



B Lab Statement on McCarthyDenning's B Corp Certification

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for companies providing tax advisory services:

"Companies in the tax advisory industry are eligible for B Corp Certification if they are able to confirm that their tax philosophy, used to provide services and recommendations to clients, aligns with the company specific principles listed in B Lab's framework, specifically, 1) the tax advice provided appropriately reflects the actual amount of income generated by the client over time; and, 2) the tax advice provided to a client for a jurisdiction appropriately reflects the actual operations of the client in that jurisdiction."

McCarthyDenning is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with the above requirements as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's position statement on Companies that Provide Tax Advisory Services and B Corp Certification [here](#).

Summary of Company

McCarthyDenning is a UK-based firm that provides corporate and commercial legal services, with an integrated, principles-based tax advisory practice. The firm advises international businesses engaged in cross-border transactions, as well as investment funds and high-growth enterprises operating in or entering the UK market.

Tax-related work constitutes less than 3% of the firm's annual revenue and is exclusively tied to corporate or commercial transactional matters. The tax services offered include advice on mergers and acquisitions, cross-border restructurings, capital markets activities, internal reorganizations, asset finance, and venture capital transactions. The firm does not have a standalone tax planning business; instead, all tax work is incorporated within broader legal mandates to ensure compliance and accuracy.

McCarthyDenning provides tax services only to corporate clients, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and larger organizations. The firm does not offer personal tax planning or any services aimed at private individuals or high-net-worth individuals.

Fees for tax advisory work are charged based on the same time-based principles used across all practice areas. Factors that determine fees include the expected time required, the seniority and expertise of the advising lawyer, the complexity of the transaction, and, where appropriate, a fixed-fee arrangement agreed upon in advance. Fees are never linked to the amount of tax saved, contingent outcomes, or strategies that could promote aggressive tax positions.



McCarthyDenning's Policies and Practices

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, McCarthyDenning has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their own engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:

"We (McCarthy Denning) provide expert tax advice rooted in integrity, clarity and professionalism. In all jurisdictions in which we operate, we adhere to the following principles:

- **Full compliance** with tax legislation and regulatory obligations, applying robust legal judgement at every stage.
- **Commercial substance** in every structure and transaction: our advice reflects genuine business purpose, not artificial tax outcomes.
- **No participation** in aggressive tax-avoidance schemes, or in arrangements designed primarily to achieve tax advantage without substantive economic justification.
- **Senior accountability and oversight:** responsibility for tax governance is integrated into our firm's leadership and risk-management framework.
- **Transparency and clarity:** we explain our approach to tax openly, ensuring our clients understand the rationale behind our advice and the tax outcomes.
- **Continuous review:** we monitor developments in tax law, regulation and best practice, updating our approach to remain at the forefront of responsible tax behaviour.

We believe tax integrity is fundamental to good business and to our clients' long-term success. Our commitment is to act as trusted advisers, delivering technically excellent, ethically grounded tax services."

McCarthyDenning adheres to all applicable UK professional regulatory standards, including those issued by the [Solicitors Regulation Authority \(SRA\)](#) and [HMRC](#). These frameworks govern ethical tax practice, client engagement, reporting obligations, and standards of professional judgment. The firm operates under the [SRA Code of Conduct](#), which is binding on all solicitors in England and Wales. Compliance is ensured through internal supervision, peer review, mandatory training, and ongoing regulatory audit requirements. McCarthyDenning does not involve external parties for enforcement, as the SRA already provides the necessary independent regulatory authority.

McCarthyDenning prohibits involvement in the design, promotion, or distribution of any tax avoidance schemes, including "mass-marketed" or "off-the-shelf" arrangements. McCarthyDenning does not advise on or participate in any structures that conflict with UK tax law or attempt to exploit artificial arrangements. In cases involving jurisdictions with low or zero taxation, clients must demonstrate a genuine commercial presence. Such work constitutes less than 5% of the firm's tax advisory engagements.



McCarthyDenning maintains conflict-checking procedures in line with SRA requirements. Conflicts are assessed prior to client onboarding and continuously throughout each engagement. For new hires, the firm implements appropriate conflict screening measures, including confidentiality undertakings, work restrictions, and background checks.

McCarthyDenning operates within the UK's strict regulatory framework aimed at preventing tax avoidance, overseen by HMRC and the SRA. The firm has not faced any litigations, penalties, or regulatory sanctions concerning its tax advisory services.

The firm does not engage in political lobbying for tax law reform and does not participate in any campaigns aimed at shaping tax policy for private gain. Its interactions with tax authorities are strictly limited to assisting clients with compliance and responding to inquiries in the normal course of legal practice.

McCarthyDenning does not issue public advocacy statements regarding tax policy or legislative reform.

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through [B Lab's Public Complaint Process](#). Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the [certification process](#), or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#) within the B Corp Community.