

Introduction

Lifestory Holdings Ltd is the ultimate UK parent company of the Lifestory Group of companies and has prepared and published this Tax Strategy in accordance with paragraph 16(2) of schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016 for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. This Tax Strategy applies to Lifestory Holdings Ltd and all of its subsidiaries (“the Group”).

Tax Risk Management and Governance

The Board (“the Board”) governs the tax strategy of the Group. The Chief Financial Officer reports to the Board on key tax matters on a quarterly basis.

The Group’s strategy is supported by internal controls and tax policies which help govern the operations of the Group. These are subject to reviews by the Group’s finance teams and where necessary referred to external advisors. The control frameworks and systems underpin our compliance with the UK Senior Accounting Officer regime.

Oversight, implementation and the management of the Group’s day-to-day tax affairs and compliance with the tax strategy is delegated to the Group finance and shared service finance teams. Where any tax issues of significance arise the teams report these to the Group Financial Controller and where necessary the Chief Financial Officer. All entities within the Group are tax resident in the UK and are liable to a range of UK taxes including corporation tax, VAT, payroll taxes and stamp taxes.

The Group is supported by external advisors and all significant business activities are referred to the external advisors to ensure tax compliance and to ensure the Board is aware of any potential tax consequences from our business activities.

The Group’s general tax exposure is that of low risk as we predominantly provide a zero rated VAT supply and other areas of tax are largely uncomplicated but the Group is committed to placing importance on maintaining proper controls to mitigate business and tax risks. The Group is fully compliant with tax legislation, communicates with HMRC on a regular basis to ensure compliance, and pays all taxes in full on time and in accordance with tax law.

Tax planning

The Group has a number of key stakeholders including; shareholders, funders, residents and tenants, local communities, suppliers, staff and HMRC. The Group will not enter into artificial or abusive arrangements for the purpose of achieving a tax advantage. Our tax filings and tax positions are led by our commercial activities, claiming statutory reliefs and allowances as intended by tax law. As noted in the section above, external advisors are utilised on all significant business activities, and the Group is proactive in engaging with advisors in advance to ensure full tax compliance.

The level of tax risk

As a large business, the Group is inevitably exposed to a number of tax risks and uncertainties. The Group sets out to identify and mitigate these risks to an acceptable level. This is done through having effective tax controls and policies in place, and through tax planning. Where uncertainty arises over the tax treatment or application of tax guidance the advice of external experts and advisors is obtained to support the process or transaction.

Working with HMRC

The Group operates on a basis of openness and transparency in its approach to working with HMRC and any other tax authorities. We look to resolve any dispute that arise in a quick and efficient manner, and as set out in the sections above, cooperate and communicate with HMRC in order to mitigate current and future tax risks.

This Tax Strategy was approved by the Board on 9 November 2023.