

Leeds gets building as construction corridor continues to forge path across North of England

- Housing Minister Esther McVey visits Leeds factory set to create over 400 jobs in the production of modern, green homes – bringing a skills revolution to the local area
- Cutting-edge jobs from manufacturing engineers to architectural technologists to set Leeds locals ahead in race for jobs of the future
- Factory set to deliver over 3,000 homes a year to the local area – bringing greener, cheaper and safer homes that are good for the planet and for the pocket

Over 400 jobs for local people will be created in the construction of high quality, modern homes as Leeds forges ahead in getting Britain building, Housing Minister Esther McVey hailed today (16 January 2020).

The Minister visited the Legal & General Modular Factory in Leeds – the largest of its type in Europe – which will produce over 3,500 homes a year once fully operational, as well as create hundreds of jobs in new technologies.

Today's visit is the latest step in the government's drive to make the North of England the world-leader in the creation of modern, green homes – creating the 'Construction Corridor' that runs from Leeds to Liverpool.

Modern Methods of Construction are revolutionising house building today by using cutting-edge technologies to deliver much needed homes that are greener, safer and cheaper.

These new housebuilding techniques, in which homes are manufactured offsite and assembled onsite, allow homes to be built in days instead of months. They can also have up to 80% fewer defects and reduce heating bills by up to 70%.

During her visit, the Housing Minister met with apprentices at the Legal & General Modular Academy, who are learning vital new skills in modern methods of construction to deliver high quality, green homes.

Housing Minister Esther McVey said:

I want the UK to become the world leader in modular homes within the next 10 years, with safety, quality and choice at its heart.

Homes built using modern methods can be of higher quality, greener and built to last.

With our emphasis on safety, quality and beauty, the North of

England could be the global leader in modern methods of construction.

Today's announcement shows Leeds is wasting no time in investing in new technology and getting Britain building.

Rosie Toogood, CEO of Legal & General Modular Homes said:

What we are doing at Legal & General Modular Homes is ground breaking. We have taken a high-tech engineering approach to developing our product range, designing and manufacturing homes in a truly innovative way that will transform the way homes are built in the UK.

As a Group, Legal & General takes a holistic view on the built environment. We are delivering economic and social solutions for towns and cities through regional regeneration. We believe Modular Manufacturing is vital to delivering much needed homes, alongside supporting new skilled jobs and productivity growth for the UK.

Today's investment builds on an announcement last year by the Housing Minister that government wants to create a centre of excellence in the North for Modern Methods of Construction to help speed-up house building to meet its target of 300,000 new homes being delivered each year by the mid-2020s.

In November, the government announced a £30 million boost for ilke Homes, a top UK housebuilder using modern methods, which will boost production at the Yorkshire factory to 5,000 homes a year.

Construction and real estate expert, Mark Farmer, has also been appointed as the government's Champion for Modern Methods of Construction, as part of a drive to make the UK the global leader in housing standards.

Benefits of Modern Methods of Construction include:

- **Quality and safety** – homes built using modern methods can have up to 80% fewer defects
 - **Reduced carbon footprint** – homes have the potential to contribute significantly to the reduction of carbon emissions, through greater precision in the manufacturing process leading to more energy-efficient homes and reduced construction waste
 - **Speed** – homes are manufactured offsite with less disruption than onsite construction
 - **Skills** – production lines enable companies to take apprentices and train them on specific tasks irrespective of their backgrounds
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Mark Carney to drive finance action for UK climate talks

- Mark Carney to have key role in UN climate change conference
- Mr Carney will help mobilise the financial world ahead of UK summit
- Banks and business have huge scope to influence emission reductions

The Prime Minister has appointed the outgoing Bank of England Governor Mark Carney as a key adviser for the UN climate change conference, COP26.

Boris Johnson met today with Mr Carney in Downing Street where he confirmed his new role as the Prime Minister's Finance Adviser for COP26.

Mr Carney will help the UK Government to mobilise ambitious action from across the financial system ahead of the UK summit in November.

Following their meeting, Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said:

Mark Carney is an invaluable addition to the COP26 team. His expertise will help the UK to lead in mobilising businesses and investors to support our net zero revolution.

Hosting COP26 in Glasgow will be a golden opportunity for the UK and the global community as we push for as many countries as possible to follow our lead and commit to ending their contribution to climate change by 2050.

Governor of the Bank of England and the Prime Minister's Finance Adviser for COP26 Mark Carney said:

I am honoured to have been appointed by the Prime Minister as the Finance Adviser for COP26 in Glasgow.

The combination of these critical meetings and the UK's global leadership in financial services provides a unique opportunity to address climate change by transforming the financial system. To seize it, all financial decisions need to take into account the risks from climate change and the opportunities from the transition to a net zero economy.

The UK has a plan to do just that, and I look forward to working with the private sector, HM government, the Bank of England and all stakeholders to help make this promise of sustainable finance a reality.

As outgoing Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Carney has unparalleled

experience. During his tenure the Bank of England was the first central bank to work on the implications of climate change on the financial system.

The potential for finance to affect the speed and scale of how the world reduces its emissions is huge.

Banks, pension funds and insurers have a huge role to play in directing investment to tackle climate change. But this requires significant changes in behaviour and considerable new investment – Mr Carney will advise on how we can achieve both.

COP26 President Claire O'Neill said:

I am thrilled that Mark Carney has accepted the position as our Prime Minister's Finance Adviser for COP26.

Everyone has to be in if we are to successfully tackle climate change and the Governor's expertise will be a huge boost in helping us to harness the power of global financial markets, companies and investors to hit net zero emissions.

I'm looking forward to working with Mr Carney as November approaches and I hope together we can influence real change in the finance sector.

This new role will complement Mr Carney's work in his capacity as UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, which was announced in December. He will assume both roles when he steps down as Governor of the Bank of England early this year.

More than 30,000 people are expected to attend COP26, including heads of state and government, experts and campaigners.

Delegates will be discussing ambitious ways in which the world can lower emissions to keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees of warming.

[New appointments to the Veterinary Products Committee](#)



The Secretary of State has appointed the following new members to serve on the Veterinary Products Committee from January 2020 until 31 December 2023:

- David Mackay is a veterinary surgeon with experience in veterinary immunology
- David Killick is a veterinary surgeon with experience in mixed and small animal practice
- Ronnie Soutar is a veterinary surgeon with experience in aquaculture

Five existing members have been reappointed to the committee to serve a further term of four years.

Requests for further information on membership of the VPC should be made to Sandra Russell s.russell@vmd.gov.uk.

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[UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets](#)

UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets

- Women in Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana will have greater access to business and trade opportunities in global markets with UK support
- UK aid boost to programme will create up to 3,000 more jobs in female-run businesses
- Creating more opportunities for women to work and boost their income could add \$12 trillion (or 11 per cent) to the value of the global economy by 2025

The UK is boosting support to female entrepreneurs in Africa, helping them

overcome barriers to starting businesses and connecting them to global markets, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced today.

Africa has the highest concentration of female entrepreneurs, accounting for almost a third of all businesses on the continent.

Despite this, their contributions to the economy remains low. This is because many women face barriers to growing their businesses, such as obtaining investment from banks, with almost two thirds of women in Sub-Saharan Africa without bank accounts.

Through scaling up the successful SheTrades programme, the UK will empower women in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya to grow their businesses and start trading internationally.

Today's announcement will:

- Support female entrepreneurs to secure more investment through specialist business training, creating up to 3000 more jobs and helping to reduce inequality in the workplace;
- Create potential investment and development partnerships for women entrepreneurs;
- Work with governments in Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya to develop tailored gender-inclusive trade policies. Supporting women-owned businesses to participate in global trade helps drive economic growth and reduce poverty.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma said:

"When women are economically empowered, their whole community benefits.

"Africa's full potential can only be realised if the energy and ideas of the whole population are unleashed. She Trades is an important step towards achieving that."

Enabling women to play an equal role in the economy is essential to sustained economic growth and will help lift millions out of poverty. Creating more opportunities for women to work could add \$12 trillion (or 11 per cent) to the value of the global economy by 2025 and the McKinsey Global Institute report that reducing gender inequality will boost African economies by \$316 billion over the coming years.

The UK-Africa Investment Summit will highlight the visibility of businesses run by women shaping the economies of African nations today. In countries where SheTrades is already working, it has generated over £18 million of revenue.

Leonie Badger, owner of Studio Badge supported by SheTrades, said:

"I have been able to connect with new and potential buyers from all over the world that helps me promote the beauty and uniqueness of Ghanaian art for my business Studio Badge.

“Beyond that I have received technical training and mentorship that has inspired me to dream big and gain even more confidence in my product. She Trades has been transformational for my business and I am grateful and excited for the future.”

Notes to Editors

The £3.5 million of UK aid announced today is for women’s economic empowerment to extend DFID’s SheTrades Commonwealth work. SheTrades is an initiative of the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

UK aid is building on the success of the SheTrades Commonwealth programme launched in 2018 after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), where over 2,800 women entrepreneurs have received skills-based training, tailored business advice and mentoring to help them manage and promote their businesses better.

The long-term economic benefits of supporting women and girls are clear – for every \$1 invested in vital reproductive health services, \$120 is invested back in economies around the world. UK aid is not only helping to increase access to family planning and safe healthcare for women and girls, the SheTrades programme commits to making women leaders in business across African nations.

The UK-Africa Investment Summit will bring together businesses, governments and international organisations to strengthen the partnership between the UK and Africa and help generate billions of pounds of opportunities for both British and African businesses. This investment will deliver jobs and growth. By creating more economic opportunities for Africa’s women, it will help more women to enter the workforce, become more financially independent, and help lift their communities out of poverty.

Case studies

Studio Badge by Leonie Badger

Studio Badge is a design and manufacturing home décor brand based in Accra, Ghana. The brand strives to not only make beautiful objects that spark joy, but to also transform the perception and profile of “Made in Africa” products by employing Ghanaian artisans and to highlight the uniqueness of Ghanaian wood. Through SheTrades, Studio Badge has received up to 18 wholesale orders from global buyers.

Botlab by Mercy Njue

Botlab is a software accelerator startup based in Nairobi that provides bespoke training to professionals in the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and business intelligence. It also works to increase women’s participation in IT infrastructure and data science. Through SheTrades, Botlab has secured over \$38,000 in overall trade leads and gained access to new markets, including in Uganda. They were also awarded the Most

Lord Chancellor welcomes new Queen's Counsel

Her Majesty The Queen has approved the appointment of 114 barristers and solicitors as new Queen's Counsel (QC) in England and Wales. The title of QC is awarded to those who have demonstrated particular skill and expertise in the conduct of advocacy.

Her Majesty has also approved the appointment of 10 new Honorary Queen's Counsel (QC Honoris Causa). Their biographies are listed below. Honorary QCs are awarded to those who have made a major contribution to the law of England and Wales, outside practice in the courts.

The Lord Chancellor will preside over the appointment ceremony at Westminster Hall on 16 March, where he will formally bestow the title of QC upon the successful applicants and award the honorary QCs.

Lord Chancellor & Justice Secretary, Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP said:

The award of QC is a time-honoured recognition of excellence.

I want to congratulate all those on their forthcoming appointments and awards. The depth of expertise and eminence in this pool is vast and is exactly what gives our legal system its world-leading reputation.

Honorary Queen's Counsel biographies

Elizabeth Gardiner CB

Elizabeth Gardiner became the first woman to hold the position of First Parliamentary Counsel when she took up the post in Cabinet Office in 2015. Elizabeth joined the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) in 1991, and has spent over 20 years as a legislative drafter, working on a wide range of legislative projects and leading drafting teams. These projects have included leading the tax legislation drafting team and working on consolidation and law reform projects at the Law Commission. Recently, under her leadership, OPC has been responsible for producing the many pieces of primary legislation required in relation to Brexit. In addition to her drafting work, Elizabeth is committed to improving the quality of modern legislation and tackling the causes of unnecessary complexity. She also leads a cross-Civil Service project to build the parliamentary knowledge and capability of all civil

servants. Elizabeth is a strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, and is currently the Cabinet Office's Gender Equality Champion.

Lynda Gibbs

Lynda Gibbs is a non-practising barrister and legal educator and is currently Dean of the Inns of Court College of Advocacy. She co-authored the national 'Advocacy and the Vulnerable' training course, designed to ensure that advocates, when dealing with vulnerable witnesses, understand the key principles behind the approach to and questioning of vulnerable people and children in the criminal justice system. She is currently working with the Family Law Bar Association to roll out the training course for family lawyers. Lynda has also created guidance and training films for youth justice advocates and has developed a two-part Bar Course. In a revolutionary step for Bar training, the first part is entirely online, helping to encourage diversity and facilitate social mobility. The second part focusses heavily on advocacy, where students will be introduced to vulnerable witness training, youth justice advocacy, experts, and interpreters, culminating in compulsory mock trials using police officers and actors.

Millicent Grant

Millicent Grant is currently a Member of the Board at the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx). She is a former President of CILEx, and is the first person of a non-white background to lead a legal professional membership body. Millicent has worked to tackle diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and the judiciary, giving evidence to the Constitution Committee regarding the eligibility of chartered legal executives for judicial appointment, for example, and through her contribution to the Pre-Application Judicial Education (PAJE) group and programme. Her commitment to supporting BAME lawyers and those wishing to enter the profession, and to championing diversity across the whole legal profession, also led to her being awarded the UK Legal Diversity Award of 'Black Solicitors Network Lawyer of the Year' in 2017. Millicent is also an ambassador for social mobility, and is Chair of the Knights Youth Centre. She has provided coaching support to senior managers in the public sector and to employees wanting to progress in their profession, and has worked as a tutor delivering the CILEx level 3 qualification to adults at evening classes.

Professor Eva Lomnicka

Eva Lomnicka is a professor of law at King's College London. She has written and contributed to numerous articles, books, and practitioner texts on consumer credit and financial services law. Her academic work is routinely cited in court by practitioners, and has been referred to with approval by the courts in numerous reported cases. Eva has also contributed to the review and development of financial services law through, for example, her involvement in government reviews of consumer credit legislation. Her involvement in the then Department of Trade and Industry's 'Consumer Credit Steering Group' led to the overhaul of the law of consumer credit, implemented in the Consumer Credit Act 2006. Eva was a trustee of the Money Advice Trust, a charity that seeks to ensure free quality and consistent

advice to people with debt problems, and provides training and resources to businesses and charities who come into contact with people in financial difficulties.

Glyn Maddocks

Glyn Maddocks is a South Wales-based solicitor in private practice. He is a specialist in general civil litigation, personal injury and human rights, including inquests and child abuse claims. He has also developed particular expertise in criminal appeal and miscarriage of justice cases, and has had a number of notable successes in overturning wrongful convictions. For his dedication, commitment and work on one of these cases over a 12 year period, he was named Welsh Lawyer of the Year in 2005. This work has been almost entirely pro bono, and Glyn has contributed to many developments in the way that wrongful conviction cases are dealt with through publications, broadcasts, lectures, and by giving evidence to parliamentary select committees. He is a founding trustee of the Centre for Criminal Appeals (now known as APPEAL), a charity whose aim is to overturn unsafe convictions by providing representation for those who claim they have suffered a wrongful conviction.

Professor Judith Masson

Judith Masson is a legal academic, and Professor of Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Bristol. She has worked with Parliament, the Judicial College, the Family Justice Council, and the Family Justice Review, and has taught students, lawyers, social workers, and judges, in the field of public child law. Her work has not only improved understanding of care proceedings and their effects, but has resulted in changes to the law. Her work on the Children Act 1989, for example, involved successfully campaigning for amendments. Following research into the operation of the Act, Judith undertook 6 major studies of emergency child protection and of care proceedings. The first 5 informed the Family Justice Review's reforms to care proceedings, and the final study assessed the operation and impact of those reforms. The findings from these studies have been widely disseminated, and provide the basis for improved practice.

Professor Clare McGlynn

Clare McGlynn is a legal academic, and a Professor of Law at Durham University, specialising in the legal regulation of pornography, image-based sexual abuse, and sexual violence. She has influenced the development of law and policy in these areas, from her work on women lawyers in the 1990s, including her book 'The Woman Lawyer: making the difference', to scholarly and policy work, shaping developments in how English criminal law defines and addresses online harms and pornography. Her research, with colleagues, identifying the failure of the extreme pornography definition in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act (2008) to cover rape pornography, for example, galvanised a national campaign for reform. The campaign was successful, and the change to the law was incorporated in the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015. Clare's work was cited as evidence behind the justifications for these legal changes.

Rodger Pannone

Rodger Pannone is a solicitor, and was President of the Law Society of England and Wales from 1993 to 1994. He was Chairman of the College of Law, and Chairman of the Council of Manchester of University. His contributions to the law are varied and wide-ranging. His work as a personal injury lawyer led him to identify and seek to achieve many improvements that benefitted those suffering from personal injury or clinical negligence. The establishment of expert panels as a result of his efforts, for example, meant that victims were able to choose expert lawyers for the first time. As a pioneer in developing the law of class actions, Rodger had a significant impact on the health and safety legislation and regulations introduced as a result of judicial findings, inquests, and public inquiries. He was a member of the Civil Justice Review Body, and its report to the then Lord Chancellor was the precursor to the Woolf reforms. Rodger also played a key role in securing legislation that allowed solicitors to apply for higher rights of audience and appointment to the High Court Bench.

Professor Jane Stapleton

Jane Stapleton is a leading academic and currently Master of Christ's College, Cambridge. Her work has largely focussed on private law, and she is best known for her continuing work on causation and the duty of care in the law of obligations, such as the law of torts. She is internationally acknowledged as an expert in these areas. Her research publications are directed to an audience of Bench and Bar and they have made a major contribution to the shape and development of the law by elucidating fundamental conceptual areas. Her work is frequently referred to with approval by the senior judiciary in judgments and lectures. The significance and breadth of the impact of her work on the common law has been recognised both nationally and internationally. In 2015 she became a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, and from 2004 has served as the only foreign member of the Council of the American Law Institute.

Daniel Winterfeldt

Daniel Winterfeldt is a solicitor and a capital markets partner at Reed Smith. In 2006, Daniel founded, and currently co-chairs, the Forum for US Securities Lawyers in London, set up to tackle issues surrounding the application of and compliance with US securities laws in the London and international capital markets. In 2008, Daniel also founded the InterLaw Diversity Forum, which works to foster inclusion in the legal sector for all strands of diversity and social mobility. With the InterLaw Diversity Forum, Daniel has worked closely with government and regulatory bodies around issues of diversity, inclusion, and culture. The InterLaw Diversity Forum currently has more than 6,500 members and supporters from over 300 law firms and chambers and over 500 corporate and financial institutions. Daniel has also worked closely with law firms and legal employers to support them with talent management, leadership and culture changes.

Notes to editors

- The [list of 2019 to 2020 Queen's Counsel appointments](#)
- QCs are appointed by The Queen, on the advice of the Lord Chancellor. He is in turn advised by an independent Selection Panel which receives and considers each application and makes recommendations as to appointment.
- Honorary QCs are also awarded by The Queen, on the advice of the Lord Chancellor. He is advised by panel of representatives from the legal profession, civil service, judiciary, and academia. More information about the [purpose of the award](#) can be found on GOV.UK.
- For further information, please contact the Ministry of Justice press office. Follow us @MoJGovUK.