

## B Lab Statement on PM+M Solutions for Business LLP'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."

PM+M Solutions for Business LLP 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**

Located in Lancashire and Greater Manchester, UK, PM+M Solutions for Business LLP is a firm supporting clients in all areas of accounting, audit and advisory, cloud accounting, corporate finance, financial planning, payroll, tax, and private client work. The company's tax department, which contributes 18.5% to its annual revenue, provides expert tax compliance services and consulting advice. In terms of tax advisory services, these include, but are not limited to advice in connection with:

- Corporate restructuring
- Sales of companies to third parties
- Advising in connection with management buy-outs/buy-ins
- Advising in relation to company share buybacks
- Creation of corporate groups and restructuring of existing groups
- The tax implications of individuals buying or selling assets, including businesses, shares in companies and property
- Remuneration and cash extraction planning for owners of companies, including advice on timing and levels of remuneration
- Estate planning for individuals, including advice around the tax implications of gifting assets.
- Tax advice provided to trustees of UK trusts and estates.

In terms of fees, PM+M charges on a time basis or on a contingent fee basis depending on the service. Their clients include but are not limited to, high net-worth individuals, families, not-for-profit organizations, charities, owner-managed businesses, larger enterprises and UK subsidiaries of overseas businesses.



## PM+M Solutions for Business LLP'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, PM+M Solutions for Business LLP ("PM+M") 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:

"At PM+M, we recognise the importance of the fact that businesses must contribute their share of taxes to society, in order for society to be able to function successfully. PM+M's core values centre around "Quality" and "Doing the Right Thing." These values are reflected in the tax services that we provide to our clients. In terms of "Quality" we always look to maintain the highest of standards of service, whilst operating professionally; not only in the dealings we have with our clients, but also those which we have with the tax authorities and other stakeholders. By operating transparently and ethically, we ensure that our clients comply fully with UK tax legislation, at the same time ensuring that we are "Doing the Right Thing" by our clients and by society

We recognise B Lab's "Framework for Evaluating Tax Strategies, Tax Advisory Services and Pending Tax Litigation" ("the Framework"). We confirm that the services that PM+M provides to its clients are consistent with the principles set out in the Framework and, in particular, with respect to our clients, that the amounts of tax that are payable by them are appropriately reflective of the income that those clients generate.

We are only able to provide UK tax advice and therefore do not provide non-UK tax advice to clients located overseas. To the extent that we have clients who have bases in the UK and overseas, we do not provide advice to those clients that is likely to result in the taxes payable over time in each of those jurisdictions being anything other than appropriately reflective of the actual operations of those businesses in those jurisdictions."

PM+M acts for a wide range of clients, providing both tax compliance and tax advisory services. The company claims to act in accordance with its own high ethical standards and to have an Ethics Partner who ensures that, as a firm, they meet the highest possible standards in all it activities. The company is regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales ("ICAEW") and bound by their ethical standards. In addition, all tax advisers act in accordance with the ethical standards of the Chartered Institute of Taxation ("CIOT"). The firm's employees are required to complete a "fit and proper" assessment annually, enabling the firm to meet its legal and regulatory obligations.

Although the law can sometimes be interpreted in different ways, PM+M always seeks to ensure that any services related to "Tax Advisory" are legal, ethical, and in accordance with both the



letter and the spirit of the law. To the extent that there is uncertainty about the interpretation of the law, the firm would always recommend seeking clearances from HMRC, or reputable legal advice, prior to clients acting upon any advice.

PM+M does not engage with promotors of tax avoidance schemes, nor do they partake in, offer the use of, or condone the use of any such schemes.

Although they are able to assist clients in dealing with HMRC in the event of an HMRC compliance check, this is to ensure compliance with the tax legislation. They do not partake in, or sell services, which relate to tax litigation generally.

PM+M has thorough onboarding processes to screen potential and existing clients for criminal activities and compliance with UK tax regulations. To the extent that there is any degree of concern, a referral would be made to the firms Money Laundering Reporting Officer ("MLRO") or their deputy and a decision would then be made as to whether the company should engage, continue to act, or cease to act. There are strict obligations placed upon the company as a regulated firm to report any concerns of suspicious activity to MLRO or their deputy, and ultimately to the National Crime Agency.

The company is not involved in any lobbying or advocacy activities related to changes in tax legislation.