



Bates Wells

Disclosure Report

Date Submitted: August 14th, 2024



Disclosure Materials

Certified B Corporations must complete a Disclosure Questionnaire to identify potentially sensitive issues related to the company (e.g. historical fines, sanctions, material litigation, or sensitive industry practices).

This component does not affect the company's score on the B Impact Assessment. If the company answers affirmatively to any items in the Disclosure Questionnaire that B Lab deems relevant for public stakeholders, then, as a condition of their certification, the company must:

- 1) Be transparent about details of the disclosure issues identified on the company's public B Impact Report
- 2) Describe how the company has addressed this issue
- 3) Demonstrate that management practices are in place to avoid similar issues from arising in the future, when necessary.

In all cases, the Standards Advisory council reserves the right to refuse certification if the company is ultimately deemed not to uphold the spirit and integrity of the community.

In addition to the voluntary indication of sensitive issues in the Disclosure Questionnaire, companies pursuing Certification also are subject to a background check by B Lab staff. Background checks include a review of public records, news sources, and search engines for company names, brands, executives/founders, and other relevant topics.

Sensitive issues identified through background checks may or may not be within the scope of questions in the Disclosure Questionnaire, but undergo the same review process and are subject to the same possible review by the Standards Advisory Council, including ineligibility for B Corp Certification, required remediation, or disclosure.

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 company's [certification process](#)
- 2) Breaches of the B Corp Community's core values as expressed in our [Declaration of Interdependence](#)

This document contains a copy of the company's completed Disclosure Questionnaire and related disclosure documentation provided by the company.



Disclosure Questionnaire

Industries and Products

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company is involved in production or trade in any of the following. Select Yes for all options that apply.		
Animal Products or Services	☐	☒
Biodiversity Impacts	☐	☒
Chemicals	☐	☒
Disclosure Alcohol	☐	☒
Disclosure Firearms Weapons	☐	☒
Disclosure Mining	☐	☒
Disclosure Pornography	☐	☒
Disclosure Tobacco	☐	☒
Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries	☐	☒
Fossil fuels Gambling	☐	☒
Genetically Modified Organisms	☐	☒
Illegal Products or Subject to Phase Out	☐	☒
Industries at Risk of Human Rights Violations	☐	☒
Monoculture Agriculture	☐	☒
Nuclear Power or Hazardous Materials	☐	☒
Payday, Short Term, or High Interest Lending	☐	☒
Water Intensive Industries	☐	☒
Tax Advisory Services	☐	☒

Outcomes & Penalties

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company has had any formal complaint to a regulatory agency or been assessed any fine or sanction in the past five years for any of the following practices or policies. Check all that apply.		
Anti-Competitive Behavior	☐	☒
Breaches of Confidential Information	☐	☒
Bribery, Fraud, or Corruption	☐	☒
Company has filed for bankruptcy	☐	☒
Consumer Protection	☐	☒
Financial Reporting, Taxes, Investments, or Loans	☐	☒
Hazardous Discharges Into Air/Land/Water (Past 5 Yrs)	☐	☒
Labor Issues	☐	☒
Large Scale Land Conversion, Acquisition, or Relocation	☐	☒
Litigation or Arbitration	☒	☐
On-Site Fatality	☐	☒
Penalties Assessed For Environmental Issues	☐	☒
Political Contributions or International Affairs	☐	☒
Recalls	☐	☒
Significant Layoffs	☐	☒
Violation of Indigenous Peoples Rights	☐	☒
Other	☐	☒



Practices

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the following statements are true regarding whether or not the company engages in the following practices. Check all that apply. If the statement is true, select "Yes." If false, select "No."		
Animal Testing	☐	☒
Company/Suppliers Employ Under Age 15 (Or Other ILO Minimum Age)	☐	☒
Company prohibits freedom of association/collective bargaining	☐	☒
Company workers are prisoners	☐	☒
Conduct Business in Conflict Zones	☐	☒
Confirmation of Right to Work	☐	☒
Does not transparently report corporate financials to government	☐	☒
Employs Individuals on Zero-Hour Contracts	☐	☒
Facilities located in sensitive ecosystems	☐	☒
ID Cards Withheld or Penalties for Resignation	☐	☒
No formal Registration Under Domestic Regulations	☐	☒
No signed employment contracts for all workers	☐	☒
Overtime For Hourly Workers Is Compulsory	☐	☒
Payslips not provided to show wage calculation and deductions	☐	☒

	Yes	No
Sale of Data	☐	☒
Tax Reduction Through Corporate Shells	☐	☒
Workers cannot leave site during non-working hours	☐	☒
Workers not Provided Clean Drinking Water or Toilets	☐	☒
Workers paid below minimum wage	☐	☒
Workers Under Bond	☐	☒
Other	☐	☒

Supply Chain Disclosures

	Yes	No
Please indicate if any of the following statements are true regarding your company's significant suppliers.		
Business in Conflict Zones	☐	☒
Child or Forced Labor	☐	☒
Negative Environmental Impact	☐	☒
Negative Social Impact	☐	☒
Other	☐	☒



Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Litigation, Arbitration and/or Penalties

Issue Date	2021
Topic	Contract Dispute
Summary of Issue	Bates Wells is a purpose and impact driven law firm that helped to launch the Better Business Act. Over the last 5 years, Bates Wells has had 1 litigation case brought against them. The case was a professional negligence action brought in 2021 against the company and another party by a client with regards to failure to replicate a break clause in a new lease in 2018. The claim has been settled and closed, with contributions from both Bates Wells and the other party.
Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)	The settlement of the case represented a payment of 319,646 GBP; 1-5% of the company's FY2021 revenue.
Impact on Stakeholders	Customer
Resolution	The claim has been settled through mediation, the corresponding payments have been made by the parties and is now closed.
Implemented Management Practices	The company improved its training for both new joiners and existing staff on how to spot and avoid errors, and actions to be taken to respond. The company shares details of all errors committed with partners every four months with the aim of raising awareness of any incidents which could be avoided in the future. They also have a supervision project in place which will be rolled out shortly - the aim of which is to ensure consistent, good supervision practices across the firm.