



# International Clients



## A World of Challenges

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International capital presents individuals with a myriad of choices and opportunities. As one of Europe's most respected providers of accountancy, taxation and fiduciary services to private clients throughout the UK and beyond, Saffery Champness is well-placed to advise on the complexities that cross-border transactions and movements can bring.

Our firm's history of helping people safeguard, preserve and increase their wealth is well established.

This brochure provides a broad outline of the areas in which we are most frequently engaged by our International Clients. We hope you find it interesting and of practical use, and if you would like to discuss any of the subjects raised please contact us by using the information at the end of this booklet.

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## Moving to the UK

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The UK continues to offer a host of potential advantages to those wishing to relocate or base their operations here. Chief among these are a competitive tax regime, as well as London's renowned and internationally-focussed stock markets and cosmopolitan culture.

These are among the reasons why capital from all over the world continues to flow to the UK, often along with its owners, their families, businesses and other interests.

We work with our clients to create integrated solutions across all their related financial and business affairs. You may have requirements for the services of advisers and service providers with additional disciplinary expertise, such as property consultants, solicitors, independent financial advisers and private bankers.

We have a wide range of contacts in all these areas and are able to make introductions to third parties with expertise fitting your requirements.

Property investment is an area in which we possess particular expertise. We regularly guide clients on the tax aspects of acquiring land and property in the UK. Whether these assets are purchased for residential reasons or as part of an investment strategy, we are

able to assist with planning and structuring your UK property purchase to maximize the value of your investment. We can also advise on the use of property-owning funds or other holding vehicles most appropriate for your investment objectives, expectations and strategies.

We will also work in conjunction with other such professionals to ensure that your projects or transactions are completed to cost and timetable.

### Key services:

- Tax
- Trusts
- Private Office
- Offshore Office
- Corporate Finance

## Taxation and Corporate Services

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### Taxation

Despite recent changes to the legislation, the UK still has an advantageous tax regime for the international client wishing to relocate to the UK. We are experienced in advising clients regarding residence, ordinary residence and domicile, and recognise that everybody's circumstances and potential solutions require more than a 'one-size fits all' approach.

However, moving to the UK in the most tax-efficient manner requires careful planning, and the failure to do so may result in exposure to unexpected tax liabilities, as well as the loss of potential opportunities.

Many International Clients wish to acquire property in the UK. This may be a family home, a country estate or as an investment. Saffery Champness is the pre-eminent adviser to Landed Estates in the UK.

It is very important for clients to seek professional advice at the outset to minimise any tax exposure.

### Corporate Services

We also provide a wide range of corporate services for companies based both in the UK and offshore. Core services here include company audit, accounting and the provision of general business advice. We can advise on the best corporate structures for any future business plans you may have, as well as being able to provide you with access to well-qualified and experienced offshore directors should you require them.

Corporate finance is also an area of expertise and we often advise clients on their acquisitions, disposals, company mergers and other transactions. Finally, we are familiar with stock market issues and advise companies regarding their potential flotation on the London Stock Exchange, Alternative Investment Market or other markets.

### International Reach

Through our membership of Nexia International, we have working relationships with associated firms in over 100 countries and are able to provide comprehensive advice on the full spectrum of cross-border tax and financial issues which may effect our international clients.



## Private Office

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As well as advising on tax-planning strategies, our specialist team is familiar with the surrounding issues associated with relocating to the UK. We provide a range of services working together with your other advisers that can help ensure your relocation to the UK – and that of your family – goes as smoothly as possible.

Common issues that arise include:

- Ownership of UK property
- Finding suitable schools
- Employing domestic staff and estate workers
- Opening bank accounts

## Offshore Services

Our Guernsey office is one of the largest independent providers of fiduciary services on the Island and is one of the largest specialist operators of trust services in the Channel Islands. With many years' experience, our Directors possess particular skills in advising wealthy individuals and their families on the best means of structuring their affairs. We aim to provide practical solutions to meet our clients' requirements for confidentiality and wealth preservation.

Our Guernsey practice is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission and is licensed to provide trust and company management services. Importantly, as a firm of registered fiduciaries, we are not affiliated to any bank or investment management company. As such, we are free to recommend, seek out and use the most suitable service provider for our clients, ranging from private banks to investment managers.

### The Island of Guernsey

Guernsey offers the advantages of a low-tax, stable and sophisticated financial jurisdiction. Its financial infrastructure has been established for decades and, with practical systems of administration and regulation, it has become a major international finance centre.

### Use of trust and company structures

We are able recommend the use of various combinations of financial structures for our clients, in response to their circumstances and objectives. While the potential complexities of each case are unique, considerations may include the following:

- Tax-saving opportunities that may exist when a client lives in a jurisdiction that is outside of their country of origin
- The use of offshore vehicles can negate potential forced heirship provisions, which dictate how an individual's estate is allocated on their death

- Estate-planning opportunities may exist for clients who wish to provide for succeeding generations, but who may have concerns regarding the availability of capital to individuals at an early stage in their lives

- Trusts can provide a flexible and discreet means of providing for first or second families following divorce or remarriage

- Clients resident in politically unstable countries will often use Guernsey as a safe and secure jurisdiction in which to shelter their wealth

- Guernsey trusts and companies are frequently used for the purposes of holding specific assets such as second homes, yachts, investment portfolios or private company shares

In summary, we have many years of experience in managing trust and company structures for a wide variety of International clients. These services are also available through our Swiss representative office in Geneva.



## Contact Details

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*If you have any further queries with regard to the issues and services outlined in this document, please contact any of the following people:*

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This brochure is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.

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