

Rowlinsons

SOLICITORS



Business Services

- Commercial Law
- Corporate Law
- Commercial Property
- Employment
- Litigation
- Pre-sale Audit



For further information please contact Rowlinsons on 01928 735 333.
Alternatively, please e-mail info@rowlinsons.co.uk

Lexcel
Legal Practice Quality Mark
Law Society Accredited

Don't just take our word for it....

“Very swift and efficient service.
Excellent communication.”

MB, Stafford

“Fantastic service, exceeded
expectations.”

AS, Manchester

“Great professional service, no
complicated legal jargon.”

AJ, Colwyn Bay

“Many thanks for your guidance
through the process, I really
appreciate your frank and
knowledgeable advice.”

RM, Hoole

Welcome to Rowlinsons

Throughout the lifetime of your business you will at some point require legal advice. We want to be your first port of call, providing you with a complete range of business services at a price lower than that charged by larger city based practices.

We have removed the perception that the clock starts the minute you pick up the phone, so whatever size of business you run, we offer a free, initial no obligation 30 minute meeting. Wherever possible we also give you the option of a fixed fee service.

In all cases we will take the time to understand your current position from both a commercial and legal perspective. We will then explain your options and give you our advice on the best solution for your business. Whether we are working on a fixed fee basis or not, you will have a clear breakdown of the costs involved at each stage of your matter. You will also be kept fully informed and updated as the matter progresses.

We look forward to helping your business succeed.



Commercial Law

Contracts are fundamental to the successful operation of any business. Not only in governing the relationships between the key people involved in the business, but also in detailing how you deal with suppliers and customers. Well drafted commercial terms provide certainty and transparency, ensuring that revenues are maximised whilst at the same time minimising risk and providing protection if something does go wrong. Ultimately they can help prevent costly litigation and the time and disruption involved in the same.

We can help prepare commercial agreements or we can review existing ones, ensuring that the terms provide certainty, but at the same time giving you the necessary protections required. Not only will this have a positive impact on the profitability of your business, but the presence of well drafted commercial agreements will ensure that the business is fit for sale whilst also making it more attractive to potential buyers. This is particularly relevant if you have a planned exit strategy.

We have experience of dealing with a wide range of commercial matters, including:

- Business Formation and Director Duties
- Terms and Conditions
- Supplier Agreements
- Franchising
- Shareholder Agreements
- Distribution Agreements

Corporate Law

If you are considering buying or selling a business we recognise that this represents a major decision and it is therefore fundamental that you obtain practical and cost effective legal advice.

Whether a share or asset based sale, we can provide you with the necessary advice and documentation to ensure that your interests are protected. If relevant we have the added advantage of being able to advise on the employment and property aspects of the sale or purchase. If dealing with a purchase then we can also advise you on lending and securities. This means that we can meet all of your legal requirements and the team here will work together to ensure that the matter proceeds in a timely manner.

We are also familiar in dealing with banks, accountants and financial advisors and will also work with them in an efficient and pro-active manner to help you achieve your objectives, keeping you fully updated as we progress.

We have experience of dealing with a wide range of corporate matters, including:

- Business acquisitions and disposals
- Mergers
- Joint Ventures
- Management Buy-Outs and Managements Buy-Ins
- Finance and Security

Commercial Property

Whether you are leasing a commercial property for the first time or acquiring land for a major development, our team have the experience and knowledge to help. We are experts in dealing with a wide range of commercial premises including retail, leisure, offices and industrial units.

When leasing property we will guide you through the key considerations such as permitted use, rent review clauses and break clauses. If you are developing land we can assist you in its' acquisition and also in the obtaining of any required planning permissions by working alongside your other advisors and Local Authorities where needed.

Working to fixed fees wherever possible we will provide you with a proposal outlining the steps in the process, what we will do for you and the likely time-scales. You will be kept informed of our progress throughout the matter and we will respond quickly to any queries you may have.

We have experience of dealing with a wide range of commercial property matters, including:

- Sales and purchases
- Commercial leases and break clauses
- Land acquisition and disposal
- Planning matters
- Commercial mortgages and secured lending

Employment Law

Employment Law is complex and constantly evolving. Therefore it is fundamental that you take legal advice in respect of the laws and regulations and how they apply to you. Not only will this help ensure that you are complying with the law and fulfilling your obligations as an employer, but it will also provide certainty, minimise risk and provide protection if something does go wrong.

We can ensure that you have up to date employment policies, procedures and contracts in place. Whilst this should help minimise the prospect of a costly employment dispute we can, if necessary provide advice and representation at employment tribunals. It is also worth noting that if you are considering selling your business in the future then by ensuring that you are up to date with employment law, there should be no issues should you come to sell.

We have experience of dealing with a wide range of employment matters, including:

- Employment Contracts
- Employee Handbooks
- Internal Policies and Procedures
- Service Agreements
- Employment Tribunal proceedings
- Redundancy situations
- Settlement Agreements

Litigation

Business Disputes

Unfortunately when business disputes do arise they can be a significant drain on management time and resources. In these circumstances you need practical advice that considers both the commercial and legal impact on your business before agreeing a way forward.

We act for organisations of all sizes dealing with all types of dispute.

Disputes can often be settled without court action and taking prompt legal advice may enable us to negotiate an early settlement, minimising your costs.

Our team will always work towards the best solution for you by taking into account the stage the dispute is at, what your options are and also your chances of success.

We have experience of advising on a wide range of business disputes including:

- Contractual disputes
- Partnership and shareholder disputes
- Property disputes
- Professional negligence

Litigation

Fixed Fee Debt Recovery

According to recent research unpaid debts cost small to medium businesses £134 million every day in the UK. Our aim is to reduce the stress this places on companies in the North West with a cost effective and transparent debt recovery service.

With debt recovery it is fundamental that you act quickly and our new, low cost fixed fee service makes it easy for you to start the process, even for smaller debts. We will provide a service that is tailored to your requirements and discounted rates are available for high volume debt recovery.

In the unlikely event that the debt is defended we can assess the strength of the defence. We will then discuss your options based on the chances of a successful defence and the likely costs involved.

For your assistance the main stages in the debt recovery process are:

1. A solicitors' letter to the debtor warning of County Court or Insolvency Proceedings.
2. The issuing of a County Court claim against your debtor.
3. Taking enforcement action following the obtaining of judgement in your favour.

Our team will guide you through the above and keep you fully updated throughout.

Pre-sale Audit

Having well drafted commercial agreements and employment contracts in place will not only provide you with peace of mind, but can also affect the value of your business when the time comes to consider a sale. The amount of warranties and indemnities required by your eventual buyer should also be reduced if you have robust legal documentation protecting your business.

If you are in the early stages of exit planning, our pre-sale audit will review your existing level of exposure and identify any areas of weakness that you might wish to address. When you are ready to explore your options we can work with other key advisers such as accountants and commercial agents to assist in valuing your business and taking the next steps.

For example you may wish to consider:

- Are your Employment Contracts, Employee Handbooks and Policies up to date and compliant with current legislation?
- Do you have written Terms and Conditions in place with your key customers?
- How protected are you if a key supplier fails to meet performance targets?
- What restrictive covenants do you have in place with your Management Team should they decide to join a competitor?
- Do you have debt recovery procedures in place which help keep your level of debts to a minimum?

Don't just take our word for it....

“ Value for money service. ”

AA, Walkford

“ We are delighted with the professional service we have received from Rowlinsons. ”

NM, Bramhall

“ Very friendly staff and very professional. ”

PT, Frodsham

“ A big thank you to everyone for their support. ”

AP, Helsby



Expert legal advice isn't expensive
...it's priceless

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