

Fine wine investment scheme wound-up

Global Wine Exchange Limited has been wound up in the public interest in the High Court on 22 March 2022 before Deputy Judge Shaffer. The Official Receiver has been appointed Liquidator of the company.

The court heard that Global Wine Exchange offered members of the public the opportunity to invest in fine wines with the promise of significant returns.

The Insolvency Service, however, commenced confidential investigations into Global Wine Exchange's activities after complaints were received.

Investigators uncovered that the company would cold-call potential clients, using high-pressure sales techniques. Several customers were vulnerable or elderly and one was reportedly suffering from Alzheimer's.

Global Wine Exchange also targeted people who previously invested in a separate wine scheme with Management & Consulting Partners Unlimited, trading as the Bordeaux Wine Company, which had entered liquidation in August 2021.

Global Wine Exchange would tell former customers of the Bordeaux Wine Company that they could help recover their funds in return for a fee.

But returns were never made, and some customers reported they were asked to falsify records so Global Wine Exchange could make a false claim to the liquidator of Bordeaux Wine Company.

Further misconduct caused by the company included vague ownership certificates and customers often did not receive their wine or were misinformed where it was being stored. Two of the three bonded warehouses, in which the company claimed customers' wines was stored, never had a contractual relationship with the company at any time.

Customers often paid more than the retail value of the wines and paid funds into a series of different bank accounts, including some of which were not in the company's name.

Investigators have only been able to identify wine stock purchases of just over £770,000 compared with income of more than £1.9 million between January 2019 and March 2021.

Furthermore, investigators identified that during a 9-month period between July 2019 and May 2020, the company received more than £1 million in payments. But while close to £600,000 was paid out to the director and sales consultants, only £333,000 was used to purchase wine.

Edna Okhiria, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

During our investigations, we found that the Global Wine Exchange carried out unscrupulous acts of misconduct. The company misled

many investors, some who were elderly or vulnerable, who did not receive the high returns they were promised.

The courts have recognised the severity of Global Wine Exchange's action and put a stop to anyone else becoming a victim of their investment scheme.

For questions about the liquidation, contact the Official Receiver:
piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk.

GLOBAL WINE EXCHANGE LIMITED (Company Reg No 11312862)

The petition was presented under s124A of the Insolvency Act 1986 on 26 January 2022 at the High Court in London.

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 & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). [Information about how to complain about a live company.](#)

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Protective security grant funding for Jewish institutions to continue](#)

News story

The Home Office has announced it will continue to grant the Community Security Trust £14 million to help keep members of the Jewish community safe.



The Home Office has today (12 April) announced that it will continue to grant

the Community Security Trust (CST) £14 million to help keep members of the Jewish community safe in their daily lives.

The Home Office has been supporting the Community Security Trust, a charity that monitors and helps protect British Jews against antisemitism, since 2015 following a series of terror attacks against Jewish targets across Europe.

The grant announced today will cover protective security for the next financial year at Jewish institutions, including synagogues and schools.

The Community Security Trust's work to identify and report antisemitic crimes forms part of the government's work in tackling antisemitism in the UK. In 2021, the CST recorded 2,255 anti-Jewish hate incidents nationwide, the highest annual total ever recorded.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

Antisemitic incidents are not just an attack on the Jewish community, but on everyone who believes in a free and open society – and won't be tolerated in this country.

This funding will continue to help Jewish people practise their religion and way of life without fear of attack or persecution and I am grateful for the work that the Community Security Trust do in building and strengthening relations between British Jews and the rest of society.

British Jews, like all communities, must be able to live their lives without fear of verbal or physical attack. Only by working together can we ensure that hateful behaviour like antisemitism can be fully eliminated from our society.

Community Security Trust Chief Executive Mark Gardner said:

The grant will be welcomed by Britain's Jewish communities, coming after record levels of antisemitism and a continuing threat of terrorism against Jews. As in previous years, CST will do everything we can to ensure the best use of the money, including the quality of the guarding provided.

The UK has a robust legislative framework to tackle hate crime and offenders will face the full force of the law, with over 10,000 cases prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service in the last year.

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Families supported by £33 million to drive down parental conflict

The Reducing Parental Conflict programme – which funds councils across England to deliver evidence-based relationship support to parents in their communities – has helped thousands of families since 2018.

The support was launched in response to [research which shows](#) that frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict between parents can significantly impact children's mental health and long-term life chances, affecting their school grades, early emotional and social development, future relationships and employment.

This funding boost agreed by ministers comes as the programme's [third evaluation report](#) is published. It details the positive effect of the support on family relationships and improvements in their children's behaviour.

As part of the programme, parents can be taught techniques to de-escalate conflict, put aside their differences and communicate better for the benefit of their children.

The new funding will enable councils to train many more frontline staff who regularly come into contact with families facing conflict. This means that staff working in early years education, policing, schooling, and health and social care will be equipped to support parents, addressing conflict in families and improving children's wellbeing.

DWP Lords Minister Baroness Stedman-Scott said:

We know frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict between parents is harmful to children. And we know how to help.

This £33 million investment builds on what we've started, supporting parents to deal with the root cause of their issues so they can move forward and offer their children a better chance at life.

For example, in Norfolk the council trains their workforce to understand the detrimental effects of parental conflict on children, helping them provide initial support and signpost parents to further interventions to help them resolve their differences constructively.

Meanwhile, Rochdale's award-winning ['Relationship Revolution'](#) brought the whole community together, including health, education and voluntary sectors,

to tackle parental conflict. Their approach improved the lives of local families as well as those further afield as their work has been mirrored by other areas in England.

Other successful projects have included online relationship support and learning videos, counselling for parents, and toolkits for frontline services ensuring a standard of support is available across the country.

Professor Gordon Harold from Cambridge University who launched a landmark report in 2015 on the importance of reducing parental conflict, said:

The RPC programme aims to reduce the adverse impacts that parental conflict causes to children through the provision of new support for parents, training for family practitioners and better awareness, understanding and coordination of parental conflict related services delivered by local authorities and their partners; all with one core aim – to promote improved mental health outcomes for at-risk children and adolescents.

Cristina Odone, Head of Family Policy at The Centre for Social Justice said:

Unresolved parental conflict can spiral into violence and domestic abuse, affecting children's mental health. The impact is felt long term.

More information

- Frequent, intense and poorly resolved conflict, below the threshold of domestic abuse, between parents, whether together or separated, can significantly impact children's mental health and long-term life chances, affecting their school grades, early emotional and social development, future relationships and employment.
- Children in families where both parents are workless are twice as likely to experience relationship distress than those where both parents are working. More information can be found here in the [Parental conflict indicator 2011/12 to 2017/18 – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/624442/parental-conflict-indicator-2011-12-to-2017-18.pdf)
- The Reducing Parental Conflict programme mostly focuses on disadvantaged families, where factors like both parents being out of work, can exacerbate conflict.
- DWP is committing £33 million over 2022-25, with £11 million in 2022/3, to build on the progress of the Reducing Parental Conflict programme so far and enable local areas to train greater numbers of their workforces to address conflict in families locally.

Media enquiries for this press release – 0115 965 8781

Follow DWP on:

III Code Audit – excellent result for the United Kingdom

Auditors from other Member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the IMO Secretariat praised the way in which the UK oversees and manages the delegation of statutory survey work to its Recognised Organisations. It also highlighted the work carried out jointly by the MCA's Hydrography team and UK Hydrographic Office as best practice.

The IMO audit examined how the UK and wider Red Ensign Group (made up of Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies) meet their flag, coastal and port state obligations and responsibilities. It was the first time such an audit had been carried out remotely because of the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

It also highlighted how well the Red Ensign Group worked together towards overall compliance. It has specifically recommended that this level of focus should continue to build on the continuing success as an example to other IMO Member States.

They particularly singled out the work being done around III Code coastal state compliance with the Overseas Territories and want to see how they will achieve the maximum benefit from the Code and its conventions as they progress.

Their audit revealed just two findings – the average tends to be in double figures – both of which were already being addressed before the audit.

Firstly, there was a finding around a backlog of legislation related to amendments of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) requirements. This is already under way. However, the UK does already have effective measures to make sure the requirements are implemented through marine notices and instructions to surveyors. The auditors accepted that the UK's measures were appropriate.

Secondly, two Red Ensign Group members were found not to have brought in requirements under search and rescue provisions of SOLAS Chapter V (Safety of Life at Sea) for coordination plans for passenger ships which call regularly.

Both administrations have already done a lot of the work towards this finding, including bringing in several important search and rescue safeguards from measures such as establishing a central alerting post to, in some cases, forming a coastguard, increasing training, exercising and upgrading of equipment.

There is also ongoing work to continually review and improve coastal state requirements with support by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency through the UK Government's Conflict Stability and Security Fund.

Work will continue to address the findings but also to uphold and build on the high standards that continue to be demanded and met across the UK and the wider REG.

Brian Johnson, Chief Executive of the MCA said:

The result is significant for us all and importantly, means we retain our position as a world leading maritime state. It shows that the UK and the Red Ensign Group take our international obligations seriously.

Local residents to have final say on proposed changes to street names

- Councils in England will have to get agreement from local residents on any proposed changes to street names
- Technical consultation launched on how councils should engage with local communities on any proposed changes

Local residents will be given the final say on changes to the name of their street, under new proposals published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The government has launched a technical consultation setting out plans to ensure councils in England are approved by local residents in that street before they go ahead with them.

Currently, many councils can change the name of a given street without consulting residents. Consent from local residents has been a legal requirement in the past, but has been 'disapplied' in many areas. The government believes the law needs updating so it is consistent across England.

The current system relies upon three Acts which date from the early 20th century and create nationally inconsistent and unclear procedures for changing street names. Under the existing legislation, many local authorities have the power to change the name of a given street without engaging residents or businesses on that street. The government is considering the case for modernising these multiple and dated Acts by replacing them with a single clear requirement for a residents' vote on any changes to street names based on the principles set out in 1907 legislation.

The proposals aim to improve local democracy and ensure that street names that are valued by locals and form part of an area's identity. Changing a

street name can have significant practical costs for residents and businesses which then have to change their address with banks, shops, utilities and on official documents.

Housing Minister, Rt Hon. Stuart Andrew said:

Up and down the country, street names often form a key part of an area's history, cherished by the local community for the memories they hold and the places they represent.

These proposals will strengthen local democracy by ensuring that councils in England get agreement from local residents in advance of any street name changes.

The government will introduce these changes through future legislation and the [technical consultation](#) is seeking views on the detail of these proposals.

The consultation period will run until 22 May and the government will publish its response in due course.

The government wishes to acknowledge the work of Policy Exchange through their publication [Protecting local heritage: How to bring democracy to the renaming of streets](#) (March 2021) in bringing this to public attention.