



TERMS OF BUSINESS

The following terms of business apply to all engagements accepted by Business Decoded Limited. All work is carried out under these terms except where charges are expressly agreed in writing.

APPLICABLE LAW

Our engagement letter, the schedules of services and our standard terms and conditions of business are governed by, and should be construed in accordance with English law. Each party agrees that the courts of England will have exclusive jurisdiction in relation to any claim, dispute or difference concerning this engagement letter and any matter arising from it on any basis. Each party irrevocably waives any right to object to any action being brought in those Courts, to claim that the action has been brought in the appropriate forum, or to claim that those Courts do not have jurisdiction.

CLIENT IDENTIFICATION

As with other professional service firms, we are required to identify our clients for the purposes of the UK anti-money laundering legislation. We may request from you, and retain, such information and documentation as we require for these purposes and/ or searches of appropriate databases.

CLIENT MONEY

We do not hold money on behalf of clients.

COMPLAINTS

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service that is both efficient and effective. However, should there be any cause for complaint in relation to any aspect of our service please contact Lubna Farhan. We agree to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and do everything reasonable to put it right. If you are still not satisfied you can refer your complaint to our professional body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Communication between us is confidential and we shall take all reasonable steps to keep confidential your information except where we are required to disclose it by law, by regulatory bodies, by our insurers or as part of an external peer review. Unless we are authorised by you to disclose information on your behalf this undertaking will apply during and after this engagement.

We may, on occasions, subcontract work on your affairs to other tax or accounting professionals. The subcontractors will be bound by our client confidentiality terms.

We reserve the right, for the purpose of promotional activity, training or for other business purpose, to mention that you are a client. As state above, we will not disclose any confidential information.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We will inform you if we become aware of any conflict of interest in our relationship with you or in our relationship you and another client unless we are unable to do so because of our confidentiality obligations. We have safeguards that can be implemented to protect the interests of different clients if a conflict arises. Where conflicts are identified which cannot be managed in a way that protects your interests then we regard that we will be unable to provide further services.

If there is a conflict of interest that is capable of being addressed successfully by the adoption of suitable safeguards to protect your interests, then we will adopt those safeguards. We reserve the right to provide services for other clients whose interest are not the same as your or are adverse to yours subject of course to the obligations of confidentiality referred to above.

DATA PROTECTION

We confirm we are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and refer you to our separate Data Protection Policy for full details as well as our Privacy Policy.

All policies can be found at www.business-decoded.com

DISENGAGEMENT

Should we resign or be requested to resign we will normally issue a disengagement letter to ensure that our respective responsibilities are clear. Should we have no contact with you for a period of time we may issue to your last known address a disengagement letter and hence cease to act.

ELECTRONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATION

Unless you instruct us otherwise we may, where appropriate, communicate with you and with third parties via email or by other electronic means. The recipient is responsible for virus checking emails and any attachments.

With electronic communication there is a risk of non-receipt, delayed receipt, inadvertent misdirection or interception by third parties. We use virus scanning software to reduce the risk of viruses and similar damaging items being transmitted through emails or electronic storage devices. However, electronic communication is not totally secure and we cannot be held responsible for damage or loss caused by viruses not for communications which are corrupted or altered after dispatch. Nor can we accept any liability for problems or accidental errors relating to this means of communication especially in relation to commercially sensitive material. These are risks you must bear in return for greater efficiency and lower costs. If you do not wish to accept these risks please let us know and we will communicate by paper mail, other than where electronic submission is mandatory.

Any communication by us with you sent through the postal system is deemed to arrive at your postal address two working days after the day that the document was sent.

FEES AND PAYMENT TERMS

Our fees may depend not only upon the time spent on your affairs but also on the level of skill and responsibility and the importance and value of the advice that we provide, as well as the level of risk.

If we provide you with an estimate of our fees for any specific work, then the estimate will not be contractually binding unless we explicitly state that that will be the case.

Where requested we may indicate a fixed fee for the provision of specific services or an indicative range of fees for a particular assignment. It is not our practice to identify fixed fees for more than a year ahead as such fee quotes need to be reviewed in the light of events. If it becomes apparent to us, due to unforeseen circumstances, that a fee quote is inadequate, we reserve the right to notify you of a revised figure or range and to seek your agreement thereto.

In some cases, you may be entitled to assistance with your professional fees, particularly in relation to any investigation into your tax affairs by HMRC. Assistance may be provided through insurance policies you hold or via membership of a professional or trade body. You will need to advise us of any such insurance cover you have. You will remain liable for our fees regardless of whether all or part are liable to be paid by your insurers.

We will bill upon completion of work and, unless specifically agreed in writing, our invoices are due for payment within 14 days of issue. Any disbursements we incur on your behalf and expenses incurred in the course of carrying out our work for you will be added to our invoices where appropriate.

Unless otherwise agreed to the contrary our fees do not include costs of any third party, counsel or other professional fees. We reserve the right to charge interest on late paid invoices at the rate of 5% above bank base rate under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. We also reserve the right to suspend our services or cease to act for you on given written notice if payment of any fees is unduly delayed. We intend to exercise these rights only where it is fair and reasonable to do so.

If you do not accept that an invoiced fee is fair and reasonable you must notify us within 7 days of receipt, failing which you will be deemed to have accepted that payment is due.

IMPLEMENTATION

We will only assist with the implementation of our advice if specifically instructed and agreed in writing.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

We will retain all copyright in any document prepared by us during the course of carrying out the engagement save where the law specifically provides otherwise.

INTERPRETATION

If any provision of our engagement letter or terms of business is held to be void, then that provision will be deemed not to form part of this contract. In the event of any conflict of interest between these terms of business and the engagement letter or schedules, the relevant provision in the engagement letter or schedules will take precedence.

INTERNAL DISPUTES WITHIN A CLIENT

If we become aware of a dispute between the parties who own or are in some way involved in the ownership and management of the business, it should be noted that our client is the business and we would not provide information to one party without the express knowledge and permission of all parties. Unless otherwise agreed by all parties we will continue to supply information to the normal place of business for the attention of the directors/proprietors. If conflicting advice, information or instructions are received from different directors/principles in the business we will refer the matter to the directors/proprietors as a whole and take no further action until the directors/proprietors have agreed the action to be taken as a whole.

INVESTMENT ADVICE

Investment business is regulated by the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. If during the provision of professional services to you, you need advice on investments (including insurances), we may have to refer you to someone who is authorised by the Financial Services Authority (or licensed by a Designated Professional Body) as we are not.

LIEN

Insofar as we are permitted to so by law or professional guidelines, we reserve the right to exercise a lien over all funds, documents and records in our possession relating to all engagements for you until all outstanding fees and disbursements are paid in full.

LIMITATION OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

The advice and information we provide for you as part of our service is for your sole use and not for any third party to whom you may communicate it unless we have expressly agreed in the engagement letter that a specified third party may rely on our work. We accept no responsibility to third parties, including any group company to whom the engagement letter is not addressed, for any advice, information or material produced as part of our work for you which you make available to them. A party to this agreement is the only person who has the right to enforce any of its terms and no rights or benefits are conferred on any third party under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT AND TERMINATION

Unless otherwise agreed in our engagement letter, our work will begin when we receive a signed returned copy of the letter.

Each of us may terminate our agreement by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to the other party except where you fail to cooperate with us or we have reason to believe that you have provided us or HMRC with misleading information, in which case we may terminate this agreement immediately. Termination will be without prejudice to any rights that may have accrued to either of us prior to termination.

In the event of termination of our contract, we will endeavor to agree with you the arrangements for the completion of work in progress at that time, unless we are required for legal or regulatory reasons to cease work immediately. In that event, we shall not be required to carry out further work and shall not be responsible or liable for any consequences arising from termination.

PROFESSIONAL RULES AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

We will observe and act in accordance with the bye-laws, regulations and codes of ethics of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and will accept instructions to act for you on this basis. In particular, you give us the authority to correct errors made by HMRC where we become aware of them. We will not be liable for any loss, damage or cost arising from our compliance with statutory or regulatory obligations. The requirements are available for review at:

www.icaew.com/regulations.

QUALITY CONTROL

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide a quality service, our files are periodically reviewed by an independent regulatory or quality control body. These reviewers are highly experienced and professional people and, of course, are bound by the same rules for confidentiality as us.

RELIANCE ON ADVICE

We will endeavor to record all advice on important matters in writing. Advice giving orally is not intended to be relied upon unless confirmed in writing. Therefore, if we provide oral advice (for example in the course of a meeting or telephone call) and you wish to be able to rely on that advice, you must ask for the advice to be confirmed by us in writing.

RETENTION OF PAPERS

You have a legal responsibility to retain documents and records relevant to your financial affairs. During the course of our work we may collect information from you and others relevant to your tax and financial affairs. We will return any original documents to you.

Documents and records relevant to your tax affairs are required by law to be retained as follows:

Individuals, trustees and partnerships:

- With trading or rental income: 5 years and 10 months after the end of the tax year
- Otherwise: 22 months after the end of the tax year

Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships, and other corporate entities:

- 6 years from the end of the accounting period.

Whilst certain documents may legally belong to you, we may destroy correspondence and other papers that store electronically or otherwise that are more than 7 years old, except documents that we think may be of continuing significance. You must tell us if you wish us to keep any document for any longer period.