

SERVICES TO BUSINESS

High quality advice for a wide variety of clients

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICES WE OFFER TO THOSE IN BUSINESS

Running a Business can be difficult at the best of times. From Parker Arrenberg you will receive specialist advice from qualified and experienced lawyers with a detailed understanding of the areas of law in which they work. We go out of our way to understand what our clients want and then help them to achieve it.

The following is an outline of the services we offer to our Business Clients. For more details please feel free to contact us without charge or obligation.

You will be reassured to know that the majority of our work results from recommendation, and we always explain our fees and timescales in advance of you making any commitment.

FORMING A BUSINESS

It is a sad fact the majority of businesses formed, fail within the first two years. Parker Arrenberg's prime objective is to ensure that our clients are not part of this majority.

When problems arise they can be time consuming, demotivating and expensive. Prevention is always better than cure and considerably less expensive, so it makes sense to get things right from the start and regularly review the law as it affects your business in order to keep ahead of potential problems.

If you are starting a business we can advise you on the different entities you might consider. These may include, sole trader, limited company, partnerships, limited liability partnerships or even co-operatives.

We can advise you in matters such as directors' responsibilities and general statutory requirements, partner and shareholder agreements, mergers and reorganisations, and

asset and share acquisitions and disposals.

At Parker Arrenberg we understand how business operates and act for a wide range of clients from sole traders to companies employing large numbers of people.

An early conversation with us may prove of real value, even if you are at the first stages of considering going into business for yourself. It is never too early to speak to us.

BUSINESS PREMISES

Whether you are buying a business or starting from scratch, it is likely that you will need to obtain suitable premises.

You may rent premises, in which case you will need to sign a lease or tenancy agreement, which will impose legal obligations on you that will require careful consideration.

If you are buying commercial premises the process is more complicated than buying a house and has many more legal requirements and complications attached to the purchase than may immediately be apparent to you.

Whatever your plans an early discussion with us may well prove of considerable advantage to you.

LARGER COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

As well as the smaller business, Parker Arrenberg act for a wide range of corporate and institutional clients, and have the expertise and experience to advise on the most effective methods of structuring property transactions.

For development projects our specialists deal with all issues from the first stages of planning and site assembly, through funding and construction, to the ultimate selling or letting of the development.

Our experience with commercial lettings enable us to assess any proposals swiftly and to tailor leases accordingly and accurately to the needs of the individual transaction.

For landlords with a portfolio of properties we are used to working proactively to assist in their management and ensure that the owners are fully prepared for any action required.

We provide expert guidance on the intricacies of statutory protection for business tenants and the implications of negotiation, termination and renewal of business tenancies.

Working with institutional lenders and private banks, Parker Arrenberg are used to dealing rapidly and securely with acquisition finance, re-finance, debenture and guarantee work on a range of investments and business property portfolios.

As you can imagine all and any discussions are treated with the utmost confidentiality and security.

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS

Contracts can make or break a new company and severely damage an existing one. All organisations require documentation of some form from basic 'Terms and Conditions' for the sale and supply of goods and services through to highly complex commercial agreements.

You will be pleased to know that Parker Arrenberg have expertise and experience in drafting commercial documentation of all kinds.

We are able to provide advice and guidance on all manner of Commercial Contracts including:-

- Terms and Conditions of Trade

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- Service Contracts
- Manufacturing and Supply contracts
- Building contracts
- Distribution and Agency Agreements
- Franchising
- Joint Venture Agreements
- Partnerships

COMMERCIAL DISPUTES – DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND LITIGATION

We advise business and corporate clients on dispute resolution and litigation in all commercial contexts. This may include advice on contractual disputes, distribution agreements, breach of contract or sale of goods cases.

We take a broad approach to each case and look to find a commercial solution in the most cost effective way.

If appropriate we would assist our client in dealing with disputes by way of alternative dispute resolution – mediation, arbitration or adjudication as an alternative to expensive litigation through the Courts.

LICENSING

At Parker Arrenberg we have a strong reputation for licensing work, having acted for licensing authorities as well as clients applying for licences. We act for brewers, publicans, restaurateurs, clubs and other associations.

We can assist and advise on any licensing issue locally or nationally.

Our licensing team offer guidance on:

- Licensing Act 2003
- New Licences
- Protection Orders
- Transfer of Licences
- Licensing objections and revocations
- Licensing Appeals
- Occasional Licences
- Special Order of Exemption
- Public Entertainment Licences
- Betting and Gaming
- Special Events

EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EMPLOYER

The employment of people can be a problem, as many companies, new and old can testify. Getting it right in the first place is the key. Checking and revising the current situation and even considering a new approach may well be vital to the future of your company, in light of the many and often changing, laws, rules and regulations.

Your contracts of employment, your employee handbook or manual, your disciplinary and grievance procedures are vital to your business, and should be regularly reviewed. Your handling of your employment problems and union matters can have a profound effect on your company's future. An important part of our experience and expertise comes from acting on behalf of both employers and employees (although not, of course, where there is a conflict of interest). This ensures we are in tune with the latest developments and attitudes relating to both sides. See 'Employment Health Check' below.

THE PARKER ARREMBERG LEGAL HEALTH CHECK

The laws, rules and regulations surrounding, small and medium size enterprises (SME) are very complex and ever changing.

It is easy to fall foul of Employment Law, Health and Safety regulations, VAT rules, Statutory Compliance Regulations, laws relating to unions and newly imposed European Law.

As always prevention is better than cure, but knowing what areas to look at first during the busy days of actually running the business can be difficult.

This is where Parker Arrenberg can help.

Our approach might well be described as an 'overview'. We know what to look for and which areas may be causing concern. We come into the business, look at these areas and provide you with a written report and recommendations.

If these recommendations include a re-writing of contracts, the establishing of a new procedure, the development of a 'work's manual', we would be happy to quote you for undertaking this work, although you are under no obligation to accept our quote, but you will be pleased to know that as a 'Health Check' client you will receive a discount from our normal fees.

