

# STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS

The following standard terms of business apply to all engagements accepted by Martin and Company Accountants Limited. All work carried out is subject to these terms except where changes are expressly agreed in writing.

## 1 Professional obligations

- 1.1 We will observe the byelaws, regulations and ethical guidelines of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and accept instructions to act for you on the basis that we will act in accordance with those guidelines. Copies of these requirements are available for inspection in our offices. In particular you give us authority to correct errors made by HM Revenue & Customs 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. These requirements are available on the internet at [www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance](http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance).
- 1.2 We conduct all our business in an honest and ethical manner and take a zero tolerance approach to facilitation of tax evasion. We are committed to acting lawfully, professionally and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships, implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter tax evasion facilitation.

## 2 Investment services

- 2.1 Although we are not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to conduct investment business, we are licensed by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to provide certain limited investment services and certain credit related services where these are complementary to, or arise out of, the professional services we are providing to you.
- 2.2 In particular, we may:
  - advise you on investments generally, but not recommend a particular investment or type of investment;
  - refer you to a Permitted Third Party (PTP) (an independent firm authorised by the FCA), assist you and the PTP during the course of any advice given by that party and comment on, or explain, the advice received (but not make alternative recommendations). The PTP will issue you with his own terms and conditions letter, will be remunerated separately for his services and will take full responsibility for compliance with the requirements of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;
  - advise you in connection with the disposal of an investment, other than your rights in a pension policy or scheme;
  - advise and assist you in transactions concerning shares or other securities not quoted on a recognised exchange;
  - assist you in making arrangements for transactions in investments in certain circumstances; and
  - manage investments or act as trustee (or donee of a power of attorney) where decisions to invest are taken on the advice of an authorised person.
  - refer you to a lender for a hire purchase or other loan.

2.3 We may also, on the understanding that the shares or other securities of the company are not publicly traded:

- advise the company, existing or prospective shareholders in relation to exercising rights, taking benefits or share options, valuations and methods of such valuations;
- arrange any agreements in connection with the issue, sale or transfer of the company's shares or other securities;
- arrange for the issue of new shares; and
- act as the addressee to receive confirmation of acceptance of offer documents etc.

If, during the provision of professional services to you, you need advice beyond what we are permitted to do, we may have to refer you to someone who is authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority, as we are not authorised.

2.4 In the unlikely event that we cannot meet our liabilities to you, you may be able to claim compensation under the Chartered Accountants' Compensation Scheme in respect of exempt regulated activities undertaken.

2.5 Where the firm is providing insurance mediation services (including fee protection), we are not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. However, we are included on the Register maintained by the Financial Conduct Authority so that we can carry on insurance mediation activity, which is broadly the advising on, selling, and administration of insurance contracts. This part of our business, including arrangements for complaints or redress if something goes wrong is regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The register can be accessed via the Financial Conduct Authority website at [www.fca.org.uk/register](http://www.fca.org.uk/register).

2.6 To enable us to provide you with a proper service, there may be occasions when we will need to contact you without your express permission concerning investment business matters. For example, it may be in your interests to sell a particular investment and we would wish to inform you of this. We may therefore contact you in such circumstances, but would only do so in our normal office hours. We shall of course comply with any restrictions you may wish to impose which you notify to us in writing.

2.7 The firm may receive commission from any introduction to a PTP in connection with the above, in which case you will be fully informed of the expected size and nature of such commission at the time of the introduction. Such commission will be held in our clients' account until we receive instructions from you as to how it should be treated. In the event of no such instructions being received, we may use such monies against any fees that have been outstanding for 30 days or more and concerning which you are not in dispute with us.

2.8 We may also request that you allow us to retain such commissions to cover our costs in connection with the above, but permission will be sought separately from you in these circumstances. If you are dissatisfied in any way about our services described in this section, you should follow the procedures set out in the 'Help us to give you the right service' section of this letter.

### **3 Client monies**

3.1 We may, from time to time, hold money on your behalf. Such money will be held in trust in a client bank account, which is segregated from the firm's funds. The account will be

operated, and all funds dealt with, in accordance with the Clients' Money Regulations of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

- 3.2 In order to avoid an excessive amount of administration, interest will only be paid to you where the amount of interest that would be earned on the balances held on your behalf in any calendar year exceeds £25. Any such interest would be calculated using the prevailing rate applied by Barclays Bank Plc for small deposits subject to the minimum period of notice for withdrawals. Subject to any tax legislation, interest will be paid gross.
- 3.3 If the total sum of money held on your behalf exceeds £10,000 for a period of more than 30 days, or such sum is likely to be held for more than 30 days, then the money will be placed in a separate interest-bearing client bank account designated to you. All interest earned on such money will be paid to you. Subject to any tax legislation, interest will be paid gross.
- 3.4 We will return monies held on your behalf promptly as soon as there is no longer any reason to retain those funds. In the unlikely event of us holding any unclaimed monies we reserve the right to pay such monies to a registered charity in line with the guidelines set out in the Clients' Money Regulations referred to above. We will not do this unless we have been unable to contact you for at least 5 years and we have taken reasonable steps to trace you and return the monies.

#### **4 Fees**

- 4.1 Our fees are computed on the basis of time spent on your affairs by the principals and our staff, and on the levels of skill and responsibility involved. Disbursements represent travel, accommodation and other expenses incurred in dealing with your affairs.
- 4.2 If it is necessary to carry out work outside the responsibilities outlined in this letter it will involve additional fees. Accordingly we would like to point out that it is in your interests to ensure that your records etc. are completed to the agreed stage.
- 4.3 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. Otherwise our fees will be calculated on the basis of the hours worked by each member of staff necessarily engaged on your affairs multiplied by their charge out rate per hour, VAT being charged thereon.
- 4.4 Where requested we may indicate a fixed fee for 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 at seek your agreement thereto.
- 4.5 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. Other than where such insurance was arranged through us you will need to advise us of any such insurance cover that you have. You will remain liable for our fees regardless of whether all or part are liable to be paid by your insurers.
- 4.6 Invoices are payable in full (including disbursements) in accordance with the terms set out on the invoice. If you do not accept the invoiced fee is fair and reasonable you must notify us within 21 days of receipt, failing which you will be deemed to have accepted that payment is due.

- 4.7 We reserve the right to charge interest on overdue accounts at the current rate under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. We also reserve the right to terminate our engagement and cease acting if payment of any fees billed is unduly delayed. We accept settlement of fees by certain credit cards.
- 4.8 If a client company, trust or other entity is unable or unwilling to settle our fees, we reserve the right to seek payment from the individual (or parent company) giving us instructions on behalf of the client, and we shall be entitled to enforce any sums due against the group company or individual nominated to act for you.
- 4.9 In the event that this firm ceases to act in relation to your affairs you agree to meet all reasonable costs of providing information to the company's new advisers. In particular you agree to meet these costs where we are required by law to provide information to a successor firm.

## **5 Retention of and access to records**

- 5.1 During the course of our work we will collect information from you and others acting on your behalf and will return any original documents to you following the preparation of your financial statements and returns. You should retain these records for 6 years from the end of the tax year to which they relate. You should retain them for longer if HM Revenue and Customs enquire into your tax return.
- 5.2 Whilst certain documents may legally belong to you, we may destroy correspondence and other papers that we store which are more than seven years old, other than documents which we consider to be of continuing significance. If you require retention of any document you must notify us of that fact in writing.

## **6 Conflicts of interest and independence**

- 6.1 We reserve the right during our engagement with you to deliver services to other clients whose interests might compete with yours or are or may be adverse to yours subject to 7 below. We confirm that we notify immediately should we become aware of any conflict of interest involving us and affecting you unless we are unable to do 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 interest then we regret that we will be unable to provide further services.
- 6.2 During and after our engagement, you agree that we reserve the right to act for other clients whose interests are or may compete with or be adverse to yours, subject, of course, to our obligations of confidentiality and the safeguards set out in the paragraph on confidentiality below.

## **7 Confidentiality**

- 7.1 Unless we are authorised by you to disclose information on your behalf, we confirm that where you give us confidential information we shall at all times during and after this engagement, keep it confidential, except as required by law, by our insurers or as provided for in regulatory, ethical, or other professional pronouncements or as part of an external peer review applicable to us or our engagement. This undertaking will apply during and after this engagement.
- 7.2 In addition, if we act for other clients whose interests are or may be adverse to yours, we will manage the conflict by implementing additional safeguards to preserve

confidentiality. Safeguards may include measures such as separate teams, physical separation of teams, and separate arrangements for storage of and access to information.

- 7.3 You agree that the effective implementation of such steps or safeguards as described above will provide adequate measures to avoid any real risk of confidentiality being impaired.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 If we use external or cloud based systems, we will ensure confidentiality of your information is maintained.
- 7.6 We reserve the right, for the purpose of promotional activity, training or for other business purpose, to mention that you are a client. As stated above we will not disclose any confidential information.

## **8 Disengagement**

- 8.1 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 one year or more we may issue to your last known address a disengagement letter and hence cease to act.

## **9 Quality control**

- 9.1 As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a quality service, our files are periodically subject to an independent regulatory or quality review. Our reviewers are highly experienced and professional people and are, of course, bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as our principals and staff.

## **10 Dealing with HM Revenue & Customs**

- 10.1 When dealing with HM Revenue & Customs on your behalf we are required to be honest and to take reasonable care to ensure that your returns are correct. To enable us to do this, you are required to be honest with us and to provide us with all necessary information in a timely manner. For more information about “Your Charter” for your dealing with HM Revenue & Customs, see [www.hmrc.gov.uk/charter/index.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charter/index.htm). To the best of our abilities, we will ensure that HM Revenue & Customs meet their side of the Charter in their dealings with you.
- 10.2 We will take account of the steps and checks suggested by HM Revenue & Customs in their “Agent Toolkits.” While use of the Toolkits is voluntary, we will ensure that our quality control procedures match or enhance the suggestions in the Toolkits so that, in the unlikely event that HM Revenue & Customs consider any of your tax returns with which we assist to be inaccurate, we will be able to help you demonstrate to HM Revenue & Customs that reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of the return, thereby significantly reducing the possibility of an inaccuracy penalty being imposed. To further reduce the possibility of an inaccuracy penalty, you will remain responsible for maintaining good quality supporting records for each return, for providing us with all relevant information and explanations and for acting on any advice that we give you.

## **11 Implementation**

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

## **12 Intellectual property rights**

- 12.1 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.

## **13 Help us to give you the right service**

- 13.1 If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, please let us know, by telephoning the engagement partner dealing with your affairs. If, however, you are unable to deal with any difficulty through him please contact Angus Burnett on [angusb@martin-company.co.uk](mailto:angusb@martin-company.co.uk).

- 13.2 We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. If you feel that we have given you a less than satisfactory service, we undertake to do everything reasonable to address your concerns. If you are still not satisfied, you may of course take up matters with The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

- 13.3 In order for us to provide you with a high quality service on an ongoing basis it is essential that you provide us with relevant records and information when requested, reply to correspondence in a timely manner and otherwise follow the terms of the agreement between us set out in this Standard Terms of Business and associated Engagement letters. We therefore reserve the right to cancel the engagement between us with immediate effect in the event of:

- your insolvency, bankruptcy or other arrangement being reached with creditors;
- failure to pay our fees by the due dates;
- either party being in breach of their obligations where this is not corrected within 30 days of being asked to do so.

## **14 Applicable law**

- 14.1 This Engagement Letter is governed by, and construed in accordance with, English law. 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. Each party irrevocably waives any right it may have to object to any action being brought in those courts, to claim that the action has been brought in an inappropriate forum, or to claim that those courts do not have jurisdiction.

- 14.2 If any provision in this Standard Terms of Business or any associated Engagement Letter, or its application, are found to be invalid, illegal or otherwise unenforceable in any respect, the validity, legality or enforceability of any other provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired.

## **15 Changes in the law**

- 15.1 We will not accept responsibility if you act on advice previously given by us without first confirming with us that the advice is still valid in light of any change in the law or your circumstances.
- 15.2 We will accept no liability for losses arising from changes in the law or the interpretation thereof that occur after the date on which advice is given.

## **16 Electronic and other communication**

- 16.1 Unless you instruct us otherwise we may, where appropriate, communicate with you and with third parties via e-mail or by other electronic means. The recipient is responsible for virus checking e-mails and any attachments.
- 16.2 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 e-mails or electronic storage devices. However electronic communication is not totally secure and we cannot be held responsible for damage or loss caused by viruses nor for communications which are corrupted or altered after despatch. 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.
- 16.3 It is the responsibility of the recipient to carry out a virus check on any attachments received.
- 16.4 Any communication by us with you sent through the post is deemed to arrive at your postal address two working days after the day that the document was sent.

## **17 Data Protection**

- 17.1 In this clause 17, the following definitions shall apply:
- ‘client personal data’ means any personal data provided to us by you, or on your behalf, for the purpose of providing our services to you, pursuant to our engagement letter with you;
- ‘data protection legislation’ means all applicable privacy and data protection legislation and regulations including PECCR, the GDPR and any applicable national laws, regulations and secondary legislation in the UK relating to the processing of personal data and the privacy of electronic communications, as amended, replaced or updated from time to time;
- ‘controller’, ‘data subject’, ‘personal data’, and ‘process’ shall have the meanings given to them in the data protection legislation;
- ‘GDPR’ means the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679); and
- ‘PECCR’ means the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 (SI 2426/2003).
- 17.2 We shall each be considered an independent data controller in relation to the client personal data. Each of us will comply with all requirements and obligations applicable to us under the data protection legislation in respect of the client personal data.
- 17.3 You shall only disclose client personal data to us where:
- (i) you have provided the necessary information to the relevant data subjects regarding its use (and you may use or refer to our privacy notice available at [www.martinandcompany.co.uk](http://www.martinandcompany.co.uk));

- (ii) you have a lawful basis upon which to do so, which, in the absence of any other lawful basis, shall be with the relevant data subject's consent; and
  - (iii) you have complied with the necessary requirements under the data protection legislation to enable you to do so.
- 17.4 Should you require any further details regarding our treatment of personal data, please contact our data protection manager.
- 17.5 We shall only process the client personal data:
- (i) in order to provide our services to you and perform any other obligations in accordance with our engagement with you;
  - (ii) in order to comply with our legal or regulatory obligations; and
  - (iii) where it is necessary for the purposes of our legitimate interests and those interests are not overridden by the data subjects' own privacy rights. Our privacy notice (available at [www.martinandcompany.co.uk](http://www.martinandcompany.co.uk)) contains further details as to how we may process client personal data.
- 17.6 For the purpose of providing our services to you, pursuant to our engagement letter, we may disclose the client personal data to our regulatory bodies or other third parties (for example, our professional advisors or service providers).
- 17.7 We shall maintain commercially reasonable and appropriate security measures, including administrative, physical and technical safeguards, to protect against unauthorised or unlawful processing of the client personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, the client personal data.
- 17.8 In respect of the client personal data, provided that we are legally permitted to do so, we shall promptly notify you in the event that:
- (a) we receive a request, complaint or any adverse correspondence from or on behalf of a relevant data subject, to exercise their data subject rights under the data protection legislation or in respect of our processing of their personal data;
  - (b) we are served with an information, enforcement or assessment notice (or any similar notices), or receive any other material communication in respect of our processing of the client personal data from a supervisory authority as defined in the data protection legislation (for example in the UK, the Information Commissioner's Officer); or
  - (c) we reasonably believe that there has been any incident which resulted in the accidental or unauthorised access to, or destruction, loss, unauthorised disclosure or alteration of, the client personal data.
- 17.9 Upon the reasonable request of the other, we shall each co-operate with the other and take such reasonable commercial steps or provide such information as is necessary to enable each of us to comply with the data protection legislation in respect of the services provided to you in accordance with our engagement letter with you in relation to those services.

## **18 Services Regulations 2009**

- 18.1 In accordance with the disclosure requirements of the Services Regulations 2009, our professional indemnity insurers are Manchester Underwriting Management Limited of Link House, St.Mary's Way, Chesham, HP5 1HR. The territorial coverage is worldwide excluding business carried out from an office in the United States of America (USA) or Canada and excludes any action for a claim brought in any court in the USA or Canada.

## **19 Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999**

- 19.1 Persons who are not party to this agreement shall have no rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any term of this agreement. This clause does not affect any right or remedy of any person which exists or is available otherwise than pursuant to that Act.
- 19.2 The advice that we give to you is for your sole use and is confidential to you and will not constitute advice for any third party to whom you may communicate it, unless we have expressly agreed in writing that a specified third party may rely on our work. We will accept no responsibility to third parties, including any group company to whom the engagement letter is not addressed, for any aspect of our professional services or work that is made available to them.

## **20 Client identification**

- 20.1 In common with other professional firms, we are required to:
- maintain identification procedures for clients and beneficial owners of clients;
  - maintain records of identification evidence and the work undertaken for the client, and
  - report, in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations.
- 20.2 If we are not able to obtain satisfactory evidence of your identity and where applicable that of the beneficial owners, we will not be able to proceed with the engagement.

## **21 Limitation of liability**

- 21.1 We will provide our services with reasonable care and skill. Our liability to you is limited to losses, damages, costs and expenses caused by our negligence or wilful default. However, to the fullest extent permitted by law, we will not be responsible for any losses, penalties, surcharges, interest or additional tax liabilities where you or others supply incorrect or incomplete information, or fail to supply any appropriate information or where you fail to act on our advice or respond promptly to communications from us or the tax authorities. Further, we will not be liable to you for any delay or failure to perform our obligations if the delay or failure is caused by circumstances outside our reasonable control.

- 21.2 You will not hold us, our directors and staff, responsible, to the fullest extent permitted by law, for any loss suffered by you arising from any misrepresentation (intentional or unintentional) supplied to us orally or in writing. This applies equally to fraudulent acts, misrepresentation or wilful default on the part of any party to the transaction and their directors, officers, employees, agents or advisers. However, this exclusion shall not apply where such misrepresentation, withholding or concealment is or should (in carrying out the procedures which we have agreed to perform with reasonable care and skill) have been evident to us without further enquiry.
- 21.3 You have agreed that you will not bring any claim in connection with services we provide against any of our directors or employees personally.
- 21.4 Our work is not, unless there is a legal or regulatory requirement, to be made available to third parties without our written permission and we will accept no responsibility to third parties for any aspect of our professional services or work that is made available to them. You agree to indemnify us and our agents in respect of any claim (including any claim for negligence) arising out of unauthorised disclosure by you or by any person for whom you are responsible of our advice and opinions, whether in writing or otherwise. This indemnity will extend to the cost of defending any such claim, including payment at our usual rates for the time that we spend defending it.

## **22 Use of our name in statements or documents issued by you**

- 22.1 You are not permitted to use our name in any statement or document that you may issue unless our prior written consent has been obtained. The only exception to this restriction would be statements or documents that in accordance with applicable law are to be made public.

## **23 Reliance on advice**

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

## **24 Interpretation**

- 24.1 If any provision of our engagement letter or terms of business is held void for whatever reason, then that provision will be deemed not to form part of this contract and no other provisions will be affected or impaired in any way. In the event of any conflict between these terms of business and the engagement letter the relevant provision in the engagement letter or schedules will take precedence.

## **25 Internal disputes**

- 25.1 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 or services 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/principals in the business we will refer the matter back to the board of directors/partnership and take no further action until the board/partnership has agreed the action to be taken.

## **26 Lien**

- 26.1 Insofar as we are permitted to do 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.

## **27 Period of engagement and termination**

- 27.1 Unless otherwise agreed in our engagement letter, our work will begin when we receive implicit or explicit acceptance of that letter. Except as stated in that letter we will not be responsible for periods before that date.
- 27.2 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.
- 27.3 In the event of termination of our contract, we will endeavour 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.

## **28 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and Common Reporting Standards**

- 28.1 Unless agreed specifically in a separate engagement letter, we are not responsible for your compliance with the International Tax Compliance (United States of America) Regulations 2013, produced as a result of FATCA. In particular, we are not responsible for the categorisation of any UK entity into either a Financial Institution (FI) or an active or passive Non-Financial Foreign Entity (NFFE) nor, if a Financial Institution, for its registration with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and subsequent submission of the required annual returns to HM Revenue & Customs.
- 28.2 However, if requested to do so we can provide advice on the completion of the forms supplied by Financial Institutions under these Regulations, or under Common Reporting Standards, and used by them to determine the status of an entity. We can also provide advice on setting up the appropriate systems to identify and report on your clients or beneficiaries who are foreign citizens affected by FATCA or Common Reporting Standards.

## **29 Retention of papers**

- 29.1 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 if requested. 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: five 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:*

- six years from the end of the accounting period.

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

### **30 Probate-type services**

30.1 As we are not licensed or authorised by the ICAEW for the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate, any work we do for you on closely aligned activities, such as estate administration or inheritance tax advice, will not be covered by the ICAEW Probate Compensation Scheme and you will not have access to the Legal Ombudsman, nor is our advice covered by legal professional privilege.