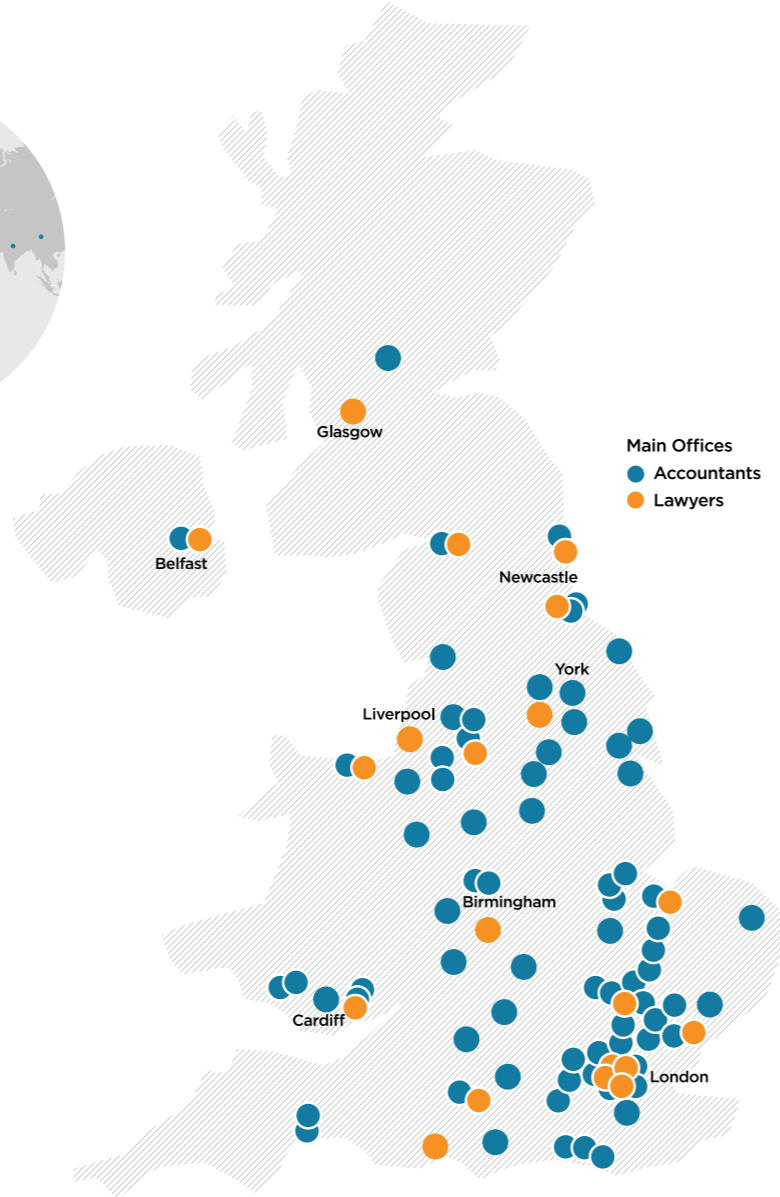




UK200Group in numbers

- £200 million turnover
- c75 members in UK
- c140 offices in UK
- c500 partners in the UK
- c3000 professional and administrative staff
- c36 international associates
- c70 countries covered via IAPA and international associates



The UK200Group is a membership association of progressive and profitable accountancy and law firms. We are a professional community bound together by shared values which are based on the ethos of building better together. The UK200Group's mission is to help its members improve and drive business performance through the provision of added value services that support partners and professional staff working at all levels within member firms.

If you would like to receive further information on the UK200Group or any aspect of our activities, please contact us.



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UK200Group is a trading name of UK200Group Limited and is an association of separate and independently owned and managed accountancy and law firms and as such each has no responsibility or liability for the acts or omissions of other members. UK200Group does not provide client services and it does not accept responsibility or liability for the acts or omissions of its members.

building
better
together.



Annual Report 2018

getting fit for the future



Foreword

At the outset of 2018 I was delighted to become the first Chairman of the newly re-structured UK200Group Limited. The move from a mutual structure to limited company status signalled our intent to modernise the UK200Group and position our members as the most progressive and profitable providers of independent professional services in the UK.

As you will read in this, our 2018 Annual Report, we have had a remarkable year of achievement during which we:

- Welcomed many new members who bring new specialisms and expertise along with an appetite for enterprise and collaboration
- Opened-up our industry groups so that all member firms automatically have membership of these, with access to their events, bulletins and branded newsletters
- Strengthened our membership of IAPA by becoming the National Accounting Group (NAG) in the UK to ensure that all members have exclusive access to international opportunities, which is in our view, vital in the run up to Brexit
- Published guidance to help our members prepare for initiatives including the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Making Tax Digital (MTD)
- Refocused our Membership Services Committee (MSC) to ensure that all services add value and help our members to build better together.

In addition, we have reviewed our Quality Assurance and Standards (QAS) scheme and we are increasingly able to accommodate like-minded professionals from the worlds of chartered certified accountancy and chartered taxation along with those from chartered accountancy and law. This will allow us to strengthen our membership and make good on our proposition to clients which is that 'they can access top tier professional services through their local UK200Group member'.

Finally, under the Board's leadership we have introduced a more commercial edge into the Group. Specifically, we have developed a plan to help members derive clearer commercial benefits from their membership which we believe will drive greater value to all members in the months and years to come.



Kevin Powell
Chairman, UK200Group

Introduction

This time last year, the UK200Group's Board launched its three-year strategic plan which has guided our work throughout 2018. Entitled 'Getting Fit for the Future', the plan's primary aim is to prepare the UK200Group's members for the myriad of changes occurring in the worlds of accountancy and law. In short, the plan aims to future-proof our members and give them a commercial edge.

The strategic plan - which provides us with a route map to take us to 2021 - contains **six strategic themes**.

1 Quality

During the year we:

Revamped the QAS scheme for chartered accountancy firms which continues to offer members robust compliance reviews but also introduces a new efficiency rating, offers choice and reduces duplication

Developed an outline quality assurance process to accommodate like-minded professionals in membership of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the Chartered Institute Of Taxation (CIOT)

Introduced a project to develop a Lawyers Quality Assurance and Standards (LQAS) scheme for law firms.

2 Professional standards

During the year we:

Continued to require potential members to demonstrate a clear commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, which meant that those that couldn't meet our quality standards were turned down; not just any firm can join the UK200Group

Agreed that all members will notify the Board if any proceedings are brought against them so that we can offer support if required and where appropriate

Linked QAS to our annual benchmarking survey which enabled us to gather and disseminate data to help firms compare their performance to that of others across the Group.

3 Technical advice

During the year we:

Continued to offer members access to technical advice through our expert panels including Taxation and Corporate Finance

Launched a new forum to provide members with access to legal support around the GDPR

Promoted the Members Enquiry System as the easiest way for members to get answers from other members to burning questions.

4 Resources

During the year we:

Published a range of branded newsletters, bulletins and resources including a guide for Freelancers and Contractors, and the SME Valuation Index

Launched our HR Forum which guided over 100 delegates successfully through our Pathways Programme in support of succession and soft skills development

Increased the opportunities for members to connect with one another by holding the Managing Partners and Marketing Forums. We also launched a new Smaller Firms Forum and a programme of regional events.

5 Membership

During the year we:

Received c20 enquiries for membership across the year of which five have been admitted to date and a further three are likely to be accepted by the end of 2018 reflecting an increase in membership of just over 10%

Strengthened our MSC who launched a new annual membership satisfaction survey which found that 8 out of 10 members reported they are happy with current services

Arranged for all members (except those few who are members of an alternative organisation) to have membership of IAPA through the UK200Group thereby providing members with an exclusive access to international support for their clients.

6 Influence

During the year we:

Galvanised our relationship with key government departments. Principally, our Tax Panel regularly meets HMRC and the OTS to discuss national policy

Strengthened our relationships with key national influencers. For example our Agriculture Group's annual conference attracted National Farmers Union (NFU) representatives

Built on the good work of the digitalisation taskforce and consolidated strategic relationships with selected software providers also contributing to the AC2018.

New members and International Associates

UK

Cartmell Shepherd (Carlisle)
Lester Aldrige (Bournemouth)
MTB (Belfast)
Parker Bullen (Salisbury)
Ripe (London NW4)

International

CBM Audit & Conseil (Paris)
Solid4U Accountants & Tax Advisors B.V. (Holland - Breda, Amsterdam)
DG Denetim Danismalik YMM A.S (Turkey - Ankara)

Business Partners

We would like to thank:

Abbey Tax for helping us with fee protection
JE Consulting for hosting marketing forums
Mercia for delivering the Pathways Programme
Ntegrity for providing members with access to PI
On-line 50 for its continued support of the Digitalisation Taskforce
Seven Investment Management for providing investment management support

We are also delighted to announce that **ForrestBrown** were recently appointed to become our new R&D Tax Credits partner.