

# ASHFORDS EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS CAPABILITY

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ASHFORDS

### CORPORATE

Ashfords' Corporate Team regularly advises public companies and investment funds, sponsors, nominated advisers and brokers on a wide range of activities including IPOs, takeovers (along with cash confirmations), secondary issues and private mergers and acquisitions. The team also provides advice on regulatory and compliance issues including under the AIM Rules, the Listing Rules, the Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules, the Market Abuse Regulation and the UK Takeover Code.

Specialising in the mid-market, typically in transactions up to £100 million, we have advised a wide variety of AIM listed companies such as Curtis Banks Group plc, DP Poland plc, Brand Architekts Group PLC, Reach4Entertainment Enterprises Plc, Wessex Exploration PLC, DQ Entertainment PLC, Macromac PLC, Dillistone Group Plc and Pittards Plc together with nominated advisers such as Allenby Capital, WH Ireland and Beaumont Cornish. Other Nomads / brokers we have worked alongside include Peel Hunt, N+1 Singer Capital Markets, Shore Capital and S P Angel. We pride ourselves on delivering proactive, commercial advice in a highly regulated market. place.

### TECHNOLOGY

Our highly recognised Technology Team provides support to companies across the sector on software, hardware, maintenance and support contracts, escrow, cloud solutions and NFC (near field communication) agreements and equity fundraisings. We also work closely with a number of organisations on prepayment, smart meter and online payment and processing systems. We have acted for many venture capital investors on pre-IPO funding rounds and on exit (including disposals to US strategic investors such as Apple and dual track processes).

### FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATION

Our Corporate and Finance Team specialists provide advice on a range of financial services regulatory issues affecting our quoted company clients and their advisers as well as clients in the structured finance, fintech, investment funds and asset management sectors.

Where required, members of our team work alongside our client's compliance and risk management teams, offering practical advice and solutions that take into account and complement existing policies and procedures.

We also regularly advise clients on the scope and jurisdictional limits of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and where relevant, the need to become an authorised or exempt person in relation to regulated activities.

### HEALTHCARE

We act for a range of early stage, growth and more mature companies in the healthcare services, digital health and life sciences sector on public and private equity fundraisings and M&A, contracts for services, licensing agreements and employment and real estate matters. This includes advising on Care Quality Commission and medical device regulations and the impact of the National Security and Investment Act 2021.

### REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

Our experienced Real Estate Investment Team provides a comprehensive service spanning corporate structuring, fund establishment, investment memorandum drafting, asset acquisition, leverage and disposal. We help to ensure that the investment value of the property is preserved and that on disposal, value is not adversely affected by any day to day management matters.



## ABOUT ASHFORDS

Ashfords is a national provider of legal, professional and regulatory services.

We combine legal expertise, commercial experience and our wider network to help our clients achieve their goals. So, to many clients, we are more than lawyers, we are professional advisers, mentors, problem-solvers. We also work closely with counsel in overseas jurisdictions on cross border matters.

Above all, we believe that every client should expect and receive value for time and value for money. Which means that we always aim to provide advice that is not just technically sound, but that is grounded in our understanding of your world.

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## OUR TEAM



### Stuart Fleet

Partner, Corporate  
Formerly, Arnold & Porter  
Kaye Scholer and Eversheds  
Sutherland  
s.fleet@ashfords.co.uk  
Direct +44 (0)20 7544 2473

**Stuart is a Partner in the Corporate Team advising on public and private company mergers and acquisitions, IPO's, secondary fundraisings and other transactions undertaken by quoted companies.**

Stuart advises clients across a range of different industries and jurisdictions, including companies in the insurance and financial sector as well as defence, technology, pharmaceutical, food and energy sectors. His experience includes handling cross-border as well as domestic UK transactions.

Prior to joining Ashfords, Stuart was a Partner in the London office of a US law firm where he worked on a range of domestic and cross-border transactions for international clients.

### His previous experience includes advising:

- DP Poland plc on a £5.3 million placing on AIM
- Flybe Group plc on a £22.5 million reduction of capital
- Certain Hastings shareholders in connection with a £99 million block-trade of shares in Hastings Group Holdings plc
- Curtis Banks Group plc on a £25 million cash box placing on AIM
- DP Poland plc on its establishment and admission to AIM by way of a placing of shares
- Financial advisor to Hong Kong-based investment company Worldsec Limited in relation to an open offer to shareholders and placement programme
- AIM broker in connection with the placing and admission to AIM of Trafalgar New Homes plc
- Nominated adviser and broker in relation to the demerger of Greka Drilling Ltd from Green Dragon Gas Ltd and its admission to AIM
- Reach4entertainment Enterprises plc in relation to its delisting from AIM
- Selling shareholders on the €130 million disposal of Activaero GmbH to Vectura Group plc
- Asa Resource Group plc on a £35.5 million hostile public offer by Rich Pro Investments Limited
- Brand Architekts Group PLC on a circular to shareholders seeking approval to the disposal of its manufacturing business



**Jocelyn Ormond**  
Partner, Corporate  
Formerly, Simmons & Simmons,  
DAC Beachcroft, Allen & Overy  
and Slaughter and May  
j.ormond@ashfords.co.uk  
Direct +44 (0)117 321 8084

**Jocelyn is a Partner in the Corporate team advising companies and funds on public and private company mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, minority investments, placings and other equity fundraisings.**

Jocelyn has extensive experience of advising on transactions governed by the AIM Rules and Takeover Code. He has wide sector experience, but particular knowledge and insight in relation to financial services, healthcare & life sciences and technology transactions.

He has been recognised in the Legal 500 UK 2021 and 2020 guides for his expertise in relation to corporate, healthcare and venture capital transactions. The guides quote clients who commend Jocelyn for his "exceptional support" and "in-depth knowledge of healthcare from all angles" and describe Jocelyn as a "real pleasure to deal with"; "commercial and detail-orientated"; "outstanding" with an "ability to cut straight to the solution rather than dwelling on a problem"; and "very well connected at senior levels in public and private companies and in government departments". He has also been recognised in the #IFLR1000 2020 EMEA rankings for his Private Equity experience.

Prior to joining Ashfords in November 2019 Jocelyn was a partner in the UK Corporate team at Simmons & Simmons.

**His previous experience includes advising:**

- Curtis Banks Group plc on its acquisition of Talbot and Muir for up to £25.25m and £25m cash box placing on AIM
- Eden Research on a placing on the AIM market
- Shore Capital on a cash confirmation and various placings
- WH Ireland on the cash confirmation for a partial cash offer for Sutton Harbour Holdings plc
- On a proposed reverse takeover of an AIM company in the life sciences sector
- An AIM-quoted fund on its admission to AIM, a €40m placing and an unsolicited (but eventually recommended) €106m takeover
- A technology company on its recommended takeover of another AIM-quoted technology company
- On the sale of Intelligent Ultrasound to AIM-quoted Medaphor Group (now Intelligent Ultrasound Group plc) in a share-for-share exchange
- Pro Bono Bio plc (now Ascension Healthcare) on an acquisition of a life sciences portfolio, a private placement and discussions with the Takeover Panel
- US hedge funds on disclosure rules and concert party analysis under the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers
- FTSE 100 company St. James's Place on AGM matters and on its acquisition of Henley Wealth Management