



FAMILY BUSINESSES

Davidson Chalmers Stewart has been closely involved with growing businesses and their investors for many years. Indeed the majority of our client base is drawn from the SME family-owned or owner-managed business sector across Scotland.

As well as offering advice on areas including company incorporation, partnership agreements and the purchase and sale of businesses, we understand the unique and sometimes emotional challenges that family businesses face including succession planning and family disputes. No matter how complex the situation, we'll offer you clear, practical and unequivocal commercial advice that balances the needs of the business, the family and the individuals involved.

We are recognised for our positive, practical approach and for providing a friendly and accessible service that helps to make the legal aspects of your business as straightforward as possible.



REGULATORY LAW

As more areas of business become increasingly regulated, keeping up to date and complying with the legislation and guidance issued by a range of regulating bodies is an ongoing challenge for most businesses.

Our specialist regulatory team provides advice and support to businesses of all types and sizes who find themselves involved with regulators (such as HSE, SEPA, ICO, Food Standards Scotland and Traffic Commissioners), and the criminal justice system. Our work includes supporting clients in the road haulage industry, food production businesses and the wider food and drink sector.

MEET OUR TEAM

For an initial **free half hour consultation** please get in touch with a member of our specialist legal team.



Andy Drane, Partner
andy.drane@dcslegal.com



Louise Jones, Director
louise.jones@dcslegal.com



Henrietta Talbot, Director
henrietta.macpherson@dcslegal.com



James Elliott, Solicitor
james.elliott@dcslegal.com



Laura Irvine, Partner
laura.irvine@dcslegal.com



The Specialist Lawyers for Business
in the Rural Economy



"They provide prompt commercial advice and are very friendly and helpful."

Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession

Davidson Chalmers Stewart LLP

Edinburgh 0131 625 9191
Glasgow 0141 428 3258
dcslegal.com



Lawyers. For Business.



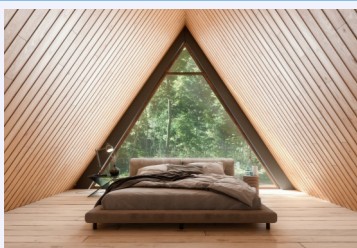
The Davidson Chalmers Stewart Rural Business team are recognised as experts in their field by the Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession.



FOOD & DRINK

Our clients operate across all areas of the food and drink sector including production, processing, supply chain and retailing. We work with businesses as diverse as soft fruit producers, fish farmers and processors, distilleries and craft brewers, leisure and hospitality businesses through to major national retailers.

Recent work has seen us advising on a major estate diversification for the development and construction of a new whisky distillery; assisting a drinks business in protecting its intellectual property and trademarks; working with a fish processing company to secure its workforce in the wake of the Brexit vote; helping an aquaculture business overcome environmental challenges related to its use of water; representing a food producer in connection with potential contamination in products sold to a leading supermarket; advising on the use of distillery by-products to create and supply renewable heat and power; and advising some of Scotland's top restaurateurs in their business issues.

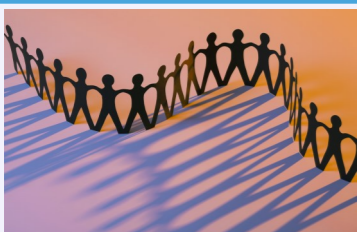


HOSPITALITY, LEISURE AND TOURISM

Increasingly, diversification includes creating opportunities for on-farm or estate leisure and tourism. The spectrum is extremely broad. All of these opportunities throw up legal challenges to be navigated - for example: capital intensive diversification may involve commercial borrowing as well as supply construction contracts; activities that invite the public onto the farm or estate brings with it liability for injury or illness; diversification for tenants and crofters normally at the discretion of the landlord; what is the impact of a diversified business on

succession and inheritance tax reliefs?

We are expert at helping businesses navigate these issues, build strong solutions and create sustainable diversified businesses.



SUCCESSION

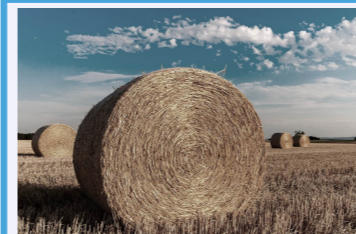
Commercialisation of farm and estate businesses is heavily affected by Agricultural and Business Relief for Inheritance Tax purposes. The apparent commercial benefit can be completely nullified if these Reliefs are lost. Plotting a way through the complex tax rules requires the careful guidance of your expert tax advisers and also your lawyers.

We work regularly with accountants and tax advisers to put in place structures for your business which address the potential impact of diversification and commercialisation on these very valuable Reliefs.

We also help to protect the farm or estate business in the event of family breakdown through the use of bespoke partnership agreements, shareholders agreements or family trusts.

"Clients trust us to help them achieve their business goals and depend on us to deal with their most important legal concerns. At Davidson Chalmers Stewart we never take this trust for granted. We always aim to learn about our clients' businesses; we communicate openly and frequently; we respond quickly and appropriately and we are always available."

Andrew Chalmers, Managing Partner



AGRICULTURE

We have extensive experience of advising rural businesses on commercial, corporate and regulatory legal issues.

Our breadth of expertise includes the purchase and sale of estates and farm land; advising on farm and estate diversification; advising farming family partnerships and businesses on succession issues and disputes; and renewable energy projects. We also provide bespoke advice on the specialist area of crofting law matters. Our commitment to supporting rural business extends back to being the lead advisers to the main contractors in the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

Our leading reputation is underlined by regularly being called on to advise investors and funders of rural businesses as well as professional service providers to rural businesses.



CARBON OFFSETTING, PEATLAND RESTORATION AND FORESTRY

The Woodland Carbon Code and the Peatland Code are voluntary nature based schemes. They set quality assurance standards for woodland creation and peatland restoration projects and enable the sale of independently verified carbon units. Both codes are backed by the UK Government and characterised by strict codes to safeguard the integrity of carbon credits. These are multi-generational arrangements with decisions made now affecting the land for many decades.

We are experienced in helping landowners to understand and assess the risks involved and to ensure that decisions made today benefit, rather than hinder, the farm or estate in the future.

We also advise in the sale and purchase of existing plantations including dealing with obligations in respect of historic grants from Scottish Forestry.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Since our first renewable energy project in 1998, we have advised on numerous renewable energy schemes across Scotland, providing expert advice to landowners, developers and investors.

With proven expertise covering wind, hydro-power, solar photovoltaic, biomass, anaerobic digestion, grid balancing and battery storage, our depth of knowledge allows us to deliver practical and commercial advice, specific to our

clients' needs. Our team can also call on lawyers from across the firm with specialist expertise in other key areas, such as corporate, planning and environmental law.

Our experience also extends to advising local communities regarding the delivery of local benefits from renewables projects. This includes forming Community Interest Companies to protect the interests of the local community.



ENVIRONMENT

We have substantial experience of acting on behalf of clients involved with waste management, disposal and treatment activities, waste-to-energy and other forms of environmental management.

Our expertise extends over a diverse range of issues such as the interpretation of legislation, definition and classification of waste, environmental notices, appeals and litigation, the duty of handling and general compliance with environmental objectives, policies and guidance.

Clients that we have assisted recently include family businesses, food growers and producers, aquaculture owners, forestry business and operators of waste-to-energy plants.