

# Press release: Charitable grants for people directly impacted by the Grenfell Fire

The next of kin of those who tragically lost their lives in the Grenfell fire are to receive an initial £20,000 and those seriously injured will receive up to an initial £10,000 when those details are released. Those made homeless will receive a 'fresh start' grant of £10,000 when they are permanently rehoused. These charitable funds have been made available, with more to follow, after a joint approach was agreed to consolidate some of the funds raised for the victims of the tragedy.

Three of the major funds for the people affected by the Grenfell fire, the British Red Cross, K&C Foundation and the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund, in collaboration with The London Community Foundation, are coming together with the London Emergencies Trust to make money available immediately.

Since last Wednesday, local and national charities have been on the ground in the vicinity of Grenfell Tower, working together to help the emergency relief effort and to support the local community. In addition, the public has been incredibly generous and over £10 million has been raised already.

The charities are working together to coordinate financial help for those affected, with the support and advice of the Charity Commission. Active discussions over the last few days are ensuring a unified approach from these charities to this national tragedy.

All those involved have committed to meeting the immediate needs of those bereaved, seriously injured, and who have lost their homes, and making sure it is as simple as possible for people to access those funds.

## **Support to date**

- the K&C Foundation, an independent charity set up by local people which raises funds and resources for over 50 local charities a year, set up an appeal which has raised £3.4 million so far – £120,000 has already been released to 6 frontline local organisations and has been disbursed as immediate grants to those who have lost their homes
- the Rugby Portobello Trust have been one of multiple agencies working within the community and have distributed over £107,000 along with direct care, assistance and support to those affected
- the British Red Cross, the humanitarian organisation that works with people in crisis in the UK and abroad, has already raised £2.8 million – since the hours after the fire broke out, it has also had emergency

response volunteers on the ground providing practical and emotional support and is now staffing a helpline for people affected and helping coordinate a community assistance centre

- the London Community Foundation, in conjunction with the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund and others have raised £4.9 million so far – £120,000 in total has already been released to households in Grenfell Tower and £100,000 to 20 local organisations supporting those affected

### **New further support available**

Today we can collectively announce the first phase of joint funding:

- an initial payment of £20,000 will be distributed to the next of kin for each person who has died or is declared missing presumed dead upon those details being released
- initial payments of up to £10,000 are available for immediate distribution to each person seriously injured and requiring hospital treatment
- £10,000 for every family from Grenfell Tower as a 'fresh start' grant as they move into new permanent accommodation

This initial distribution will be funded from donations to the British Red Cross London Fire Relief Fund, the K&C Foundation and The London Community Foundation, with the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund. Funds will be released as details of those affected are released. These will be distributed by the London Emergencies Trust, a charity set up following the Westminster Bridge attack this year to support the victims of emergencies.

People who are eligible to receive these payments should call the British Red Cross helpline on 0800 458 9472.

This money will come from donations to the K&C Foundation. These funds will be available to those moving into new permanent accommodation from the Rugby Portobello Trust from Monday 26 June. Residents of the tower are able to access this grant from Monday 26 June by calling or emailing the Rugby Portobello Trust and asking to speak to the New Homes Team on 0207 229 2928 or [newhomesteam@rpt.org.uk](mailto:newhomesteam@rpt.org.uk).

These are initial distributions to meet immediate need. The group of charities will be closely monitoring the needs of those affected and further charitable funds will be distributed over the coming weeks and months. The charities have confirmed their intention to continue working collaboratively to make sure donations are spent effectively and meet the needs of the community. These funds are separate to, and independent of, funds made

available by the Government or local authority but the charities involved will seek to work with the authorities where necessary in the weeks ahead.

It is also vital that the longer term needs and wishes of the community in and around Grenfell Tower are heard, understood and met. Charitable funders are further working together with those affected to do this.

**David Holdsworth, Chief Operating Officer at the Charity Commission, said:**

Local and national charities, with their fantastic volunteers, have been at the forefront of supporting those in need since the terrible fire at Grenfell Tower. The British public have now donated millions to help the victims. Independent charities working together, at the heart of the community affected, will continue to have a vital role to play.

This collaboration, along with the first immediate distribution of funds from public donations, will help ensure clear, easy access to the help and support that those affected by this devastating tragedy so urgently need. They can never heal what has happened but will hopefully provide some help to those suffering at this most difficult time.

**Michael Adamson, chief executive of the British Red Cross, said:**

When something as appalling as the Grenfell fire happens it is absolutely natural that people want to help. We launched a national appeal to use our experience of fundraising to help people give to a cause that desperately needs their help, and to complement the amazing charitable work happening in the Grenfell community.

No amount of money can take away the pain of the past 8 days, but for people who have lost everything we hope it will help towards rebuilding their lives. Thank you to everyone who has given, and thank you to our partners for helping find a sensible way to get money to people who need it as soon as possible.

The public outpouring of support towards this appeal has been phenomenal and has enabled us and the other charities involved to give immediate help to those whose lives have been devastated by this terrible event.

We will continue to listen to the needs of the community at this difficult time to ensure that we continue to give the right help in the right way. We're here for the long term, and are proud to be part of the collaborative effort to help those affected.

We are grateful to the Evening Standard, Artists for Grenfell and

all of the companies and individuals who have so generously donated.

**Gerald Oppenheim, Chair of the London Emergencies Trust, said:**

Our aim to make sure that the money which was so generously donated by the public is distributed in a timely fashion and with compassionate regard to the individual circumstances of the people affected by these terrible events.

Anyone who qualifies for a LET award, and who makes a valid claim, will be paid irrespective of nationality, circumstance or any other factor.

**Susan Dolton, Director at the K&C Foundation, said:**

As an established local charity we were one of the first to raise and distribute funds to those who lost their homes in the Grenfell Tower fire through some of our excellent local charity partners. We welcome this new unified effort that will ensure that everyone affected by this tragic event receives the support they need as quickly as possible.

Charities who want to offer help and resources can contact [info@londonfunders.org.uk](mailto:info@londonfunders.org.uk).

**Those involved in discussions to date include:**

- Charity Commission for England and Wales
- British Red Cross (registered charity number 220949)
- K&C Foundation (1125940)
- London Emergencies Trust (1172307)
- London Funders (1116201)
- London Community Foundation (1091263)
- Muslim Aid (295224)
- Rugby Portobello Trust (1100143)

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**Notes to editors**

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).

2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).

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## **[News story: UK business opportunities in China: new innovation partnerships](#)**

Representatives from the UK and Guangdong province met last week (14 June 2017) to sign a memorandum of understanding that confirms their intention to work together.

Kevin Baughan, Deputy Chief Executive, signed on behalf of Innovate UK, meeting with Mr Hu Chuanhua, Party Secretary of Guangdong.

### **Innovation in Guangdong province**

Guangdong is the largest provincial economy in China and a principle driver of the national economy. It offers significant opportunities for UK entrepreneurs to partner with like-minded organisations and collaborate on business research and development projects.

In July we will be opening a competition for UK businesses to collaborate with Chinese partners on projects to improve cities in the Guangdong province. This will focus on:

- smart mobility
- big data solutions that promote affordable healthcare
- smart platforms for sustainable urban environments

It will be part of the [Newton Fund](#) and impose official development assistance (ODA) criteria.

### **Other funding opportunities**

In addition to the upcoming competition in Guangdong, there have been a number of other fund and connect programmes this year to support innovative UK-Chinese business partnerships.

Currently, up to £8 million is available to UK businesses and researchers to work with Chinese partners on cutting-edge technologies that solve agricultural challenges in China. This is a Newton Fund competition. The deadline for registrations is 26 July 2017.

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# Press release: Dstl – Supporting International Women in Engineering Day 2017

Across the UK women make up less than 10% of the engineering workforce. The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is bucking this national trend, with more than double that figure of female engineers and scientists.

Dstl is proud to be supporting this year's International Women in Engineering Day (INWED). We want to encourage more girls and women into the engineering sector, to help address the skills gap in the sector and to open the door to rewarding careers.

Professor Penelope Endersby, the Head of Dstl's Cyber and Information Systems Division said:

At Dstl, female engineers are making a huge contribution to the UK's security and many are highly-qualified and respected leaders in their fields. We would like to see many more women studying STEM subjects at school, college and university.

I can't stress enough to girls considering a STEM career the infinitely varied and fantastically rewarding roles that this opens to them to make the world a better place.

Alison, a Principal Consultant in Dstl's Air Project Management Delivery team, Platform Systems Division, commented:

When I was at school, I loved maths and physics. My family worked at what was then the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, and from an early age I would become immersed in the Air Show. After school, I was sponsored by the Ministry of Defence to train as an engineer at university. I then joined the RAF and did 18 years' service. In that time, I became a flight navigation officer on the Hercules aircraft and was one of the first women to take up that role.

Now a project manager at Dstl, my engineering background is crucial for understanding the technical aspects of the projects I run. An exciting piece of work recently involved SKEETER – a tiny unmanned air system inspired by a dragonfly, which could revolutionise intelligence gathering in complex urban environments.

To girls considering a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths), I would say it's not all lab coats and overalls! Exciting opportunities to work on real-world applications are everywhere. Technology surrounds us and is driving the way we live – you can bring a different perspective and make a difference.

Verity, a Mechanical Engineering Apprentice, added:

I've always been interested in how things work from a very young age. I could always be found taking things apart in order to put them back together again, and would often help my dad work on his various cars, bikes and engines. I loved hands-on tasks and engineering seemed like an ideal career choice for me. After leaving school, I was keen to move away from home and start earning a living. Starting an engineering apprenticeship with Dstl allowed me to gain my independence while working towards a fulfilling career and qualifications. Since being at Dstl, I have been able to work on some really interesting projects, including manufacturing components in the workshop and working on ideas and designs for initial steps in manufacturing processes. The experience at Dstl has also helped me develop as a person, especially my communication and organisational skills.

[Engineers at Dstl](#) work in a wide range of engineering disciplines including mechanical, electrical, materials and software. Each day they are working on a range of high profile and exciting engineering projects including the Queen Elizabeth class of carriers, the F-35 Lightning II, unmanned aerial vehicles, ballistic protection and cyber security.

Each year Dstl recruits around 80 graduate engineers and 18 engineering apprentices. We also offer 150 student placements. Details of our engineering opportunities can be found on our [Facebook page](#) or on the [Civil Service job site](#).

Dstl uses cutting edge science and technology to counter threats, existing and new, to UK Armed Forces and British citizens. In 2015 we were proud to do that in many ways, including being at the heart of UK's contribution to tackling Ebola in Sierra Leone; providing life-saving protection for our soldiers, sailors and aircrew on operations around the globe; defending critical systems from cyber-attack; and supporting the fight against terrorism at home and overseas. We do that through the application of a diverse range of specialist scientific and engineering skills, working in close partnership with a wide network of partners and suppliers in industry and universities.

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# Press release: Regulator finds trustees mismanaged charity

The charity regulator has concluded that the trustees of an independent school in Luton are responsible for mismanagement and misconduct.

The Charity Commission has today (Friday 23 June) published a [report of its investigation into the Rabia Educational Trust](#), which operates the Rabia Girls' and Boys' School in Luton.

The report criticises the trustees' management of the charity and highlights a series of failings, including:

- failure to submit annual accounts within deadlines
- slow response to engagement with the Commission prior to the inquiry opening
- inadequate internal financial controls and failure to account for cash
- non-compliance with the requirements of another regulator
- failure to comply with legal requirements around the disposal of property to connected parties

The inquiry opened in May 2016. The Commission's engagement with the charity dates back to 2012; the Commission's report makes clear that the trustees failed repeatedly to satisfy the regulator's concerns, prompting it to escalate its engagement to a statutory inquiry.

The Commission says the trustees have now taken some positive steps to improve the charity's governance. But it has concluded that there is still work for the trustees to do in order for the Commission to be satisfied that the charity is capable of operating the school in a way which meets the Independent School Standards prescribed in regulation. The regulator says the trustees must also urgently address wider governance concerns. It has used its powers and directed the trustees to make the required improvements by way of an order under section 84 of the Charities Act 2011.

**Michelle Russell, Director of Investigations, Monitoring and Enforcement, said:**

Our report concludes that this charity has been mismanaged by its trustees, who are responsible for a series of failings – including a failure to ensure that the school operated by the charity meets the Independent School Standards.

Charity trustees' legal duties extend to complying with other regulators and law enforcement agencies. Not complying with the legal requirements of another agency in connection with the charity's activities may be regarded as mismanagement and misconduct in the administration of the charity.

While there are signs of improvement, it is clear that the trustees need to do more to ensure the charity's school meets the required standards. We have used our powers to ensure this will happen and will continue to monitor the charity's trustees until we are satisfied they have made the required improvements, working collaboratively with the Department for Education and Ofsted.

The Commission's [report of its investigation into the Rabia Educational Trust](#) is published on GOV.UK.

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#### Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
  2. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
  3. The Commission's inquiry into the Rabia Educational Trust Limited was opened on 2 May 2016 and concluded with the publication of the report on 23 June 2017.
  4. Not all of the charity's current trustees were trustees at the time of the opening of the inquiry.
  5. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
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## [Press release: CMA launches enforcement action against gambling firms](#)

As it steps up its investigation of the £4.5 billion sector, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is acting because it believes people aren't getting the deal they expect from sign-up promotions and operators are unfairly holding on to people's money.

This follows a joint programme of work between the Gambling Commission and the CMA to tackle a shared concern about whether people are being treated fairly by online gambling operators.

Sign-up promotions are designed to attract players onto casino-like gaming websites by offering bonus cash when they put in their own money. However, the CMA is concerned that people often don't get the deal they are expecting as the promotions come with an array of terms and conditions that are often confusing and unclear and, in some cases, may be unfair.

Customers might have to play hundreds of times before they are allowed to withdraw any money, so they don't have the choice to quit while they're ahead and walk away with their winnings when they want to.

Even when players haven't signed up for a promotion, there are concerns that some operators are stopping customers taking money out of their accounts. The CMA has been told by customers that some firms have minimum withdrawal amounts far bigger than the original deposit, or place hurdles in the way of them withdrawing their money.

Nisha Arora, CMA Senior Director for Consumer Enforcement, said:

We know online gambling is always going to be risky, but firms must also play fair. People should get the deal they're expecting if they sign up to a promotion, and be able to walk away with their money when they want to.

Sadly, we have heard this isn't always the case. New customers are being enticed by tempting promotions only to find the dice are loaded against them. And players can find a whole host of hurdles in their way when they want to withdraw their money.

That's why we are today launching enforcement action where we think the law has been broken. We are also asking people who have had difficulties withdrawing their money when they've gambled online to tell us about it, and help probe this issue even further.

Gambling Commission Chief Executive, Sarah Harrison, added:

Gambling operators must treat customers fairly – but some have been relying on terms that are unclear with too many strings attached.

Whilst the CMA takes enforcement action on how consumer legislation is followed, the gambling industry should be under no illusion that if they don't comply with consumer law, we will see this as a breach of their operating licence, and take decisive action.

The CMA [opened an investigation into the gambling sector's compliance with consumer protection law](#) towards the end of last year after hearing about a range of concerns that suggested some operators were not treating their customers fairly. As well as hearing from around 800 unhappy customers, it has also demanded companies answer questions about how they operate, and closely examined the play on a range of websites.

Having identified a number of operators engaging in practices likely to be breaking consumer law, the CMA is now taking enforcement action and has a range of powers at its disposal to bring any illegal activities to an end.

This investigation is part of a joint programme of work with the Gambling Commission to tackle issues around fairness and transparency in the gambling industry. As well as the enforcement cases, the investigation may lead to further action, from the CMA or the Gambling Commission, to improve practices across the online gambling sector.

All information relating to this investigation can be found on the [case page](#). This also sets out how people can get in touch with information on the concerns identified above.

## Notes for editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer law. For CMA updates, follow us on Twitter [@CMAgovuk](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
2. The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in Great Britain in partnership with licensing authorities. It also regulates the National Lottery. Its regulations are aimed at ensuring gambling is crime-free, fair and open and children and other vulnerable people are protected. It advises central and local government on the impact of gambling and its regulation. It holds operators to account; it ensures operators meet licensing standards and takes action against those that don't. It ensures that National Lottery returns to good causes are maximised.
3. The key pieces of consumer protection legislation relevant to the CMA's investigation are the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) and Part 2 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. The CPRs contain a general prohibition against unfair commercial practices and specific prohibitions against misleading actions, misleading omissions and aggressive commercial practices. Part 2 of the Consumer Rights Act aims to protect consumers against unfair contract terms and notices, and requires contract terms to be fair and transparent.
4. The CMA has not reached a final view on whether the terms and practices it is concerned about breach consumer protection law, and will listen to operators' responses to its concerns. If necessary the CMA will take action through the courts to enforce that law under Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002. Ultimately, only a court can rule that a particular term or practice infringes the law.
5. The CMA can give Notice to any person under Part 3 of Schedule 5 to the

Consumer Rights Act 2015 requiring that person to provide the information specified in the Notice to enable it to exercise, or consider whether to exercise, its consumer protection law enforcement functions under Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002. If a person fails to comply with such a Notice, the CMA may make an application to the court. If it appears to the court that that person has failed to comply with the Notice, the court may make an order requiring the person to do anything the court thinks it is reasonable for the person to do to ensure that the Notice is complied with. Any company officer responsible for the failure may also be required to meet the costs of the CMA's application.

6. The online gambling sector has grown by around 150% since 2009. It is now worth £4.5 billion, and more than 6.5 million people regularly log on to gambling websites.
7. Media enquiries to the CMA should be directed to [press@cma.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@cma.gsi.gov.uk) or 020 3738 6798.
8. Media enquiries to the Gambling Commission should be directed to Benjamin Glass ([bglass@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:bglass@gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or 0121 230 6700).
9. The CMA [wants to hear from people who have had difficulties withdrawing their money](#) when they've gambled online by 31 August.