

TAX STRATEGY - UNITED KINGDOM

During 2015, the government consulted on a package of measures aimed at improving tax compliance of large businesses. Following that consultation, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) introduced legislation requiring large businesses to publish their strategy in relation to UK taxes. The following tax policy sets out how the group manages risk in relation to tax, its dealing with HMRC, and its governing principles related to tax planning and relationships with professional advisors.

Tax policy:

Our tax policy comprises five key components:

1. Commitment to compliance

We are committed to compliance with tax law and practice in the UK. Compliance for us means paying the right amount of tax in the right place at the right time. It involves disclosing all relevant facts and circumstances to the tax authorities and claiming reliefs and incentives where available.

2. Responsible attitude to arranging our tax affairs

In structuring our commercial activities we will consider – among other factors – the tax laws of the countries in which we operate, with a view to maximising value on a sustainable basis. Any structuring that is undertaken will have commercial and economic substance and will have full regard to the potential impact on our reputation and broader goals.

3. Effective risk management

Given the scale of our business and volume of tax obligations, risks will inevitably arise from time to time in relation to the interpretation of complex tax law. We actively seek to identify, evaluate, monitor and manage these risks. In line with our strategy, we regularly seek external advice on tax matters in order to ensure we are and remain compliant.

4. Constructive approach to engaging with HMRC

We engage with HMRC with honesty, integrity, respect and fairness and in a spirit of co-operative compliance. We are transparent with HMRC and, in cases of interpretation or complexity, work with them to determine the amount of tax due. Wherever possible, we do so on a real time basis with the aim to strive for early agreement on disputed matters, and to achieve certainty whenever possible.

5. Board ownership and oversight

Our published UK strategy, which has been approved by the Board, satisfies Schedule 19 of the UK Finance Act 2016, in respect of our financial year ending April 30, 2019.