

# Pentland Group Limited

## Our approach to Tax

This strategy has been prepared and published in accordance with paragraph 19(2), Schedule 19, Finance Act 2016, on behalf of Pentland Group Limited and all UK tax resident companies in the Pentland Group Holdings Limited UK sub-group. This tax strategy is effective for the accounting period beginning on 1 January 2023.

Pentland Group Holdings Limited (the “Group”) is a large private family-owned company with significant UK and overseas operations. The Group’s core business is brand management and retail of footwear, clothing and related accessories in the sports outdoor and fashion sectors. Our global brands include Speedo, Berghaus, Canterbury of New Zealand, Mitre and Ellesse and we are also the footwear licensee for Lacoste and Kickers. Our retail division principally comprises a majority stake in JD Sports Fashion plc (“JD”), a leading sports fashion retailer operating in the UK, US and Europe.

As a family-owned group our values are resolutely family values which means that honesty, fairness, respect and hard work run through all that we do. Our reputation as a family business is important to us. Our values are embedded within the Group’s Business Standards Policies, which include a Code of Business Conduct, an Ethics & Integrity Policy, an Employment Standards Policy, a Code of Employment Conduct for Suppliers and an Environmental Policy. We believe that good governance, effective risk management and robust legal and regulatory compliance are essential to delivering value and enhancing our reputation.

### **Managing tax risk**

The Board is collectively responsible for setting the Group’s global tax strategy, with the exception of the JD sub-group. The Group’s CFO is the nominated Board Member with specific responsibility for monitoring compliance with the strategy, with support from the Group Head of Tax. The Board of JD, the Group’s listed subsidiary, sets the tax strategy for that company and its subsidiaries, which is consistent with the wider Pentland Group tax strategy.

The taxes to which the Group are subject reflect the breadth and scale of our operations and include corporate income taxes (including withholding taxes & local trade taxes), indirect taxes (including VAT), employment taxes, social security payments, customs and excise duties, stamp taxes and business rates.

The objectives of the tax function are to:

- Fulfil all compliance obligations under domestic and international tax laws to pay all taxes at the right time,
- Manage risk,

- Build constructive and open relationships with all relevant stakeholders including tax authorities, and
- Provide support to the business to understand the tax implications of contemplated legal and commercial arrangements and to ensure they are in line with the Group's tax strategy.

The Group's CFO is responsible, in his role as Senior Accounting Officer, for ensuring appropriate processes and controls are in place to deliver accurate financial information to enable compliance with UK tax laws. The CFO of JD has a similar role in relation to that sub-group. The Pentland Group Head of Tax maintains a Tax Risk Management Framework which identifies potential tax risk and the processes and controls in place to mitigate those risks. These are reviewed regularly with the Group CFO and Head of Internal Audit.

The use of technology and automation is continuously sought to maximise the quality and accuracy of the data that underpins the tax returns and associated declarations.

The Group is honest and open in its dealings with tax authorities. We will never knowingly seek to gain an advantage by acting dishonestly, or fraudulently, or by making false claims.

### **Tax planning and acceptable tax risk**

The Group is committed to paying the right amount of tax, in the right place and at the right time. The Group is a multi-national group and may be exposed to a variety of tax risks. The Group adopts a low-risk approach to its tax affairs in all territories in which it operates. The Group seeks to protect value for significant commercially motivated transactions, but will not knowingly undertake any transaction which:

- relies on a lack of transparency or non-disclosure, or
- carries a significant risk of damage to our reputation or brands, or
- in the case of cross-border transactions are not undertaken on arm's length terms, or
- which relies on interpretations of the law which are clearly inconsistent with the intentions of government / tax authority policy.

When managing tax risk the Board considers the impact on all stakeholders including the shareholders, customers, consumers, staff and both the UK and overseas tax authorities.

Tax rules and their interpretation are complex. The Group has dedicated resource in corporate tax, VAT, customs & duties and employment taxes with appropriate professional qualifications and experience commensurate with their responsibilities and role. The Group also obtains advice from external providers where the required expertise is not available in-house or where the size or complexity of the transaction warrants it. We also use external firms to support us in relation to tax compliance filings and to advise on tax reliefs or incentives where available (for example credits for research & development, and the exemption of proceeds from tax for the sale of substantial shareholdings in the UK). The decision whether and how to use external advisers rests with the Group Head of Tax, who ensures that such providers are aware of the principles contained in this document.

### **Engaging with HMRC and other tax authorities**

The Group is committed to working in an open, collaborative and transparent way with tax authorities in all jurisdictions in which the Group operates. We value our relationship with HMRC

and other tax authorities. In the UK the Group is in regular dialogue with its Customer Compliance Manager at HMRC to update them, in real time where appropriate, on significant transactions, changes in the business and to seek advice in respect of any tax issues or areas of uncertainty.

Approved by the Board

19 September 2023