

PRESS RELEASE:**New government-backed professional indemnity insurance scheme for EWS1 assessors now available for purchase****26 September 2022**

MGAM, an Acrisure partner, SCOR, Aon and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), today announce that the new government-backed professional indemnity (PI) insurance scheme for EWS1 assessors is now available for purchase, effective immediately.

Property surveyors will be able to access details about the scheme as well as options to purchase [here](#).

The scheme, initially announced in June 2022, is launching in response to the significant shortage of insurance companies willing to provide PI cover to firms undertaking assessments of external wall systems, commonly known as ‘EWS1 forms’, in mid-and high-rise residential buildings. The scheme is due to last for five years, from which it is anticipated that insurers will step back into the market, removing the requirement for a state-backed scheme.

EWS1 forms were developed by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), UK Finance and the Building Societies Association to support the valuation process for high-rise residential buildings with cladding.

Aon is acting as the government’s insurance advisor for the scheme.

Jason Anthony, CEO of MGAM Limited, said: “After winning the Government tender to develop this PI scheme for EWS1 assessors in collaboration with SCOR and DLUHC, we have made excellent progress on ensuring the product is market ready. The property market has been stalled for some time now due to this protection gap and we fully intend for this scheme to fix this issue, allowing property buyers to secure the necessary certification in order to secure a mortgage.”

Paul Scully, Minister of DLUHC, said: “For far too long leaseholders in high rise buildings have been stuck in limbo, unable to secure mortgages on their properties, sell up and move on to their next step. It is for these leaseholders that we have launched this new indemnity scheme today and I thank our partners for helping make this a reality. This scheme will give EWS1 assessors the confidence to exercise their professional judgement, speed up the sale of flats and allow lenders to lend with confidence.”

Romain Launay, CEO Specialty Insurance of SCOR P&C, said: “SCOR is delighted that the professional indemnity coverage for EWS1 assessments will soon be available, allowing the necessary fire safety assessments to be carried out and enabling the purchase, sale or re-

mortgage of homes which will free up a vital segment of the property market. The impacts of this will be felt widely and SCOR is proud to partner with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and MGAM to deliver this reduction in the protection gap for the ultimate benefit of society.”

Julie Page, CEO of Aon UK Ltd, said: “We were excited to be asked by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to provide advisory services for the development of the PI scheme. Building this sustainable solution addresses an important protection gap in the market, and this collaborative effort, along with MGAM and SCOR, shows the power of public private partnerships. The solution itself will also help alleviate the pressure on a significant proportion of affected leaseholders who are currently unable to sell or re-mortgage their properties – and allows us to play a part in addressing issues impacting people’s lives.”

An EWS1 form is not a government or regulatory requirement, nor is it a building or life safety assessment. [RICS published guidance](#) on the criteria that should be used to determine whether a building needs an EWS1 form, which was last updated 28 January 2022 (RICS, 2022).

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About MGAM Ltd

MGAM’s innovative approach and targeted products align the interests of coverholders, carriers and policy holders, delivering superior outcomes for everyone in the distribution chain. Its experienced team enjoys the support of global parent, Acrisure, with the strength and market relationships that enable MGAM to create bespoke solutions for all types of arrangement. MGAM Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under firm reference number 835270 to carry out insurance distribution activities. MGAM Limited is a registered company in England with company no. 09742763. MGAM Limited registered office is: Walsingham House Ninth Floor, 35 Seething Lane, London, EC3N 4AH. For more information: <https://mgamutual.com/>

About SCOR

SCOR, a leading global reinsurer, offers its clients a diversified and innovative range of reinsurance and insurance solutions and services to control and manage risk. Applying “The Art & Science of Risk”, SCOR uses its industry-recognized expertise and cutting-edge financial solutions to serve its clients and contribute to the welfare and resilience of society.

SCOR offers its clients an optimal level of security with its AA- rating or equivalent from S&P, Moody’s, Fitch and AM Best. The Group generated premiums of more than EUR 17.5 billion in 2021, and serves clients in more than 160 countries from its 36 offices worldwide.

For more information, visit: www.scor.com.

About Aon UK Ltd.

[Aon plc](#) (NYSE:AON) exists to shape decisions for the better — to protect and enrich the lives of people around the world. Our colleagues provide our clients in over 120 countries with advice and solutions that give them the clarity and confidence to make better decisions to protect and grow their business.

About the Department for Levelling Up and Housing

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities supports communities across the UK to thrive, making them great places to live and work. DLUHC is a ministerial department, supported by 15 agencies and public bodies.

For more information about their work visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>

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