

New internet phishing alert

News story

New emails and letters appearing to be from employees of the Government Legal Department/Bona Vacantia Division are in circulation



Internet phishing alert

We are currently aware of emails being sent from bogus email addresses purporting to be from members of the Bona Vacantia Division. These emails are not from the @governmentlegal.gov.uk address and may ask for confirmation of personal information or provide false links or download attachments.

Do not give out private information (such as bank details or passwords), download attachments or click on any links in emails if you are not sure they are genuine.

We are also aware of emails giving the recipient opportunity to claim ownerless properties and funds through the Bona Vacantia Division. Neither GLD nor BV Division will ever issue emails or letters making such offers. If you receive such correspondence, you should treat it with suspicion.

We would recommend that you do not respond to any such offer and do not click on any links in the email.

Please forward any suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. Or if you think you have been a victim of online scam or fraud please report to [Action Fraud](#).

Published 8 August 2016

Last updated 13 May 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 13 May 2022

Recurrence of Email phishing threat.

2. 8 August 2016

First published.

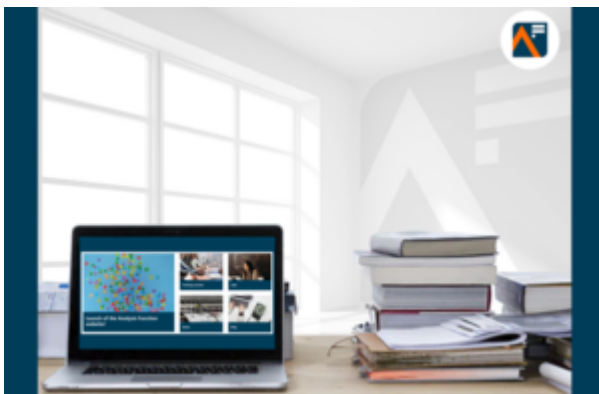
3. 8 August 2016

New internet phishing alert

[Launch of the new Analysis Function website!](#)

News story

The brand-new Analysis Function website has launched!



The aim of this website is to create a central place for everyone in government to access information and support related to government analysis.

This includes people working in the government analytical professions and people who work on government analysis but aren't badged as analysts. For example, policy professionals.

The website has a central area for AF guidance, training courses, learning and development and career opportunities. It also features news items, blog posts and information about events.

We have set up an area on the website for each of the seven government analytical professions. There is also an area for those working in government analysis who are not badged to a specific analytical profession. These areas are currently in development.

The area for the Government Statistical Service (GSS) replicates the content

specific to statistics that was previously hosted on the GSS website.

The GSS website and the AF pages on GOV.UK will continue to be available for six months while we move the AF website out of its development phase. But, please be aware that the GSS website and the AF pages on GOV.UK will not be updated with new content. Only the AF website will be updated.

Please take a look around the new website and let us know what you think! You can contact us at Analysis.Function@ons.gov.uk if you have any questions or comments about the new website.

Published 13 May 2022

[Homes England at UKREiIF 2022](#)

From Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 May, we'll be part of the inaugural UK Real Estate investment & infrastructure Forum. Senior colleagues from across Homes England will be there to discuss how we can work in partnership to create great places, help people access high quality new homes and build a better housing market.

Homes England Chief Executive Officer Peter Denton:

Alongside our new focus on regeneration, we are here to promote the diverse range of investment opportunities the UK residential sector offers, from investment in truly transformative regeneration projects to investing in funds to build much needed affordable homes.

Homes England can be your partner in the housing market, making introductions, matching capital with local opportunities and partner with you on projects, whether that's through debt or equity funding.

Come and speak to us and find out how we can help you realise your regeneration ambitions.

Who are we?

Homes England is the Government's housing and regeneration agency. We care about the prosperity of places, the affordability of homes and the sustainability of communities.

As part of our mission to increase the supply of well-designed new homes and create places that inspire pride, we have a mandate to turbocharge the

property-led regeneration of towns and cities across the country, supporting the UK Government's Levelling Up strategy.

For us, this means working with local leaders and the public and private sector to use our funding, expertise, and statutory powers to help create communities fit for the 21st century that foster local pride and a sense of place.

Last year we:

- Enabled 356,000 new homes to be built
- Provided £306m in equity and loan finance and £175m of infrastructure loan funding
- Helped 56,000 households buy their own home
- Unlocked land that will support the delivery of 170,000 homes.

How can we help you?

1. We can introduce you to the residential market
2. We can partner with you to unlock opportunities
3. We can co-invest in funds and infrastructure
4. We can sell you land
5. We can show you the best places in England to match your capital requirements

Our presence at UKREiiF To understand more about Homes England and how we can support you, come and find us at our stand, or join as at the panel sessions we're involved in during UKREiiF:

Tuesday 17 May

Wolverhampton: The National Centre for Sustainable Construction Alison Crofton, National Development Director
The Cinema State, Tuesday 17 May, 12.00pm – 1.30pm

In Conversation with the UK's Housing Minister Mike Palin, Executive Director, Markets, Partners & Places The Future of Real Estate Pavilion, Tuesday 17 May, 1pm – 1.30pm

Wednesday 18 May

Roundtable Discussion: Defining Homes England's role in Levelling Up the UK – What are the future investment and development priorities? Peter Denton, Chief Executive Officer Newsroom Stage, Wednesday 18 May, 9.30am – 11am

How to deliver 20 Kings Cross style regeneration projects across the UK Peter Freeman, Chair Future of Real Estate Pavilion, Wednesday 18 May, 9.45am – 10.30am

Holistic Regeneration – Creating thriving places for people & nature Mike Palin, Executive Director, Markets, Partners & Places Building Better Communities Pavilion, Wednesday 18 May, 10.00am – 11.00am

York Central Briefing Jon Irvin, Development Director The Future of Real Estate Pavilion, Wednesday 18 May, 10.45am – 11.30am

Solving the Housing Crisis – Accelerating the delivery of high quality and affordable homes Peter Denton, Chief Executive Officer Levelling Up Stage, Wednesday 18 May, 2.45pm – 3.45pm

The future of UK housing and BtR investment: How do we meet demands and needs? Harry Swales, Chief Investment Officer Investor Centre, Wednesday 18 May, 3.05pm – 3.50pm

Can private capital make a meaningful contribution to the affordable housing crisis? Jennifer Murray, Head, Institutional Investment Bury Theatre, Wednesday 18 May, 3.15pm – 4.15pm

Thursday 19 May

Innovative approaches to housing and creating the communities of tomorrow Elizabeth Rapoport, Assistant Director, Strategy Building Better Communities Pavilion, Thursday 19 May, 10.00am – 11.00am

Investment Opportunity Showcase: York Central – bringing the unique development to life Jon Irvine, Development Director Investor Centre, Thursday 19 May, 11.00am – 11.15am

Courts shut down rogue volume IVA provider

Vanguard Insolvency Practitioners Limited, MDN Consultancy Limited, Newtco Limited and KIS Financial Consultancy Limited were wound-up in the public interest on 12 May 2022 at the High Court in Manchester before His Honour Judge Hodge.

Petitions were submitted to the court by the Insolvency Service, on behalf the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Official Receiver has been appointed liquidator of the companies.

The court heard that Vanguard was a ‘volume’ Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) provider that enabled people in debt to come to an arrangement with their creditors to pay all or part of their debts.

Vanguard charged customers a fee for facilitating their arrangements, which were supervised by Vanguard’s licensed insolvency practitioner.

Following complaints about Vanguard’s practices, however, the Insolvency Service launched confidential enquiries before investigators uncovered serial abuse of the payments made by Vanguard’s customers.

Vanguard traded from 2016 and used third-party suppliers to help administer the IVAs and realise debtors' assets. By April 2020 Vanguard had more than 14,000 IVA cases under its management.

Investigators found that between August 2018 and June 2020, Vanguard made payments to various third-party suppliers totalling almost £9 million from their customers' estates under the guise of expenses or disbursements.

Some of the third parties under a fee sharing arrangement would then make payments to MDN Consultancy and KIS Financial Consultancy, who were connected to Vanguard through close personal or family relationships.

Further enquiries discovered that Vanguard's licensed insolvency practitioner, responsible for overseeing the IVAs, did not properly explain to customers what their fees were being used for.

Investigators concluded that Vanguard's practices lacked transparency as did the activities of its licensed insolvency practitioner.

The winding up proceedings were initially defended by Vanguard and the connected companies. But before trial, the four companies confirmed they would not oppose the proceedings without making any admissions. At trial the Court was content to wind up the companies.

The Judge commented that it was of particular concern that the director of Vanguard seemed incapable of seeing anything wrong in the company's failure to disclose to creditors and debtors the mechanism that was used to pay money from the IVA estates, effectively for the benefit of himself and his companies.

Claire Entwistle, Assistant Director of Investigation and Enforcement Services for the Insolvency Service, said:

Following a complex and lengthy investigation, the court recognised the severity of Vanguard and the connected companies' activities before closing them down for good.

This sends a strong message to volume IVA providers that if they do not deal with their cases properly and there is evidence of abuse, we will take strong action to protect customers and stop them.

The winding up petitions have not affected the position of any of the IVAs previously under Vanguard's control. These were taken on by another provider some time ago and consumers should continue to make payments in accordance with the terms of their agreement. Any customers who are concerned should get in touch with their IVA provider in the usual way.

The government recently [consulted on making changes to the insolvency practitioner regulatory regime](#), including whether firms offering insolvency services should be subject to regulation, and will be issuing its response in due course.

Customers

Vanguard's IVA cases were transferred previously and are being serviced by a separate IVA provider, Oakfield. Customers are recommended to direct queries relating to their IVAs to Oakfield.

The Official Receiver

All public enquiries concerning the affairs of the companies should be made to: The Official Receiver, Public Interest Unit, 16th Floor, 1 Westfield Avenue, Stratford, London, E20 1HZ. Telephone: 0300 678 0015
Email: piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk.

The Official Receiver has been appointed as Liquidator of the companies and has legal responsibilities to wind-down the affairs of the company to achieve an orderly liquidation, while realising the assets of the company for the benefit of the company's creditors.

The Official Receiver has a duty to investigate the causes of failure of the company as part of the liquidation process, including the conduct of the directors.

Company information

Vanguard Insolvency Practitioners Limited (Company number: 09610770) was incorporated on 27 May 2015. The company's registered office was at National House, 80-82 Wellington Road North, Stockport, Cheshire, United Kingdom, SK4 1HW. The company was wound up by the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, in Manchester on 12 May 2022.

MDN Consultancy Limited (Company number: 09614459) was incorporated on 29 May 2015. The company's registered office was at National House, 80-82 Wellington Road North, Stockport, Cheshire, United Kingdom, SK4 1HW. The company was wound up by the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, in Manchester on 12 May 2022.

Newtco Limited (Company number: 07371916) was incorporated on 10 September 2010. The company's registered office was at National House, 80-82 Wellington Road North, Stockport, Cheshire, United Kingdom, SK4 1HW. The company was wound up by the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, in Manchester on 12 May 2022.

KIS Financial Consultancy Limited (Company number: 12099856) was incorporated on 12 July 2019. The company's registered office was at National House, 80-82 Wellington Road North, Stockport, Cheshire, United Kingdom, SK4 1HW. The company was wound up by the High Court of Justice, Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, in Manchester on 12 May 2022.

About the Insolvency Service

[Company Investigations](#), part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into

the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

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

May 2022: Australia issues joint statement with foreign ministers on the Taliban's increasing restrictions on women and girls in Afghanistan

Joint statement from: the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

"Afghan women and girls make enormous contributions to their country. Achieving peace, stability and economic development requires their equal participation in shaping Afghanistan's future.

"We remain deeply concerned by the continued restrictions on girls' access to education in Afghanistan, and call on the Taliban to respect the right to education and adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students.

"We are deeply disappointed about escalating restrictions imposed by the Taliban that impact on the human rights of Afghan women.

"The Taliban's directive that women and girls must cover themselves in public and leave home only in cases of necessity, and with a man, restricts their universal and inalienable human rights. We deplore that family members could be punished to enforce compliance with these restrictions.

"Afghan women should be free to choose how they express themselves in accordance with their faith and have the right to move freely in society.

"The international community cannot consider these recent directives as isolated decisions. The Taliban have taken other actions that limit the human rights of women and girls.

"These include their rights to education, work and freedom of movement, opinion and expression through restrictions on unaccompanied travel, participation in the workforce, and ability to express themselves openly.

“These decisions contradict repeated Taliban assurances to respect and protect the human rights of all Afghans.

“All Afghans should be able to enjoy their fundamental human rights. These rights are indivisible and inalienable, expressed in international human rights law, and endorsed by all members of the United Nations.

“We call on the Taliban to reconsider decisions which constrain the right of women and girls to make their own choices, gain an education, work, and participate equally in society.

“We will continue to judge the Taliban on their actions, not their words.”