

Tax Strategy

The tax strategy set out below applies to Stoneacre Ltd and its subsidiaries (Decidebloom Ltd, Mill Garages North East Ltd, R T Consultants Ltd, Hodgson Newcastle Ltd, Huntson Holdings Ltd and Chris Variava Ltd).

The trading name used by the group is 'Stoneacre'.

Stoneacre is a privately owned UK based franchised motor vehicle retailer which represents 25 manufacturers and operates 122 franchise outlets from 57 locations across England and Wales.

Scope

In compliance with Paragraph 16(2) Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016, this document sets out the policy and approach taken by Stoneacre Limited and its subsidiary undertakings ("the group") in conducting its tax affairs.

For the purpose of the group's tax strategy, tax is defined as all forms of direct or indirect tax charges paid by the group including corporation tax, VAT, payroll taxes, import taxes and stamp duty land tax.

Governance in relation to UK tax

The Group Finance Director is responsible for the formulation of the Groups tax strategy which is committed to applying diligence and care in tax management processes and procedures and ensuring that tax governance is appropriate. The implementation and delivery of this is delegated to the Group Tax Manager.

Ultimate responsibility for the Group's tax strategy lies with the Board of Directors who have approved this document.

The group's tax strategy reflects the company's status as a substantial family owned company which requires strong governance and consideration of reputation, while delivering returns to shareholders.

Tax Risk Management

The group is committed to paying the right tax at the right time and mitigates tax risks by applying appropriate internal control procedures and operating an independent team of Regional Accountants who report to the Group Accountant and Group Financial Director. Risk is further reduced by the use of an industry leading dealer management and accounting system and the application and audit of standard accounting policies as laid out in the Group Accounting manual.

In addition to monthly accounting reviews and checks carried out by the Regional Accountants an audit team based at the group's Head Office carry out daily checks in relation to industry specific tax sensitive areas.

Payroll and HR administration is centralised at Head Office under the direct control of the Group Financial Director providing strong control over employment taxes. The payroll system operated by the group is industry standard and is recognised by H M Revenue & Customs.

The Group Tax Manager monitors changes in tax legislation and treatment, updating policies and procedures accordingly. External professional advisors are engaged where necessary to assist with tax compliance or to advise on specific transactions.

Tax Planning

When entering into commercial transactions the group seeks to make use of available tax reliefs, incentives and exemptions in accordance with UK tax legislation.

The group does not undertake aggressive tax planning and will not implement any tax avoidance schemes which are notifiable under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Schemes (DOTAS) legislation.

Relationship with HM Revenue & Customs

The group has adopted an open and honest approach to its relationship with HM Revenue & Customs. The group engages with HM Revenue & Customs with integrity and transparency in relation to all tax matters. Returns are submitted and information requests are replied to in a timely manner.

The group ensures that its HMRC customer compliance manager is kept aware of any significant transactions or changes in the group's operations and seeks to resolve any tax issues arising at an early stage.

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