



## Accountants Professional Liability Policy Summary

*Underwritten by a member of the **QBE Insurance Group (QBE)** (details are provided below)*

This insurance is an annual contract unless stated otherwise and it may be renewed at the end of each policy year on the basis of the terms and conditions applicable upon renewal. **For full details of the start date and end date of the policy, you should read the policy schedule.**

This document provides only a summary of the main benefits your insurance policy. An outline of the policy's significant features and benefits are set out below together with any significant exclusions or limitations. **For full details of all policy benefits and all terms you should read the policy.**

The policy is divided into a number of sections but not all the sections may operate as part of your insurance. **Please refer to your quotation or renewal documentation for confirmation of the sections of cover selected.**

### **Limit of indemnity, sub-limit of indemnity, territorial limit and jurisdictional limit**

This insurance is subject to an overall limit of indemnity, as well as various limits and sub-limits of indemnity which form part of and are not in addition to the overall limit of indemnity unless stated otherwise. There are also territorial and jurisdictional limits which apply to specific sections of this policy. **Please refer to your policy schedule for confirmation of the applicable limits and territorial and jurisdictional limits.**

### **Excess or deductible**

Most cover sections will carry an 'excess' or 'deductible' being the first amount of each claim or occurrence that you must pay and is not covered by your insurance. The amount(s) will be stated in your quotation or renewal documentation or in the schedule, together with a qualification whether the amount will be applied per claim or per occurrence.

### **Conditions**

You must:

- a) make a fair presentation of your risk in proposing for this insurance, including making disclosure in a comprehensive and accurate manner;
- b) notify us of claims and circumstances that may become a claim as soon as practical but always within the time limitation(s) stated in the policy;
- c) notify us of any and all material changes to the declared business activity or insured risks if you require them to be covered by this insurance; and
- d) comply with the general conditions and any specific conditions designed to reduce the risk of loss.

## **Professional Liability**

### **Significant features and benefits**

This section is a claims made insurance meaning any claim must be made against you and notified to the insurer during the policy period. This policy provides insurance for any civil liability for breach of professional duty incurred in the conduct of your business services.

The limit of indemnity payable in respect of any one claim or series of claims is specified in the quotation or renewal documentation. Defence costs are payable in addition to the limit of indemnity.

The policy covers:

- Civil liability for breach of professional duty including the acts of consultants for which you are
- legally liable
- Your predecessors in business
- Libel and slander

- Advancement of defence costs
- Awards by ombudsmen and limited to £150,000 in the aggregate
- Public relations crisis management services limited to £50,000 in the aggregate
- Bodily injury or property damage arising as the result of a breach of professional duty
- Third party reliance on hacker's fraudulent use of your information limited to £100,000 in the aggregate

### **Significant or unusual exclusions or limitations**

Unless otherwise stated in the quotation or renewal documentation or policy addendum the policy shall exclude claims for:

- Ownership or use of aircraft, watercraft, vehicles or property
- Asbestos causing bodily injury or property damage
- Associated companies unless the claim emanates from an independent third party.
- Assumed duty or obligation not in the normal conduct of your professional business
- Bodily injury/property damage unless as a result of a breach of professional duty
- Contractual liability
- Management liability
- Dishonesty or fraud other than of innocent partners/directors
- Arising from existing claims or circumstances prior to the period of insurance
- Fines, penalties and any claim uninsurable at law except for insurable exemplary or aggravated damages for libel or slander.
- Your insolvency.
- Financial services
- Liability arising from employment.
- Breach of specified legislation including tax, competition, restraint of trade and anti-trust regulations
- Negotiable paper
- Liability involving transport or property owned by you North American (USA /Canadian) jurisdiction
- Where you are entitled to coverage under any other insurance policy.
- Pension schemes
- Pollution
- Products liability
- Territorial limits – worldwide excluding North America
- Transmission of viruses
- War and terrorism

## **Legal Expenses**

### **Significant features and benefits**

- Provides legal expenses covering costs and expenses you become liable to pay arising out of:
  - a) employment disputes and compensation awards;
  - b) legal disputes in relation to property protection and bodily injury;
- DAS will defend your legal rights at your request;
- DAS will represent you in appealing the relevant statutory or regulatory authority, court or tribunal; DAS will negotiate for your legal rights in any civil action relating to material property which is owned by you or is your responsibility;
- at your request, DAS will negotiate for you and your family members' legal rights following a specific or sudden accident that causes the death of, or bodily injury to them;
- DAS will provide an enquiry on tax, employer compliance dispute or VAT dispute;
- DAS will negotiate for your legal rights in a contractual dispute arising from an agreement for the purchase, hire, sale or provision of goods or services.

DAS run a dedicated 24-hour helpline offering Eurolaw commercial legal advice, business assistance and counselling for all employees or their immediate family members.

## **Significant or unusual exclusions or limitations**

Unless otherwise stated in the quotation or renewal documentation this section shall exclude claims arising from:

- any claim reported to us more than one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date the person insured should have known about the insured incident;
- costs and expenses incurred before the written acceptance of a claim by DAS;
- fines, penalties, compensation or damages;
- any claim relating to patents, copyrights, intellectual property, secrecy and confidentiality agreements;
- any claim relating to franchise or agency agreement;
- any insured incident deliberately or intentionally caused by a person insured;
- any claim relating to a shareholding or partnership share;
- judicial review, coroner's inquest or fatal accident inquiry;
- bankruptcy;
- ionising radiation or contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste from burning nuclear fuel;
- the radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear part of it;
- war, invasion foreign enemy, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, military force or coup, or any act of terrorism or alleged act of terrorism as defined by the Terrorism Act 2000;
- pressure waves caused by aircraft or any other airborne devices travelling at sonic or supersonic speeds;
- any device failing to recognise, interpret, or process any date as its true calendar date;
- written or verbal remarks that damage the person insured's reputation;
- legal actions where the person insured is not represented by a law firm, barrister or tax expert.

## **Important information**

All sections exclude liability or indemnity directly or indirectly relating to acts of war or terrorism or indirectly relating to nuclear risks.

## **General limitations that will restrict payment**

You must:

- pay (or agree to pay) the premium prior to the agreed due date,
- notify claims or events that may become a claim as soon as possible. Please read the claim conditions in the policy.
- advise any and all changes to the insured, the declared business activity or use of any premises within thirty (30) days.

## Important information

### Insurance Act 2015

This policy has been amended to take account of the provisions of the Insurance Act 2015, and is intended to comply with them, unless otherwise stated by way of endorsement or in the schedule.

### Your right to cancel

Please ensure that the policy is suitable for your requirements since there are no rights of cancellation on your part. **QBE** may issue 30 days written notice of cancellation at any time by writing to your last known address when we will allow a pro rata refund of premium.

### Renewing your policy

If **QBE** are willing to invite renewal of the policy **QBE** will use best endeavours to tell you at least 21 days before the expiry of the policy the premium and terms and conditions which will apply for the following year.

### Premium payment

The insured is liable to pay the premium as set out in the policy. **For full details of payment of premium and the duration of payments of premium you should read the policy and the schedule.**

### Other restrictions

Certain endorsements that might apply to your policy may restrict cover. **For full details you should read the policy documentation.**

### Claim notification

Should you wish to make a claim you must notify **QBE** as soon as practical on receipt of any claim, suit or becoming aware of circumstances that is likely to lead to a claim. But please read your policy as specific time limits may apply for claim notification. You may contact **QBE** at the address shown below.

### Complaint procedure

If you are unhappy with the service provided for any reason or have cause for complaint you should initially contact the person who arranged the policy for you.

If you wish to contact the insurer directly you can:

- a) e-mail: [CustomerRelations@uk.qbe.com](mailto:CustomerRelations@uk.qbe.com), write to Customer Relations, **QBE** European Operations, Plantation Place, 30 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3BD, or telephone 020 7105 5988; or
- b) where the insurer is or includes a Lloyd's syndicate, e-mail: [complaints@lloyds.com](mailto:complaints@lloyds.com), write to Lloyd's Complaints, Fidentia House, Walter Burke Way, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4RN, or telephone 020 7327 5693.

Please note that Lloyd's will consider a complaint only if you are considered to be an 'eligible complainant' by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) – see below.

In each case, you should quote the policy or claim reference.

A summary of the insurer's complaints handling procedure is available on request and will also be provided to you when acknowledging a complaint.

If you feel that your complaint has not been satisfactorily resolved, you may contact the FOS to review the complaint.

To be an eligible complainant, you must be:

- a) a consumer;
- b) a micro-enterprise – a business that has an annual turnover of under EUR2million employing fewer than ten (10) employees;
- c) a charity with an annual income of less than GBP1million; or
- d) a trustee of a trust with net assets of less than GBP1million.

If eligible, you can contact the FOS via its website:

<http://www.financialombudsman.org.uk/consumer/complaints.htm>, write to the FOS, Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR, or telephone 0300 123 9 123 or 0800 023 4567.

You must refer its complaint to the FOS (a) within six (6) months of the insurer's final response letter or (b) when the insurer has failed to resolve the issue within eight (8) weeks.

The FOS provides impartial advice free of charge and contacting them will not affect your legal rights.

### **Compensation**

**QBE** is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. This provides compensation in case any of its members are unable, in specified circumstances, to meet any valid claims under their policies. Compensation for non-compulsory insurance will be paid at 90% with no upper limit and at 100% if the insurance is legally compulsory with no upper limit. Compensation is only available to commercial customers in limited circumstances.

Further information can be obtained from **QBE** at the address below, or from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme at the following address: Financial Services Compensation Scheme; PO Box 300, Mitcheldean, GL17 1DY; or from their website (<http://www.fscs.org.uk/contact-us/>).

### **The law and language applicable to the policy**

The law of England and Wales will apply to this contract unless you and the insurer agree otherwise. The language used in this policy and any communications relating to it will be English.

### **Your insurer**

Your quotation or renewal documentation will state the name of the licenced insurer within the QBE Insurance Group (**QBE**) that is providing your insurance cover. It will be one of or a combination of the following companies.

#### QBE Insurance (Europe) Limited

QBE Insurance (Europe) Limited is a private company limited by shares (company number 1761561) and is Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under Registration Number 202842.

#### QBE Casualty Syndicate 386 and QBE Syndicate 1886

QBE Casualty Syndicate 386 and QBE Syndicate 1886 are managed by QBE Underwriting Limited (company number 01035198) and are Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under Registration Number 204858.

You may check these details by visiting the FCA's website: <http://www.fca.org.uk/> or by contacting the FCA on 0845 606 9966. In the event of a complaint please read the procedure above.

### **Your insurer's Head Office**

The insurer's home state is the United Kingdom and its Head Office and registered address is: Plantation Place, 30 Fenchurch Street, London, EC3M 3BD, Tel: 020 7105 4000, Fax: 020 7105 4019. Registered in England No. 1761561  
[enquiries@qbe-europe.com](mailto:enquiries@qbe-europe.com)