



guide to business in the UK



Contents

- Introduction
- General facts and information
- Useful numbers and contact details
- Trading options available for overseas companies and individuals
- Legal requirements for overseas companies operating in the UK
- Corporate taxation
- Legal matters for overseas individuals trading in the UK
- Personal taxation
- Capital gains taxation
- PAYE
- Social security
- Value added tax
- Inheritance tax
- Stamp taxes
- Other matters
- A calendar of important UK business dates



Introduction

This report has been prepared by Menzies LLP. It is intended as a guide for overseas businesses and individuals considering investing in the UK. This report provides some basic information about the UK and its economy, in addition an overview will be provided in terms of the taxation and legal implications for overseas businesses looking to invest in the UK.

This guide should not be considered a substitute for obtaining specific professional advice and no representation or warranty, either expressed or implied is made as to this guide's accuracy and completeness. Menzies LLP does not accept any responsibility for financial loss howsoever occurring as a consequence of any action which you take, or choose not to take, as a result of this guide.

These disclaimers and exclusions are governed by and construed in accordance with English Law.

This information is considered to be current as at 31 January 2009.

Should you have any further questions regarding the contents of this guide or if you would like to know how we can assist you, please contact us.

General facts and information

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Great Britain (UK) constitutes England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The Channel Islands (Jersey and Guernsey) and the Isle of Man form part of the British Isles although they are self-governing and therefore not considered to be part of the UK.

The Republic of Ireland borders Northern Ireland, but voted to depart from the UK in 1921 when it became the Irish Free State.

Key Facts / Figures

Population	60.9 million
Labour force	31 million
Employment rate	74.1% (January 2009)
Unemployment rate	6.5% (January 2009)
Area	244,820 Square Kilometres (includes 3,230 of water)
Currency	Sterling (Great British Pounds)
Interest rate	0.5% (March 2009)
Inflation	3.1% Consumer Price Index (December 2008)
Capital cities	
England	London (population 7 million)
Scotland	Edinburgh (population 0.40 million)
Northern Ireland	Belfast (population 0.26 million)
Wales	Cardiff (population 0.33 million)

Economic situation

The UK is a member of the European community, although has voted to retain a degree of its sovereignty and has chosen not to sacrifice its current currency (£ Sterling) for the Euro (€).

Exchange rate policies are not followed by the UK Government, and £ Sterling is allowed to float freely against other currencies without intervention from the government.

Political situation

The UK is a constitutional monarchy. The Head of State is Queen Elizabeth II.

The UK is governed by parliament, which constitutes the House of Commons and House of Lords. The government is headed by the Prime Minister, and is formed by the political party able to carry a majority within the House of Commons.

The United Kingdom is broken down into constituencies (parliamentary seats), and members are elected to parliament to represent their constituency. The election ensures that the most popular candidate is chosen to represent his or her constituency.

The current UK government is the Labour Party, which is headed by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.



Useful numbers and contact details

Companies House	www.companieshouse.gov.uk
Oversees the administration of companies and company law within the UK	
General enquiries should be directed at the contact centre	0303 1234 500
Overseas companies registering a branch or place of business in England and Wales	029 2038 0221
Overseas companies registering a branch or place of business in Scotland	0131 535 5847

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	www.hmrc.co.uk
Oversees the administration of UK direct and indirect taxation systems	
New Employer Helpline (can be called to register a PAYE Scheme)	0845 607 0143
Employer Helpline (intended for established businesses)	0845 714 3143
E-Business Helpline (internet services and electronic filing of tax forms)	0845 605 5999
National Insurance Contributions registrations	0845 915 7006
National Insurance International Helpline & National Insurance Helpline for non-UK residents	0845 915 4811
National Insurance Self-Employed Helpline	0845 915 4655
National Insurance enquiries for individuals	0845 302 1479
National Minimum wage Helpline	0845 600 0678
Charities Corporation Tax Helpline	0845 302 0203
Pensions (tax assistance regarding savings, pensions and share schemes)	0845 600 2622
Centre for Non-Residents	0845 070 0040
VAT National Advice Service	0845 010 9000

