

Top tips for protecting your business legally

If you are a business owner or part of senior management, it is essential to understand the extent of your rights and ways to protect your business. We provide clear and practical advice on all aspects of the law and how to use it to safeguard your business. Here are some of our top tips:

Commercial contracts

- use your terms and conditions to your advantage
- make sure the contract reflects the agreed terms and any changes made subsequently are clearly documented
- throw nothing away
- keep a handle on credit control and procedures.

Employee activity

- identify which employees have valuable business information or relationships, and protect yourself contractually – take advice, do not try this at home!
- review and update employment restrictions regularly, particularly on promotion
- take practical steps around data security (see our GDPR factsheet for further information). Also consider traceability eg. dummy addresses
- have a social media policy and monitor ex-employee activity. Don't ignore your own client relationships!

Intellectual property

- understand the intellectual property that is important to your business – do you own it?
- ensure that you have contracts in place with employees and contractors that deal with IP ownership
- take steps to register IP rights at the Intellectual Property Office (and foreign registries)
- if your IP is being infringed, take action to draw this to the attention of the infringing party, and enforce your rights.

Advice

Our experienced lawyers are well-known in the area for their expertise and for providing 'solutions-focussed' advice. If you have any legal questions, or if we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact

Please contact any of our lawyers who have put together these top tips:

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About Willans

Willans LLP is a law firm noted for giving expert, practical and personal service to businesses, individuals and charities & not-for-profit organisations.

We act for local, national and overseas clients and offer comprehensive legal services in corporate & commercial; dispute resolution/litigation; employment; commercial property; intellectual property; information technology & e-commerce; residential property/conveyancing; property litigation; divorce & family law; wills, probate & trusts; agriculture & estates; inheritance & probate disputes; charity law and mediation.

Willans is client focused. Established in Cheltenham in the 1940s, we are proud to be Lexcel-accredited, a national standard that is only awarded to solicitors who meet the highest management and customer care standards. Across many areas of law which we advise our lawyers are recommended year-on-year by national independent legal guides who speak to clients about their experiences.

With around 80 people, we are large enough to provide first-class specialist advice yet small enough to give genuinely personal service. Our skills, experience and competitive rates combine to ensure clients get good value for money. In terms of technical expertise and the size and value of the transactions we handle, our track record shows our performance more than matches that of many of our larger competitors.

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