



## **B Lab Statement on Cooper Parry' 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.”*

Cooper Parry 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**

Cooper Parry is a firm of accountants and business advisers based in England, UK. Cooper Parry's tax department, which contributes 20% to its annual revenue, provides tax compliance services and consulting advice. Compliance services range from the preparation of corporate tax returns for organizations and personal inheritance tax. Consultancy services includes, amongst others, transfer pricing, transaction tax, business structuring, overseas operations expansion and Research & Development. In terms of their fees, Cooper Parry services are quoted in advance and based on the complexity of the project and the work required, the anticipated time spent, expertise needed and the value added. Cooper Parry clients include, but are not limited to, high net worth individuals, families, owner-managed businesses, larger enterprises and UK subsidiaries of overseas businesses.

## **Cooper Parry' Policies and Practices**

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, Cooper Parry 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:

*“Cooper Parry is proud of our status as a Certified B Corp. As part of that commitment and in recognition of the role that taxes play in contributing to a healthy society, we use our professional judgment to provide advice regarding tax positions with multiple potential interpretations that accurately reflects the income and operations of the client in each jurisdiction for which the client seeks our advice based on the details of the client's income and*



*operations provided to us, and do not advise clients to take a position unless we believe it has at least a reasonable basis for being sustained by applicable tax authorities. If a client takes a tax position despite our advice to the contrary, we reserve the right to stop work for and terminate such client. We maintain compliance with this policy through regular training of our employees and partners, internal policies on conduct, engagement documentation with our clients, and client retention reviews.”*

Cooper Parry works with clients that demonstrate high standards of legitimacy and integrity in their business and activities. Before accepting clients, and in continuing to work with existing ones, they satisfy themselves that the client intends to comply with the legal and regulatory obligations in relation to taxation. In this regard they claim pay particular attention to the following:

- The reputation of the client and the conduct of its/their activities;
- Understanding who is behind the client in terms of control, influence and the legitimacy of any financial interests or funding;
- They check against PEP and sanctions list;
- The integrity and reliability of management/individuals;
- Relevant ethical, professional, and regulatory requirements;
- Other relationships and potential conflicts of interest;
- Their clients are subject to ongoing customer due diligence.

The company is aware and compliant with the requirements of Corporate Criminal Offences (CCO) legislation. Cooper Parry has policies on bribery, conflicts of interest and AML. In addition they are adherent to the [Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales \(ICAEW\) Code of Ethics](#). Cooper Parry also has a Conflict Policy to mitigate the risk involving conflict of interests and all employees complete a mandatory monthly Personal Interest form.

The company is a member of the Institute of ICAEW, [Association of Chartered Certified Accountants \(ACCA\)](#), [Chartered Institute of Taxation \(CIOT\)](#), and the [Association of Accounting Technicians \(AAT\)](#). Part of these membership rules is that the company needs to comply with Money Laundering and Tax Evasion legislations such as: The Criminal Finance Act and The Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations. In addition to that, Cooper Parry does not operate in low-tax jurisdictions.

Cooper Parry adheres to the ICAEW Code of Ethics, which prohibits in its articles the participation in the development, mass marketing and implementation of tax avoidance schemes.



Cooper Parry's teams undergo regular training and coaching through a process of continual professional development. They are subject to regular cold file reviews (including tax aspects) and monitoring visits to ensure they maintain quality.

The company claims to have never been part of a litigation or subject to a penalty in respect of their tax advisory services. They also are not involved in any way in reforming/developing tax legislation or lobbying for such activities.

### **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.