

## Your Business, Our Expertise

Cripps Harries Hall LLP is a leading law firm based in Kent with a “strong and experienced” companies group (Legal 500) and a dedicated team of partnership specialists. We are also proud to be a Principal Partner of Locate in Kent. Our team has a wealth of experience in assisting various businesses, including quoted companies, large privately owned companies and SMEs.

From our offices in Tunbridge Wells, we have the expertise that you would expect from a London firm but at outstanding value for money, and with our knowledge of Kent and the South East we can assist you with all aspects of any move you may be considering to Kent.

There are a number of reasons why you might suddenly find yourself moving to Kent. The four most common reasons, from a business point of view, are set out below. We've also identified some of the issues you should consider and some points on which we might be able to assist you:

### **Setting up a new business**

More and more people are now taking the step of setting up their own businesses. Whatever type of business you are planning, it is important to ensure that you pick the best structure for your particular circumstances, be it as a sole trader, a partnership, a limited company or something else.

We can help you in several ways, including:

- guide you through your options to ensure you use the most appropriate structure for your chosen business;
- help you to set up or incorporate new partnerships or companies;
- draft any constitutional agreements to govern how the business is run, including articles of association, shareholders' agreements, partnership agreements etc;
- advise you on your rights and obligations acting as a director of a company;
- assist you with the corporate governance and company secretarial aspects of a company, including annual filing requirements.

### **Buying a business or company in the area**

Buying or investing in a business or company which is already based in Kent will automatically give you and your company at least a partial move to Kent. No matter what type of business you are taking on, there are many aspects to consider, each of which we can help you with:

- drafting and negotiating heads of terms for the acquisition;
- undertaking legal due diligence in respect of the target business or company;
- drafting and negotiating the acquisition documentation;
- assisting with the arrangement and documentation of funding;

- advising on the assignment or transfer of business contracts and business rights, including intellectual property rights;
- advising on the effect of the acquisition on your existing or new employees.

### **Relocating your existing business**

Relocating your company or business from elsewhere in the company means more than simply finding new premises to set up in. In particular, it is important to keep your business contacts informed of the changes at all stages of the move to preserve your ongoing relationships.

There are also areas where there could be hidden potential liabilities, and when considering a relocation you should give additional thought to these matters, and we can assist in ensuring your move proceeds as smoothly as possible:

- advising on the effect of the relocation on your existing employees, including any possible breaches of employment contracts arising directly from the relocation;
- reviewing and advising on any business contracts and the effect of the relocation on such contracts, including in respect of the supply of services or leased assets by third parties.

### **Moving from abroad – inward investment**

Kent is a prime target location for companies investing or setting up in the UK because of its proximity to the continent and the fast transport routes from the continent to Kent, and from Kent into London. We have a dedicated inward investment team providing a single point of contact for foreign companies setting up and conducting business in the UK.

As a truly multidisciplinary team, the inward investment group will call upon the expertise of the firm's specialists in all the areas relevant to foreign clients' businesses:

- Setting up or acquiring a business
- Employment issues
- Properties
- Commercial contracts
- Dispute resolution

We also assist our clients by opening our powerful business networks to ensure a smooth integration into the fabric of British business.

*If you have any questions, or would like more information, please see our website: [www.crippslaw.com](http://www.crippslaw.com); or contact Chris Langridge t: +44 (0)1892 506090 e: [chris.langridge@crippslaw.com](mailto:chris.langridge@crippslaw.com); or Liz Barton t: +44 (0)1892 506190 e: [liz.barton@crippslaw.com](mailto:liz.barton@crippslaw.com).*

*For further information on our inward investment experience, please contact Olivier Morel t: +44 (0)1892 506003 e: [olivier.morel@crippslaw.com](mailto:olivier.morel@crippslaw.com).*