

Telecommunications



Taylor Wessing's Telecommunications Group provides comprehensive advice to clients at all levels of the industry on the full scope of issues affecting their field.

Who we are

Taylor Wessing's Telecommunications Group have been providing cutting-edge legal advice to leading industry players since the market was deregulated. The depth and breadth of our experience and expertise makes us a first choice for the provision of legal advice.

Our aim is to support clients to realise their aims at every stage of their development, whether that entails

securing investment, rolling-out a network, launching a new service, managing disputes or assisting with compliance issues.

The nature of our practice means we interact with all levels of the industry from the regulators (including Ofcom and PhonepayPlus) to the network and service providers, as well as managing relations between businesses and

end users. This places us at a distinct advantage to other law firms in presenting us with a comprehensive view of the sector at all times. The scope of our work encompasses domestic, international and multi-jurisdictional matters.

What we do

The work of our practice can be generally split into the following areas:

Regulatory advice

The regulatory policies governing the telecommunications sector is in a constant state of flux in its reactive attempt to keep pace with evolving technologies. In recognition of this our practice works closely with our Public and Regulatory Law Group, strengthening our knowledge base and providing a specialist appreciation of the public/private law interface.

Our practice has had considerable involvement in advising companies on the launch of new technologies such as VolP and Cloud computing in addition to technologies that 'disrupt' the status quo such as GSM gateways. Such products and services often challenge

the regulations and compliance obligations imposed on the sector and we assist our clients to negotiate this field.

We also have considerable experience in liaising with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ofcom and the European Commission in lobbying for change and in the conduct of disputes on both a client specific and an industry-wide basis.

Challenges and disputes

We always endeavor to resolve disputes without recourse to the courts for which our involvement would be to negotiate favorable settlement terms for clients. Where settlement cannot be reached or is not possible we look to obtain a ruling of the courts.

We have had noteworthy success pursuing cases all the way to the House of Lords, before the Competition Appeals Tribunal and the PhonepayPlus

Tribunal as well as conducting a number of judicial review challenges against public bodies and regulators.

Commercial

Our practice is regularly involved in negotiating a wide array of commercial agreements with specialist expertise in the areas of:

- Outsourcing
- Satellite and submarine capacity work
- Interconnection
- New operators and market entry
- Supply of equipment and service

Corporate transactions and structures

The restructuring of corporate entities by means of joint venture, acquisition, merger and consolidation continues apace as all participants in the marketplace seek to adjust the nature

and structure of their operations in the face of the recent global downturn and in order to complement anticipated new revenue flows and opportunities.

Our Telecommunications Group has been heavily involved in this process. Our group draws on the specialist expertise and experience across the firm to assist on many issues such as competition concerns, appropriate terms of employment for key employees, sophisticated share structures with calls and options reflecting finely balanced commercial arrangements.

Finance and securitisation

We act for UK and international financial institutions, sponsors and service providers and are able to

advise on all aspects of financing arrangements. Specialisations include introductions to financial institutions, structuring the transaction including debt and equity layering, securitisation, tax and balance sheet considerations, off balance sheet structures as well as capital and derivative markets.

Content, privacy and data protection

As well as traditional telecommunications regulation, we have substantial experience in advising on data protection aspects of telecommunications, privacy issues, application of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and content control. This experience extends from

dealing with comparative advertising through to the content and advertising of premium rate services.

Reputation management

Many of our clients have high profiles, large marketing budgets and are understandably concerned about damage that may result from negative media attention. We appreciate the importance of ensuring that the correct messages are conveyed. We have a dedicated practice advising clients in the television, publishing and advertising sectors on issues such as obscenity and privacy which makes us highly experienced at dealing with reputation management issues. These skills complement our core regulatory practice.

Where we do it

The scope of our work encompasses domestic, international and multi-jurisdictional matters.

On the domestic front, we are one of the few firms with offices in London and Cambridge in recognition of the concentration of telecommunications companies located there.

Across Europe, we have offices and expertise in the major financial centres.

Further afield, where we do not have a presence ourselves, we work with correspondent firms well known to us for their telecommunications expertise and we are well accustomed to co-coordinating their efforts in order to give our clients a polished and accomplished service at a single point of delivery.

We also have one of the largest inbound practices in the UK for advising the legal departments of major Chinese, American and Indian telecommunications companies seeking to establish themselves in the UK and European market.

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Managing Intellectual Property Awards 2009

"This firm ... impresses clients by 'looking at issues in the round, providing solutions as a complete package'"

Chambers 2009: Telecommunications

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