Saffery

Supporting professional practices

Since 1855



Saffery's Professional Practices Team works with a myriad of different practices, advising and supporting owners to ensure they remain compliant and profitable.

Whether your practice is a firm of accountants, lawyers, architects, engineers, quantity surveyors or another profession, our experts have the specialist capability to support your business and its stakeholders.



Find out more about how our experts advise professional practices and their owners:

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Personal tax →

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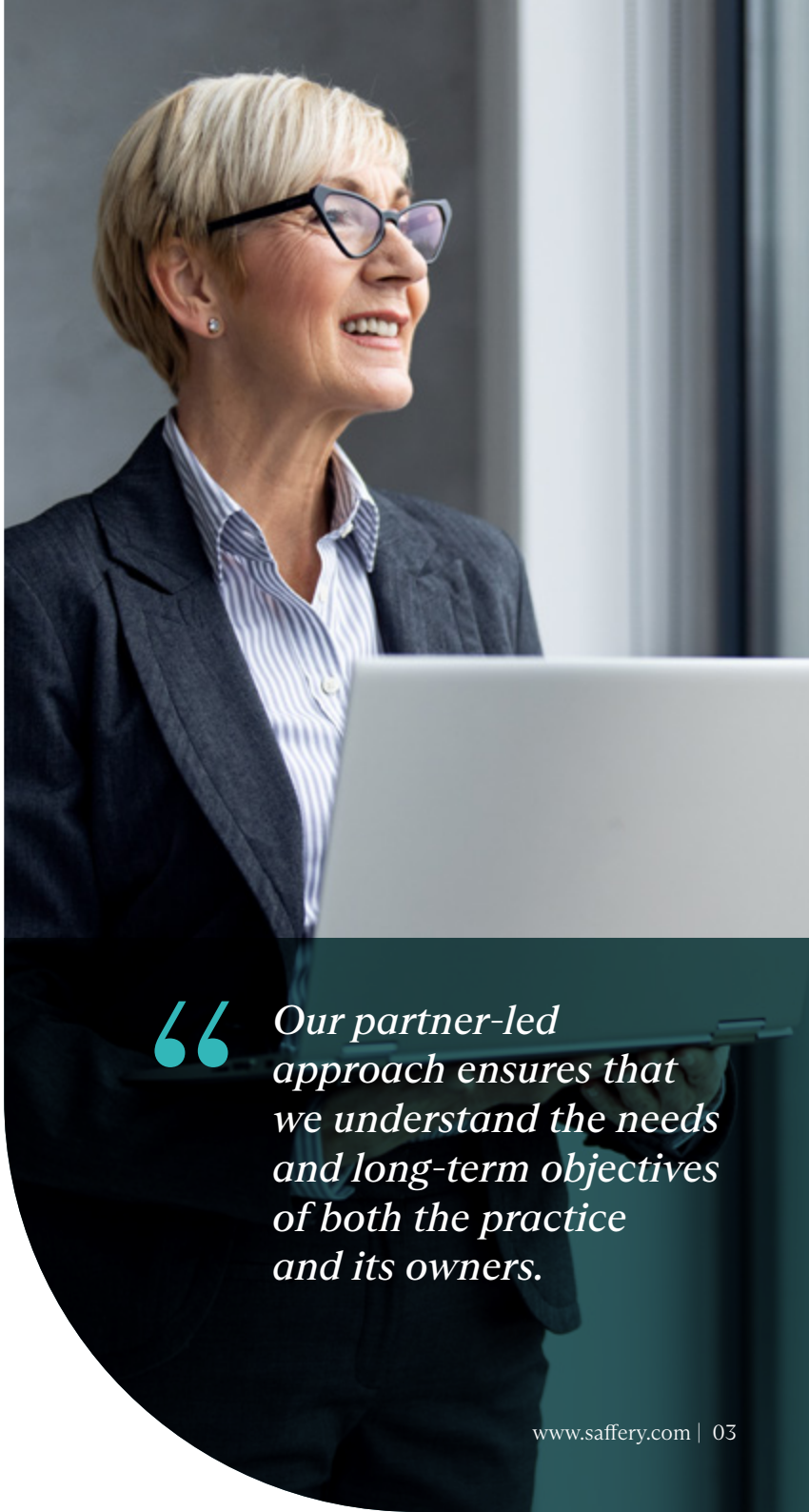
Get in touch →

Supporting professional practices

Traditional practice structures and operating procedures have often evolved over time, sometimes without robust planning to factor in key business objectives, risks that must be managed, and tax considerations.

Our partner-led approach ensures that we understand the needs and long-term objectives of both the practice and its owners. We provide tailored advice to support you in realising the appropriate legal and reporting structure to meet your objectives, whilst retaining the partnership ethos.

Professional firms operate in an increasingly complex regulatory environment. Our specialist team is well placed to support you, sharing their knowledge and experience of best practice in action, to minimise the compliance burden on your business.



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Audit and accounts

Statutory audit

We provide a tailored audit and assurance service to suit your needs, aiming to make the process as efficient as possible. So that you can derive maximum value, our team will work closely with your in-house team, matching their preferred way of working and maintaining regular communication.

Accounts

We provide accounts preparation services for all types of entities, including companies, LLPs and partnerships.

The level of service we offer can range from full bookkeeping to the preparation of finalised accounts from financial statements you provide. We also provide clients with accounting advice under IFRS, FRS 102 or FRS 101.

Other assurance services

Other assurance services may be required by professional practices businesses, including assurance over Solicitors Accounts Rules (SAR), reasonable and limited CASS rules, Innovate UK grants etc.

We support clients with these, so that they can focus on fee earning work.



Corporate tax

Corporate tax compliance and advisory

We offer comprehensive tax compliance and advisory services. Corporate tax rules are becoming more complex, both in the UK and globally.

We deliver tailored corporate tax compliance and advisory services, ensuring your firm remains fully compliant while identifying opportunities for tax efficiency and risk management. Some examples of services we offer include completing corporate tax returns, corporate tax advice around profit extraction and the tax implications of potential future strategy.

LLP/partnership tax

We can provide the full range of compliance and advisory support to partnerships and their partners. The support covers a range of tax matters including preparation of the various returns and advice across a range of issues eg salaried member rules.

Our advice can also involve consideration of strategic plans of the business including, exit and succession planning, private equity investment and alternative corporate structures.



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Employment tax and VAT

Employment taxes

Our specialist team can support you on all employment tax related matters, ensuring that you remain compliant across the full range of payroll taxes, including benefit planning, designing and implementing salary sacrifice arrangements, international mobility issues and other regulatory requirements.

We can also assist with resolving any historic employment tax errors and tax implications of termination payments. This is an increasingly important area for people-based businesses, like those across professional practices.

VAT

We have a significant, specialist VAT advisory practice, which is able to advise on all areas of VAT relevant to your business. We can assist in ensuring compliance and maximising recovery in this complex area, whilst minimising your VAT exposure through appropriate structuring.

Businesses in the professional practices space may have elements of their revenue which are exempt or outside the scope of UK VAT therefore giving rise to partial exemption calculations.



Personal tax



> *We have experience of working with large partnerships, where we look after the tax compliance for the partnership itself as well as for the individual partners.*

Personal tax

Our dedicated personal tax compliance team specialises in the preparation of UK self-assessment tax returns for individuals and partnerships. Our experts can free you from the significant administrative burden of reporting different, often complex, income streams, helping you to remain compliant and potentially identifying tax efficiencies.

We have experience of working with large partnerships, where we look after the tax compliance for the partnership itself as well as for the individual partners.

We review each individual partners' situation and provide advice for them on maximising tax reliefs to improve their tax position.

Other services

Payroll

Our dedicated Payroll Team provides a full and integrated service to clients operating large and small payrolls. We can process monthly payroll and assist you with making payments and managing reporting requirements, including for workplace pension schemes.

In addition, we support clients with P11d filing requirements and the payrolling of benefits.

Sustainability and ESG

We can support your practice on its sustainability journey, helping you to adapt and report on the impact of your activities. Our specialists focus on your business's sustainability and ESG activities, ensuring your impact is measured against the relevant accepted national, international and industry standards.

This is a constantly evolving area for professional businesses, as they look to manage client, employee and wider industry expectations.

Transaction services

We can provide a full range of transaction support services. As well as managing and negotiating exits, we can also support you with corporate acquisitions, business valuations and corporate disposals.

Whether you are considering acquisitions or are a business owner looking to realise value through selling all or part of your business, our Transaction Services team have the skills to deliver the required services at all stages of a transaction process.

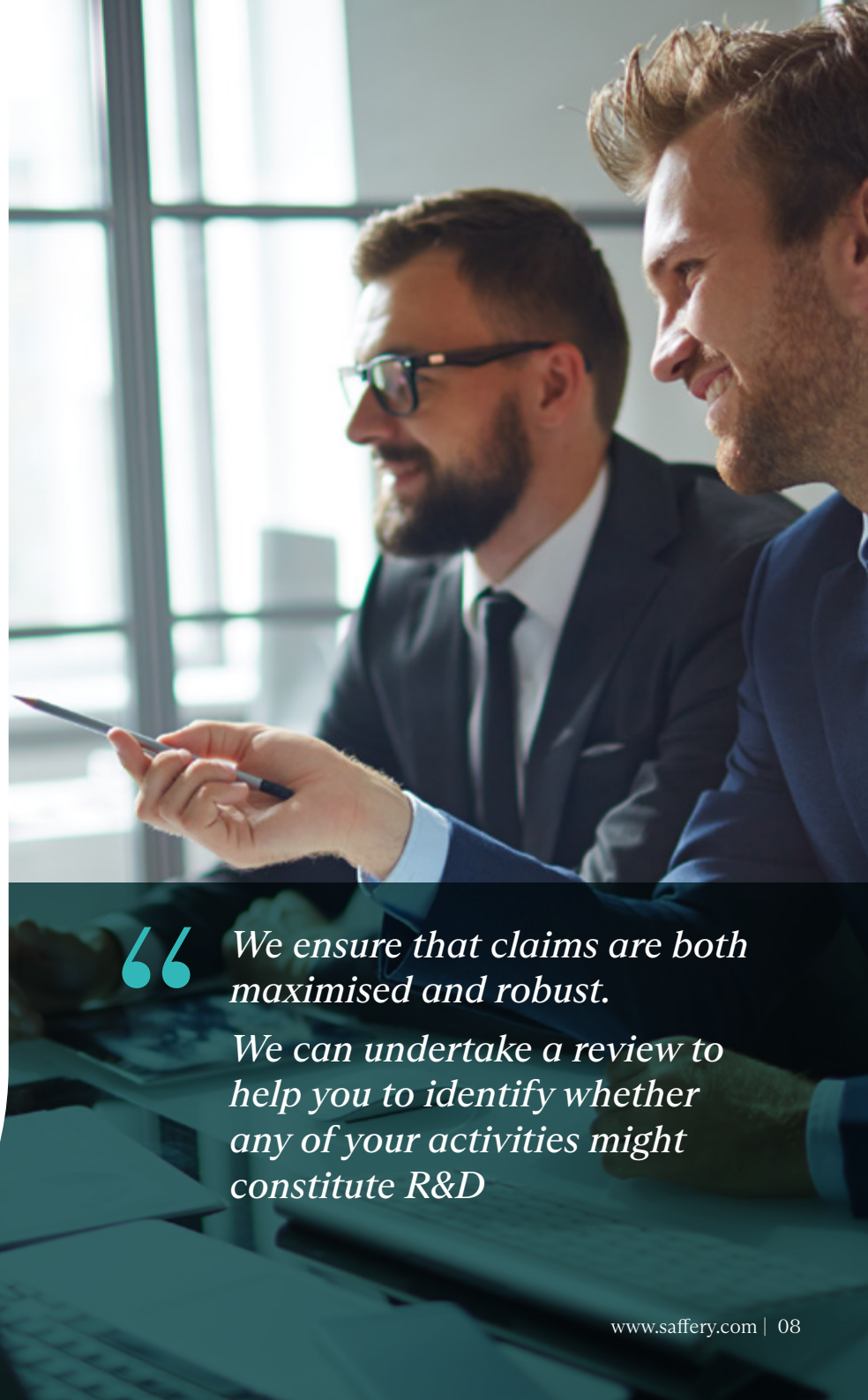
Research and development tax credits

Research and development (R&D) tax credits can be a valuable tax relief for companies investing in innovation, whether they are developing new products, services and processes or enhancing existing ones.

When advising on R&D Tax Relief, we ensure that claims are both maximised and robust.

We can undertake a review to help you to identify whether any of your activities might constitute R&D, which projects qualify as eligible R&D, and the specific costs which are eligible expenditure.

We can also advise on the Patent Box regime to ensure you select the most advantageous time to elect to join into the regime.



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Case studies

Case studies

We have extensive experience of working with and advising professional practices, meaning we can draw upon this experience to deliver a high-quality service which adds real value. These are just a few examples of some of our work with professional practices.

Working with a large international law firm

We audited an acquisitive UK law firm during its growth from a UK business to an AIM-listed international group. Our work included the audit of all UK entities and the consolidated group reporting, along with SAR work and transaction services on UK acquisitions.

Executive search firm tax support

We acted as the tax adviser to a medium sized executive search firm, providing a range of services including preparation of the partnership tax return, self-assessment returns for the partners, tax advice around the salaried member rules as they looked to appoint new partners, and employment tax support in relation to an HMRC investigation.

Outsourcing support for an expanding firm

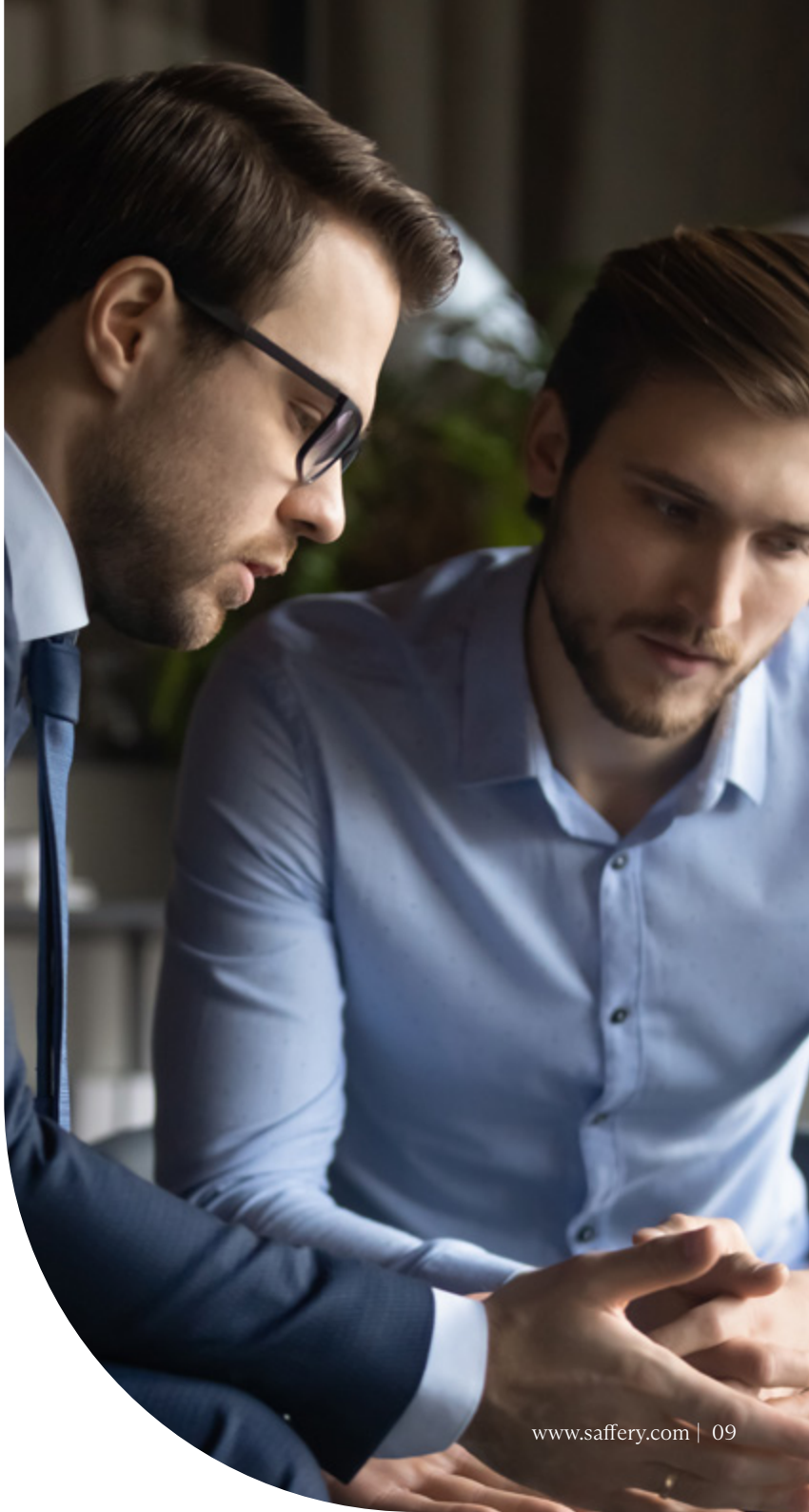
We acted as the accountant and outsourced bookkeeping provider for a firm of surveyors.

We also provided payroll services and wide-ranging employment tax advice as the group expanded and considered additional employee benefits and tax advantaged share schemes.

We have also provided advice around potential investment and succession planning for key partners.

Providing financial due diligence

We act as statutory auditor for a tax consultancy business that has been acquiring a number of UK-based subsidiaries. We provided financial due diligence on acquisitions and tax advice around the implications of different structures for the future consolidated UK business.



Committed to great client service

We carry out ongoing client feedback research. The most recent phase of this (2026) saw on overwhelmingly positive response from clients, with a mean overall satisfaction score of 8.7 out of 10.

Clients identified our strengths as relating to the quality of advice provided and the relationships built, but also with understanding their business and needs.

Our clients gave us an overall satisfaction score of:

8.7 out of 10

Clients score us highly in the following areas:

For quality of advice, demonstrating the highest level of technical competence

8.9 out of 10

For our understanding of their business needs

8.8 out of 10

For the relationship with the Saffery team

8.8 out of 10

Saffery in numbers

Our experts work with clients to support opportunity and enable success. We're here to help clients achieve their long-term ambitions by optimising opportunities and turning advice into action.

From interpreting tax complexities and identifying key financial structures to building tailored strategies for your goals, our team is here for you.



90+ partners



1,300+ people



£163m fee income (2025)



15th largest UK accountancy firm by turnover



Established in **1855**

Nexia

As a proud member of Nexia, a worldwide network of trusted member firms, we've got access to local insight on a global scale. Our close alignment with Nexia enhances our capabilities for our clients across the globe.



Combined fee income of
$2.73bn



118
countries



187
member firms

Thank you

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