

**Our Engagement (“Terms and Conditions of Business”)**

In this document:

- you will be referred to as “Client” or “you”.
- “We”/”Us”/”Our” will be your supplier, which will be Mounteney Legal Services Ltd (trading under brand, “**MOUNTENEY LEGAL SERVICES**”)
  - i. Company registered in England number 09899303
  - ii. Address: 22 Village Square, Bramhall, SK7 1AW
  - iii. Not VAT-registered
  - iv. Not regulated – regulated rights will not be available to you
  - v. Does not carry Professional Indemnity insurance.

This document sets out the terms upon which We will be acting for Client. These are the only terms on which We offer to act for Client. If you’d like to engage Us, which may only be on these terms, then please confirm as requested or indicate your acceptance of these terms any other way, that will be mutually deemed to include by your completing the check-out process, or continuing to instruct Us (although We may, nevertheless, refuse to engage until you have provided Us with a signed copy of this document).

IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT ANY OF CLIENT’S STATUTORY RIGHTS AS A CONSUMER (if any) SHOULD BE AFFECTED BY ANY OF THESE TERMS, e.g. Client’s right to return faulty goods.

**Services / Fixed Prices Agreed:**

For the product or products that you have selected the services (“Services”) and any fixed-price (“Fixed Price”) applicable for those services (if applicable) are as described on Our website or elsewhere in Our communications; if in doubt about either description, then please ask for Our confirmation.

**Terms:**

1. This agreement shall commence as soon as it is mutually agreed as outlined above (“Commencement”) and shall last until all obligations under it have been mutually fulfilled (“the Agreement Period”) after which it will terminate.
2. We will act as Client’s legal services provider in relation to the Services:
  - a. The Services will be provided by one of the executives with this firm, under the supervision of Jonathan Mounteney (Solicitor), or one of Our other directors or senior executives
  - b. The Services are the only services that We agree to provide; We are not accepting any wider appointment, e.g. as any kind of general advisor beyond the strict limits of the description of the Services. **FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT WE ARE NOT ADVISING ON NOR ACTING CONCERNING ANY OF:**
    - i. **THE APPROPRIATE TAXATION, FISCAL OR ACCOUNTANCY TREATMENT ARISING FROM THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SERVICES;**
      1. In particular in relation to property transactions in which we need to provide evidence of submission of a Stamp Duty Land Tax (“SDLT”) return prior to submission of a registration application to HM Land Registry, the only service we offer is the submission of the SDLT Return on our client’s behalf, using the figures and circumstances (including any exemption applications that may be relevant) for that SDLT return which our client

confirms to us. We do not provide the service of advising on what figures etc. ought to be included in any SDLT return, nor of minimising our client's SDLT liability, nor of ensuring our client's figures etc. are correct. Clients should take their own (e.g. accountant's) advice about their SDLT liabilities and circumstances, and then instruct us in connection with their SDLT return accordingly; any choice not to do so connotes waiver of any contention that giving any such advice was any obligation of ours.

- ii. **THE SUITABILITY OF YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING BORROWING AND/OR INSURANCE;**
- iii. **WHETHER THE SERVICES ARE IN YOUR COMMERCIAL OR PERSONAL BEST INTERESTS OR NOT;**
- iv. **THE VALUATION OF ANY TRANSACTION / PROPERTY;**
- v. **THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF ANY TRANSACTION.**  
We will not physically inspect any property (e.g. being conveyed) and we will not advise in relation to any matters that a physical inspection may reveal. Similarly, we are not experts on Building Regulations, and we will give no advice on whether Building Regulations may have been breached or whether approvals should have been obtained that have not been obtained. We do recommend that you arrange for all appropriate inspections and surveys prior to exchange of contracts and, in particular, that you instruct a properly qualified surveyor to carry out a structural survey of any property, and to make an assessment of the Building Regulations circumstances.
- vi. **ANY PLANNING ISSUES.** We are not experts on Planning controls, and we will give no advice on whether Planning controls may have been breached or whether approvals should have been obtained that have not been obtained. We recommend that you arrange for all appropriate inspections and surveys prior to exchange of contracts and, in particular, that you instruct a properly qualified surveyor to make an assessment of the Planning circumstances, and to give you expert advice as required.
- vii. **ANY ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES.** You should make separate arrangements for any appropriate environmental survey or investigations.

We are entitled to assume, having been instructed on these terms to provide only the Services, that you have satisfied yourself (either with other professionals, or by yourself) about all other matters including those mentioned above; this is known as “unbundling” and is explained in more detail in this Law Society note: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/practice-notes/unbundling-civil-legal-services/>

- c. These terms will also apply in so far as possible to any future work Client might ask Us to do for Client, unless other terms are agreed.
3. The Services are to be provided for a price Client shall pay Us (“the Price”) either the Fixed Price, if applicable, or otherwise where a Fixed Price is not offered, or not adopted, or does not apply for any reason (including a variation of instructions from the instructions that gave rise to any Fixed Price, including due to contingencies as outlined in clause 6), then We shall be entitled to charge for Our time reasonably expended fulfilling your Services at Our published (i.e. on our website) standard rates from time to time for the executives engaged.

4. Any Fixed Price is for Our completing the Services; Services which fail to complete often involve as much work as those which reach completion. Where, for any reason, a Fixed Price matter does not proceed to completion, We will be entitled to charge you for work done on a time spent basis (see clause 3) up to the amount of the Fixed Price (which will apply as a limit, even if the time spent would actually justify a higher fee).
5. Our estimate for what Our charges will be, and how long Our Services will take to deliver, shall be reflected in any applicable Fixed Price and definition of services. If there is no Fixed Price applicable, then Our estimate of what Our charges will be is the product of the time We need to spend fulfilling the Services (see clause 6) at the rate applicable to the executives engaged outlined in clause 3.
6. The time We need to spend fulfilling the Services (which will impact on their price and when the Services are provided) will depend on what those Services are, and will be no more than a reasonable time that an executive of the level engaged should spend on the Services agreed. How much time is reasonable may be subject to imponderables and contingencies (such as the unknown actions and/or responses of third parties, the exercise of discretions within the power of public authorities, unexpected events, or changes of instructions etc). The risk of unexpected time being spent on Services due to such contingencies, and the costs of that time, is yours not ours : if contingencies occur, then you will have to pay for Us to address them if you continue to instruct Us after they have arisen, and wait for Us to address them.
7. Subject to clause 4, the Services shall be provided within a reasonable time after their demand. There is no inference that We must perform the Services within any set period from Commencement. Any timings We specify for delivery are given in good faith as an indication. Time is not “of the essence”.
8. All amounts stated in this document are stated exclusive of VAT, which (where applicable) will be added at the prevailing rate.
9. In addition to our fees and any VAT Client shall also pay all out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred on Client’s commissions. These may be referred to as ‘disbursements’, or ‘costs’ and may include invoices to you from third parties, for/and such items as Government application fees such as Land Registry fees and Court Fees, Search fees, bank transfer fees, Counsel’s fees, estate agent’s fees, experts fees, fees for property ‘Search Packs’ you may need to buy in order for us to prepare a report on title or certificate of title, and similar fees/costs/charges.
  - a. You authorise us to buy any of these from Mounteney Sols Ltd, an entity which is closely associated with our group.
  - b. Any such fees / costs / charges / disbursements anticipated for the Services will be, generally, as have been outlined to you in advance - but there may be others that have not been anticipated or outlined, but for which you will still be liable.
  - c. Our payment of any disbursements on your behalf is subject to your of indemnifying Us for what We pay; We will have no obligation to pay these types of costs for you unless you have let Us have monies to cover them in advance.
  - d. If we hold any of your money at any time, we have incurred any such cost etc. the you authorise us (without further notice required) to pay your costs from your money we hold (i.e. before sending you any balance as applicable).

10. We may invoice Client at any time after Our work on any discrete aspect of Client's commission is complete. Transactions will normally be invoiced on their Completion. We would normally invoice on an interim basis no more than once each month. At Our absolute discretion We may require payment in advance, or payment on invoice, or We may offer credit for the Services up to 28 days of Client's receipt of proper invoice. Our invoice terms being unsatisfied would be a ground for Our termination of Our retainer.
11. The rates mentioned in paragraph 3 may be annually reviewed, and shall normally increase by a reasonable amount (unless it has been specifically agreed otherwise). Any increase by roughly the prevailing rate of CPI since the last such increase shall be deemed reasonable.
12. These Terms and Conditions may also be reasonably revised from time to time on notice that can include by posting the revised Terms and Conditions on our website. Changes which are commercially justified and which do not go to the fundamental nature or effect of the arrangement shall be considered reasonable.
13. Our policy is not to accept cash. If you deposit cash, We reserve the right to charge you for making any additional checks We deem necessary regarding the source of the funds and /or bank charges arising.
14. There are circumstances where We may be entitled to exercise a 'lien' for unpaid costs (i.e. a right to retain Client's papers). Please ask for more details of this, if it is of concern.
15. We may cancel any part of this agreement by notice to Client at any time prior to Client's payment, or after Client's payment, provided We refund Client's payment for any elements which We cancel. For the avoidance of doubt, We may cancel part only of this agreement without affecting the remainder.
16. Client will provide all reasonable assistance, liaison, materials, instructions and responses requested to enable Us to provide the Services, and shall accept responsibility for the consequences of any such provision, failure to provide, or any faults with such provisions.
17. Please note that interest that We pay on Our office account overdraft (arising from payment terms We extend to clients) is generally off-set by interest Our bank pays into Our office account calculated as roughly ¼% p.a. (at time of posting) on Our client account balance. Overall, We make minimal or no revenue whatsoever from interest. Accordingly, unless specifically agreed in any particular instance, We consider it reasonable normally not to offer to pay clients any interest on their money We hold for them. We would normally only agree to an arrangement to pay any interest where the size of such a deposit and the time over which it was to be held justified the administrative inconvenience of handling such interest; if those circumstances were to arise We would expect to agree (expressly) to share any such interest arising overall.
18. Our only warranty provided in relation to the Services is that We shall provide the Services exercising the reasonable skill and care of a professional lawyer of appropriate experience, and within any reasonable time-constraints any Fixed Fee might entail; all other warranties that might otherwise be implied or inferred are excluded to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law. In view of the nature of the Services, the Price, and the guarantee given, it is agreed that:
  - a. the Services may not be free from individual minor defects.

- b. We shall not be liable for any consequential and indirect losses, expenses or damages in whatever manner caused.
  - c. We shall not be liable for any losses caused by late delivery, and in particular due to any cause beyond Our reasonable control, or to any instructions of Client.
  - d. Client agrees carefully to test Services as soon as possible to ensure they are fit for Client's purposes. Client shall have no remedy under these terms for any matter that could have been prevented if Client had acted on the results of such tests, where Client fails either to undertake such tests at all, or to act on the results of such tests Client does undertake.
  - e. To the maximum extent permitted by law Our liability for causing any losses whatsoever (whether such liability arises in contract or otherwise in law (including negligence)) including loss of profit, loss of anticipated saving, loss of business opportunity, and/or cost of wasted time, are excluded to the extent that such losses exceed the fee paid for the services.
19. We are confident We will give Client a high-quality service in all respects. However, if Client should have any queries or concerns about Our work for Client, please take them up with the firm's Complaints Manager (currently, Jonathan Mounteney) in the first instance.
  20. The subject matter of this arrangement is confidential between Client and Us, and (unless otherwise approved in writing) neither party will make any public statement whatsoever concerning the other.
  21. Nothing in these terms is intended for the benefit of any third parties and the provisions of the Contracts (Right of Third Parties) Act 1999 are expressly excluded.
  22. This agreement is personal to the parties and may not be assigned by either party without the other party's consent, not to be unreasonably withheld.
  23. This document comprises the entire agreement between Client and Us relating to the Services and/or all other matters arising from it; neither party is relying on any representation or warranty not expressly stated in this document, and there are no side-letters or other terms applicable
  24. We only do business in the English language.
  25. We will keep a copy of this document for 6 years (only) after its agreement.
  26. In acting for You we may produce and/or receive on your behalf "Documentation" including paperwork, e-mails, and electronic files saved on our IT systems. In anticipation of Your continued future instruction of Us on your future legal requirements We may store Documentation, although We are not obliged to do so. If We are prepared to store Documentation We would not normally make any separate charge for storage, but We do reserve the right to render reasonably justified charges for storage after the expiry of reasonable notice that we intend to make such charge, and We may make reasonably justified charges for accessing Documentation or for discussing access to it (i.e. without notice). We may arrange for Documentation (including any of your papers We hold) to be destroyed without further notice; we shall endeavour to destroy Documentation in a reasonably secure manner that does not cause us to incur substantial destruction charges, but we do not guarantee the confidence of Documentation being destroyed (e.g. We will not pay for old Documentation to be securely destroyed, due to the cost to us of such destruction).



27. We are mutually deemed neither to create for, nor transfer to, Client any intellectual property under these terms. Unless expressly stated otherwise in a special condition any copyrights or design rights arising in or from Services under these terms will either remain vested in Us or will be deemed transferred to Us on their creation.
28. There is a GDPR/Privacy notice on Our website that applies to this engagement and Our possession and processing of your personal data. You agree to Our holding your sensitive personal details within Our computer systems. Our Privacy Policy can be found on Our website at <https://www.mounteney.com/privacy-policy.html>
29. Where You comprise more than one natural person each and every such natural person also individually agrees with Us, and with one-another, to give Us clear and mutually-consistent instructions, and that We may deem instructions from any one of You to comprise instructions from all of You in the absence of evidence to the contrary.
30. You, and any natural person comprised in You individually, agree with Us, and with one-another, that where We reasonably deem instructions under clause 29 to be absent:
  - a. We are released from acting further, but may charge for our work to date and (at our standard hourly rates) for advising on any trusts arising, and/or dealing with any proceeds, and we are authorised to deduct such reasonable invoices from any client money held; and
  - b. We may send any client money held either to where We may be mutually-consistently instructed, or else (when we may reasonably deem such instructions to be absent) where We, acting reasonably, may consider to be equitable, that might normally include consideration of splitting client money equally in proportion between the persons comprising our client.
31. This agreement is to be interpreted in English Law and is subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England.
32. The provisions of this clause 32 apply only to Clients who are retail consumers (within the meaning of the UK's customer protection legislation) (i.e. not to traders) who have not agreed these terms while they were on business premises:
  - a. Client consents Us commencing the supplies of Services immediately on Commencement (i.e. during any period for cancellation), notwithstanding the consequence would be to end the cancellation period.
  - b. During the Agreement Period this agreement may be cancelled by Client subject to the following:
    - i. All Services will have been customised to Client's specification; therefore, except where Services are faulty, or do not comply with the contract for some other reason, after Our performance of the Services has begun Client shall have no right to cancel.
    - ii. unless the Services are faulty or do not comply with the contract for some other reason, before Our performance of the Services has begun during the first 7 working days from Commencement, Client may cancel this Agreement during the first 7 working days from Commencement by the delivery to Us of unequivocal written notice of the circumstances, stating a definite intention to cancel ("Cancellation")

- c. On Cancellation the price paid by Client for the Services will be repaid as soon as possible and, in any case, within 30 days.

Agreed on behalf of Mounteney Legal Services Ltd:



Signed by Jonathan Mounteney (Solicitor #165893), director, 13 August 2024 (v0-1)

In some circumstances you may also be asked to sign a copy of this document to indicate your acceptance of these terms and conditions of business:

Signed .....	Signed .....
Dated .....	Dated .....