribution to these communities, as well as becoming an important part of our network of over 50,000 alumni.

Chevening represents the very best of the UK, welcoming people from across the world to study, grow, and thrive. Being a part of the Chevening network instils a strong sense of pride and responsibility. I am consistently inspired by the passion and

commitment of those in the Chevening community and I look forward to hearing from this year's applicants.

The British Ambassador to Chile, Louise de Sousa, said:

We are looking for applicants who are passionate about driving change, whether on a local or global scale, so if you want to be the best at what you do and if you have the imagination to inspire others, then a Chevening scholarship could be the perfect opportunity for you.

There is no such thing as a 'typical' scholar. We want diverse applicants from all backgrounds, including from all ages, race, gender, religion and cultural background. In Chile we are welcoming applicants from all regions. We want to see that they have energy, curiosity, compassion a clear vision for their future and the ability to achieve their goals. So, if this sounds like you, then you are very likely to fit in with our community of over 50,000 alumni worldwide.

Our alumni network is full of dynamic influencers who have shared the same experience that you will. They can offer encouragement, mentorship, advice, and contacts. When you return home after your studies you should feel well-equipped to start making a real difference professionally or socially.

Successful applicants have been sharing their stories through the #ChosenForChevening hashtag on Twitter and Instagram. If you want to learn more, you may visit our social media channels on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

## **More information**

Visit [chevening.org/scholarships](https://chevening.org/scholarships) for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and scholarship specifications.

## **About Chevening**

Chevening Scholarships are the UK Government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), partner organisations, and partner universities. The scholarships support study at UK universities – mostly one year taught master's degrees – for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-makers, and opinion formers.

Chevening began in 1983 and has developed into a prestigious international awards scheme. Chevening Scholars come from over 160 countries and territories worldwide, and over the past five years we have awarded almost 10,000 scholarships. There are over 50,000 Chevening Alumni around the world

who comprise an influential and highly regarded global network.

The name 'Chevening' comes from Chevening House in Sevenoaks, Kent – currently the joint official residence of the UK's Foreign Secretary.

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## [Applications for the UK Government's Chevening Scholarships open for Somalis](#)

Do you want to study a master's course at a top UK university? If yes, you can apply for the British government Chevening scholarship programme anytime between today and 1 November 2022, with applications to be submitted via [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply)

The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

British Ambassador to Somalia, Kate Foster said:

I'm pleased to announce this year's opening of the 2022/23 Chevening Scholarship. This is a brilliant opportunity and I want to encourage as many Somalis as possible to compete for this life-changing experience.

We are looking for future leaders, people with talent and ambition who want to make Somalia the best it can be, and who we can support by giving them a world-class education. If you are someone who is passionate about driving change, whether on a local or global scale, I would encourage you to apply.

In September this year, 14 Somali scholars will depart the country to undertake their Chevening award for a one-year Master's Degree in universities across the UK. Since its establishment in Somalia, almost 100 Somalis have benefitted from the scholarship.

This year, the UK has also partnered with Hormuud Salaam Foundation in Somalia and Premier Bank in Somaliland. Through these partnerships, future Somali leaders are able to realise their potential and work to build a better, brighter, more prosperous future for Somalia.

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Since the programme was created in 1983, over 50,000 professionals have had the opportunity to study in the UK through Chevening. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Visit [chevening.org/scholarships](https://chevening.org/scholarships) for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and scholarship specifications.

### **Further information**

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## **[Roma Holocaust Memorial Day 2022: joint statement](#)**

World news story

Embassies and cultural institutions in Hungary join to remember the tragic deaths of Europe's Roma people, and condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and racism.



# UK Government

Issued on behalf of the following embassies and cultural institutions:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Austrian Cultural Forum, British Council, Italian Cultural Institute.

On Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, 2 August 2022, we remember with sombreness the tragic genocide of hundreds of thousands of Europe's Roma people.

Sadly, in 2022 the seeds of racist ideologies are still being planted and cultivated. These ideologies are not just wrong but dangerous, and they must be uprooted and replaced with a culture of equality and respect for human dignity. Diversity is not simply something to be tolerated but rather celebrated as a strength and an advantage for all.

We add our voices to those who condemn xenophobia, discrimination, and racism in all its forms and stand with the individuals and communities that have been harmed by ideologies of hate and division.

## [£12 million funding boost for cutting-edge government projects](#)

- Projects being funded include new approaches to tackling drug misuse in prisons and preventing violence against women and girls
- The Evaluation Accelerator Fund will help test and evaluate new policies through intelligent data-driven insights
- Fund run by the Evaluation Task Force forms part of a wider push from Ministers for officials to drive efficiencies in new ways

More than £12 million of funding has been awarded to teams tackling deep-rooted issues, such as drug misuse in prisons, violence against women and homelessness.

The funding, run by the Evaluation Task Force (ETF), is the latest demonstration of the government's drive to ramp up the use of data as ministers work with officials to come up with innovative approaches to tackle age-old issues.

The 16 projects awarded money via the Evaluation Accelerator Fund will test and develop new data-driven approaches to policy-making and evaluation.

### **Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Kit Malthouse said:**

We must constantly agitate and innovate to improve public services, always eager to try smart solutions to complex, deep-rooted problems across our nation.

Whether it's tackling drug misuse in prisons or finding new ways to confront violence against women and girls, this £12 million investment will help explore and develop those solutions so we can improve the lives of people in all of society.

The Evaluation Task Force invited bids from teams across Whitehall and the [What Works Network](#), asking people to pitch new and innovative ideas for testing and evaluating the impact of new policies or innovative approaches to delivering public services. The bids were focused on addressing the Prime Minister's six core missions: Levelling Up, Net Zero, Education, Health, Justice and Jobs.

The bids also needed to demonstrate how they would provide robust evidence of financial or efficiency savings, tying in with the wider push within the government to ensure taxpayers are receiving the best possible value for

their money.

One successful bid, which has received £933k from the Accelerator Fund, will see wastewater in prisons monitored and tested for illegal substances, making it easier for prison staff to identify who is holding supply and reduce drug abuse in jails. Another funded programme is run by the Centre for Homelessness Impact which received more than £200k to assess the effectiveness of a one-off payment to 18-year-olds leaving care on homelessness, employment and their involvement in criminal activity.

Around £1.7m also went towards work being undertaken by the College of Policing to identify promising interventions aimed at tackling violence against women and girls. Possible options include forensic tagging of perpetrators of crime in the Night Time Economy and the use of domestic abuse courts.

### **Chief Secretary to the Treasury Simon Clarke said:**

Making the most of innovative ideas is one of the best ways we can continue to drive efficiency in the public sector, so it's great to see funding going towards creative solutions to such important issues.

Alongside cracking down on fraud and cutting the Government's property bill, a focus on evidence-led policy will help us ensure that we are making the most of taxpayers' hard-earned money.

The money has been awarded by the Evaluation Task Force, a joint Cabinet Office and HM Treasury unit, which was set up as part of a commitment in the Declaration on Government Reform to embed gold standard evaluation in government.

ETF is an efficiency-focused unit whose work regularly demonstrates value for taxpayers. The team are currently working with the Department for Work and Pensions to support their evaluation of labour market interventions including Kickstart and Restart. Evaluations of similar initiatives in the past have delivered returns of more than £3 for every £1 invested.

Up to this point, the Task Force has worked on 162 programmes with a value of £47.9bn. If a relentless focus on evaluation across the whole of government drives only a 1% efficiency, the ETF would already have saved around £480million through its work advising departments' spending.

To find further information on the successful projects, please refer to the [Evaluation Accelerator Fund](#) page on [GOV.UK](#).