



# Tax Strategy

2024



## Introduction

This Tax Strategy statement applies to the companies of Virgin Media O2. It covers VMED O2 UK Limited and its subsidiaries.

VMED O2 UK Limited is the joint venture company created on 1 June 2021 which brought together the Virgin Media and O2 (including giffgaff) businesses in the UK.

Virgin Media O2 is a leading integrated communications provider of mobile, broadband internet, video, fixed-line telephony services to residential customers and businesses in the UK. Our business generates substantial amounts of direct and indirect taxes including taxes such as corporate taxes, employee taxes and VAT. The taxes that we pay and collect form part of our significant economic contribution in the UK. We are committed to being a responsible and co-operative taxpayer.

## VMED O2 UK Limited

### Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Directors of VMED O2 UK Limited advised by the Chief Financial Officer is ultimately responsible for the tax strategy of Virgin Media O2. The Chief Financial Officer has ownership of the Group's tax operations and oversight of tax risk, with the detailed analysis and preparation of the tax records covered by the Director of Financial Operations.

### Resource management

The tax team within the Virgin Media O2 finance department is responsible for managing the taxes of the Virgin Media O2 companies in the UK to ensure compliance with relevant laws and filing obligations.

The tax landscape is constantly evolving due to developments in legislation, transfer pricing, increased digitisation and the use of technology in tax. As a group we recognise that these changes need to be managed and resourced appropriately.

The competence of tax staff is ensured through a program of ongoing and regular training. This training focuses on technical expertise and professional development so that our people can actively fulfil their tax responsibilities.

External advisers are used to assist with operational change, exceptional items, and large and complex transactions. The use of external advice is focused on providing both technical and commercially relevant advice and guidance.

## Objectives and acceptable level of tax risk

Tax risk arises from uncertainty on how legislation should be applied or how complex transactions should be analysed. Our objective is to comply with legal requirements in a manner that ensures we pay the right amount of tax. This objective is underpinned by an open, co-operative and transparent relationship with the Tax Authorities. The group considers therefore that it has a low tax risk appetite and operates on the basis of no surprises.

Where it is responsible and appropriate to do so steps are taken to reduce tax liabilities. We claim properly available allowances, deductions, reliefs, incentives, exemptions and credits where the rules say they are available. Our ongoing tax risk approach is based on principles of applying reasonable professional care and considering materiality. Each tax risk is measured based on a balance of impact of that risk and its likelihood.

## Governance of tax

### Policy principles

The following principles form the basis of the tax management philosophy and the policy of the Group:



**Good Governance** – We manage our tax affairs in accordance with our framework and processes of corporate governance of the Group. The Board of Directors are informed of the tax strategy and of significant changes in tax requirements.

**Risk and Internal Controls** - The Group has implemented a system of internal controls designed to respond effectively to significant risks. These controls operate around the calculation of tax liabilities, preparation of tax returns and analysis of transactions.

**Transaction Planning** – We strive to ensure that transactions are structured tax efficiently in line with commercial objectives and in accordance with tax legislation. We seek to avoid the use of artificial tax arrangements and we avoid the use of tax havens.

## Control activities

Tax accounting and reporting is within the scope of our annual internal control framework testing regime (covering Sarbanes-Oxley and SAO (Senior Accounting Officer) compliance requirements) and is subject to both external and internal audit independent assessment as well as reporting to the Telefónica SA group in Spain and the Liberty Global group in the UK (the shareholders of VMED O2 UK Limited). These processes form part of a broader management framework in which key tax decisions are visible to management.

## Risk register

The business has a wider corporate risk framework including a risk register. Where appropriate tax risks are included in this register.

## Key controls

Key controls to manage the risk of incorrect tax accounting are established and the fulfilment of these are documented in the various tax return workings papers.

## Tax planning

### Controls over tax planning

All papers put forward to the Board of any group company or project committee that contain comments on tax are supported by an appropriate level of tax analysis and documentation.

### Attitude towards tax planning

For us tax planning means assessing the tax consequences of significant business changes, events or transactions. We seek to reduce the cost in compliance with the law. We use the parameters below to evaluate how we do it:

- The commercial purpose of the transactions and how the planning fits in with commercial objectives and requirements;
- The broad intention and specific objectives of the legislation;
- The impact on cash flow and impact on the financial accounts;
- The impact of the arrangements on our reputation and integrity as a large corporate business based in and operating in the UK;
- The impact on various stakeholders who could be affected such as customers, suppliers, investors and regulatory bodies;
- The strength of tax advisors' opinion: appropriate external advice, where relevant, is obtained as necessary.

## Relationship with HMRC

We strive to meet our obligations under the HMRC Charter. We maintain an open and honest relationship in our dealings with HMRC and seek to work in positive collaboration and 'partnership' with HMRC. Where disagreements arise, and sometimes they do, we actively engage with HMRC to achieve resolution.



We are in regular contact and regularly meet with HMRC to facilitate a constructive working relationship across all of the taxes.

## Relationship with Shareholders

Our shareholders are Telefónica and Liberty Global. Telefónica is one of the largest telecommunications companies in the world with operations in 14 countries. The headquarters are in Madrid and the group is listed on several stock exchanges. Liberty Global is a world leader in converged broadband, video and mobile communications and an active investor in cutting-edge infrastructure, content and technology ventures.

We rely on our shareholders to provide us with key services such as roaming, interconnection, technology, finance and management services.

This strategy is published to comply with the requirements of Finance Act 2016, Schedule 19. The strategy has been formalised for approval by the Board on 19 November 2024 and will be reviewed annually.