



DMH Stallard



Our focus is you

Shaping the future for
you and your family

We all need legal advice and support at some point in our lives.

Sometimes this is around planning and preparing for the future, and sometimes it is to help navigate through those particularly difficult times. But we are always here to help you. Whatever your legal needs, our talented team of lawyers will work hard to support you every step of the way.

But it isn't just legal expertise that we offer; we work with our clients to develop strong and long-term relationships built on trust and understanding. We have taken on board your feedback over the years and know our clients value lawyers who listen to them and who provide jargon-free advice consistently on time and on budget. We will not disappoint.



Richard Pollins
Managing Partner

Our focus is you
If we can help you or
your family please get
in touch.

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Contents

04	How we work with clients	View page →
05	Planning for now: planning for the future	View page →
09	Planning for later life	View page →
11	Relationship matters	View page →
13	Personal disputes	View page →
15	Our business services	View page →
16	Corporate social responsibility	View page →
18	Contact details	View page →

How we work with clients



At DMH Stallard we place clients at the heart of everything we do and our approach is guided by three main aims:

- **Meeting your objectives** - we listen and understand your needs, we bring empathy and expertise to help you meet your objectives.
- **Expertise** - we engage and work with you to identify and prioritise your requirements using our knowledge to deliver clear advice that works for you.
- **Relationships** - we are committed to building strong relationships which ensure your success. We help support our clients, our colleagues and the communities in which they live.

Planning for now: planning for the future

For the complete care and protection of families and their assets, our private client teams support clients with sensitivity, precision and expertise.

Our teams have the experience to guide you at every turn whether providing for effective estate and succession planning, ensuring the welfare of an elderly or vulnerable relative, handling the affairs of a loved one who is unable to do so themselves, or managing the probate of a family member who has passed away.

We work closely with clients, their families and other professional advisers to achieve a whole-life view of wealth management, tax, inheritance and later life care considerations based on each client's individual financial and family circumstances, their long-term goals and priorities.



“ You have done an excellent job and in a world of crushing mediocrity it’s a pleasure to have your expertise, professionalism and excellent service.”

Private Individual

Wealth management and estate planning

Careful tax and financial planning is an essential part of any effective wealth management and estate planning strategy. By taking the right steps to manage your assets you can make sure that the right people benefit.

We can help structure your financial affairs and assets in the most efficient way possible – including property, land, investments, business and overseas interests. We can help to make your assets work for you and protect them for your beneficiaries with tax planning measures that can be put in place during your lifetime, and through your will.

Wills that reflect your wishes

Effective planning starts with identifying your assets, being clear about how you would like these divided, taking full account of every scenario and then writing a will that fully reflects your wishes. We can help you write a will that ensures that those you choose get the full benefit of their inheritance, as well as minimising the chance of any disputes after your death. Our expert team can help you structure your estate in the best way possible to protect your wealth and provide for your dependants in the future.

Trusts to protect future generations

As part of the wealth management process, it may be appropriate to set up a trust, for instance, to ensure that a particular child or relative is provided for. A trust is a legal arrangement established so that named persons – ‘trustees’ – can look after and deal with assets for the benefit of named beneficiaries. We can help you set up a trust to ensure that your assets are protected and your family looked after should anything happen to you. Our trust advisory services include how best to make use of any existing family trusts, establishing new ones, managing trusts and winding up when appropriate.

We work with clients over the long-term and encourage regular reviews, particularly if there are any changes in personal or financial circumstances – such as marriage, divorce, children or the sale of a family business.

Trust administration to support you

Where you have a family trust of any kind, we offer an efficient cost effective trust administration service to help you with trust accounts and annual tax returns. We can advise on all aspects of trust administration and if you choose we can take the burden of this away from you or support you to make effective decisions in good time.

A blurred photograph of a busy city street with pedestrians walking. The background shows modern buildings and trees. The image is used as a background for the top half of the page.

“The team at DMH Stallard has proven to be an excellent choice and I would highly recommend them moving forward.”

Private Individual

Protecting the family business

There is an inevitable overlap between personal and business matters when there is a family business to consider and this can bring the potential for conflict. With significant expertise in both personal and corporate legal issues, we are ideally placed to advise on succession planning and how to protect the future of the family business.

Work and employment matters for senior executives

If you're leaving a business or starting a new position, you'll be looking for practical and cost-effective advice to help you make the transition. Our employment law specialists can advise on terms of engagement, share options and bonuses, as well as termination arrangements ('settlement agreements').

Our team also has the expertise to advise on alternative models of work – such as contracting, partnerships and LLPs.

Buying, selling and investing in property

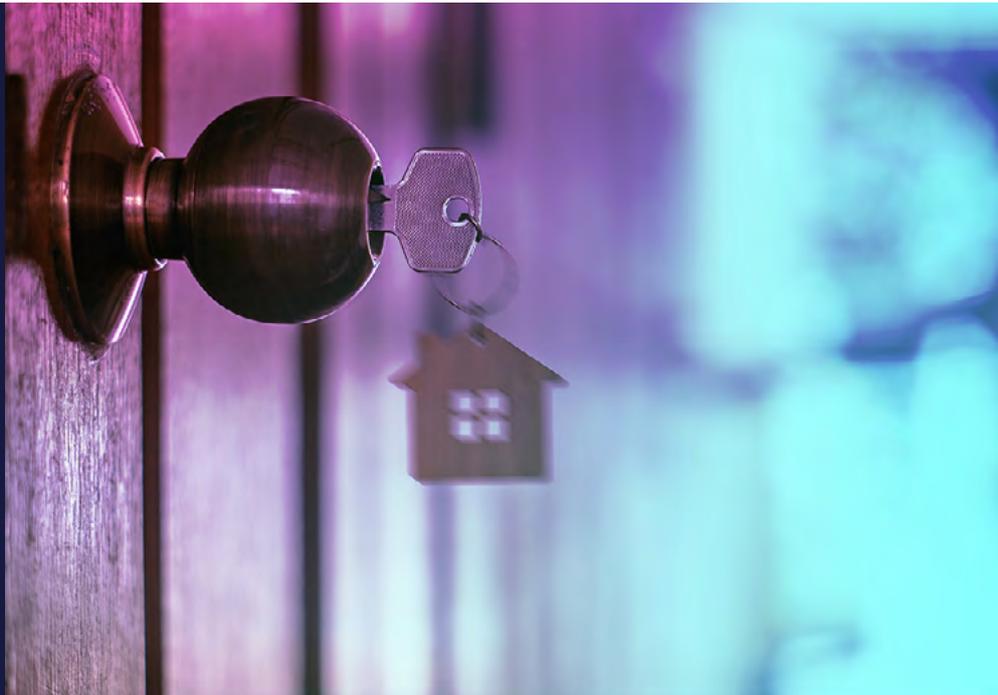
Buying and selling your home can be one of the most significant (and stressful) transactions for many people. Whether you are buying the home of your dreams, investing in property, purchasing your first home, upsizing, downsizing, getting ready for retirement or selling a property as a result of probate you want a team that is well connected in the property market. Our teams collaborate with other professionals and always aim to deliver the highest levels of service. We guide you through the process, keeping you regularly updated as matters progress.

Land and planning

Land is one of the most substantial assets that any of us hold. Whether you choose to develop land, including the property you live in, or change its use, our combined team of specialist property lawyers and chartered town planners have all the skills and experience that will provide you with clear advice to help you achieve your objectives.

“Thoroughly professional, patient and efficient with our house purchase. I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend.”

Private Individual



Planning for later life

Advance planning helps to ensure that your wishes are respected in your later years. Our expert team can help you put plans in place to provide you with peace of mind for the future, knowing that your wishes will be respected and your rights protected in law.

Powers of attorney and incapacity

None of us likes to think of a time when we will be unable to make our own decisions regarding our own medical treatment or finances. However, this is a growing issue and increasing use is being made of lasting powers of attorney. There are two different powers of attorney, one that allows for financial decisions to be made and the other for health and care decisions to be made on your behalf. We can advise on the benefits and options available. We can provide invaluable advice in terms of who to appoint as your attorneys, how to appoint them and what conditions or

guidance to include. Such powers of attorney can also be important in the context of family or owner managed businesses, where severe disruption can be caused if key decision-makers are suddenly incapacitated.

“... - on the ball at all times, extremely client-friendly, showing good attention to detail and doing a very thorough job.”

Private Individual

Deputies and Court of Protection

Where no Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is in place and someone loses their capacity to manage their own affairs (financial or otherwise) the Court of Protection can appoint a Deputy. The application process is detailed and involves sensitive decisions; our team can assist and will listen to any particular issues for each client and their situation.

As well as assisting others to apply on behalf of their own family members, we have experience of acting as a Deputy. We currently act as the Deputy managing the financial affairs for clients with vulnerabilities whether through mental health, brain injury from an accident or clinical negligence or old age. We ensure there is full compliance with the Court of Protection's strict safeguards and reporting requirements. Our team also has experience of making specific applications to the Court of Protection where required, for example, where a property needs to be sold or there is a concern about a current Attorney or Deputy.

“ DMH Stallard combines probate expertise with a friendly manner and lawyer talk that you can understand, navigating you through the stressful and complex route of dealing with a loved one’s death and the mountain of paperwork that comes with it.”

Private Individual

Dealing with the loss of a loved one – estate administration and probate

The complexity of estate administration and gaining probate varies according to the nature and type of the assets involved and the terms of the will. We are used to dealing with a range of estates and so can provide the help you need, doing as much or as little as you require.

If you have been appointed as the executor of a will you will need to finalise the financial affairs of the deceased and distribute what is left according to the instructions in the will. Our expert team can help with applying for probate, valuing the estate, collecting the assets, paying the tax, filling out inheritance tax returns, selling any property, managing any trusts and distributing the funds.

Relationship matters

Disputes between family members can be particularly sensitive and complex. While some relationships do break down, uncertainty and a lack of clear information can make a difficult situation worse.

We have experience across the full range of family and relationship matters, from co-habiting couples to pre-nuptial agreements, to divorce and financial disputes and settlements. We help with specific circumstances such as child access agreements and harassment protection. And when it comes to resolving financial matters that could include the family home, pension funds and business assets, there are often further complications. These issues can be particularly difficult, but we will be by your side every step of the way.

Pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements

Pragmatic agreements made before or after marriage, civil partnership or co-habitation agreements can provide a sound basis for managing assets should a relationship break down. They are all the more important if you are part of an extended family, where family members have particularly complex needs, or if for instance you want children or grandchildren from a previous relationship to benefit. Our experienced legal team can help you minimise risk and gain the protection you need.

Divorce and separation

Divorce and separation can be stressful and challenging and require timely, dedicated and sensitive guidance. DMH Stallard's expert divorce solicitors can fully support you through the whole process, guiding you through all the legal options available to you and advising you on how to achieve the best outcome.

With a wealth of expertise in complex financial and child-related proceedings in divorce, we take a pragmatic approach to resolving difficult and emotional family breakdowns. We will always do our best to reach a reasonable settlement without attending court. In many cases, a conciliatory approach will minimise the problems that can arise from family break-ups. Where this is not possible, our highly experienced lawyers will take a strong stance in court proceedings to secure the best possible outcome for you. We have significant expertise in representing clients in court in disputes over children and financial matters.

Arrangements for children

Disagreements regarding arrangements for children can be challenging and difficult for the family. We strive to reach outcomes taking account of the interests of the family as a whole. Our services include children arrangements, financial proceedings for children of unmarried couples, child maintenance and financial support, international residence and contact, child abduction remedies and applications for permission to remove children from England and Wales.

We take a sensitive approach to matters relating to children when advising domestic and international clients and encourage clients to discuss disputed child arrangements wherever possible. Where an amicable arrangement cannot be agreed, we will advise you as to what formal steps to take to reach resolution.

“... a driven team with a clear focus on achieving a good outcome for its clients while handling its clients’ needs with sensitivity and care.”

Private Individual



Personal disputes

Life does not always go according to plan and if you find yourself having to defend yourself or bring a claim against a business or another individual, our expert and highly experienced dispute resolution lawyers can help.

We will help you to assess your options, understand your likelihood of success and agree the best course of action. We know that many clients want to avoid court proceedings and where possible will want to explore alternative dispute resolution approaches, but if these do not succeed we have the expertise and determination to pursue your claim through the courts.

Accidents and medical negligence

You may have suffered an injury from an accident, medical negligence or in your workplace. Some injuries can be life-altering and the decision to pursue a personal injury claim following an accident or injury that was not your fault can appear a daunting one. Our expert personal injury lawyers have decades of

experience between them, enjoying a well-earned reputation for delivering successful results. We work with some of the largest insurance companies and work hard on your behalf to secure the compensation that you deserve, so that you are provided with the care and support you need.

Employment disputes

Disputes with your employer can cause distress, loss of income and a potential threat to your professional reputation. Our employment lawyers can help you to defend your rights and work with you to identify and meet your objectives. We support senior executives and professionals with a large range of disputes including unfair dismissal, redundancy, restrictive covenants, regulatory investigations, discrimination, whistleblowing, performance and reward to name a few. We work with sensitivity to resolve these issues and draw on our experience representing our large employer client base to identify your employer's likely response to any particular issue, which means we can provide focussed and cost effective advice.

Personal insolvency

As a company director or business owner, safeguarding your and your family's interests is critical. We will support you when times are good or when your business and personal financial future is threatened. Businesses can find themselves with debt problems and financial difficulties, they may be in arrears, unable to meet their commitments and debtors may be threatening legal action. We can provide you with legal advice to help manage this difficult situation. We have the expertise to help you achieve outstanding success in recovering debts and we regularly advise our clients where they may be experiencing financial difficulties.

Challenging wills

While everyone is free to make a will on their own terms, it is sometimes the case that a will may be challenged in the future, particularly by other family members or those who expected greater consideration to be shown to them. Challenges to wills have become more common and they can cause considerable tension within a family group. This is an issue that we are used to seeing and have the expertise to help with.

Sometimes, while there is no dispute about the terms of a will, beneficiaries can feel that the executors or trustees are not behaving properly or dealing with things in a timely fashion. Administering an estate can be a time consuming and complex task, and we can help explain the potential difficulties and, where necessary, communicate the concerns of beneficiaries to those tasked with the administration.



Our business services

DMH Stallard delivers successful outcomes for businesses by providing tailored legal services with energy and creativity, backed by technical expertise.

Our lawyers help clients to achieve success in every area of their business by providing clear advice and commercially focused solutions. We work with you to understand your objectives and deliver guidance that

is right for you and your business, whilst helping to manage and support your appetite for risk.

We work with ambitious businesses looking for rapid growth and expansion, family businesses looking to manage growth, retain control or plan for succession and established businesses looking for investment, acquisition or restructuring, including many national and international household names. We have a broad range of skills across the full spectrum of legal services.

We help businesses to successfully:

- Secure corporate and commercial success
- Develop the right contracts to support their business
- Acquire business finance and investment
- Effectively manage cash flow
- Manage their people, including recruiting overseas talent
- Ensure their commercial property meets their business needs
- Resolve commercial property disputes
- Deal with planning and environmental issues
- Protect their brand and intellectual property assets
- Manage and resolve commercial disputes
- Deal with restructuring and insolvency
- Protect their business from cyber crime
- Develop succession plans for the family business

Our approach to corporate social responsibility

At DMH Stallard we care about our people, local businesses and our local communities. We collaborate with a number of charities to help raise awareness of the great work they do and to help those most in need.

We choose a number of charities to support every year and have worked with others for many years. Most of our charitable work revolves around donations, volunteering or fundraising events, and awareness raising through PR and social media channels. Wherever possible our business hospitality events also include an element of charitable giving to raise additional funds for our chosen charities.



What our charitable partners say about their relationship with DMH Stallard

“DMH Stallard have been one of our major corporate supporters for many years. Their support has varied but includes headline sponsorship of our annual Rockinghorse Ball and this event alone raises tens of thousands for the charity. The funds raised have supported many projects including five specialist paediatric ventilators on the High Dependency Unit of The Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital in Brighton.”

Ryan Heal

CEO, Rockinghorse Children’s Charity

“IntoUniversity is extremely grateful for the numerous inspiring mentors from DMH Stallard who have supported 25 of our students to successfully progress to university, transforming their futures. The commitment of these volunteers to IntoUniversity, to our students and in support of social mobility is admirable; we are delighted to have worked with DMH Stallard for the last five years, and look forward to continue working with the firm and their staff!”

Laura Barton

Director of Operations (Volunteering and Programmes), IntoUniversity

DMH Stallard has offices conveniently located across the South East

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