

Tax Policy

March 2025

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About us

We at CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP (“the LLP/the firm”) head up all CMS operations in the UK and we are one of the 21 law and tax firms that make up CMS globally.

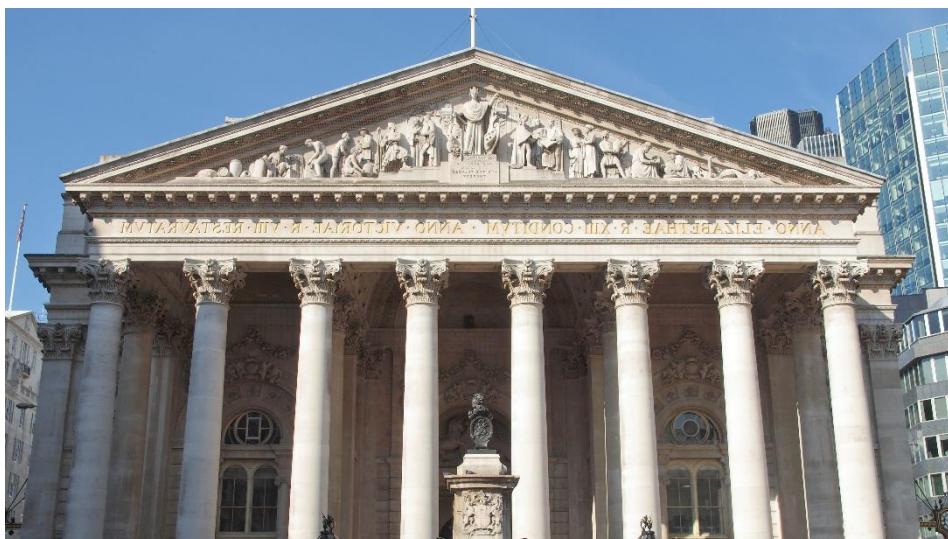
With more than 85 offices in over 45 countries and 6,300+ lawyers worldwide, the CMS organisation offers deep local market understanding with a global perspective.

Industries can rapidly change, business models can be disrupted, and regulation can force organisations to change course almost overnight. By continually scanning the horizon, CMS helps its clients to anticipate both the challenges and the opportunities headed this way. This is Future Facing Law.

In a world where innovation is business as usual, our mission is to deliver practical, business-focused advice that helps clients of every size to face the future with confidence.

Our lawyers immerse themselves in our clients' worlds, and as genuine experts in their fields, offer a grasp of detail that is second to none. We combine this with a next-generation mindset that means we can deliver innovative processes and solutions at speed, and at scale.

We want to ensure that we build a culture of trust, respect and support embracing all aspects of diversity and inclusion, leading the legal sector in social impact and sustainability. Our aim is to inspire, impact and support our clients and our people, helping them to maximize their potential and thrive.



Overview

Business strategy

We've identified six areas of focus that will help us become The Leading Relationship Law Firm:



Clients

We want to be recognised not only for our expertise, but also for our ability to build productive relationships founded upon our friendly, flexible, forward-looking and commercial approach.



Talent

We're open and inclusive when it comes to finding, nurturing, developing and rewarding our people. We give everyone a voice – equality and fairness are embedded into all that we do.



Technology & Innovation

We're always looking for new ways to use technology and innovation to add value to our clients, empower our colleagues and drive the long-term success and profitability of the whole firm.



Sector Expertise

We have an unrivalled understanding of our clients' sectors and are always looking to enhance our knowledge further still. We do that by optimising technology, embracing learning and getting under the skin of their challenges and opportunities.



Culture & Values

Our culture is open, dynamic, supportive and inclusive – it's characterised by mutual trust and respect. We forge strong relationships with our communities and want to lead our profession forward when it comes to social impact and sustainability.



International

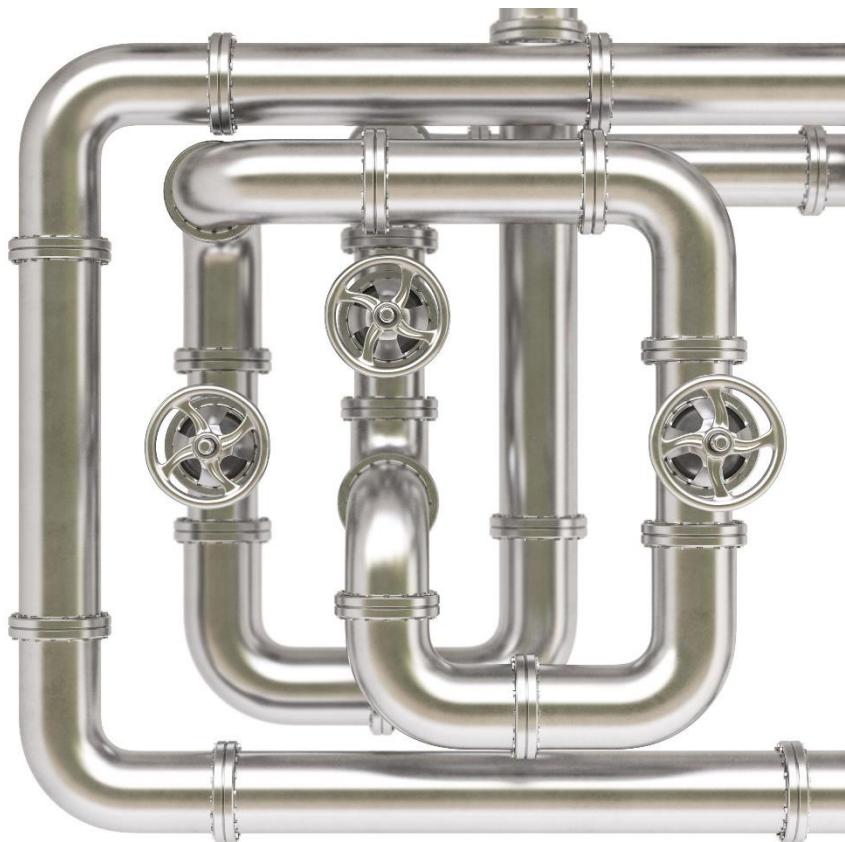
We work with colleagues across borders, sharing knowledge and insights to deliver optimal value to our clients, and exceptional experiences for our people. By working together globally, we can all help to change the future face of law.

Tax strategy

Our tax strategy supports and underpins this broader business strategy by creating an environment of certainty and minimising risks around tax.

Our drive and culture is to grow our business and enhance our reputation in the market through the delivery of the very best legal advice, wherever it is needed, avoiding tax disputes and paying our fair share of tax.

We have put in place a strong tax team that reports to our Board to deliver on this. It is their role to manage our internal governance and processes around tax, ensure that we remain compliant and pay what we believe to be the right amount of tax by the appropriate deadline, and build strong working relationships with HMRC in the UK.



Our approach to managing risk

Our firm is managed by our Board, which also has overall responsibility for our tax strategy. Tax is directly represented to the Board by our Chief Finance Officer.

In addition to our Board, we have established an Audit & Risk Committee which considers tax matters from time to time on an “as needed” basis.

The Board itself delegates day to day responsibility for managing our own tax affairs to our Head of Tax who leads our Tax Team.

Our Head of Tax and his team of experienced tax specialists work very closely alongside our colleagues in our business to manage our tax affairs, and to that end they have implemented governance and oversight to allow them to do that.

Wherever material issues arise, these will be escalated to our Chief Finance Officer in the first instance and may be considered by our Board and/or Audit and Risk Committee.



How we structure our affairs

We seek to be fully compliant with UK tax legislation and pay what we calculate to be the right amount of tax. We have a very low appetite for tax risk and hence will always seek to identify, manage, and resolve tax risks as they arise.

We will never engage in tax planning or tax structuring other than as part of genuine commercial transactions, and where we do this, we will align our interpretation of tax law with what we believe were the intention of Parliament. Typically, our focus is on utilising legitimate tax reliefs or tax incentives in the way that Parliament intended.

We will also engage third party tax advisors to provide us with technical advice and support where we are entering new territories, where material transactions are being undertaken or where there is complexity or uncertainty around tax legislation.

Our aim is to always properly comply with our tax obligations and have certainty over tax outcomes as far as possible.

Finally, as a firm of solicitors, we are governed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) regarding our conduct and behaviour relating to how we practise law. This is embedded in the culture of our organisation. We also apply these same high standards and ethical principles to the way that we conduct our own affairs, including our tax affairs.



Managing tax risk in our business

We will always seek to be compliant and eliminate tax risk from our processes.

Our Tax Team are embedded in our operations and engage closely with our business in order to identify and eliminate tax risk wherever possible.

We do however acknowledge that there are occasions where judgements are required in interpreting tax legislation and whilst our aim is to understand all our tax obligations and be in a position of full compliance, we do recognise that we cannot always do this in isolation.

For this reason, we will continue to escalate internally where there is doubt around tax treatments to be adopted and seek support from third party tax advisors. We will actively manage any tax risks that we identify. Our approach to tax governance underpins this.



Dealing with HMRC

We seek to foster an open and collaborative relationship with HMRC which is based on mutual trust and respect and have been given a Low Risk marking by HMRC.

To this end we engage regularly with them and discuss our commercial developments and transactions in a transparent fashion in the spirit of full disclosure.

Where necessary we will seek formal or informal clearance from HMRC on uncertain tax positions insofar as they relate to our tax affairs.



This tax strategy applies to CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP, including its corporate subsidiaries, joint ventures and local partnerships and sets our approach to managing our UK tax affairs.

It has been published on 21 March 2025 for the year ended 31 March 2025 and is compliant with the requirements of 16(2) and 25(1) of Schedule 19 Finance Act 2016.



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