



# Corporate Services

Create. Grow. Realise.



# Create your future

Whatever the size of your business, you will need a strategy to get you where you want to be. We can help you with creating and implementing that strategy, because it is never too early to think about the future:

- How do I make my business investor ready?
- How do I plan and implement succession?
- Where will the required finance come from?
- How do I achieve the right exit, when the time comes?

## **We can help you answer these questions.**

Making sure your business has the right legal structure and documentation in place is fundamental to achieving growth, securing investment, having something to pass on to the next generation, or realising value through a sale or initial public offering (IPO).

We work closely with tax and financial advisers to help businesses realise their full potential, avoiding legal pitfalls and helping you focus on what you are best at – running your business.



# Grow your value

We want to help you maximise and protect the value in your business.

Investing in doing things correctly can mean significant savings. It can help you retain your best people and ultimately realise your strategic objectives sooner and with greater value.

Taking shortcuts and not seeking advice on the future of your business, both from a legal and tax perspective, means you may struggle with:

- securing bank lending or third party investment
- breaches of legislation
- shareholder or commercial disputes
- loss of key employees
- securing full value on an exit

Getting the foundations right reduces the chance of these things costing your business time and money down the line, or worse.



# Realise your potential

Here are some of the many ways we can help your business achieve its long term objectives.

## Structure for success

Putting your business into the right structure can be key to realising investment and exit value.

We can help by:

- creating and establishing your business (partnership or company)
- reorganising your corporate structure
- moving assets within a group
- demergers
- getting rid of unwanted dormant companies



## Retain key people

Businesses are more likely to grow if they have good people. Being able to retain and incentivise key employees can be critical.

We can help by:

- creating Enterprise Management Incentive (EMI) share schemes and other share based incentive arrangements
- putting in place effective bonus structures and long term incentive plans
- implementing appropriate employment contracts, including provisions to protect intellectual property and prevent competition
- training directors on their duties and employment law requirements

## Maximise value - attract investment

There will come a time when you want to unlock value in your business, make changes to your shareholder base or bring in new investors.

We can help by:

- unblocking dividend streams
- establishing separate class rights to ensure control over dividends
- reviewing, drafting and negotiating investor/subsorption agreements
- structuring share buybacks
- protecting you as you add new shareholders

## Cross the 't's and dot the 'i's

Keeping up with your compliance requirements is a crucial part of running any business.

We can help by:

- reviewing and updating your constitutional documents
- reviewing and updating statutory registers
- helping to take away the filing headache
- structuring shareholder arrangements



# Prepare to **sell or float**

Our team have experience advising many of the region's most acquisitive companies. This means we know what, legally speaking, buyers are looking for when the time is right to sell your business. We also know how to help you prepare for an IPO.

We can help by:

- conducting high level strategic reviews or a detailed legal analysis of your business to pre-empt key questions potential investors/ purchasers will have
- identifying and addressing key legal issues that impact value through:
  - IP audits and identifying IP ownership
  - protecting valuable IP
  - customer and supplier contract reviews
  - property reviews
  - reviewing employment policies and practices
  - resolving any business disputes you are involved in





# Advice you can **trust**

We believe there are many ways in which we can help your business and we have a long track record in supporting organisations of all sizes. But don't just take our word for it...





## Scale up



Working with Muckle has benefited us massively, from setting up our initial shareholder agreement to the T&C's for our various arms of the business, they have been fantastic. It's given us real peace of mind knowing we have expert legal advice we can turn to whenever we need it. The team were incredibly friendly and personable and had lots of experience working with tech and start-up companies."

**Joe Kelly, Faction Health and Safety Group Director**

## Get your house in order



The team at Muckle has been invaluable for us as we grow rapidly - helping us get the legal structures right in the group. They are a great team to work with and handled our tricky demerger with great care."

**Ben Ridgway, Intelligent Services Group Managing Director**

## Branch out



We received a huge boost with investment in our business, and a move into new markets. Muckle helped us to structure agreements, devoting the time and expertise needed to work through this with us, which was extremely valuable."

**Dr Craig Rose, Seaweed & Co. Managing Director**

## Think big



Having a legal adviser on our doorstep, skilled and experienced enough to support our rapid growth, has been invaluable. Muckle LLP's range of expertise and responsiveness continues to help us achieve our ambitions. They are a key part of the Fairstone team."

**Lee Hartley, Fairstone Group CEO**



# Expert advice - **always**

We are dedicated to getting the deal done properly and our team works side-by-side with Muckle's many other commercial lawyers. This means that if your deal needs support on an issue outside corporate our full range of specialists are quickly at your service.

## **Banking**

Top ranked in Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners, our banking team can support any finance issues, from a simple working capital facility to a complicated bond issue or multi-bank arrangement.

## **Real Estate**

Large and highly respected, our award winning real estate team has supported many corporate transactions. From acquiring new premises to asset management, they have the specialists to handle every property issue, including property disputes.

## **Commercial**

Top ranked in Legal 500, our commercial team knows everything there is to know about intellectual property and commercial contracts big, small, bespoke or standardised, on or offline.

## **Technology**

From data breach to blockchain and development to procurement, IT is a rapid growth area in business with many legal implications. That is why our specialist technology team is a huge asset to the region.

## **Dispute Resolution**

Our dispute resolution team is regularly engaged in multimillion pound national and international litigation as well as smaller local disputes. It offers strategic advice and alternative dispute resolution, emergency remedies and a highly successful debt recovery service.



### Employment

Our employment team has a broad range of expertise and is renowned for its communication skills. In addition to day-to-day legal work, our lawyers regularly give talks on employment law and provide NCFE accredited training, ideal for in-house legal teams and HR professionals.

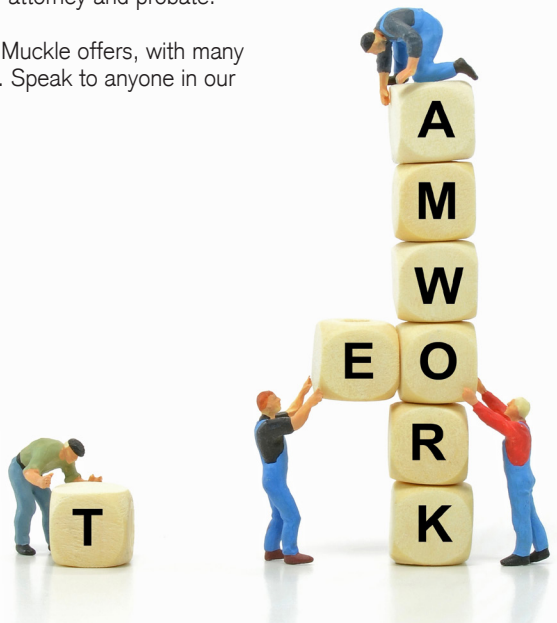
### Construction & Engineering

Our Construction team specialises in contentious and non-contentious issues and is working on some of the biggest building projects in the North East.

### Private Client

For business owners, directors and senior executives we offer a personal private client service to advise on all aspects of estate planning, including wills, succession, inheritance tax, family trusts, powers of attorney and probate.

This is just a snapshot of the expertise Muckle offers, with many more specialist practice areas available. Speak to anyone in our team to find out more.



# Want to create, grow or realise value in your business?

Call **Amy Wanless** or **Jennifer Hirst** on the details below for an initial chat or to book a free consultation and see how we can help you achieve your business goals.



**Amy Wanless**  
**Senior Associate**  
**Corporate**

**T:** 0191 211 7978  
**M:** 07880 384 951

[amy.wanless@muckle-llp.com](mailto:amy.wanless@muckle-llp.com)



**Jennifer Hirst**  
**Senior Associate**  
**Corporate**

**T:** 0191 211 7967  
**M:** 07867 451 415

[jennifer.hirst@muckle-llp.com](mailto:jennifer.hirst@muckle-llp.com)



Time Central, 32 Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4BF | DX 61011

Tel: 0191 211 7777 | Fax: 0191 211 7788 | [muckle-llp.com](http://muckle-llp.com)



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