



*“The speed and quality of service here  
cannot be bettered on the island”*

**Chambers Global**



# About Us



DQ is a leading full service law firm.

Our lawyers have practised in some of the leading law firms in the Isle of Man, Cayman, BVI and Bermuda. We advise international and local clients on Isle of Man and BVI law.

DQ has developed a thriving and dynamic full-service practice which has seen phenomenal growth and is capitalising on a simple formula (for which DQ is recognised by Chambers Global): to provide a speed and quality of service that cannot be bettered on the Island.

DQ's directors serve on the Isle of Man Law Society Council, STEP Committee and various governmental and private sector steering groups, tribunals and committees.

DQ is a member of TAGLaw, a worldwide alliance of more than 145 independent law firms, providing a full range of legal services to clients all over the world. Founded in 1998, TAGLaw has quickly risen through the ranks and today, with more than 9,000 lawyers located in 300 offices in over 80 countries, is one of the world's largest legal alliances.

Our lawyers are recommended in **Chambers** and **Legal 500**.

"The speed and quality of service here is phenomenal."

**Chambers Global**

"Nimble and forward thinking, this firm ticks all the right boxes"

**Chambers UK**



\* Member firms of TAGLaw practise independently and not in a relationship for the joint practice of law.

# Isle of Man



The Isle of Man is a British Crown Dependency located at the geographic centre of the British Isles. With a population of approximately 80,000, the Island enjoys one of the highest standards of living in Europe, with a higher GDP per capita than the UK. It is recognised by the IMF as a jurisdiction “of the highest standing” and is AAA rated.

The Island is fully self regulating via its Parliament (Tynwald), which is the world’s oldest continuous legislature (over 1,000 years of democratic home rule). The Isle of Man is not constitutionally, politically nor legally part of the United Kingdom. It benefits from membership of the WTO, the IMF, the OECD and other relevant international bodies by virtue of its relationship with the UK and has a special relationship with the EU under which it enjoys free movement of goods within the EU but is not subject to the vast majority of EU law (most notably rules governing tax harmonisation).

The Island has its own sophisticated legal system which is based upon the principles of English law shared by most commonwealth countries. Lawyers and businesses who are familiar with English law will therefore be reassured by their choice of the Isle of Man as a jurisdiction in which to conduct international business.

The Island offers world class communications and professional infrastructure. In addition, the Island’s Government is agile, responsive and able to meet the needs of both business and local communities by creating effective new legislation, cutting red tape and reducing bureaucracy. The Island’s public and private sectors have a “can-do” attitude that adds to the competitive edge the Island already offers.

The Isle of Man is secure and relaxing yet dynamic and successful. That’s why it achieved the highest rating ever polled by MORI for its quality of life.

The Isle of Man gives you and your business the “freedom to flourish”.

# Isle of Man Financial Services Industry



The Island's financial services industry has developed over a 30 year period and is a key driver in the Island's economy. The Island provides a secure base, built on political stability, a clear and simple taxation regime and a firmly established fiscal and regulatory environment, independent of the UK and fully supported by a world-class infrastructure.

The Isle of Man is one of the world's largest international finance centres and boasts:-

- a common sense Government with minimal bureaucracy
- a thriving banking and insurance sector
- one of the world's largest shipping fleets and top rated Ship Registry
- superyacht register
- the world's fastest growing offshore aircraft register
- a high tech manufacturing sector
- space and satellite industry
- high quality professional service firms
- state of the art telecommunications infrastructure

The Isle of Man financial services industry has won major international awards year after year. The Island's notable accolades include:-

- Best International Financial Services Centre - 5 out of the last 7 years
- The Leading Offshore Centre - The City of London's Global Financial Centres Index
- Best Offshore Location for Investment Business and Life Assurance Business - Financial Times

These awards are a testament to the Island's position as a top tier international business jurisdiction.

# Tax Strategy



The Isle of Man's tax system is an integral component of its overall economic strategy. Its competitive tax regime attracts companies and HNWIs from around the world to set up or structure businesses here.

In April 2006, the Island took the bold step of introducing a standard 0% rate of tax for companies (with the exception of banks and companies managing Isle of Man property). This highly competitive tax strategy complies with the **EU Code of Conduct on Business Taxation** and so international businesses can structure operations in or through the Isle of Man safe in the knowledge that its tax strategy is well established and fully compliant with international standards.

The 0% rate of corporate tax, coupled with low personal income tax rates (maximum of 20%) and a tax cap of £120,000 on high earners, provides a highly competitive package for both businesses and HNWIs in a well regulated, AAA rated jurisdiction which has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

The Island has an established Double Taxation Treaty with the United Kingdom which facilitates the use of Isle of Man structures in UK property development, investments and other businesses. The Island also boasts tax agreements with over 25 other countries.

The position of the Isle of Man as an area of low corporate and personal taxation is further enhanced by the absence of any stamp duty, capital, wealth or inheritance taxes.

# Corporate & Commercial



We have developed expertise in an extensive range of corporate and commercial matters involving the Isle of Man and the BVI, and as such have advised a range of clients including local and multi-national corporations, insurance companies, banks, public bodies, entrepreneurs and HNWLs.

We provide a highly responsive and bespoke service. We are regarded by clients and competitors alike for our pragmatic and commercial “can-do” approach to our clients’ requirements and quick turnaround times.

Areas of expertise include:-

- mergers and acquisitions
- regulatory investigations and advice
- banking & finance
- insurance
- listings on LSE, TSX, HKSE, FWB
- shipping & yachting
- aviation
- directors’ duties and corporate governance
- partnerships/limited partnerships
- employment
- space & satellite
- pensions

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# British Virgin Islands (“BVI”) Law



DQ offers BVI legal advice to Isle of Man and international clients looking for BVI capability in the European time zone.

Our areas of expertise include:-

- BVI legal opinions
- corporate & commercial
- litigation/dispute resolution  
(working with our associated firms in the BVI)
- insolvency
- restructuring
- trusts

For Further Information Please Contact the head of our BVI team:

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# Trust & Private Client



Our specialist trust & private client team provides a complete, integrated service to local and international trust clients.

Our trust lawyers are widely regarded as being the Island's leading authorities on trust law, as evidenced by our recommendations in the independent global legal directories. Our lawyers are also regular speakers on the domestic and international trust conference circuit. They are also regular contributors to international trust law publications.

Our range of work includes:-

- initial advice on trust structure including in respect of any underlying companies
- applications to the Isle of Man High Court under the Trustee Act 1961
- advice on removal of trustees
- all aspects of international tax investigations involving Isle of Man trusts/underlying companies
- advice on applications by foreign authorities for disclosure under the Island's TIEA network
- defending trusts from attack by third parties (including foreign revenue authorities)
- advice on setting up charitable institutions in the Isle of Man
- advice on establishing and administering foundations

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# Litigation/Dispute Resolution



We have considerable experience in providing common-sense solutions to dispute resolution. Our lawyers appear in all of the Island's Courts and relevant Tribunals on behalf of our international and local clients.

Our areas of expertise include:-

- asset recovery
- banking and insolvency
- contractual matters
- corporate disputes
- employment disputes
- regulatory appeals
- estate and trust disputes
- judicial review
- matrimonial
- professional negligence
- personal injury
- property litigation
- international arbitration

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# Employment



We aim to establish a close working relationship with our clients to provide an effective employment law service, giving practical, pro-active guidance and advice. We strive to ensure employment law works for rather than against you.

Our specialist employment team advises both employers and employees on the full spectrum of employment issues including:

- advice on disciplinary and other internal issues
- contractual and policy documentation
- discrimination
- equal pay
- family friendly issues
- representation in the Employment Tribunal and Court
- restructures and redundancy
- termination agreements
- unfair dismissal
- whistleblowing

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# Commercial Property



The team has a strong client focused commercial ethos and a proven track record in the sector. Our aim is to provide an efficient, friendly and jargon-free service. We advise on commercial, residential, mixed-use projects, landlord and tenant matters and corporate relocations combining legal expertise with an understanding of client needs.

The team's areas of expertise include:-

- sale and purchase of commercial property
- preparation/negotiation of leases
- rent review
- planning
- development finance
- property security
- legal opinions
- repossession
- landlord and tenant disputes

**For Further Information Please Contact:**

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