Establishing and Managing UK Companies

The UK remains a respected and effective jurisdiction for company formation and management.

By **Paul Webb**, 2nd April 2026

The UK remains a respected and effective jurisdiction for company formation and management. Its established legal framework, tax treaty network and transparent regulatory environment, continue to support a wide range of trading, holding, and international group structures.

Establishing a company in the UK, however, is only the beginning. Long term success depends on careful structuring, appropriate governance, and consistent compliance. These factors are increasingly important as UK and international regulatory standards continue to evolve.

Dixcart UK works with clients to ensure their UK companies are established and managed with clarity, substance, and confidence.

Company Formation

Incorporating a company in England and Wales is relatively straightforward, but the decisions made at formation stage carry lasting implications. Structure, ownership, and governance must all be aligned with commercial objectives and regulatory expectations.

Dixcart UK assists clients with the formation of UK companies, whether as standalone entities or as part of a wider international structure. Our focus is on ensuring that each company is established with a clear purpose and an appropriate framework for management and control.

This includes advising on the most suitable entity type, overseeing incorporation with Companies House, preparing and submitting statutory documentation, and assisting with bespoke Articles of Association and Shareholders' Agreements where required. We also coordinate closely with legal, tax, and banking advisers to ensure each structure is coherent and effective.

Company Management and Compliance

Once incorporated, UK companies must meet ongoing statutory, accounting, and regulatory obligations. These requirements are well defined, but failure to meet them can result in penalties and challenges to tax positions.

Dixcart provides ongoing support to ensure companies remain compliant and well managed. This includes:

- Company secretarial services
- ID verification
- Maintenance of statutory registers
- Preparation and filing of annual accounts and confirmation statements
- Filing of corporation tax and related returns
- Coordination of reporting obligations
- Management accounting and bookkeeping
- Audit services
- Payroll and HR support

Our approach is practical and measured, supporting efficient compliance while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden.

Governance and Substance

UK companies are increasingly expected to demonstrate appropriate levels of control and decision making. This is particularly important where companies form part of international group structures.

Dixcart advises on governance frameworks, board composition, and management and control considerations to ensure alignment with UK requirements and international tax standards. Substance is addressed carefully, with advice tailored to the scale and purpose of each company.

The UK Corporate Tax Environment

The UK operates a tiered corporation tax system. Companies with profits up to £50,000 are subject to a 19% rate, while profits above £250,000 are taxed at 25%, with marginal relief applying between these thresholds.

The UK also continues to encourage innovation. R&D tax relief, now delivered primarily through a merged scheme, provides enhanced support for R&D intensive SMEs. The Patent Box regime may offer an effective 10% corporation tax rate on qualifying profits from patented inventions.

Dividends paid by UK companies are generally not subject to withholding tax, except in limited circumstances such as certain property income distributions.

UK Holding Companies

The UK remains an attractive jurisdiction for holding companies. Broad exemptions for foreign dividends and the Substantial Shareholding Exemption, which may exempt capital gains on qualifying disposals of trading subsidiaries, continue to support international group structuring.

When combined with the UK's legal certainty and strong shareholder protections and the UK's comprehensive tax treaty network, these features make the UK a credible holding company location where governance and substance are appropriately addressed.

Choosing the Right Structure

The UK limited company remains the most common corporate vehicle. It offers limited liability, legal continuity, and commercial credibility, as well as flexibility around ownership, investment, employee participation, and profit extraction.

UK Limited Liability Partnerships may also be appropriate in certain circumstances. LLPs offer limited liability while typically remaining tax transparent, with profits taxed at member level. However, LLPs must demonstrate genuine commercial activity and substance to withstand scrutiny.

UK incorporated but non-resident companies are possible only in limited circumstances and require careful governance and specialist advice. This is not suitable for routine structuring.

Dixcart UK

We work with businesses, families, and international groups to establish and manage UK companies that are compliant, well governed, and aligned with long term objectives. Our role is to ensure that UK companies are structured carefully, managed effectively, and supported with confidence.

For more information, or to talk to us about how we can assist you, please contact: advice.uk@dixcart.com.