



DWF Group: UK Tax Strategy

Scope

The DWF Group is a global legal business headquartered, and with a significant presence, in the UK.

This strategy applies to the DWF Group's UK companies and partnerships, as listed in the Appendix, in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 25 of Schedule 19 to the Finance Act 2016. In this strategy, references to 'DWF', 'the firm' or 'the group' are to all these entities. The strategy has is being published in accordance with paragraph 22 of the Schedule.

This strategy relates to the financial year ending 30 April 2021. References to 'UK Taxation' are to the taxes and duties set out in paragraph 15(1) of the Schedule which include Income Tax, Corporation Tax, PAYE, NIC, VAT, Insurance Premium Tax, and Stamp Duty Land Tax. References to 'tax', 'taxes' or 'taxation' are to UK taxation and to all corresponding worldwide taxes and similar duties in respect of which the Group has legal responsibilities.

Aim

DWF has a clear strategy, which governs the Group's approach to business and operations – to provide integrated legal services on a global basis through our advisory, managed and connected services.

DWF's approach to tax is aligned to this strategy. DWF is committed to full compliance with all statutory obligations and full disclosure to relevant tax authorities. The group's tax affairs are managed in a way that takes into account the group's wider corporate reputation in line with DWF's overall high standards of governance.

Governance in relation to UK taxation

Ultimate responsibility for DWF's tax strategy and compliance rests with the Board of DWF Group plc. Executive management of the group is delegated by the Board to the Executive Boards of DWF Law LLP and DWF LLP.

The Audit Committee and Board Risk Committees' requirement to monitor the integrity of DWF's financial reporting system, internal controls and risk management framework, expressly includes those elements relating to taxation.

The CFO is the Board member with executive responsibility for tax matters. Day-to-day management of DWF's tax affairs is delegated to the internal tax team, which is staffed with appropriately qualified individuals.

The Board ensures that DWF's tax strategy is one of the factors considered in all investments and significant business decisions taken.

The CFO reports to the Audit Committee, Board Risk Committee and the Board on DWF's tax affairs and risks.

Risk management

DWF operates a system of tax risk assessment and controls as a component of the overall internal control framework applicable to the group's financial reporting system.

DWF seeks to reduce the level of tax risk arising from its operations as far as is reasonably practicable by ensuring that reasonable care is applied in relation to all processes which could materially affect its compliance with its tax obligations.

Processes relating to different taxes are allocated to appropriate process owners, who carry out a review of activities and processes to identify key risks and mitigating controls in place.

These key risks are monitored for business and legislative changes which may impact them and changes to processes or controls are made when required.

Appropriate training is carried out for staff outside the Tax team who manage or process matters which have tax implications and advice is sought from external advisers where appropriate.

Attitude towards tax planning and level of risk

DWF manages risks to ensure compliance with legal requirements in a manner which ensures payment of the right amount of tax, and its partners are expected to act responsibly with regards to their own tax affairs.

When entering into commercial transactions, DWF seeks to take advantage of available tax incentives, reliefs and exemptions in line with, and in the spirit of, tax legislation. The Group does not undertake tax planning unrelated to such commercial transactions.

The level of risk which DWF accepts in relation to UK taxation is consistent with its overall objective of achieving certainty in the group's tax affairs. At all times DWF seeks to comply fully with its regulatory and other obligations and to act in a way which upholds its reputation as a responsible corporate citizen.

In relation to any specific issue or transaction, the Board is ultimately responsible for identifying the risks, including tax risks, which need to be addressed and for determining what actions should be taken to manage those risks, having regard to the materiality of the amounts and obligations in question.

Relationship with HMRC

DWF seeks to have a transparent and constructive relationship with HMRC in respect of developments in the Group's business, current, future and retrospective tax risks, and interpretation of the law in relation to all relevant taxes.

DWF ensures that HMRC is kept aware of significant transactions and changes in the business and seeks to discuss any tax issues arising at an early stage. When submitting tax computations and returns to HMRC, DWF discloses all relevant facts and identifies any transactions or issues where it considers that there is potential for the tax treatment to be uncertain.

Any inadvertent errors in submissions made to HMRC will be fully disclosed as soon as reasonably practicable after they are identified.

Date approved 19 November 2020

Appendix: List of entities covered by this Tax Strategy

- Bailford Trustees Limited
- Davies Wallis
- Davies Wallis Foyster Limited
- DWF (Nominees) 2013 Limited
- DWF (TG) Limited
- DWF (Trustee) Limited
- DWF 360 Limited
- DWF Adjusting Limited
- DWF Advocacy Limited
- DWF Claims Limited
- DWF Company Secretarial Services Limited
- DWF Connected Services Group Limited
- DWF Connected Services Holdings Limited
- DWF Connected Services Limited
- DWF Costs Limited
- DWF Directors (Scotland) Limited
- DWF Forensic Limited
- DWF Group plc
- DWF Holdings Limited
- DWF Law LLP
- DWF LLP
- DWF (Middle East) LLP
- DWF Middle East Group LLP
- DWF Nominees Limited
- DWF (Northern Ireland) LLP
- DWF Secretarial Services (Scotland) Limited
- DWF Pension Trustees Limited
- DWF Resource Limited
- DWF Solicitors Limited
- DWF Trustees (Scotland) Limited
- DWF Ventures Limited
- Greyfern Law Limited
- Harborne Road Nominees Limited
- Mindcrest (UK) Limited
- Moat Pensions Limited
- Newco 4736 Limited
- Resolution Law Limited
- Vueity Limited