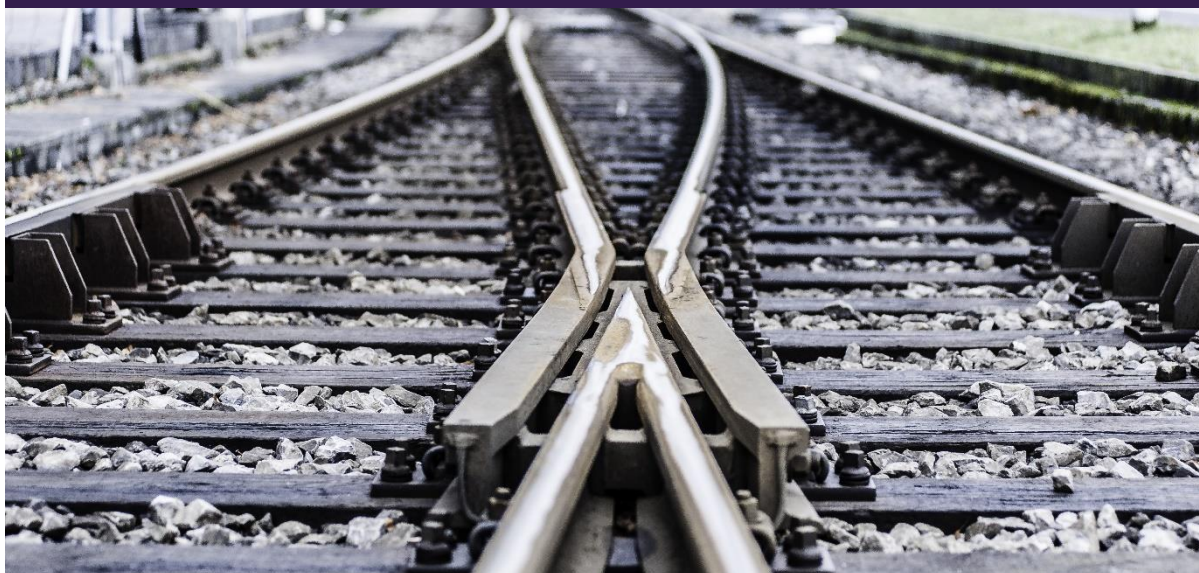


Inside Out



June 2025

Welcome to the summer 2025 edition of Inside Out, our Corporate Team newsletter.

Below you will find a small sample of articles produced by the team and published on our website over recent months, including an update on the new identity verification procedures at Companies House – which will impact all directors and companies, and a briefing on the new criminal offence of failure to prevent fraud, which will impact on all 'large organisations'. Please do click through to the articles for more detail.

After the flurry of M&A activity around last autumn's budget, deal activity remains strong, and links to a sample of recent transactions carried out across our offices, ranging from large cross border transactions to regional management buy outs, can be found below.

In team news, we are excited to welcome three new partners to the Corporate Team, all of whom joined the team on 1 May, bringing the headcount in the Corporate Team to 20 partners, supported by more than 50 legal professionals.

[Damocles Merry](#) joins us from Osborne Clarke to lead the Corporate Team in our

newest office, Bristol. Damocles is an experienced M&A and corporate transactions lawyer with a breath of experience. He operates across numerous sectors, including technology and aerospace and defence. This sits alongside his expertise in corporate real estate transactions, which will complement our strong real estate offering.

[Salim Somjee](#) and [Helen Garner](#) both join our Sevenoaks office from Cripps. Salim and Helen are highly respected corporate lawyers in the South East, advising businesses on a range of corporate matters, with particular specialisms of advising individuals, corporates and private equity funds on a range of cross border and private equity M&A transactions.

If you'd like to speak to us about any of the topics discussed in the newsletter, or to meet any of our new partners in Bristol or Sevenoaks, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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Featured articles

Venture capital terms: why founders must look beyond valuation

New research from HSBC Innovation Banking, highlights a shift in the UK venture capital landscape: early-stage start-ups continue to attract funding on relatively fair terms, but later-stage deals are becoming increasingly investor-friendly, and potentially founder-unfriendly.



[Read more](#)



Identity verification under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 introduced the concept of mandatory identity verification for all UK companies, their directors, PSC's and those filing documents on their behalf. This was part of a general push for greater transparency within UK companies and to deter the use of companies for unlawful purposes.

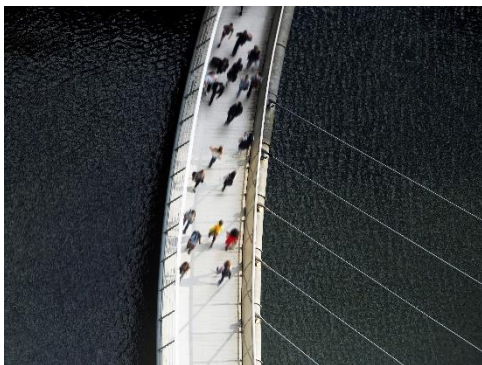
[Read more](#)

New failure to prevent fraud: what you need to know

With effect from 1 September 2025, section 199 of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 (ECCTA) creates a new criminal offence of failure to prevent fraud.



[Read more](#)



Immigration update – May 2025

[Sacha Wooldridge](#) provides a round-up of important immigration updates for employers.

[Read more](#)

Bank holidays in 2024/25: ensuring compliance with the Working Time Regulations

Employers operating a holiday year spanning from 1 April to 31 March may face the potential risk of claims related to unlawful wage deductions stemming from holiday underpayment this year.



[Read more](#)



The importance of legal advice on settlement agreements

Settlement agreements are crucial tools for resolving employment disputes, but they come with specific legal requirements to ensure their validity. One of the most critical requirements under the law of England and Wales is that the employee must receive independent legal advice on the terms and effect of the agreement.

[Read more](#)

Latest news

Recent deal success

Please see below links to news of some of our recent completed deals.

- In our Norwich Team: [Buffaload Group acquisition](#)
- In our Sevenoaks Team: [Keatons Group Limited sale to Dexters](#)
- In our Ipswich Team: [Recruitment agency Management Buyout](#)

- In our Cambridge Team: [Acquisition of Active-PCB Solutions Limited for Novastone Capital's ETA Program](#)
- In our International Team: [Assystem acquisition of Mactech Energy Group](#)
- In our London Team: [Urban Gym Group acquisition of Gymbox](#)



Birketts welcomes five new partners

We are delighted to welcome five new partners to the firm, including Damocles Merry, Salim Somjee and Helen Garner who join the Corporate Team.

[Read more](#)