



ATLA  
GROUP

# ATLA AUDIT AND ASSURANCE LIMITED

STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS

FEBRUARY 2022

## IMPORTANT NOTE

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The following terms of business apply to all engagements accepted by Atla Audit and Assurance Limited (“Atla”, “we”, “us”, “our”). All work is carried out under these terms except where changes are expressly agreed in writing.

These terms of business will be updated from time to time and our latest version can be located here: <https://atla.im/terms-of-business/>

## 1. APPLICABLE LAW

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- 1.1 Our engagement letter, the schedules of services and standard terms of business are governed by, and construed in accordance with, Isle of Man law. Each party agrees that the courts of the Isle of Man 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 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.
- 1.2 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 in your circumstances. We will accept no liability for losses arising from changes in the law, or the interpretation thereof, that occur after the date on which the advice is given.

## 2. CLIENT IDENTIFICATION

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- 2.1 As with other professional services firms, we are required to identify our clients for the purposes of the Isle of Man anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism legislation. We may request from you, and retain, such information and documentation as we require for these purposes and/or make searches of appropriate databases. If we are not able to obtain satisfactory evidence of your identity, we will not be able to proceed with the engagement.
- 2.2 If you undertake business that requires you to be supervised by an appropriate supervisory authority to follow anti-money laundering regulations including if you accept high value cash payments (in any currency) equivalent to €15,000 or more (either in a single transaction or a series of linked transactions) in exchange for goods or services you should inform us.
- 2.3 Any personal data received from you to comply with our obligations under The Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Code (“the Code”) will be processed only for the purposes of preventing money laundering or terrorist financing. No other use will be made of this personal data unless use of the data is permitted by or under enactment other than the Code, or we have obtained the consent of the data subject to the proposed use of the data.

- 2.4 We are registered as a designated business under the Designated Business (Registration and Oversight) Act 2015.

### 3. CLIENT MONEY

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- 3.1 We do not hold client money.

### 4. COMMISSIONS OR OTHER BENEFITS

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- 4.1 In some circumstances we may receive commissions or other benefits for introductions to other professionals or in respect of transactions which we arrange for you.
- 4.2 If this happens, we will notify you in writing of the amount and terms of payment and receipt of any such commissions or benefits. The same will apply if the payment is made to, or the transactions are arranged by one of our associates. The fees that you would otherwise pay will not be reduced by the amount of the commission or benefits. You agree that we, or our associates, can retain the commission or other benefits without being liable to account to you for any such amounts.

### 5. CONFIDENTIALITY

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- 5.1 Unless we are authorised by you to disclose information on your behalf, we confirm that if you give us confidential information we will, at all times during and after this engagement, keep it confidential, except as required by law or as provided for in regulatory, ethical or other professional pronouncements applicable to us or our engagement.
- 5.2 You agree that, if we act for other clients who are or who become your competitors, to comply with our duty of confidentiality it will be sufficient for us to take such steps as we think appropriate to preserve the confidentiality of information given to us by you, both during and after this engagement. These may include taking the same or similar steps as we take in respect of the confidentiality of our own information.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.

- 5.6 We will inform you of the proposed use of a subcontractor before they commence work, except where your data will not be transferred out of our systems and the subcontractor is bound by confidentiality terms equivalent to an employee.
- 5.7 If we use external or cloud based systems, we will ensure confidentiality of your information is maintained.
- 5.8 This section 5 applies in addition to our obligations on data protection below.
- 5.9 We reserve the right, for the purpose of promotional activity, training or for other business purposes, to mention that you are a client. As stated above, we will not disclose any confidential information.

## 6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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- 6.1 We will inform you if we become aware of any conflict of interest in our relationship with you or in our relationship with 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. If conflicts are identified which cannot be managed in a way that protects your interests, we regret that we will be unable to provide further services.
- 6.2 If there is a conflict of interest that is capable of being addressed successfully by the adoption of suitable safeguards to protect your interests, we will adopt those safeguards. In resolving the conflict, we would be guided by ICAEW's Code of Ethics, which can be viewed at [icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance/ethics](https://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance/ethics) 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 above.

## 7. DATA PROTECTION

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- 7.1 In this clause, the following definitions shall apply:
  - '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 the Data Protection Act 2018, the GDPR, the Unsolicited Communications Regulations 2005 and any other applicable laws, regulations and secondary legislation in the Isle of Man 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).

- 7.2 Where applicable, 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 personal data.
- 7.3 You shall only disclose 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 policy available at: <https://atla.im/privacy-policies-clients/> )
  - (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.
- 7.4 We shall only process 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.
- 7.5 Our privacy policy (available on our website at <https://atla.im/privacy-policies-clients/> ) contains further details as to how we may process personal data. Should you require any further details regarding our treatment of personal data, please contact our data protection officer.
- 7.6 For the purposes of providing our services to you, pursuant to our engagement letter, we may disclose the client personal data to members of our firm's network, our oversight body or other third parties for example, our professional advisors or service providers. We will only disclose client personal data to a third party (including a third party outside the EEA) provided that the transfer is undertaken in compliance with the data protection legislation.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 In respect of the personal data, provided that we are legally permitted to do so, we shall promptly notify you in the event that:
- (i) 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;
  - (ii) 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 personal data from a supervisory authority as defined in the data protection legislation; or

(iii) 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 personal data.

7.9 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.

## 8. DISENGAGEMENT

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8.1 If we resign or are asked to resign, we will normally issue a disengagement letter to ensure that our respective responsibilities are clear.

## 9. ELECTRONIC AND OTHER COMMUNICATION

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

9.2 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 in emails or by electronic storage devices. Nevertheless, electronic communication is not totally secure and we cannot be held responsible for damage or loss caused by viruses or 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 when electronic submission is mandatory.

9.3 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 the document was sent.

## 10. FEES AND PAYMENT TERMS

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10.1 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 we provide, as well as the level of risk.

10.2 If we provide you with an estimate of our fees for any specific work, the estimate will not be contractually binding unless we explicitly state 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. Indicative hourly charge-out rates are provided below. These rates are provided as an indication and may be subject to periodic change and annual incremental increases.

The rates below are accurate at the date of issue of these terms of business. Should you require details of our updated rates at any time in the future, these are available on request.

Directors and Consultants	£200-£300
Managers	£100-£200
Accountants	£100-£150
Trainee Accountants, Bookkeepers & Administrators	£40-£100

Please note that if services are required which are outside of our standard service provision, we will inform you of this fact and agree specific rates for provision of those services.

10.3 If 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.

10.4 In some cases, you may be entitled to assistance with your professional fees, particularly in relation to any investigation into your tax affairs by the Isle of Man Income Tax Division or 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 you have. You will remain liable for our fees regardless of whether all or part are liable to be paid by your insurers.

10.5 We will bill quarterly. Our fees are exclusive of VAT which will be added where it is chargeable. 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. In order to avoid large accumulations of work in progress, invoices may be raised at periodic intervals, when deemed appropriate.

10.6 Our invoices will be due for payment within 30 days of issue.

10.7 Unless otherwise agreed to the contrary, our fees do not include the costs of any third party, counsel or other professional fees. If these costs are incurred to fulfil our engagement, such necessary additional charges may be payable by you.

- 10.8 We reserve the right to charge interest on late paid invoices at the rate of 1.75% per month (APR 23.4%). We also reserve the right to suspend our services or to cease to act for you, having given written notice, if payment of any fees is unduly delayed. We intend to exercise these rights only if it is fair and reasonable to do so.
- 10.9 If you do not accept that an 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.
- 10.10 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.

## 11. HELP US GIVE YOU THE BEST SERVICE

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- 11.1 We are committed to providing you with a high quality service that is both efficient and effective. 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 contacting Basil Bielich or Lynsey Smith.
- 11.2 We will carefully consider any complaint you may make about our service promptly and do all we can to explain the position to you. We will acknowledge your letter within five business days of its receipt and endeavour to deal with your complaint within eight weeks.
- 11.3 If we do not answer your complaint to your satisfaction, you may, of course, take up the matter with our professional body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (“ICAEW”).

## 12. INFORMATION

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- 12.1 You represent and warrant that the information provided to us is accurate and complete and is not misleading in any way. You hereby confirm that you are acting solely as principal and not as agent for any other person.
- 12.2 You must inform us immediately in writing of any adverse information either in the course of application for business or at any subsequent date in relation to yourself or if you are a company, a partnership, a trust or an unincorporated association, in relation to your entity or any parties connected to your entity such as your officers, beneficial owners, controllers and beneficiaries as applicable.



- 12.3 You must also inform us immediately in writing of any changes to your details as given either in the course of application for business or at any subsequent date. This obligation relates to information including, but not limited to, any change of name, address or contact details, and if you are a company, a partnership, a trust or an unincorporated association, any change in the composition, identity or addresses of parties connected to your entity such as your officers, beneficial owners, controllers and beneficiaries as applicable.

## 13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND USE OF OUR NAME

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- 13.1 We will retain all intellectual property rights in any document prepared by us during the course of carrying out the engagement except where the law specifically states otherwise.
- 13.2 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.

## 14. INTERPRETATION

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

## 15. INTERNAL DISPUTES WITHIN A CLIENT

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- 15.1 If we become aware of a dispute between the parties who own a client business or who are in some way involved in its ownership and management, 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 / partners. If conflicting advice, information or instructions are received from different directors / partners in the business, we will refer the matter back to the board of directors / the partnership and take no further action until the board / partnership has agreed the action to be taken.

## 16. INVESTMENT SERVICES

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- 16.1 Investment business is regulated by the Isle of Man Financial Services Authority. 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 Isle of Man Financial Services Authority, as we are not. However, any referral does not indicate a recommendation and you must carry out your own due diligence procedures.

## 17. LIEN

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- 17.1 Insofar as we are permitted to so by law or by 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.

## 18. LIMITATION OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

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- 18.1 The advice and information we provide to 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 2001.

## 19. PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT AND TERMINATION

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- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 Each of us may terminate our agreement by giving not less than 21 days' notice in writing to the other party except if you fail to cooperate with us or we have reason to believe that you have provided us or Isle of Man Income Tax Division, Isle of Man Customs, or any other tax authority 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 before termination.

- 19.3 We reserve the right to terminate the engagement between us with immediate effect in the event of: your insolvency, bankruptcy or other arrangement being reached with creditors; an independence issue or change in the law which means we can no longer act; failure to pay our fees by the due dates; or either party being in breach of their obligations if this is not corrected within 30 days of being asked to do so.
- 19.4 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 will not be required to carry out further work and shall not be responsible or liable for any consequences arising from termination.

## 20. PROFESSIONAL RULES AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

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- 20.1 We will observe and act in accordance with the bye-laws, regulations and Code of Ethics of ICAEW and will accept instructions to act for you on this basis. In particular you give us authority to correct errors made by the Isle of Man Income Tax Division or applicable tax authority (where so engaged) 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 online at: [icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance](https://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance)

## 21. QUALITY CONTROL

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- 21.1 As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a quality service, our files are periodically reviewed by a second director or by an independent regulatory or quality control body. We also engage subcontractors to carry out work. These reviewers and subcontractors are highly experienced professionals and are bound by the same requirements of confidentiality as our directors and staff.
- 21.2 When dealing with the tax authorities 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.

## 22. RELIANCE ON ADVICE

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- 22.1 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. Advice is valid as at the date it was given.

## 23. RETENTION OF PAPERS

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- 23.1 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.
- 23.2 Although certain documents may legally belong to you, we may destroy correspondence and other papers that we store electronically or otherwise which are more than six years old. We will retain documents for longer if required to do so by law or if we think they may be of continuing significance. If you require retention of any documents you must notify us of that fact in writing.

## 24. PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

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- 24.1 We are registered to carry on audit work in the UK and Ireland by ICAEW. Details of our audit registration can be viewed at [www.auditregister.org.uk](http://www.auditregister.org.uk) for the UK under reference number C008599993.
- 24.2 In accordance with the disclosure requirements of the UK Provision of Services Regulations 2009, details of our primary professional indemnity insurer are displayed at our registered office address and a copy of these details is available on request.

## 25. TIMING OF OUR SERVICES

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- 25.1 If you provide us with all information and explanations on a timely basis in accordance with our requirements, we will plan to undertake the work within a reasonable period of time to meet any regulatory deadlines. However, failure to complete our services before any such regulatory deadline would not, of itself, mean that we are liable for any penalty or additional costs arising.