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Top 4 ESG highlights for the Funds team

As environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors continue to influence the direction of travel for both the political and personal spheres, they have also risen to the top of the agenda for all businesses and investors. Doing good business, now more than ever, means working for the good of the planet and society. We continue to support our clients to adapt and conform to the regulatory and policy drivers of the market, across a broad range of sectors and geographies.

Over the past year, our team has been fortunate enough to work on a number of ESG related mandates – our top four highlights include:

- [Acting on the IPO of Home REIT Plc](#), a real estate investment trust dedicated to investing in a portfolio of homeless accommodation in the UK, targeting a wide range of subsectors within homelessness including women fleeing domestic violence, people leaving prison, individuals suffering from mental health or drug and alcohol issues and foster care leavers.
- [Acting on the IPO of new investment company Schroder BSC Social Impact Trust Plc](#), a joint venture between Schroders and Big Society Capital, which aims to provide investors with access to high-impact investment solutions, aiming to help alleviate some of the country's most pressing social challenges.
- [Advising Schroders in relation to the launch of new investment company Schroder British Opportunities Trust plc](#), which focusses on supporting British business during the pandemic, but with a particular focus on ESG company engagement and companies with business models which are considered to be sustainable in terms of both the longevity and durability of their businesses and their environmental, social and governance behaviours.
- [Acting on the oversubscribed fundraising for Gore Street Energy Storage Fund plc](#), London's first listed energy storage fund supporting the transition to low carbon power through its investments in a diversified portfolio of utility scale energy storage projects. Gore Street's portfolio has a capacity in excess of 320MW and it is LSE Green Economy Mark accredited.



"Our team believes strongly in diversity and fairness and takes the principles of ESG very seriously." said William Saunders, partner, Stephenson Harwood. "We have been lucky enough to work on half of the fund IPOs in 2020 and are pleased that not only were we able to help these companies get to market, but that they will have such a positive social impact."

Companies and their shareholders, asset managers and institutional investors are increasingly looking to not only identify and address environmental, social and governance ("ESG") risks and opportunities in their operations and investments, but are also looking to drive positive ESG outcomes through their investments, as they face rising expectations from

investors, governments, regulators, the media and interest groups, as well as their internal and external stakeholders. Indeed, there is growing consensus towards greater accountability and transparency across the corporate world and regulatory frameworks are moving in that direction.

Our advisory, transactional and sector expertise in sustainable businesses and investments combined with our multi-disciplinary approach, ensures our clients are in the best position to navigate the evolving ESG and sustainability legal and regulatory landscape and achieve their long-term strategic aims.

We understand the increasing importance of ESG and can help you to be ready for the changes to come and help your business to grow from these challenges.

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