



WALKER
MORRIS



OUR FOOD & DRINK CREDENTIALS

Contents



About Walker Morris

Walker Morris (WM) is a collection of diverse, talented and specialist lawyers who provide highly tailored, long term, strategic legal advice to clients around the world.

We are a full-service law firm focused on providing a wide range of clients, nationally and internationally, with high quality advice.

We're a firm with more than 100 partners and directors, and 338 fee-earners in total, meaning we are of a scale and structure to handle large and complex matters, but of a size where partners and directors remain genuinely hands-on when legal advice is delivered.

Those who know us say we're a different type of legal business. One not bound by convention, but one with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for breaking with tradition to deliver real competitive advantage.

Why partner with us

What sets us apart is our culture. Many law firms offer the same services from similar offices in similar ways, so what really distinguishes one from another is culture and people. At Walker Morris, we embrace the fact that everyone is different and unique. Our people all have their own hopes and ambitions for what they want their professional lives to look like. Our clients, equally, all have their own needs, ambitions and problems to solve.

We encourage our people to help their clients to pursue their goals, and we don't put barriers in the way to helping them do that. We reward entrepreneurialism and innovation – there is no one 'Walker Morris way' in which we work. We make sure each client gets the service it wants in the way it wants and when it wants.

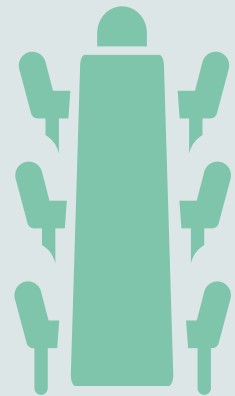
UK Top Tier Firm 2026
LEGAL 500
&
UK Top Ranked Firm 2026
CHAMBERS & PARTNERS



100+
Partners & Directors

338
Fee earners

526
Employees



83%
of our partners are ranked
in the legal directories

25 of our practice areas are
ranked in the legal directories



Food & Drink

We've got nearly 20 years' experience and investment in the food & drink sector. We've built, and continue to develop, a network that means we really understand the challenges, pressures and opportunities that the industry – and our clients – face.

We've acted for some of the very largest national and international businesses across a wide range of product categories, channels and temperature regimes, ranging from traditional manufacturers, right through to newer businesses producing plant-based meat alternatives.

The food and drink industry is one of the largest and most dynamic manufacturing industries in the UK. Changing consumer tastes, environmental and sustainability concerns, an ever evolving regulatory and geo-political environment and a competitive supply chain, all combine to make this sector one of the most fast-paced and innovative in the UK.

Our understanding of the challenges and pressures faced by the sector and the approach taken by large multiple retailers and market leading suppliers allows us to provide legal advice which is proactive, strategic and commercially pragmatic. Our strength is our complete breadth of legal services which enables us to take a holistic and commercially focused approach.

We bring the power of this knowledge to bear wherever our clients need it and regularly work on M&A; financing; disputes; branding, licensing and IP; logistics and supply chain arrangements (including GSCOP); health & safety; environmental; energy; waste; GDPR; product recall and product safety; promotions; real estate and construction; tax; competition; and HR issues.



How we can help

Managing your Business



Tax & Incentives

We'll advise on employee incentive schemes, from tax advantaged approved share schemes such as EMI, through to designing bespoke arrangements. We'll also provide SDLT and VAT advice on real estate transactions and advise shareholders and management on M&A transactions, working with the deal team to add value.



Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP)

We'll help you understand how GSCOP interplays with your dealings with the big retailers (both on-going and on contract termination). We can also give you bespoke or 'off-the-shelf' practical GSCOP training. We'll use the legal framework of GSCOP, plus insight from case studies, to give commercial teams the tools to spot GSCOP issues and opportunities.



Corporate/M&A

We've advised both buyers and sellers on M&A deals, across global corporations, plcs, private equity investors, management teams, private companies and OMBs. We know what the market position is, from both sides, on any given point. Which means our negotiations are effective and efficient. Together with our hands-on deal management, we maximise value and minimise risk. We also support on all other aspects of corporate law, from joint ventures/shareholders' agreements and fundraisings to group reorganisations.

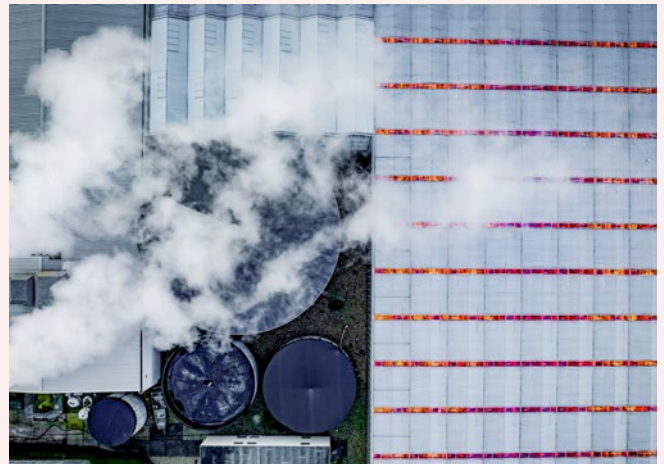
Managing your Operations



Competition/Merger Control

Our advice on UK competition law will always be practical and strategic. We'll support you on issues including securing merger clearances on M&A deals, unfair market practices, or defending regulatory investigations (including cartel arrangements).

We also advise on 'vertical' arrangements relating to supply chain and sales channel issues (such as pricing and discounts).



Environment

We've represented many businesses in connection with environmental permitting and waste issues. We deal with emissions to air, water and sewerage systems, permits, permissions and prosecutions. We've provided support and guidance on environmental compliance and defended our clients in environmental enforcement action and non-compliance with environmental legislation.



ABC & Sanctions

We'll ensure you're operating to current best practice and International Standards in your antibribery and corruption policies and procedures, conduct full audits, manage investigations and advise on voluntary disclosures and liaison with regulatory agencies. If enforcement action is commenced, we'll also offer corporate defence. We will also help you navigate the increasingly complex international sanctions regime to ensure your business dealings don't involve sanctioned individuals, organisations and jurisdictions.



Debt Finance

You may be looking for unitranche funding to support acquisitions. You may need long term investment finance to fund a capex programme or new product lines. You may seek working capital funding through asset based lending, traditional invoice discounting or supplier finance. We've experience in the full range of debt financing products available to businesses operating in the industry.



Real Estate & Planning

We'll advise you on all your real estate needs, including sales and purchases, development projects and refinancing deals. We'll also support you on general portfolio management work such as lease renewals, lease variations, re-gears, disposals, surrenders, licences to alter, forfeiture, service of break notices, service charge disputes and rent reviews. Our planning team includes advocates who represent clients at enquiries as well as on planning.



Construction & Engineering

Whether you're building, extending or refurbishing, whether it's a factory, an office or distribution centre, we'll support you. We'll guide you through the appointment of your 'professional team' (e.g. architects and engineers) as well as your contract with the main building contractor.



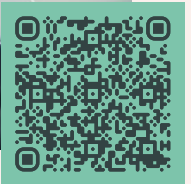
IP/Brand Protection

We'll advise you on all your IP rights including trade marks, designs, patents, copyright and domain names. Our team, which includes trade mark attorneys as well as lawyers, supports on brand creation, international portfolio management, enforcement, exploitation, brand evaluation, trade mark clearance and filing, infringement analysis, IP litigation and conducting claims, competitor analysis, the commercialisation of IP and IP audits.



Cyber Incident Response

We offer our clients a full range of data protection legal advice including advice on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), freedom of information, cybersecurity/ cybercrime and privacy advice on contentious and non-contentious matters. We've launched an interactive designed to help organisations identify vulnerabilities in their cyber defences, [click here](#) to access our tool, or alternatively scan the QR code above.



Managing your Supply Chain



Procurement

You need to procure key ingredients, raw materials and packaging. You need long term supply deals and joint business plans with key customers. For it all, you need to negotiate agreements, arrangements, deals.

We've vast experience of these types of commercial negotiations. We get the drivers, practicalities and realities of operating in the food and drink sector.



Third Party Service Providers

Increasingly, your supply chain relationships are business critical. These could be with co-manufacturers, co-packagers, transport, warehouse or logistics providers. Regardless, we'll support you. We've the expertise to navigate the full product journey from raw material to the consumer's table.



Disputes & Litigation

Sometimes, things go wrong. Challenges arise with agents, distributors, contract manufacturers and packers, customers, logistics providers, suppliers... the list goes on.

We've successfully resolved disputes arising from specification, performance and quality defects, supply chain compensation claims, insurance coverage issues, product recall and liability claims. We can successfully resolve your disputes too.

Customer Relationships



Data Protection/GDPR

We'll help you to protect and maximise the value of your personal data while still meeting your legal obligations in supplier or retailer contracts, in marketing initiatives or in managing your HR function.

We'll assist with data mapping and drafting policies and procedures, impact assessments, privacy notices and contractual provisions, as well as undertaking data protection audits and delivering bespoke training.



Handling food incidents

Wherever you are in the sector, the unfortunate reality is that you're likely to face or be involved in a food incident involving withdrawal and recall of an unsafe product. We can quickly scale up or down the support that your technical teams need during an incident, helping you resolve the event rapidly and economically.



Managing your Workforce



Employment & HR

We'll support you to resource and manage your workforces in the best possible way. We'll guide you through workforce changes, navigating relationships with trade unions, dealing with HMRC, protecting your interests from competitors and, if needed, defending claims in the Employment Tribunals.



Health & Safety

We're experts in all aspects of health & safety, from safety management system design and audit, to leading accident and incident investigations. Importantly, we're very experienced across the food production, storage, distribution and retail environments. We'll provide hands-on, on-site support when things go wrong. Whenever, wherever, 24/7/365.



Food Safety

Food is central to our DNA. As a firm, we work incredibly hard to ensure that the legal advice we give you reflects who you are – whether a primary producer, a manufacturer, an importer, a food service supplier, a retailer or restaurateur. Your role in the food sector presents unique regulatory challenges and these require a unique response.

Food businesses need responsive and targeted legal advice, delivered at exactly the right cost and quality. The Food Safety practice at Walker Morris meets that need. We have specialist lawyers supplying best in class advice and tailored support at every level of the food supply chain.



Who we work with

Primary producers or manufacturers:

We can advise on:

- animal welfare
- maximum residue limits
- contaminants
- HACCP hygiene
- the powers of official veterinarians.

Our in-depth knowledge of the UK and EU regulated products regime helps secure authorisations for flavourings, colourings, preservatives and novel foods, including alternative proteins.

Importers or exporters:

We can advise on:

- border controls
- release of consignments for free circulation
- issues involving composite food products (foods containing both animal and non-animal origin ingredients).

Food service providers:

Whether you serve retail or contract customers, we can advise on:

- temperature controls
- traceability
- food information
- general food safety matters.

Retailers:

We can help ensure that hygiene, safety, and food information rules are identified and applied in a way which meets the unique needs of your business and helps to secure the very best customer outcomes.

Your Contacts



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