

# Regulatory & Compliance

Our expert Group includes former SFO and Environment Agency investigators and former in-house lawyers, giving us valuable insight into both the regulators' mindset and our clients' needs.

We provide practical, commercial advice in an easily digestible form. Clear and effective communication is key to what we do. Whether drafting agreements to reflect regulatory responsibilities or dealing with a dawn raid, we are experienced and nimble enough to keep ahead of the game, protecting your interests at every turn.

The Group has built up an enviable list of UK and international clients by delivering what we promise, when we promise it. We have forged close working relationships with our longstanding clients and a keen understanding of their business needs to enable us to work as one team to get them where they want to be as speedily and efficiently as possible.

*"A real understanding of the needs of in-house lawyers."* – Chambers



## HOW WE CAN HELP

### Project managing complex transactions

Having significant experience of managing large and complex cases on behalf of the authorities, for clients being investigated and for clients conducting internal investigations means we naturally focus on the issues that matter.

Having advised a major international financial services provider for several years they called upon us to undertake a sensitive internal fraud investigation spanning two continents and requiring expert immediate intervention. Working with forensic accountants retained by us for the project, we conducted witness interviews, reviewed over half a million emails and analysed accounts to assess the nature and extent of the suspected fraud. Having reported our findings to the board, we advised on managing the regulatory risks arising and how to deal with the regulatory authorities. The position was further complicated by a proposed corporate re-structure, which required us to work quickly to quantify the issues and draw a line under the matter for due diligence purposes.

*"Jeanette Burgess has a robust combination of technical and practical knowledge alongside an appreciation of commercial factors that ensures sensible recommendations for action."* – Chambers

### Supporting you as a trusted adviser

Walker Morris has represented the clothing retailer Damart for over 20 years. We advise extensively on all aspects of regulatory compliance affecting the business, including advertising, trade descriptions and pricing, consumer credit, data protection and anti-money laundering. We know the business, its history and its people very well and have often delivered in-house compliance training courses. Our extensive knowledge of the culture and approach as well as the compliance record of the business means we can provide ongoing advice on a weekly basis when issues arise. Our proactive approach has helped to avoid direct regulatory action in favour of negotiated resolution on several occasions.

*"Always there when you need them with a good understanding of commercial pressures."* – Damartex

### Achieving results

We regularly advise clients from hedge funds, investment managers and corporate finance advisers on FCA regulation to operators of alternative investment schemes on compliant operation outside the FCA regulatory perimeter.

One client came to us looking for urgent assistance when the FCA informed them they were operating illegally and that all their existing client agreements were therefore unenforceable.

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We took on the case, obtained authorisation for them within weeks to enable trade to continue and negotiated a sensible and workable strategy to deal with the back book that resulted in over 95% of customers signing up to new, enforceable agreements.

*“Walker Morris has acted for us since 2008 giving us advice in connection with our dealings with the FCA. We cherish their advice for its direct practical usefulness.”* – Sustainable Land

#### Value creators

We recognise that clients are best served when they are able to take proactive steps to manage their regulatory burden rather than taking remedial steps to address breach. After all, prevention is always cheaper than cure. This is why we focus much of our efforts on flagging up and helping businesses prepare for legislative changes before they come in.

When the FCA took over regulation of consumer credit businesses in 2014, businesses had to understand and apply a new regulatory framework to their businesses. We worked with clients in the sector and also with trade associations to revise compliance policies and procedures and deliver industry-wide training to smooth the transaction.

*“Experts in an area where there isn’t much expertise.”* – Chambers

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- |                                |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| – Bribery and corruption       | – Fraud             | – Product liability |
| – Consumer credit              | – FCA               | – Trading standards |
| – Data protection              | – Health and safety |                     |
| – Environmental investigations | – Money laundering  |                     |

#### WALKER MORRIS

*“A distinctive law firm valued by its clients for consistently delivering excellent results.”*

We offer our clients a full service commercial law firm focused on providing a wide range of clients, nationally and internationally, with partner led high quality advice. The national centre of excellence in Leeds that we have built offers significant advantages in terms of developing a strong team-based culture within the Firm, with the inherent value and cost effectiveness that a Leeds base brings.

The success of our model is reflected by our clients, which are drawn from a broad range of sectors. We are recognised for our strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straight forward advice. Both the Firm and our lawyers are recognised as leaders in their fields with 96 per cent of our partners recommended in either Chambers or Legal 500 for their expertise

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