



Annual Report 2023



GROWTH

in an ever-changing World

This report offers an overview of the key developments and progress made within the UK200Group during 2023. In this period, our Association has been shaped by the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the increasing presence of consolidators in professional services, and the effects of escalating costs of conducting business in the UK. Throughout, the UK200Group has remained committed to its core principles of collaboration, custodianship, and cooperation.

At the start of the year, the UK200Group Board identified three strategic priorities for the year 2023/24:

1. Expanding Our Membership

Attracting and appointing new member firms that share our values to broaden our collective geographical coverage and service offerings.

2. Enhancing Member Engagement

Deepening engagement within member firms, with the aim of making the Group's practical resources accessible to everyone within these firms.

3. Succession Planning

Managing succession within the UK200Group Centre to ensure we have the talent necessary to effectively support our membership.

As I reflect on the year-to-date, I am delighted to report significant progress in achieving our strategic priorities:

1. Membership Growth

Since January 2023, we have welcomed six exceptional new firms into our membership. This marks a notable expansion in our community and underscores our commitment to our first priority.

2. Enhanced Engagement

An increasing number of firms and individuals have actively engaged in the various events and activities we organise. These activities, whether managed from the Centre or as part of our firm visit programme, have seen heightened participation.

3. Strengthened Team

Several key appointments have been made to strengthen the team at the UK200Group Centre. This includes the introduction of Emma Smith as our new Operations Manager Designate.

Throughout this period, our dedicated team at the Centre in Aldershot has continued to provide crucial support to our governance structure. This encompasses the Board of Directors, Membership Services Committee (MSC), and our Quality Assurance and Standards (QAS), Industry Groups and Expert Panels as well as Practice committees.

Emerging from the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK200Group has evolved into an organisation that blends the values of collaboration with the drive for enterprise and growth. We believe that we are better positioned than ever to support our members in addressing their business priorities, with a particular focus on supporting their people and clients. Our membership satisfaction survey for this year received a commendable rating of 8.4, consistent with the previous year, confirming our agility in adapting to the evolving needs of our members.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many members who have contributed their time and expertise to advance the UK200Group. We encourage all members to explore the expanding range of services available as part of your membership benefits. As we approach 2024, let us continue our journey together, building a brighter future through collaboration, cooperation, and shared success.

Carl Newton
Chairman, UK200Group

1 GaPs Development Support

The purpose of the GaPs development support team within the UK200Group is to support our industry groups and expert panels (GaPs); create member led technical and training resources and organise face to face and online events.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

- 1.1 Staged Audit RI training events and introduced a new Audit Manager training programme in association with Insight Training
- 1.2 Supported our GaPs to source, develop and upload new original content to the Knowledge Hub including suites of resources and templates developed by the OMB Group as well as updated VAT Guides from the Charities and Education Group
- 1.3 Launched and staged two Growth Summits which provide the wider GaPs with a forum to network, develop relationships and leverage commercial collaborations
- 1.4 Relunched specialist groups including Forensic Accounting, Financial Planning, Payroll and the Mediation specialist groups, and increased participation in our Tax and Corporate Finance expert panels
- 1.5 Strengthened the Lawyers Group to give it a more commercial focus in the spirit of 'UK200Group First', and started work on new law firm led initiatives including a new PII offering through Ntegrity, a new medical negligence and personal injury group, and continued support for the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE)

WHAT WE DELIVERED

- 66 Deals for The 2022 SME Valuation Index
- 43 people attended Audit RI workshops / Audit Manager Workshops
- 14% of the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) market
- 22 webinars/conferences
- 858 delegates attended GaPs incl. 70 at Growth Summit

2 Practice Support

The purpose of the Practice Support team is to support members who lead or specialise in key Learning areas of compliance, Learning People & Development (LPD), and Technology. Our team works with members to provide opportunities for them to network, share best practice and develop demand led practical resources.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

- 2.1 Worked with the QAS committee to maintain our commitment to the UK200Group's Quality Assurance and Standards (QAS) scheme for chartered accountancy members
- 2.2 Staged a series of online workshops with key partners including Mercia to help compliance leads keep up to date with the latest regulatory developments including the ISQM
- 2.3 Maintained our new UK200Group Development Academy (UKDA) which includes practical resources such as learning frameworks, inductions and training plans for trainees
- 2.4 Continued to invest in our Knowledge Hub in line with members' feedback which now features favourites, notifications, and enhanced Learning & Development Log (LDL)
- 2.5 Negotiated a Special Affiliate Member Agreement with a new international partnership to ensure UK200Group members have access to international support

WHAT WE DELIVERED

- 100% of chartered accountancy firms met/exceeded QAS bar
- 93% of chartered accountancy firms scored grade 1 or 2 for Audit
- 53 participants at the annual QAS compliance webinar
- 106 participants at IT Forum events in 2023 (51% up from 2022)
- 200 attended practice support events
- 1,333 regular Knowledge Hub users (up 46% from 2022)

3 Marketing and Communications

The purpose of the Marketing and Communications team within the UK200Group is to provide high quality support for marketing leads in member firms and to support membership retention and recruitment.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

- 3.1 Published high quality plug and play marketing resources including the four marketing messaging packs aimed at clients
- 3.2 Arranged frequent events for marketing leads including lunch and learn sessions and topical webinars some of which were in association with Clare Fanner
- 3.3 Maintained and extended our Ambassadors Network which aims to help member firms maximise the benefits of UK200Group membership
- 3.4 Maintained and extended our 'firm visit' programme where Declan Swan visits member firms to promote the Knowledge Hub, bitesized Foundation Learning and wider resources to staff teams
- 3.5 Several new firms into membership are being supported not only by the Centre but also senior UK200Group leaders through our new Board Buddy Scheme

WHAT WE DELIVERED

- 319 participants on marketing events
- 40 delegates attended the annual marketing summit
- 38 UK200Group Ambassadors have been appointed to date
- 84% of member firms visited by Declan Swan, CEO, UK200Group
- 6 new member firms including 1 Chartered Accountancy firm 4 Law firms and 1 Barrister

4 Membership Services

The purpose of the Membership Services team is to provide added value support for members in areas such as key membership surveys and events, management & leadership Pathways Programme, the Membership Enquiries Scheme and international support.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

- 4.1 In association with The Power People, we conducted and published the 2023 UK200Group Benchmarking Survey using Power BI to report data
- 4.2 Staged the 2023 Leaders' Forum at a well attended and successful event in London held during September
- 4.3 Published the 2023 UK200Group's Annual Membership survey to check our performance against members' needs
- 4.4 Organised the management & leadership Pathways Programme which is the Group's flagship soft skills development scheme
- 4.5 Our International Committee led by David Stevens selected and negotiated a new agreement with AGN International Limited. This collaboration will provide an even greater level of support to UK200Group member firms whose clients operate internationally
- 4.6 Arranged regional membership networking events around the UK including Cardiff, Altrincham, Newcastle, London and Essex

WHAT WE DELIVERED

- Satisfaction rate of 8.4
- 26% of firms booked team members on Pathways Programme
- 85 participants on Pathways Programme
- 69 membership enquiries
- 80% responses to the annual benchmarking survey
- 106 people attended the regional networking meetings

New Members

Bridge McFarland
Preston Redman
Suleman Ahmed, Exchequer Chambers
Wake Smith
Watson Woodhouse/Macks
William Duncan

Business Partners

We would like to thank:

Currency Solutions
Firm Academy
ForrestBrown
Markel
Mercia
Ntegrity

UK200Group in Numbers

Over £262m turnover
132 UK offices
3,636 partners/professional staff
21 international associates (IAs)
67 countries via UK200Group
In excess of 150,000 SMEs
22% of Multi Academy Trusts (MAT)

Standing

If listed in national rankings, the UK200Group would have ranked 10th for chartered accountancy firms in Accountancy Age Top 50 (2022) and 18th for law firms in The Law Society Gazette (2023).

Purpose

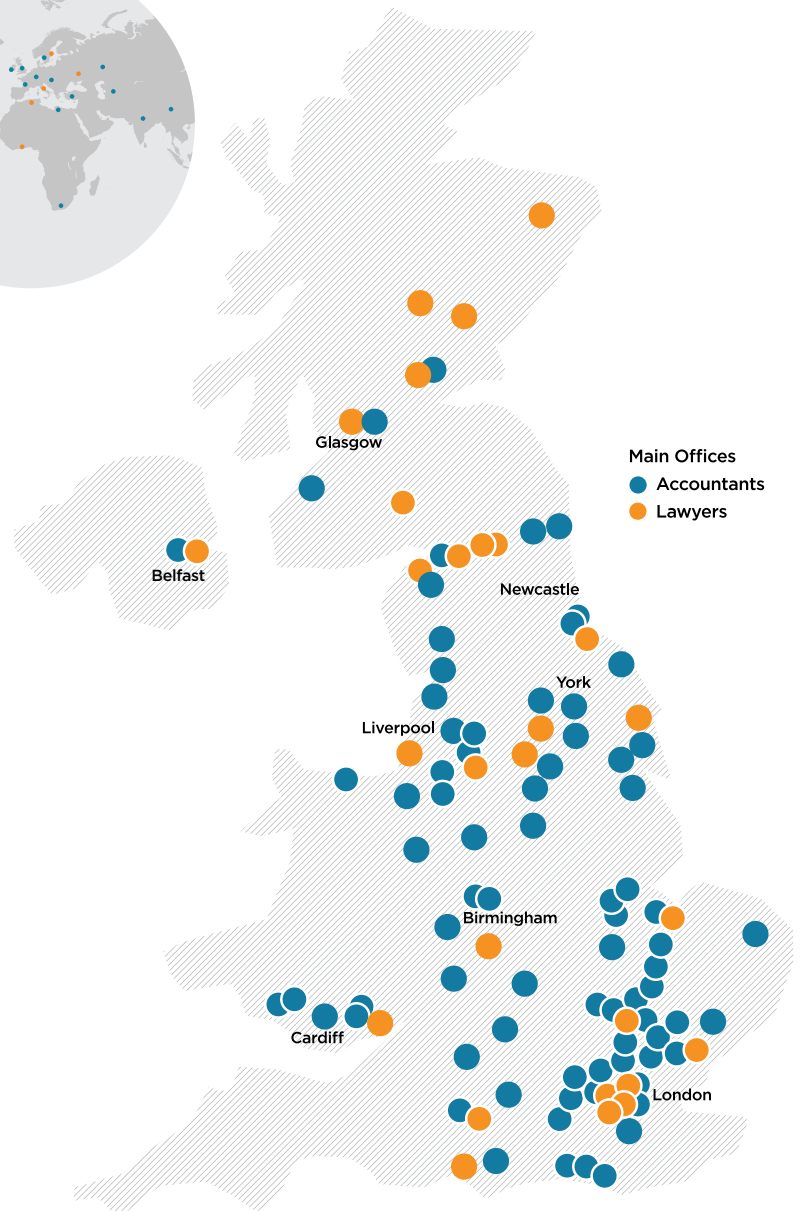
The UK200Group's purpose is to offer a platform to help members engage with one another through enhanced support for firms and their SME and private clients.

Vision

A forward-looking professional services membership association of quality assured chartered accountancy and law firms with strong geographical and service line coverage to support excellence in client delivery.

Mission

To provide member firms with practical, added value support to enable them to build better together whilst achieving their individual business goals.



International Support

The UK200Group continues to develop its network of international associates (IAs) to broaden the depth and breadth of support to members and their clients.

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

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