

SEC Newgate in the North

Communications and
engagement specialists
based in Manchester





ABOUT

With a Manchester-based team serving the North, SEC Newgate is an award-winning corporate affairs and crisis communications consultancy.

Being part of a regional, national and international network enables us to combine deep local knowledge with exceptional connections and experience.

Our work is particularly focused on sectors where policy, planning, reputation and public trust matter most. This includes housing and regeneration, transport, energy, infrastructure, the built environment and major investment projects.

We have the scale and specialist expertise to deliver strategic communications and public affairs programmes across business, politics, communities, markets and media.

OUR FOOTPRINT

Our network is located across several national and regional hubs, providing the local insight our clients need and the resource to deliver.

Headquartered in Manchester, SEC Newgate's team in the North has a strong track record of supporting our clients to engage more effectively with local communities on a range of complex issues – from providing communications and engagement support for nationally significant energy projects to the delivery of local housing.

Our team has extensive experience in delivering public sector and political communications across Greater Manchester, which has recently gained even more significance as the home of Number 10 North.

We are supported by a wider UK and international team, with expertise across a range of communications and advocacy specialisms, from digital campaigns, stakeholder engagement and government relations, to corporate and financial communications as well as research, design and content creation.

CLIENT EXPERIENCE

BE brockwell
energy

BayWa r.e.

Google

OnPath

Lime

openreach

**Homes
England**

Liberata

good energy

AIC

**TAYLOR
ROSE**

UrbanChain

CERT

Vistry Group

ACCOR

**UK
Holocaust
Memorial**

OUR EXPERTISE

Planning & Engagement

As leading specialists in consultation and engagement, we have advised on some of the UK's most significant infrastructure developments.



Public Affairs & Government Relations

Our advisers draw on cross-party experience to shape policy and deliver regulatory change with campaigns to reach key stakeholders.



Crisis, Special Situations & Litigation

We provide immediate support and long-term strategic counsel.



Insight & Intelligence

We provide data-driven insights to understand local communities and identify the most effective ways to engage and influence.



Digital Brand & Creative Strategy

We use cutting edge tools to help clients identify opportunities to create digital campaigns to stand out from the crowd.



Design, Visual Identity & Content Creation

Our award-winning creative content team produces, curates and delivers compelling editorial, audio, video and delivers branding solutions that resonate with audiences.



Strategy & Corporate Communications

We advise organisations through their growth cycle, from individuals and start-ups to global leaders.



Financial Advisory & Transactions

We advise boards on M&A, hostile takeovers, defence and restructurings, as well as long-term investor and market communications.



OUR TEAM IN THE NORTH



Henry Columbine
Head of UK Regions

Henry has more than 15 years' experience in corporate affairs, advising clients across corporate and financial communications in multiple sectors. While he has particularly deep experience in the built environment, his work spans a broad range of corporate and stakeholder communications challenges. In addition to leading account teams across a variety of different briefs, Henry is Head of UK Regions, overseeing SEC Newgate's regional offices and strengthening the firm's ability to deliver integrated campaigns at a local, national and international level. He plays a key role in harnessing regional insights, coordinating teams across locations and ensuring the business is well positioned to support clients with local execution and capture growth opportunities across the UK.

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Simon Donohue
Head of SEC Newgate North

Head of SEC Newgate's Northern office in Manchester, Simon is a communications professional and former journalist with deep public and private sector experience. He advises clients on strategic communications, public affairs, stakeholder engagement, media relations and reputation management. Before joining SEC Newgate, Simon worked in communications and content roles at Transport for Greater Manchester and Marketing Manchester, supporting the priorities of then GM Mayor Andy Burnham. His work as a journalist included 15 years at the Manchester Evening News as a writer and editor on the business and features desks.

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David Hopps
Senior Consultant

David brings strong experience in public affairs and communications, supporting and advising clients across the North and Midlands in the delivery of stakeholder engagement, public and political consultation programmes. A former councillor on Trafford Council in Greater Manchester, he held the cabinet portfolio for housing and strategic planning and served on the council's planning committee and the regional TfGM committee. At SEC Newgate, he works with a range of clients across different sectors, combining his understanding of local government, politics and community engagement at all levels.

david.hopps@secnewgate.co.uk



Ian Morris
Director, Communications

Ian helps organisations build and protect their reputations through clear, strategic communications. With 20 years of experience, he's advised UK and global brands across sectors including transport, infrastructure, renewables, and hospitality. A specialist in crisis communications, he supports clients in managing risk and responding to reputational challenges.

ian.morris@secnewgate.co.uk



Laurence Hill
Senior Consultant

Laurence has almost 10 years' experience in communications and corporate affairs, advising clients across a range of sectors. With particular expertise in real estate and regeneration, his work spans corporate communications, reputation management and stakeholder engagement. He supports clients in building profile, managing complex issues and engaging key audiences through strategic communications programmes.

laurence.hill@secnewgate.co.uk



Gina Murray
Senior Designer

Gina is a design expert with experience across all creative disciplines. She helps clients bring brand concepts to life through digital and print campaigns, creating everything from brand guidelines to ads, brochures, and banners that engage the public and reflect client values.

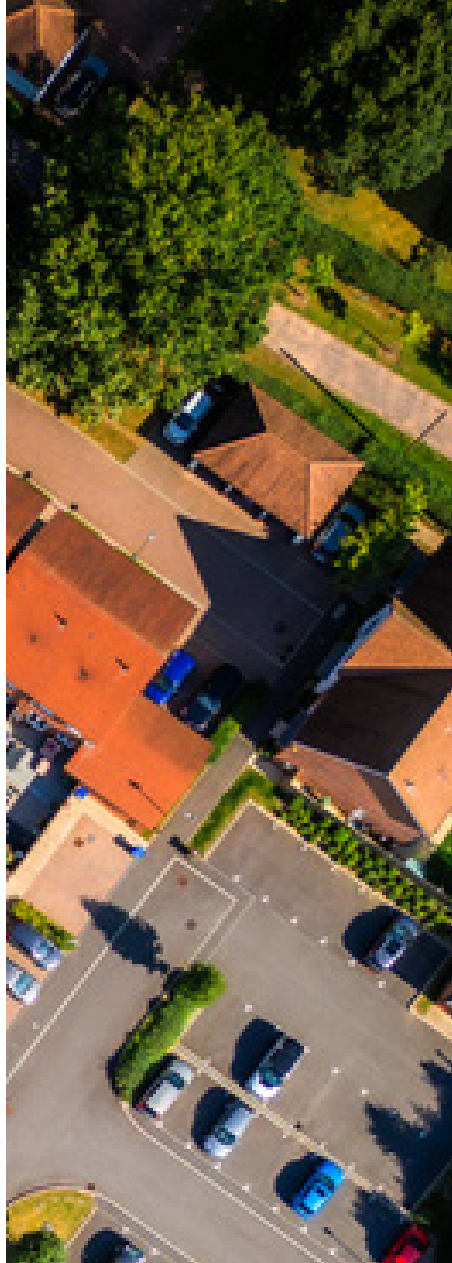
gina.murray@secnewgate.co.uk

Vistry Group, Nationwide

PUBLIC RELATIONS | REPUTATION MANAGEMENT | CONTENT STRATEGY

We manage corporate communications for Vistry, supporting national and regional teams including its northern business units. Our work includes media relations, award entries, stakeholder events, and PR strategies that position Vistry as the UK's leading mixed-tenure developer. In the North, we've delivered engagement plans, exclusive press coverage and crisis support.

Vistry Group



SEC Newgate North



SEC Newgate North

Lime, Greater Manchester

COMMUNITY RELATIONS | PLANNING COMMUNICATIONS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We were appointed to support micro-mobility company, Lime, in promoting its objective of rolling out the operation of e-scooters in Greater Manchester. The brief was to build awareness of Lime amongst key political and other stakeholders in boroughs where Lime was putting forward proposals. This included the identification of partners and supporters, facilitation of meetings, and political engagement.



Brockwell Energy, Nationwide

PUBLIC CONSULTATION | STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS | PUBLIC AFFAIRS | DESIGN

We supported the public consultation and pre-planning engagement process on a portfolio of six battery storage and three solar sites across the UK. Due to tight grid connection deadlines, some of these applications had to be brought forward simultaneously. Positive working relationships were established across all local authority areas, opening dialogue between the client and stakeholders to address local concerns and provide information on the plans. The consultation and engagement programme enabled the submission of multiple planning applications within the grid connection deadlines.



LI-ION BATTERY
ENERGY

Lithium ion batteries
C 2008058816

SEC Newgate North

Cert Property, Greater Manchester

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | PUBLIC CONSULTATION | STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

We have supported CERT with community and stakeholder engagement across multiple residential developments in Greater Manchester, helping to facilitate the delivery of hundreds of new homes. Through tailored consultation strategies, local liaison and proactive relationship-building with councillors, residents and community groups, we help shape proposals that reflect local priorities.

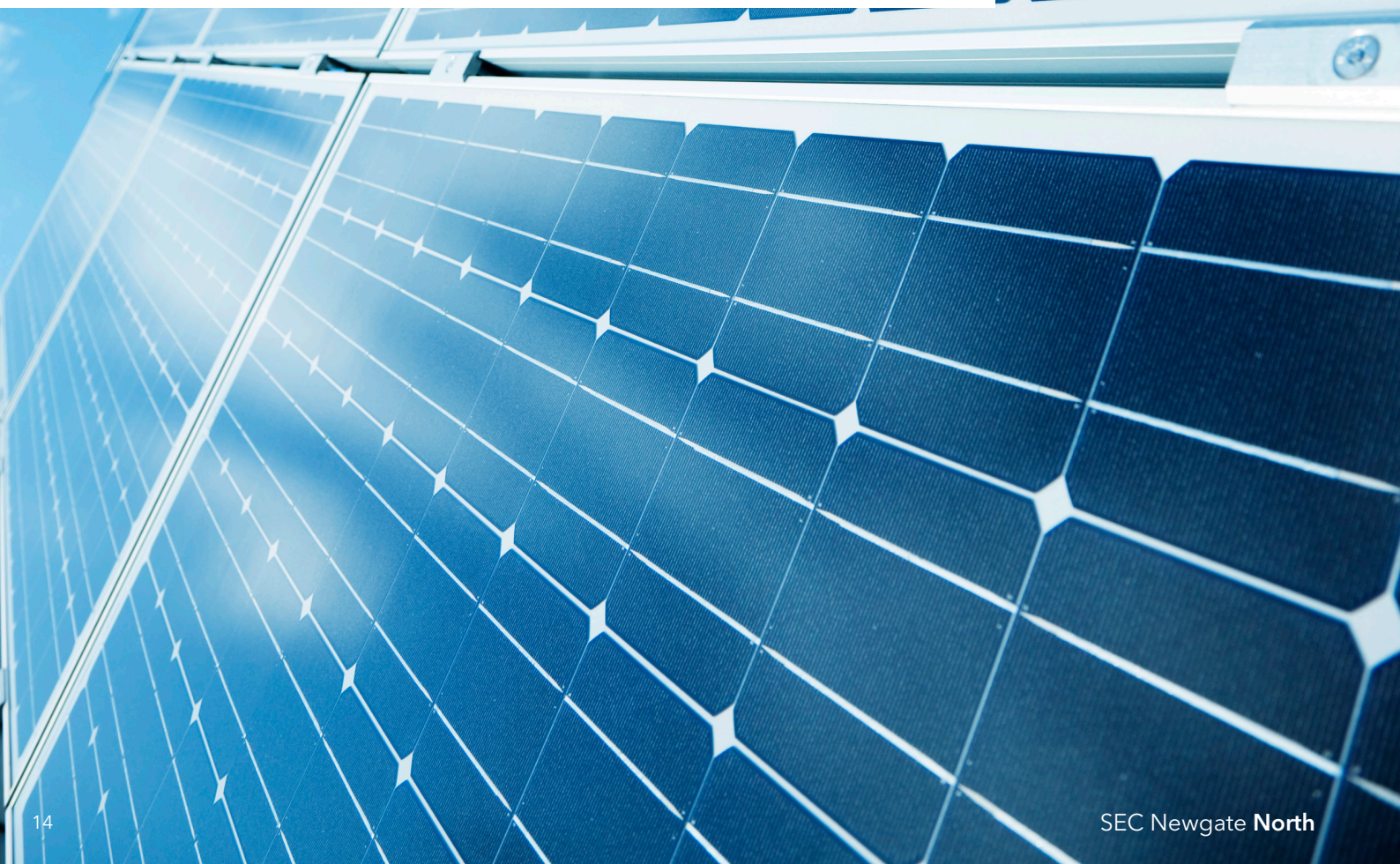


SEC Newgate North

EDF Power Solutions UK, Nationwide

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMUNICATIONS | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | PLANNING SUPPORT

We have supported EDF Power Solutions UK across a range of major energy projects - including both Development Consent Order (DCO) and Town and Country Planning (TCP) schemes. This includes public and stakeholder engagement for nationally significant infrastructure such as Springwell solar farm.



SEC Newgate North

Eren Holding, Shotton Mill

PUBLIC AFFAIRS | STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS | EVENT MANAGEMENT

We successfully delivered the high-profile launch of Eren Holding's £600m redevelopment of Shotton Mill - the largest single foreign investment into Wales. We mobilised a dedicated team to manage stakeholder engagement, ministerial protocols, media relations and all event logistics. Working closely with both the UK and Welsh Governments, we ensured aligned messaging and a seamless on-site experience for over 200 attendees, including two UK Secretaries of State and two Welsh Cabinet Secretaries.



SEC Newgate North

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BEST PLACES TO WORK 2026

2025/2024/2023

BEST ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN PUBLIC SECTOR

PURPOSE AWARDS 2026

WINNER

CONSULTANCY CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

PRCA PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS 2026

WINNER

CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

EDIE NET-ZERO AWARDS 2026

SHORTLISTED

PR AGENCY OF THE YEAR

HEADLINE MONEY AWARDS 2026

SHORTLISTED

GLOBAL AGENCY OF THE YEAR

PROVOKE MEDIA GLOBAL SABRE AWARDS 2025 & 2023

WINNER

ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

THE VARIETY PROPS AWARDS 2025

WINNER

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE YEAR

EDIE NET-ZERO AWARDS 2025

SHORTLISTED

BEST CAMPAIGN REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

PROVOKE SABRE EMEA AWARDS 2024

SHORTLISTED

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

PROVOKE MEDIA EMEA AWARDS 2024

WINNER

CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

EDIE NET-ZERO AWARDS 2023

WINNER

PLANNING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

PRCA PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS 2020

WINNER

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With headquarters in London and offices across the UK - including Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol and Birmingham - SEC Newgate can provide the local insight our clients need and the resource to deliver.

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