TAX PULSE

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RAWLINSON & HUNTER

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RAWLINSON & HUNTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Tax Pulse. We hope that you had an enjoyable Summer, whether spent in the relatively cool climate experienced here in the UK, in the blazing heatwaves of Southern Europe or elsewhere across the globe.

The UK economy continues to limp along. In spite of inflation looking like it has peaked and is heading slowly downwards, the enduring high price of essential goods and utilities means that many households face a continuing cost of living crisis. Interest rates remain high with little prospect of a significant reduction any time soon. These factors are major concerns for many and are reasons why the present government is struggling to make any positive impact on opinion polls. In the meantime, the Labour Party has drip fed some more of its tax policy into the public domain. Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently ruled out any version of a wealth tax on the richest in society, and also confirmed that they would not increase CGT or the top rate of income tax, or target expensive houses. Their stated view is that extra funding for public services would have to come from economic growth and that Labour 'would do whatever it takes' to encourage business investment into the UK. In spite of this objective, Labour still intends to abolish the non-dom tax regime, a measure which we would expect to have the reverse effect. We will continue to cover proposed tax policy of the major parties in Tax Pulse as the general election draws closer.

In this edition of Tax Pulse, we start by returning once more to the subject of non-domiciled taxpayers and analyse some recently published HMRC figures on their contribution to the Exchequer. As we move to the part of the year where we focus on the preparation of our clients' tax returns, we provide a high level reminder of the UK tax treatment of investment income and gains. If you have ever wondered why we in the UK have a tax year which ends on 5 April, we have included a piece in this edition which provides the answer. In our guest article, we are delighted to include a piece by Suzanne Marriott, Partner and Notary Public at Charles Russell Speechlys LLP, on the role of a Notary. And finally, in keeping with our practice of including a piece about the activities of the Firm and its people, we have provided light-hearted insight into how we as a Firm engage in support for charitable causes.

We hope that you enjoy reading Tax Pulse and if you have any feedback to give us on any of the pieces or suggestions for future items, please direct your comments to the editorial team.

The Partners

NON-DOMS - HOW MUCH TAX DO THEY REALLY PAY?

Read this to get some perspective on the tax contribution made by foreign domiciled taxpayers

HMRC have just published the latest version of an annual analysis of taxpayers whose domicile - broadly speaking their permanent home - is outside the UK ('non-doms'). They have been preparing these figures each year since 2008.

Background

UK resident non-doms may claim the remittance basis of taxation, under which they pay tax on UK source income and gains, and on foreign income and gains which are 'remitted', effectively those funds that are brought to or used in the UK. Non-doms have to pay a charge of £30,000 to use the remittance basis after 7 years of UK residence, and £60,000 after 12 years. After 15 years, they are deemed UK domiciled, and not able to claim the remittance basis. Individuals born in the UK with a UK domicile of origin also become deemed UK domiciled if they resume residence here.

The HMRC analysis is prepared from self assessment tax returns. It includes tax contributions made by individuals who are deemed UK domiciled as well as non-doms. The figures are affected by late filing of tax returns; for example returns for the year ended 5 April 2022 were due for filing by 31 January 2023. Adjustments are made to reflect late filing, and accordingly each annual report presented by HMRC includes figures for three tax years, the two most recent being provisional and subject to amendment.

Tax Raised

For the tax year ended 2022, HMRC estimate that a total of at least 78,700 non-dom and deemed UK domiciled taxpayers paid a combined total income tax, Capital Gains Tax and National Insurance liability of at least £12.4 billion, up from 78,100 taxpayers and £11.3 billion in tax liability, respectively, in the previous tax year. To put this in context income tax, the largest element of this tax take, was forecast to raise from all taxpayers around £200 billion for 2021/22, about a quarter of all government tax receipts.

The figure for tax due from deemed UK domiciled taxpayers is uncertain, because they may not need to indicate on the return that they have that status. Certain taxpayers do need to declare foreign domicile, and the fact that they are deemed UK domiciled, for example to take advantage of provisions introduced when tax legislation was changed in 2017, such as Capital Gains Tax rebasing or offshore trust protections. In other cases, tax paid by deemed UK domiciled taxpayers cannot be identified.

On this basis, the HMRC analysis reports that deemed UK domiciled taxpayers had tax liabilities of at least £3.9 billion for the tax year ended 2022, a figure which is over 30% of the combined total of tax paid by non-doms and deemed UK domiciled taxpayers, while noting that the total tax for deemed UK domiciliaries is likely to be higher than this figure.

The chart below shows the income tax, Capital Gains Tax and National Insurance liabilities of non-doms, and the number of non-dom taxpayers, for the tax years ended 2008 to 2022.

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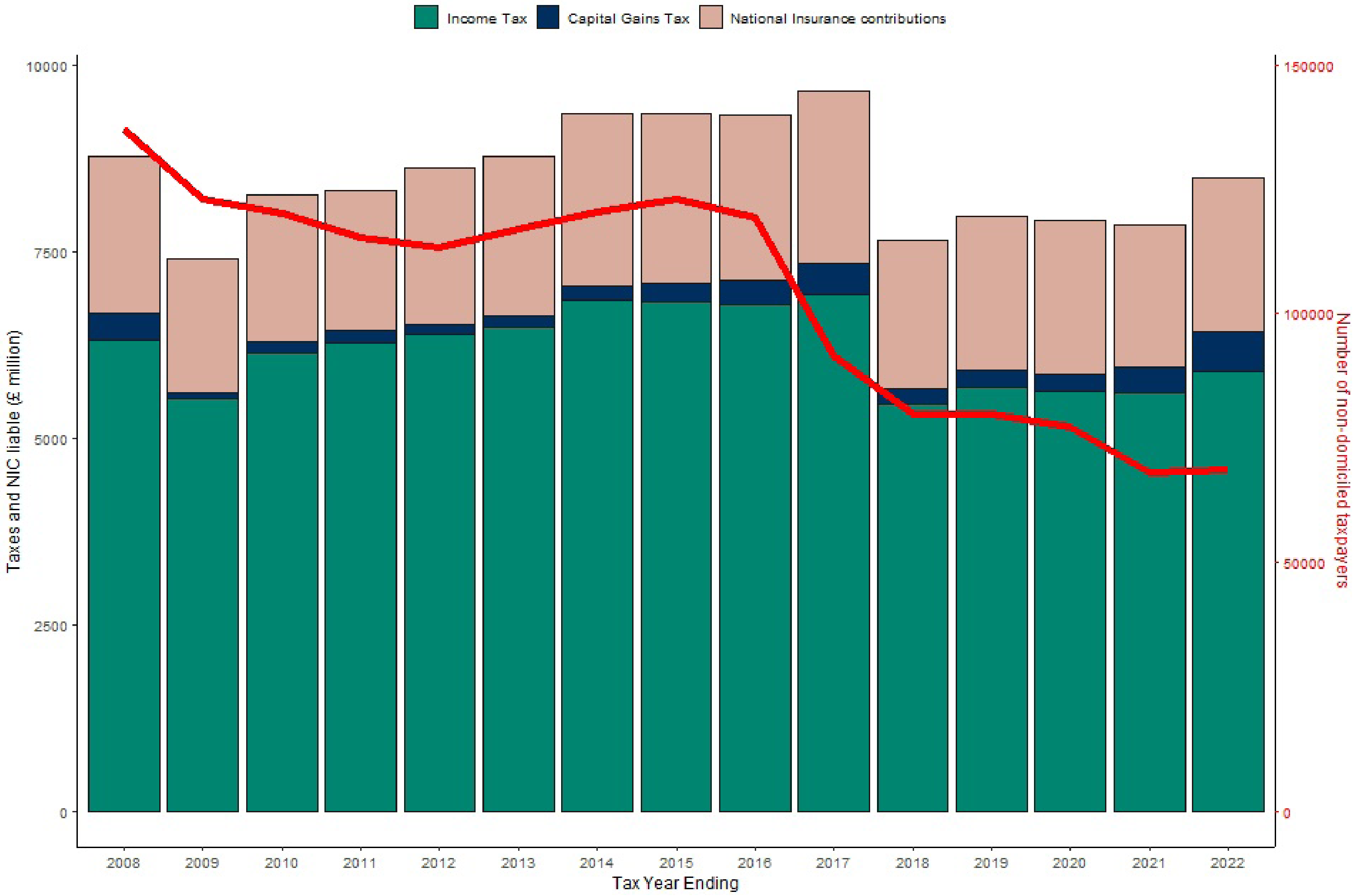

Non Residents and Remittance Basis Users

The tables which accompany the HMRC analysis illustrate some interesting features. Of 68,800 non-doms identified for tax year ended 2022, 13,600 were not UK resident, perhaps having a tax liability on UK rent or other sources of income here.

Reflecting the likely need to revise data for the tax year ended 2022, HMRC report figures for the remittance basis population a year in arrears, that is for the year to 5 April 2021. For that year, 37,000 UK resident non-doms filed on the remittance basis. Of those, 1,600 paid the £30,000 remittance basis charge, and 500 paid £60,000 (these numbers are all rounded to the nearest 100).

Individuals with unremitted foreign income and gains under £2,000 have access to the remittance basis without a claim, or payment of the remittance basis charge; for the tax year ended 2021 there were 14,900 of them. The number of taxpayers falling into this category has declined in recent years; for the tax year ended 2017 there were 24,700 who had unremitted income and gains below £2,000.

Finally, for the tax year ended 5 April 2021,17,300 UK resident non-doms paid tax on the arising basis. This will often be done when the amounts of unremitted foreign income and gains do not justify payment of the remittance basis charge.

The Future

So what does all this mean? Possible reform or abolition of the non-dom tax regime, should there be a change of government at the next general election which will be held by January 2025 at the latest, has been in the news. Tax paid by non-doms under the current regime is certainly one factor in the decision to be made by a prospective government. Another, rather more difficult to quantify, is the extent to which abolition of non-dom status would prompt those affected to leave the UK, taking their tax contributions with them. A study published recently by Warwick University and the London School of Economics estimates that the Labour plans to abolish the non-dom regime would raise approximately £3.6 billion in additional tax, and predicts that relatively few would leave the UK as a result. However, this was based on what happened on the occurrence of the last major reforms to the regime in April 2017, when important tax reliefs were introduced to offset the effects of the changes.

Given the inherent uncertainty, and against the background of a current tax contribution of around £12.4 billion, and the potential disincentive to inward immigration and investment that reform could produce, one might view further legislative change as something of a gamble.

TAXATION OF INVESTORS

Read this if you want to learn more about the Capital Gains Tax and Income Tax implications of realising capital gains or receiving income from investments

The UK tax treatment of investment income and gains has become increasingly complex over the years, as rules have changed to address perceived tax avoidance, reliefs have been curtailed and new types of investment assets have become more regular features of a diversified portfolio. This article is intended to act as a 'high level' overview of the Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and Income Tax (IT) liabilities for UK resident and UK domiciled individuals accruing as a result of holding investments.

Capital Gains Tax

The annual exemption for 2023/24 is £6,000, which will be reduced to £3,000 p.a. for 2024/25 and future tax years. Therefore, an individual will not be subject to CGT if their net capital gains (after the deduction of capital losses realised during the same tax year or capital losses brought forward from the previous tax year) are below £6,000 for the year ending 5 April 2024.

Gains accruing on the disposal of interests in residential properties (where not exempt) and gains arising in respect of carried interest are subject to CGT at 18% (to income tax basic rate limit of £37,700) or 28% (amounts above the income tax basic rate limit), with the rates for gains accruing on the disposal of other investments being 10% or 20%.

Gains on Life Insurance Policies

For tax purposes, when considering gains realised on life insurance policies, the most important distinction is between 'qualifying' and 'non-qualifying' life insurance policies. Qualifying policies usually do not give rise to a chargeable event gain (CEG) unlike non-qualifying policies which often give rise to a CEG. Non-qualifying policies will often be single premium life insurance policies.

CEGs are taxable as income, although tax at the basic rate may be treated as paid on the gain where the issuer of the policy is a UK company in which case further tax will only be due from higher, or additional rate, taxpayers. Gains on overseas policies carry no UK tax credit. CEGs are not capital gains, so capital losses and the annual exempt amount cannot be set against them.

Top-slicing Relief (TSR) is available when individuals do not pay higher/additional rate tax on other income, excluding the gain, but when the CEG is added to other income, the taxpayer is pushed into the higher/additional rate tax bands.

In order to calculate the amount of the TSR you will need to know the number of complete years which have elapsed since the policy was issued, which should be stated on the chargeable event certificate issued by the insurer. TSR is given in terms of tax rather than as a reduction to a CEG.

The calculation of TSR can be complicated and it is not possible to give full details here.

Offshore Funds

Gains on the disposal of offshore funds are only subject to CGT If the funds are certified by HMRC as 'reporting funds', so that investors are subject to IT on the fund's income each year.

Gains realised on the disposal of non-reporting offshore funds are categorised as 'offshore income gains' (OIGs) and are subject to IT rather than CGT. However, losses realised on such funds can only be deducted from capital gains.

HMRC maintain a list of reporting funds which can be reviewed in order to determine whether gains realised should be subject to CGT or IT.

Accrued Income Scheme (AIS)

The AIS was introduced to ensure that individuals are taxed on the interest on gilts and securities which accrues during their period of ownership. Before the scheme was introduced, IT could be avoided by selling a stock just prior to the date on which the entitlement to receive the next interest payment crystallised. The price received would reflect the interest which had accrued since the previous interest date, but the consideration reflecting that accrued interest would be taxed as capital gain (or possibly not taxable at all, depending on the type of security). The AIS was designed to prevent that mischief.

If an individual sells a security with accrued interest, the AIS treats as income of the vendor the proportion of the proceeds which reflects the interest which has accrued since the previous interest date up to the settlement date of the sale. This is called an 'accrued income profit'. As a corollary, the buyer of the stock will be taxed in full on the next interest payment received, but is permitted to deduct the proportion of that interest which has effectively been paid to the vendor and taxed as income under the AIS. This is called an 'accrued income loss'.

Sometimes, a security will be sold after the date on which the right to the interest has accrued to the vendor, but before the interest is actually paid. Where this happens, the vendor is still taxed on the interest received, but the price paid by the buyer will have been discounted to reflect the fact that the vendor will receive the full interest payment, including the interest accruing from the date of sale up to the interest payment date. The vendor can claim an accrued income loss for that post-sale proportion of the interest, with the person buying the security paying IT on an equivalent amount.

For the purposes of AIS, 'securities' include:

- gilts issued by the UK government (including index-linked gilts)
- investment bonds issued by banks or building societies
- bonds, loan notes, debentures or alternative finance investment issued by UK companies, local authorities or other bodies
- any similar securities issued by overseas companies or governments

Income Tax (IT)

The personal allowance (0% tax rate) for 2023/24 is £12,570 and is reduced by £1 for every £2 an individual's adjusted net income exceeds £100,000 p.a.

Below is a table summarising the IT tax rates due on savings income (including interest from banks, building societies, interest distributions from authorised unit trusts) and dividends;

Band	Taxable Income	Savings / Dividends Tax Rate
Personal Allowance	Up to £12,570	0%
Basic rate	£12,571 to £50,270	20% / 8.75%
Higher rate	£50,271 to £125,140	40% / 33.75%
Additional rate	over £125,140	45% / 39.35%

Taxation of Savings

A starting rate for savings band of £5,000 applies. Where an individual's taxable non-savings income is less than £5,000, there is a 0% starting rate for savings up to this limit. Where taxable non-savings income exceeds £5,000, the starting rate for savings does not apply.

Taxation of Dividends

For 2023/24 a dividend allowance of £1,000 is available to all taxpayers, whereby a 0% rate of IT applies. This will be reduced to £500 for 2024/25.

IT Reliefs

From 6 April 2017 a trading allowance and property allowance of £1,000 each p.a. have been available. They are not available on income of partners or close company participators, or where 'rent-a-room' relief could be claimed.

Where total receipts are no more than £1,000, the allowance is given automatically and there is no disclosure requirement.

An election can be made for relief not to apply or for partial relief to apply where receipts exceed £1,000 so that relief for deductible expenditure can be claimed instead.

Funds Where Dividends Are Taxed As Interest

UK shares and collective investments such as unit trusts and OEICs may pay dividends to investors. For UK shares, distributions paid out of profits are generally classified as dividends.

However, for funds the situation is more complicated. If the fund holds 60% or more of its assets in fixed income investments such as bonds, the income paid counts as interest rather than dividend income.

Principles Determining Tax Treatment of Distributions From Foreign Companies

Overseas distributions are those received from companies not resident in the UK. Before determining how the individual is taxable on the foreign distribution, it is necessary to check that it will, in fact, be treated as an income dividend for UK tax purposes and is not a capital payment.

The correct UK tax treatment of a payment made by a foreign company is found by determining the legal mechanism by which the distribution is made in order to find the character of the payment under the corporate law of the jurisdiction in which the paying company is incorporated.

Again, this is a complicated matter so detailed consideration should be given in order to determine whether distributions from foreign companies should be classified as dividends.

Crypto Assets

This is a relatively new asset class and it is fair to say that there is a lack of certainty around the UK tax treatment of crypto assets which the professional bodies feel to be affecting the UK's standing amongst investors. The UK tax treatment of crypto assets was covered in articles in editions 5 and 6 of *Tax Pulse* but there are concerns that the principles being applied by HMRC should be reviewed in their entirety.

A TAX YEAR ENDING ON 5 APRIL – WHY?

Read this if you want to know why our tax year is unusual

Foreigners often laugh at British peculiarities – our obsession with the weather, cricket, queueing and our inability to decide on thorny issues such as whether it is jam or cream which goes on the scone first (it is jam, by the way). However, some of our eccentricities have important practical implications for a major economy, and one of these is the continued use of 5 April as the date on which our fiscal year ends. How on Earth did we get here?

Some questions do not have a one sentence answer, and this is definitely one of them. Indeed, lengthy tomes have been written on the subject, so an explanation within the confines of a short article is a challenge.

It is not, however, a challenge on the scale of that which confronted Julius Caesar in 46 BC (or BCE, as some now prefer). According to the Roman historian Livy, it was Numa Pompilius, successor to Romulus as king of Rome, who divided the year into twelve lunar months. However, 12 lunar months are around 10.25 days shorter than the time which it takes the Earth to orbit the sun. In order to compensate for the shortfall and ensure that the calendar continued to synchronise with the seasons, it was the Roman practice to compensate through 'intercalation', the regular insertion of an additional 27 or 28 day month between 23 and 24 February, known as 'Mercedonius'.

This did not, however, happen as regularly as it needed to. Intercalation was thought to bring bad luck, so the decision whether to hold Mercedonius rested with the Pontifex Maximus, the high priest. Caesar had been the Pontifex Maximus since 63 BC, but had not been in Rome to deal with the issue, preoccupied as he had been in this period with his conquest of Gaul, his confrontations in Britannia with our blue-faced ancestors and his local difficulties with Pompey. By the time Caesar, by then Dictator, returned from Egypt in 46 BC, the discrepancy was three months. Suetonius, the historian, observed that religious festivals to celebrate the harvest fell months before the vegetables were ready to be cropped.

Consulting a Greek astronomer, Sosigenes of Alexandria, Caesar decreed an intercalation of 90 days in 46 BC, a 445 day year which became known, unsurprisingly, as the 'final year of confusion'. Sosigenes's intention was that from 45 BC the year, divided into the 12 months which we would recognise today, would become of 365 days duration with an additional day added on to February every four years to adjust for the fact that the solar year is approximately 365.25 days, rather than 365. Unfortunately, the Pontifices initially misunderstood his recommendations and inserted a leap year every 3 years, due to the Romans' practice of inclusive counting (so that when interpreting 'every 4 years', they counted the current year as year 1 and the third year afterwards as year 4). The mistake wasn't recognised until 8 BC when Augustus made the necessary adjustment by avoiding any further intercalations until 8 AD, after which it settled down to a day every 4 years. So it wasn't until 8 AD that what became known as the Julian calendar started to function as Sosigenes intended, and we can only applaud his mastery of this field of science. As we shall see shortly, however, the mastery contained an imperfection.

Christianity spread across Europe and religious festivals came to dominate the calendar. From 1155, by decree of the Church, Lady Day (25 March) became the first day of the New Year and this also became in due course the start of the legal year, a practice adopted in England.

There was, however, a problem caused by a practice which all accountants would recognise - Sosigenes had used rounding in his calculations! A solar year is not exactly 365.25 days, it is around 11 minutes shorter than that. This may not seem like much, but it amounts to just under a day every 128 years. By 1582, it was calculated that the vernal equinox and summer solstice were occurring around 10 days before the calendar dates on which they were supposed to be celebrated. To correct this, Pope Gregory XIII made an adjustment in 1582 by decreeing that 4 October of that year would be followed by 15 October. In order to prevent the same problem recurring, it was decreed that a leap year would occur every four years except those years which can be divided exactly by 100, unless they can also be divided by 400 (in which case they would be a leap year). As a result, under the Gregorian calendar the years which occur at the end of a century are only leap years every fourth century.

By this turbulent period in English history, the Catholic Church no longer held sway and papal decrees affecting Catholic Europe fell on deaf ears in England. From 1582, England's calendar was 10 days or so behind that adopted by continental Europe. It was not until 1752 that Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar by making an adjustment of 11 days in September of that year (14 September followed on from 2 September) which brought Britain into line with the rest of Europe. It was considered fair, however, to extend the end date of the legal year so that it would have the same 366 days' duration as it would have had without the adjustment. This measure was intended to prevent tax being levied for a full year in respect of a 354 day period. The legal year in 1752/53 was therefore extended to end on 5 April rather than 24 March. This date was thenceforth adopted as the accepted legal year end date and became the assessment year when income tax was introduced in 1799. It has remained in place ever since.

It will therefore be seen that we have the adoption by the Church of Lady Day as New Year's Day in the 12th century and a 16th century adjustment to a miniscule 1st century BC oversight by an Alexandrian Greek genius to thank for our strange tax year end. Most countries have adopted a year end which, if not the calendar year, at least coincides with the end of a month. However, we are different, although not completely alone since there are other countries which have irregular year end dates (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iran and Nepal). That no UK Government has seen fit to change this to a more logical date perhaps speaks for our regard for tradition and, indeed, our eccentricity.

Now, back to more pressing issues, is it jam or cream first………?

WHAT IS A NOTARY?

Read this for an insight from Suzanne Marriott, partner at law firm Charles Russell Speechlys and Vice-President of the Notaries Society, into her role as a Notary Public.

In England and Wales, a notary is a legally trained public official. They create under their seal of office impartial, accurate records of agreements, statements and facts with enhanced evidential status.

When creating their records ('notarial acts'), the notary verifies and authenticates matters such as the identity of the parties appearing before them, their authority to do so, their capacity, free will and understanding of the nature and effect of what they are doing. In this way, the notary's act creates legal certainty in the form of reliable documentary evidence of informed and voluntary participation of a party in a legal act or transaction. The importance of the English Notary is more to do with the link it provides between common law and the civil law of the continent and wider world where the acts of the Notary have wide recognition.

Originally, notaries were appointed either by the Holy Roman Emperor or the Pope. The English notarial profession began in 1279. During the break with Rome in 1531 Henry VIII claimed the Pope's powers for the Crown. In 1534, he delegated the royal authority to appoint notaries to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop continues to appoint notaries to this day, and the ceremony also requires an oath of allegiance to the King. The profession of Notary is the most ancient branch of our legal profession.

In order to qualify, notaries are required to undertake similar legal studies as solicitors, as well as further post-graduate study in the areas of Roman law, private international law (the conflict of laws) and notarial practice. In addition, for a notary's first two years of practice, they must be supervised by an experienced notary approved by the regulator (The Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury). There are about 850 Notaries practising in England and Wales and around 30, practising mainly in the City of London, who specialise in a foreign language and are Scrivener Notaries. There are no limits on numbers and no fixed fee scales.

Why Did I Become a Notary?

The main reason was turning work away to other law firms who had a Notary when we act for so many international clients. Nearly all clients have some requirement for a legal transaction abroad, be it getting married on a beach in Bali, adopting a child from Africa, buying and selling a company abroad, setting up a business or taking over a business abroad, owning a house in France, endless powers of attorney required for differing countries where they transact or live, surrogacy in the USA, the list is endless. As the profession is personal to you as the Notary, you can act for any client or non-client of the firm. I get walk-ins off the street (Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch are neighbours, as are the Drs at St Barts wanting to go and work in Australia), referrals from other law firms, barristers and accountants who suddenly find they need a Notary to close their deal, and I have even been to the Palace to notarise for the King.

What Types of Things Are Recorded in a Notarial Act?

The core traditional function of the notary is to record agreements and statements made by members of the public. For historical reasons relating to the various parallel English legal systems that have applied for many centuries, in England and Wales formal notarial acts are generally (but not exclusively) voluntary. In other legal systems, especially continental European civil law legal systems, they are compulsory in certain areas of law. As a result, English notaries are often asked to issue notarial acts to deal with matters in other jurisdictions, liaising with local lawyers to ensure compliance with local requirements. These often relate to dealings with land, companies, wills and inheritance, which are areas in which continental jurisdictions require notarial acts to be used.

In addition, notaries are often asked to issue notarial certificates in relation to other documents, in which case the notary adds a separate certificate to the document. The nature of the certification depends on what is required by the recipient. In the case of contracts, declarations of consent to travel and forms, this often includes confirmations of the identity of a signatory to a document – it having first been signed before the notary – the authority of a signatory to sign on behalf of a company, compliance with company laws etc. In other cases, it can include confirmations of the authenticity of a qualification or other certificate (the notary having taken steps to verify it with the issuer).

What is Legalisation?

Legalisation is the process by which the authorities of one jurisdiction verify the authenticity of a public document for use in another jurisdiction. It is often a mandatory step before a public document can be accepted in other jurisdictions. Public documents include court orders, birth, marriage and death certificates, registry extracts and notarial acts.

Many countries have now signed up to the Hague convention which seeks to simplify the process by signatory countries accepting a single authentication certification in agreed form called an ‘Apostille’. Some countries however require further verification from their embassies such as the UAE and China.

Is Electronic or Remote ‘notarisation’ Possible in England and Wales?

In theory, it is possible to issue notarial acts in electronic form and it is possible to do so without the client being physically present by using video calls and remote signing platforms, provided the receiving jurisdiction allows it. A moving feast and one which AI will no doubt touch, but in darkest Peru they still prefer a gold seal and a quill ink signature!

Guest article by Suzanne Marriott, partner at law firm Charles Russell Speechlys and Vice-President of the Notaries Society

CHARITY BEGINS AT WORK

Read this to find out about the support which the Firm gives to charity and community causes

As part of our 90th anniversary celebrations, we are in the process of organising a charity walk for our partners and staff covering the 20 miles or so from our London office in New Street Square to our office in The Square, Leatherhead. This is part of a wider initiative which recognises a subtle change in priorities amongst our staff over the past decade in particular. An employer was previously regarded as 'good' if they provided interesting career prospects and competitive remuneration. While this is still true, the younger generation look more closely at the Firm's values and whether it makes a wider contribution which staff can identify with and feel proud of.

In this article, we take a look at how Rawlinson & Hunter addresses and engages with philanthropic activity by summarising some of the fun activities we have been involved in, some of the causes we have supported and how we selected them.

Blue Marine Foundation

The Firm has provided significant support to Blue Marine Foundation (www.bluemarinefoundation.com) in a number of ways for over a decade, including partner Craig Davies's service as trustee since 2012, and witnessed this charity engage in internationally important conservation projects and develop into a key voice advising UK Government policy on the marine conservation agenda.

Beyond this, we support the annual Blue London to Monaco bike ride and Tax Manager, Alexander Scott, was 'fortunate' enough to be encouraged to complete the full 8 day ride in 2018. In Alexander's own words:

An exhausted but happy Alexander in Monaco!

This was somewhat of a shock to family and friends as I had never cycled further than my 5 mile London commute before I committed to the adventure. A team of nine from R&H joined over 100 cyclists who departed from Herne Hill Velodrome accompanied by Mike and Zara Tindall to reach Dover in time for an evening meal and ferry crossing. Over the following days through 6 European countries and over 1,200Km, I rode iconic cycling routes such as the river Rhone cycle path (lovely and flat), sections of Belgium cobbles (tough), over the Grand St Bernard Pass (absolutely exhausting) and had a police escort up to Prince's Palace of Monaco. This adventure required me to find new levels of endurance but also enabled me to experience amazing and varied scenery. I enjoyed the hours of companionship with fellow riders and contributed to raising over £260,000 for this inspirational charity.

A team of riders from the firm will have joined the 2023 edition of the ride by the time this article is published.

Artis Foundation

As part of our support to Artis Foundation (www.artisfoundation.org.uk) we match-fund the provision of arts education to Pakeman Primary School. Pakeman Primary's students include many disadvantaged children and many for whom English is not their first language. The arts education that Artis is able to provide to schools like Pakeman Primary makes a real difference to the life chances of these young people. This support allows class, race and language barriers to be broken down by the use of movement, music, dance and creativity, with children then learning to communicate and express themselves regardless of what other difficulties they may otherwise be experiencing.

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2023 Charity for the Year

An annual staff led vote helped to select The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity as our charity for the year. Staff are encouraged to support the chosen charity through sponsored events, with matching contributions from the partners to support charitable endeavours undertaken by clients and staff. We have found that our staff do have excellent imagination and previous fundraising events have ranged from cake sales and raffles to the more adventurous end of the scale such as sky diving, white collar boxing and various other challenging activities of different guises.

We are also looking into holding a charity day to support one or more community projects in the vicinity of our offices which we expect will prove popular with partners and staff.

Supporting Initiatives Hosted By Our Business Friends

Despite a quiz mastermind recently retiring, charity quizzes remain a popular event amongst staff. History has demonstrated that the general knowledge required for success may not always suit our strengths, but usually there is at least a contribution of a witty team name to the event.

A Rawlinson & Hunter team recently completed a 20 mile walk across the Kent countryside to provide company and financial support to the Tanager Wealth team on Day 1 of their march from Canterbury to Southwark cathedral as part of their fundraising for The Soup Kitchen London.

The Firm also enter teams to the annual London events such as the 5k JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge in Battersea Park and Standard Chartered Great City Race as well as the 10Km London Legal Walk.

What do we get out of it?

We have found that getting actively involved in a range of charitable activities through work is a great way to provide both partners and staff with an imaginative, varied and fun way to provide financial support where it counts.

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