

## PRIVACY NOTICE

### Introduction

The Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA 2018") and the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") impose certain legal obligations in connection with the processing of personal data.

Middlebank Accountancy Limited is a data controller within the meaning of the GDPR and we process personal data. The firm's contact details are as follows: Middlebank Accountancy Limited, 20A Private Road, Gorebridge, Midlothian, EH23 4HG.

We may amend this privacy notice from time to time. If we do so, we will supply you with and/or otherwise make available to you a copy of the amended privacy notice.

Where we act as a data processor on behalf of a data controller (for example, when processing payroll), we provide an additional schedule setting out required information as part of that agreement. That additional schedule should be read in conjunction with this privacy notice.

### The purposes for which we intend to process personal data

We intend to process personal data for the following purposes;

- To enable us to supply professional services to you as our client.
- To fulfil our obligations under relevant laws in force from time to time (e.g. the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017 ("MLR 2017")).
- To comply with professional obligations to which we are subject as a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians.
- To use in the investigation and/ or defense of potential complaints, disciplinary proceedings and legal proceedings.
- To enable us to invoice you for our services and investigate/ address any attendant fee disputes that may have arisen.
- To contact you about other services we provide which may be of interest to you if you have consented to us doing so.

### The legal bases for our intended processing of personal data

Our intended processing of personal data has the following legal bases;

- At the time you instructed us to act, you gave consent to our processing your personal data for the purposes listed above.
- The processing is necessary for the performance of our contract with you.
- The processing is necessary for compliance with legal obligations to which we are subject (e.g. MLR 2017).
- The processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests which we pursue.

It is a requirement of our contract with you that you provide us with the personal data that we request. If you do not provide the information that we request, we may not be able to provide professional services to you. If this is the case, we will not be able to commence acting or will need to cease to act.

## Source of personal data collected

Throughout the course of providing services we may collect personal data from third party sources including but not restricted to the following:

- HMRC.
- Companies House.
- Credit Reference Agencies.
- Existing or former Agents/ Accountants.
- Existing or former Suppliers or Service Providers.
- Banks and or Building Societies.

## Persons/ Organisations to whom we may give personal data

We may share your personal data with:

- HMRC
- any third parties with whom you require or permit us to correspond
- subcontractors
- an alternate appointed by us in the event of incapacity or death
- tax insurance providers
- professional indemnity insurers
- our professional body the Association of Accounting Technicians and/or the Office of Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervisors (OPBAS) in relation to practice assurance and/or the requirements of MLR 2017 (or any similar legislation)

If the law allows or requires us to do so, we may share your personal data with:

- the police and law enforcement agencies
- courts and tribunals
- the Information Commissioner's Office ("ICO")

We may need to share your personal data with the third parties identified above in order to comply with our legal obligations, including our legal obligations to you. If you ask us not to share your personal data with such third parties we may need to cease to act.

## Transfers of personal data outside the EEA

Your personal data will be processed in the EEA only.

## Retention of personal data

When acting as a data controller and in accordance with recognised good practice within the tax and accountancy sector we will retain all of our records relating to you as follows:

- where tax returns have been prepared it is our policy to retain information for 7 years from the end of the tax year to which the information relates.
- where ad hoc advisory work has been undertaken it is our policy to retain information for 7 years from the date the business relationship ceased.
- where we have an ongoing client relationship, data which is needed for more than one year's tax compliance (e.g. capital gains base costs and claims and elections submitted to HMRC) is retained throughout the period of the relationship, but will be deleted 7 years after the end of the business relationship unless you as our client ask us to retain it for a longer period.

Our contractual terms provide for the destruction of documents after 7 years and therefore agreement to the contractual terms is taken as agreement to the retention of records for this period, and to their destruction thereafter.

You are responsible for retaining information that we send to you (including details of capital gains base costs and claims and elections submitted) and this will be supplied in the form agreed between us. Documents and records relevant to your tax affairs are required by law to be retained by you as follows:

*Individuals, trustees and partnerships*

- with trading or rental income: five years and 10 months after the end of the tax year;
- otherwise: 22 months after the end of the tax year.

*Companies, LLPs and other corporate entities*

- six years from the end of the accounting period.

Where we act as a data processor as defined in DPA 2018, we will delete or return all personal data to the data controller as agreed with the controller at the termination of the contract.

**Requesting personal data, we hold about you (subject access requests)**

You have a right to request access to your personal data that we hold. Such requests are known as 'subject access requests' ("SARs").

Please provide all SARs in writing to Middlebank Accountancy Limited.

To help us provide the information you want and deal with your request more quickly, you should include enough details to enable us to verify your identity and locate the relevant information. For example, you should tell us:

1. your date of birth
2. previous or other name(s) you have used
3. your previous addresses in the past five years
4. personal reference number(s) that we may have given you, for example your national insurance number, your tax reference number or your VAT registration number
5. what type of information you want to know?

If you do not have a national insurance number, you must send a copy of:

- the back page of your passport or a copy of your driving licence; and
- a recent utility bill.

DPA 2018 requires that we comply with a SAR promptly and in any event within one month of receipt. There are, however, some circumstances in which the law allows us to refuse to provide access to personal data in response to a SAR (e.g. if you have previously made a similar request and there has been little or no change to the data since we complied with the original request).

We will not charge you for dealing with a SAR.

You can ask someone else to request information on your behalf - for example, a friend, relative or solicitor. We must have your authority to respond to a SAR made on your behalf. You can provide such authority by signing a letter which states that you authorise the person concerned to write to us for information about you, and/or receive our reply.

Where you are a data controller and we act for you as a data processor (e.g. by processing payroll), we will assist you with SARs on the same basis as is set out above.

## **Putting things right (the right to rectification)**

You have a right to obtain the rectification of any inaccurate personal data concerning you that we hold. You also have a right to have any incomplete personal data that we hold about you completed. Should you become aware that any personal data that we hold about you is inaccurate and/or incomplete, please inform us immediately so we can correct and/or complete it.

## **Deleting your records (the right to erasure)**

In certain circumstances you have a right to have the personal data that we hold about you erased. Further information is available on the ICO website ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). If you would like your personal data to be erased, please inform us immediately and we will consider your request. In certain circumstances we have the right to refuse to comply with a request for erasure. If applicable, we will supply you with the reasons for refusing your request.

## **The right to restrict processing and the right to object**

In certain circumstances you have the right to 'block' or suppress the processing of personal data or to object to the processing of that information. Further information is available on the ICO website ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). Please inform us immediately if you want us to cease to process your information or you object to processing so that we can consider what action, if any, is appropriate.

## **Obtaining and reusing personal data (the right to data portability)**

In certain circumstances you have the right to be provided with the personal data that we hold about you in a machine-readable format, e.g. so that the data can easily be provided to a new professional adviser. Further information is available on the ICO website ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

The right to data portability only applies:

- to personal data an individual has provided to a controller;
- where the processing is based on the individual's consent or for the performance of a contract; and
- when processing is carried out by automated means

We will respond to any data portability requests made to us without undue delay and within one month. We may extend the period by a further two months where the request is complex or a number of requests are received but we will inform you within one month of the receipt of the request and explain why the extension is necessary.

## **Withdrawal of consent**

Where you have consented to our processing of your personal data, you have the right to withdraw that consent at any time. Please inform us immediately if you wish to withdraw your consent.

Please note:

- the withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of earlier processing
- if you withdraw your consent, we may not be able to continue to provide services to you
- even if you withdraw your consent, it may remain lawful for us to process your data on another legal basis (e.g. because we have a legal obligation to continue to process your data)

## **Automated decision-making**

We do not intend to use automated decision-making in relation to your personal data.

## Complaints

If you have requested details of the information, we hold about you and you are not happy with our response, or you think we have not complied with the GDPR or DPA 2018 in some other way, you can complain to us. Please send any complaints to Middlebank Accountancy Limited, 20A Private Road, Gorebridge, Midlothian, EH23 4HG.

If you are not happy with our response, you have a right to lodge a complaint with the ICO ([www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)).

## COOKIE POLICY

### What are cookies?

Cookies are small text files containing a string of characters that can be placed on your computer or mobile device that uniquely identify your browser or device. What are cookies used for?

Cookies allow a site or services to know if your computer or device has visited that site or service before. Cookies can then be used to help understand how the site or service is being used, help you navigate between pages efficiently, help remember your preferences, and generally improve your browsing experience. Cookies can also help ensure marketing you see online is more relevant to you and your interests.

### What types of cookies does we use?

There are generally four categories of cookies: "Strictly Necessary," "Performance," "Functionality," and "Targeting." We may routinely use all four categories of cookies. You can find out more about each cookie category below.

1. **Strictly Necessary Cookies.** These cookies are essential, as they enable you to move around the Service and use its features, such as accessing any logged in or secure areas.
2. **Performance Cookies.** These cookies collect information about how you have used the Service, for example, information related to any unique username you may have provided, so that less strain is placed on backend infrastructure. These cookies may also be used to allow us to know that you have logged in so that we can serve you fresher content than a user who has never logged in. We may also use cookies to track aggregate Service usage and experiment with new features and changes on the Service. The information collected is used to improve how the Service works.
3. **Functionality Cookies.** These cookies allow us to remember how you're logged in, whether you chose to no longer see advertisements, whether you made an edit to an article on the Service while logged out, when you logged in or out, the state or history of Service tools you've used. These cookies also allow us to tailor the Service to provide enhanced features and content for you and to remember how you've customized the Service in other ways, such as personal customisations. The information these cookies collect may be anonymous, and they are not used to track your browsing activity on other sites or services.

4. **Targeting Cookies.** Our advertising partners or other third-party partners if any may use these types of cookies to deliver advertising that is relevant to your interests. These cookies can remember that your device has visited a site or service, and may also be able to track your device's browsing activity on other sites or services other than our website. This information may be shared with third party organizations, such as advertisers and/or advertising networks to deliver the advertising if any, and to help measure the effectiveness of an advertising campaign, or other business partners for the purpose of providing aggregate Service usage statistics and aggregate Service testing.

#### **How long will cookies stay on my device?**

The length of time a cookie will stay on your computer or mobile device depends on whether it is a "persistent" or "session" cookie. Session cookies will only stay on your device until you stop browsing. Persistent cookies stay on your computer or mobile device until they expire or are deleted.

#### **First and third-party cookies**

First-party cookies are cookies that belong to ourselves, third-party cookies are cookies that another party places on your device through our Service. Third-party cookies may be placed on your device by someone providing a service for us, for example to help us understand how our service is being used. Third-party cookies may also be placed on your device by our business partners so that they can use them to advertise products and services to you elsewhere on the Internet

#### **How to control and delete cookies**

If you want to delete or disable cookies follow the instructions from the provider of your internet browser. Note that if you set your browser to disable cookies, you may not be able to access certain parts of our Service and other parts of our Service may not work properly. You can find out more information cookie settings at third-party information sites, such as [www.allaboutcookies.org](http://www.allaboutcookies.org).