



### Karen Hird

**Senior Associate**

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Karen Hird regularly advises on a wide range of matters relating to corporate tax, real estate, VAT, and stamp taxes in the UK, particularly in the Real Estate and Insurance sectors. Her experience includes corporate and real estate acquisitions and disposals, group reorganisations and cross-border matters.

Karen acts for a broad range of clients on both transactional and advisory matters, including listed and unlisted companies, private equity funds, and international investors.

- Tax
- Financial Services
- Insurance
- Real Estate

- Advising a UK-based property asset manager on the establishment of a GBP250 million open-end real estate fund, structured as a Jersey property unit trust, which invests in government-backed real estate in the UK. We also advised on the application of the new capital gains tax rules for non-residents to the JPUT, and on the drafting and negotiation of transaction documents on acquisitions of properties, including office, industrial, and senior living.
- Advising Leidos Holdings on its acquisition from L3 Harris of its security detection and automation business for USD1 billion, including advice on the tax consequences of a substantial pre-sale reorganisation across 12 jurisdictions.
- Advising a number of W&I insurers in relation to the tax aspects of warranty and indemnity insurance and tax risk insurance policies.
- Advising a French asset manager on the tax consequences for UK individual and corporate investors of investing in a Luxembourg fund, including consideration of the application of the offshore funds rules to the proposed structure, and preparing the UK tax section of the private placement memorandum.
- Advising Hain Celestial Group on the sale of its Tilda Rice business to Ebro Foods for USD342 million.
- Advising a German business on the UK insurance premium tax consequences of standalone and group insurance contracts, including advice regarding the location of the risk where the named policyholder and policy beneficiaries differ, and corresponding with the tax authority to agree the position.

## Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

## Education

- University of Cambridge, BA in Economics
- BPP College of Professional Studies, Waterloo, GDL (Distinction)
- University of Law, Moorgate, LPC (Distinction)

## Memberships

- Member of the Practical Law Tax junior advisory panel

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### UK Autumn Budget 2021 – Real Estate

27 October 2021

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#### Updated guidance on early termination and compensation payments - impact for real estate

30 September 2020

Following the CJEU decisions in *Vodafone Portugal (C-43/19)* and *MEO (C-295/17)*, HMRC has surprisingly changed its published guidance to make it clear that early termination and compensation payments relating to commercial contracts are in most cases consideration for goods or services and subject to VAT.

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## NEWS

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#### DLA Piper advises Hadley Property Group on Stratford site purchase

28 February 2022

DLA Piper has advised Hadley Property Group on the GBP50 million purchase of a 3.18 acre development site in Stratford, East London, from London and Continental Railway.

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#### DLA Piper advises on PIB Group deal

22 March 2021

DLA Piper has advised PIB Group, the independent insurance intermediary group backed by Apax Partners on its acquisition of the Acquinex insurance group.

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#### DLA Piper advises Prologis on largest-ever sale of logistics real estate assets in the UK

29 October 2020

DLA Piper has advised global leader in logistics real estate Prologis, Inc. on the sale of a portfolio of buildings and land in the UK to real estate funds managed by Blackstone for GBP473 million (USD618 million).

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