

**Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited** 

# Transparency Report 2018 – updated

# Why we prepare a transparency report

Transparency is a key element underpinning the confidence of the world's capital markets in the audit process, and Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited will continue to play its part in creating a more accountable and robust accounting profession.

This transparency report is a public statement to clients, audit committees, regulators and the wider public of our commitment to provide quality assurance services to organisations all over the world. Our clients rightly expect us to have policies and procedures in place that mean the quality and level of service they receive is not only of a high standard but consistent, irrespective of where they operate.

This report, which complies with the requirements of the "Auditors Law of 2017" and the Article 13 of the Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities in EU, explains how the firm is run, how we ensure that we perform audits of the highest quality and describes the expertise, breadth and depth of our firm and of Moore Stephens International.

The report describes policies and procedures which are effective in the year of 2018.

The report was prepared and dated on 24 April 2019 and subsequently updated on 8 July 2019.

For Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited

Christos Christodoulou

Managing Director Limassol, 8 July 2019

## Our awards

#### **ACCA Platinum Approved Employer**

Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited has also been awarded Platinum Approved Employer Trainee Development status by ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) which is the highest level that an ACCA Approved Employer can achieve. It is an indicator to current and prospective trainees looking to train within an organisation that the firm has the highest standards of training and development.

# Legal structure and ownership

#### Legal structure

Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited is incorporated in Cyprus as a limited liability company under the provisions of the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap. 113, with a registration number HE203824. Our professional activities are conducted through the company.

#### **Ownership**

Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited is entirely owned by its members. A list of the members of the company is open to inspection at the registered office: Ariel Corner, 1st Floor, Office 102, 196 Arch. Makarios Avenue, 3030 Limassol, Cyprus.

#### Regulatory body affiliation

The firm's practice is regulated and reviewed by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC) whose aim is to help ICPAC member firms enhance the quality and efficiency of the services they provide to their clients by ensuring that the procedures and checks in place are consistent with the demands of the quality programmes and generally accepted best practice within the industry. Each partner/director is a member of CPA USA and ACCA in addition to ICPAC.

Our external audit is undertaken by Miltos Athanassiou FCA.

# Moore Stephens International



Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited is a member firm of Moore Stephens International Limited which is a global accounting and consulting network represented in102 countries with 30,126 staff worldwide.

Richard Moore

Chairman of Moore Stephens

International Limited

Moore Stephens International Limited member firms have a combined global revenue of \$3.06 billion. Membership of Moore Stephens International Limited is regulated by contractual agreement.

Moore Stephens International Limited's objective is to always be a top 10 network, through innovation, entrepreneurship and collaboration, enabling member firms to profitably grow and differentiate in both local and global markets.

- . A strategic plan developed by the member firms, led by the global board sets the goals for the network over the next three years. The key areas of focus are:
- a global growth strategy supported by a business plan bringing clear, defined and focused objectives;
- alignment of member firms with the same core values and quality obligations to include a programme of learning and development;
- increased value through collaboration, communication and transparency;
- a revised structure and governance to help deliver the goals.

The values of Moore Stephens International Limited are closely aligned with those of Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited and concentrate on being collaborative through working and growing together to identify and service client needs, pursuit of change and innovation to create new ways to meet client needs on a global scale, excellent communication in an open style, and respect for multi-cultural differences in doing values of trust through honesty and integrity which is at the heart of what Moore Stephens International stands for.

# Governance and management

#### Leadership

We are committed to a strong culture of excellence and ethics. Our partners set the tone in the business and inspire our people to commit to the highest standards of behaviour and performance. We continually evaluate developments in corporate governance and benchmark our performance against them.

#### Members of the board

- Executives
  - Christos Christodoulou
  - Christos Tsissios

#### Non-Executives

Richard Greiner

The company's rights and obligations, our governance framework, and the key responsibilities for the management of our business are set out in the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Management of our business

Management of the firm is the responsibility of the members of the board, delegated to its executive board members, and includes amongst other duties:

- ensuring that the firm operates within the company's governance framework formulating the firm's strategy and policies
- the profitable management of the firm
- the appointment, appraisal and (where necessary) the removal of staff, and determining their remuneration.

#### In the profession

We are committed to investing the time of our senior people in professional leadership positions. This ensures that our clients have access to excellent technical support and awareness of emerging issues, and that their interests are properly represented as public policy develops. Our partners and senior management are actively involved in various committees regarding the profession.

Specifically, we have representatives on various committees of ICPAC, our regulatory body.

- Christos Christodoulou Shipping working group
- Christos Tsissios Auditing Standards committee
- Haris Metaxas Limassol Paphos coordinating committee

# **Quality Control**

One of the pillars of our assurance strategy is to support partners and staff in the delivery of consistent high quality client service. Our rigorous quality control system is designed to ensure that the firm and its personnel comply with relevant professional standards as well as regulatory and legal requirements.

Our internal quality control system is aligned with the:

- Code of Ethics of International Standards Board for Accountants ("IESBA").
- International Standard on Auditing 220: Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information
- ISQC1: International Standard on Quality Control for Firms, which encompasses the following key elements, all of which are elaborated further on:
  - quality control policies and procedures
  - leadership responsibilities for quality
  - ethics and independence
  - human resources
  - acceptance and continuance of clients and engagements
  - engagement quality control review
  - monitoring.
- The requirements of Moore Stephens International.

#### Leadership responsibilities for quality

The overall responsibility for the firm's internal quality control system, lies with the firm's Board of Directors. The day-to- day responsibility for the implementation of this system and for monitoring risks and the effectiveness of controls is delegated to the two executive partners as appropriate. In accordance with the principles of ISQC1, the Board has appointed the Partner, Christos Tsissios, as Head of Assurance; he has responsibility for audit quality and for setting the assurance strategy.

#### **Ethical requirements**

Partners recognise that their behaviour is key to maintaining a strong ethical environment and culture. The Board has appointed Christos Christodoulou as the Partner responsible for Ethics.

We comply with the fundamental principles of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, which are Integrity,

Objectivity, Professional Competence and Due care, Confidentiality and professional behavior.

Internal controls that support our ethical environment, including independence compliance, are routinely checked as part of the firm's risk management procedures.

#### **Complaints and allegations**

Our firm has a policy pursuant to which any Partner or staff can report inappropriate business conduct or unethical behavior. Reporting is made to ethics partner, who will investigate and resolve the issue that has been raised. Our firm has procedures in place to protect individuals raising an issue since it enables anonymous reporting.

#### Information protection

Our firm is strongly committed to protecting confidential information, including personal data that we hold in process about our clients, employees or others.

Our policies and procedures include

- Access to engagement files restricted to those needed to have such an access.
- Securing hard copy files when they are not in use.
- Clear-desks policy, both at our offices and clients' premises.
- Remote access to our network via a secure virtual private network, or equivalent technology.

Our firm has launched the GDPR implementation programme, following a GDPR readiness assessment, since coming into force in May 2018. This programme, which is ongoing, is was designed around the action activities set by the readiness assessment report.

Our key areas of focus are:

- Updating our policies, agreements with clients, vendors and suppliers to reflect the requirements under GDPR.
- Reviewing our IT systems, policies and governance with a view to implement such systems designed to protect personal data in line with GDPR.
- Reviewing our third parties and their level of compliance with GDPR.

#### Independence

Maintaining the independence of member firms, audit teams and other professionals is critical to sustaining public confidence in the audit profession. Moore Stephens International Limited is committed to ensuring that its independence policies and procedures are robust and provide clients of member firms, other users of audit reports and the investment community with confidence that Moore Stephens International Limited member firms and their professionals are independent and objective.

In addition to our own independence practices, Moore Stephens International Limited

requires member firms to adopt policies and procedures that have been designed to safeguard independence on assurance engagements and identify circumstances that could pose a conflict of interest. The global independence policies and procedures are based on the IESBA Code of Ethics with supplements to govern compliance with our global independence and international relationship checking processes. Member firms are also required to adhere to their local regulatory requirements where more restrictive.

Independence policies and practices cover, amongst others the following:

- Personal and firm independence
   All partners and staff are required to complete an annual compliance confirmation,
   whereby they confirm their compliance with all aspects of the firms' independence
   policies including their own personal independence. These annual confirmations
  - are supplemented by engagement level independence declarations by all involved team members for each audit client.
- Non-audit services provided to assurance clients
   The policy is supported by a list of permitted services which provides guidance in respect of the application of the policy for providing non-audit services to audit clients. In this respect the firm has implemented safeguards to mitigate any independence threats arising from providing permitted non-audit services to audit clients.
- Long association

A rotation tracking process is followed that monitors compliance with the firms audit rotation policies for audit partners and managers.

Rotation of Key audit partners and senior staff members

The Firm's quality manual which is also aligned to the requirements of Article 17(7) of the Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities in EU provides that key audit partners responsible for carrying out a statutory audit shall cease their participation in the statutory audit of the audited entity not later than seven years, and to maximum of 10 years for managers, from the date of their appointment, followed by a three years cooling off period for both.

The appointed key audit partner has completed two years as an audit partner of the only PIE currently audited by the Firm

Global independence system and conflicts checking

Avoiding financial interests in an assurance client, or its affiliate, prohibited by the independence rules is a key objective in maintaining the independence of member firms and the client service engagement teams. Individuals and member firms are assisted to achieve this objective, through "Copernicus" - an automated tracking system that identifies restricted entities (issuers of publicly traded securities in which financial interests are prohibited or restricted). This information is made available to all personnel in all member firms.

Copernicus is designed to identify services provided by member firms to affiliated entities. The data is connected using the identity if the ultimate holding company ('UHC'), irrespective of whether or not the UHC is a client of a member firm. An entity becomes a client once a job for that entity is entered on to Copernicus. An entity may be entered as a UHC without being a client; other affiliated entities should be entered only if they are a client. It is not intended that Copernicus provide a comprehensive list of entities affiliated with a particular UHC but only those that are clients.

Copernicus provides with the minimum information necessary to assess the nature of client relationships for affiliated clients and then for you to make contact with relevant individual(s) to clarify and resolve any potential conflicts of service offering.

Copernicus was designed in compliance with the IESBA Code of Ethics. This Code is also the national code for many countries. The detailed requirements of all relevant code(s) should be taken into consideration when determining whether or not there is a potential conflict or service offering. Data concerning affiliated entities may be relevant even where a member firm does not act for the Ultimate Holding Company in any capacity.

# Acceptance and continuance of clients and engagements

Our firm has acceptance and continuance systems in place in all service areas to ensure that each client assignment is delivered to consistently high standards of professional and technical excellence.

Achieving professional excellence means accepting and retaining member firm clients that share Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited's objectives of quality and integrity. Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited's global client acceptance/continuance procedures integrate with member firm policies. The acceptance/continuance processes provide member firms with information to judge whether the entity meets or exceeds necessary standards of integrity and whether the member firm has the capacity to perform a high quality audit.

The acceptance procedure is part of the Moore Stephens Quality Manual and the Anti-Money Laundering Manual which is based on a template provided and approved by Moore Stephens International Limited and the requirements of the prevention and suppression of Money Laundering Activities Law of 2007(L188(I)/2007) as amended, respectively.

The firm's policies and procedures for the acceptance and continuance of client

relationships and specific engagements are designed to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that it will only undertake or continue relationships and engagements where:

- Having considered the integrity of the client the firm does not have information that would lead it to conclude that the client lacks integrity;
- The firm is competent and legally authorised to perform the engagement;
- The firm has the capabilities, time and resources to perform the engagement; and The firm and its relevant personnel comply with relevant ethical requirements.

Our audit engagements are categorised to drive appropriate risk management procedures. We only engage with clients where we have the necessary capacity, skills and expertise to meet client expectations and which will not prejudice our independence, objectivity or integrity.

A similar continuance procedure is required on an annual basis, or if there are any known changes in circumstances. Due diligence procedures are performed to all clients at continuance and the frequency is dependent on the risk rating of each client.

#### **Human resources**

#### People and Culture – audit team structures

We implement high levels of expertise within audit teams. Engagements are partner led, with substantial manager involvement throughout the audit process.

We set high benchmarks for recruiting trainees and throughout their induction and training programmes, the need for ethical behaviour and quality is reinforced. We undertake thorough appraisals and continuously carry out mentoring, professional, and personal development courses.

#### **Continued professional education**

We are committed to ensuring that our people have the skills and expertise necessary to provide the range of quality services and technical excellence required by our clients. All partners and staff are required to keep up to date with the firm's own risk management, ethical and independence requirements.

We have both mandatory and voluntary training requirements, which are actively monitored. Internally, we provide technical resources and support which can include electronic technical updates, training workshops, professional and personal development courses and access to technical teams and committees.

While the majority of technical training takes place within member firms, Moore Stephens International Limited makes a significant investment in on-going training for audit staff in all member firms in the global audit methodology and supporting technology, and in IFRS,

through its Train the Trainers (T3) programme and the Annual European Technical Conference.

In 2018 we continued to follow the "Approved Employer – Professional Development stream" awarded by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and the in Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC). We currently hold the platinum status of approved employer for both training and continues professional development, awarded by ACCA.

#### **Engagement performance**

#### Supporting robust audit delivery

Moore Stephens International Limited views audit quality as an essential element of our business. To that end, Moore Stephens International Limited provides resources to assist member firms in maintaining audit quality, including:

- an audit methodology, with supporting software (Caseware Audit International "CAI"), that is recommended to member firms globally
- policies and procedures contained in audit manuals that are benchmarked against international auditing, quality control, independence and ethics standards
- a comprehensive intranet service that includes up to date information for member firms on auditing, financial reporting, ethics and independence standards and guidance on applying them effectively.

Each year further investment is made in methodology development, technology, training, communications and guidance toward the continuous improvement of audit quality.

#### Supervision, review and consultation

We have a strong culture of consultation, supervision and review, which is embedded throughout the audit methodology.

Supervision of the audit, review of the completed work and coaching of the team by the engagement leaders and managers are key elements in maintaining audit quality. The engagement leader the manager and the quality review partner document heir review of the work done in CAI. CAI includes guidance and audit procedures that need to be performed in order to ensure that engagement teams have appropriately addressed all matters as required by ISAs. It also assists members of the team to track progress and follow up and resolve any pending points and issues, ensuring that all work is fully and completed and appropriately reviewed.

The engagement leader is responsible to ensure that the audit has been performed and documented as required and conclusions reached are appropriate by being "in the file" throughout the audit.

Consultation and support is given to engagement teams by the firm's experts. Policies are in place for access to experts both at firm and at global network level.

Where appropriate, reviews by a second partner and the Head of Assurance provide additional levels of expertise and quality management.

#### **Engagement quality review**

All audit clients that are Public Interest Entities (as defined by the Audit Law), as well as high profile engagements, are subject to an engagement quality review by a second partner.

#### **Engagement documentation**

Upon completion of an engagement the engagement team is required to assemble the audit file, which comprises of the electronic and hard copy paper file (which is limited to original documentation obtained during the audit) and archive these files within 60 days from the date that the audit report was issued.

An automated archiving process exists, which is initiated manually by the engagement leader, for the electronic file preventing any further amendments being made to it. View access to the archived file is restricted to the members of the engagement team and to the members of the engagement teams of subsequent year's audit.

Engagement files are retained for a period specified by law.

#### **Monitoring**

Internal audit inspections are carried out annually to assess the quality of completed audit work across various areas of activity and industry sectors. The reviews are risk focused and review teams are selected from outside of the department under review and in coordination with the other member firm in Cyprus.

In addition to our internal monitoring programme, as a member firm of Moore Stephens International Limited we are subject to the Quality Control Reviews (QCR) on a three years review cycles.

The QCR process includes an evaluation of policies and procedures of the member firm applicable to its assurance practice, benchmarking those policies and procedures against relevant policies and procedures of the international organisation. The team reviews financial statements, audit reports and engagement files and also the QCR Internal Monitoring Programme and ensures compliance with all aspects of ISQC 1 and ISAs.

#### **Moore Stephens International Limited quality control procedures**

In addition to our own quality control procedures, as a member firm of Moore Stephens International Limited, we are required to abide by a system of quality control that encompasses, at a minimum, the following standards issued by the standard setting boards of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), including:

- International Standard on Quality Control 1: Quality Control for Firms That Perform Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements
- International Standard on Auditing 220: Quality Control for Audits of Historical Financial Information
- IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Each member firm's system of quality control is designed to provide global and national management with reasonable assurance that audit engagements are conducted in accordance with applicable professional standards and global policies and procedures.

Member firms are required to have an effective internal inspection programme in place that meets the requirements of ISQC 1. Member firms are provided with templates to assist them in adopting their internal quality control programme. These templates include guidelines, work programmes, forms and examples of reports, all of which have been benchmarked against ISQC 1.

#### **Moore Stephens International Audit Review**

Each member firm is obligated to monitoring review of its quality control programme, referred to as the Quality Control Reviews programme (QCR), at least once every three years. The QCR process is designed to monitor member firm compliance with professional standards and the MSIL global audit policies and procedures which are ISAs and ISQC1 compliant. The QCR is conducted by independent and suitably qualified reviewers, adequately trained under the overall direction of the European Technical Director reporting to the European Technical Committee.

QCR teams review the conduct of audit work performed by each member firm. The review process includes an evaluation of policies and procedures of the member firm applicable to its assurance practice, benchmarking those policies and procedures against relevant policies and procedures of the international organisation. The inspection team reviews financial statements, audit reports and engagement work papers and files and also the internal QCR Monitoring Programmes and ensures compliance with all aspects of ISQC 1 and ISAs.

# Statement on the effectiveness of the firm's internal quality control system

On the basis of internal monitoring, Network and local reviews performed, the Board is satisfied that the firm's internal quality control system for Assurance is operating effectively. Any matters identified through the various monitoring and review processes are actioned and changes implemented as appropriate.

# **External Monitoring**

Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited has had its latest monitoring visit by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus (ICPAC) carried out by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) on 23 and 24 January 2018.

#### **Engagement with regulators**

Member firms are expected to maintain an open and constructive relationship with their national regulators, Cyprus Public Audit Oversight Board. This is consistent with our global policy of embracing external oversight, along with our support of a balanced public reporting of external inspection programmes.

## **Financial Information**

#### Fees per service line

SERVICE	€000
Audit of PIEs	41
Audit of other entities	766
Non Audit services of PIEs	2
Other non-audit services	527
Total	1.336

#### **Partner remuneration**

The executive Partners receive a base salary per year based on seniority. Additionally, partners receive dividends according to their share interest in the company.

#### **Public interest entities**

During 2018, the firm undertook statutory audits for the following public interest entity:

• American Hellenic Hull Insurance Company Limited

### Firms located in EU/EEA member states that performed statutory audits and were members of MSIL during the period 1/1/18-31/12/18

Austria Inter Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH

Austria Moore Stephens Advisa Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH

Austria Moore Stephens SSK

Austria Moore Stephens Alpen-Adria Wirtschaftsprüfungs GmbH

Austria Moore Stephens Interaudit Wirtschaftsprüfung GmbH

Austria Moore Stephens Schwarz Kallinger Zwettler
Austria Moore Stephens City Treuhand GmbH
Austria Moore Stephens Kroiss & Partner
Austria FISCHER Steuerberatung GmbH

Belgium Moore Stephens Belgium

Bulgaria Moore Stephens Bulgaria - Audit OOD

Channel Islands Moore Stephens (Guernsey)
Channel Islands Moore Stephens (Jersey)
Croatia Moore Stephens Audit Zagreb
Croatia Moore Stephens Revidens Croatia
Cyprus Moore Stephens (Limassol) Limited

Cyprus Moore Stephens (Nicosia)
Czech Republic Moore Stephens, s.r.o.

Denmark Moore Stephens Danmark (Brandt)

Denmark Moore Stephens Danmark (Buus Jensen)

Finland Moore Stephens Rewinet OY

France Coffra

Germany Moore Stephens Turnbull & Irrgang GmbH

Germany S&P GmbH

Germany Mader & Peters GmbH

Germany Moore Stephens Westfalen AG

Germany Moore Stephens Rhein-Emscher GmbH

Germany Moore Stephens Frankfurt AG

Germany Peters & Partner GmbH

Germany Moore Stephens Karlsruhe GmbH
Germany Moore Stephens Ludewig AG
Germany Moore Stephens Koblenz GmbH

Germany Moore Stephens Treuhand Kurpfalz GmbH

Germany Moore Stephens KPWT AG

Germany BW Partner

Germany Moore Stephens Ulm GmbH

Gibraltar Moore Stephens Limited, Gibraltar

Greece Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants S.A.

Hungary Moore Stephens Wagner KFT

Hungary Moore Stephens Hunaudit 2000 KFT
Hungary Moore Stephens Hezicomp KFT
Hungary Moore Stephens K-E-S Audit
Ireland Moore Stephens (Dublin)

Ireland Moore Stephens Patrick McNamara

Isle of Man Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants (Douglas)

Italy Reviprof S.p.A.

Italy Moore Stephens Sicilia

ItalyAxis S.r.l.ItalyBureau PlattnerItalyDF Audit S.p.A.

Latvia Moore Stephens (Riga) Limited
Lithuania Moore Stephens Vilnius UAB
Luxembourg Moore Stephens Audit S.A.
Malta Moore Stephens (Birkirkara)

Moldova Moore Stephens KSC
Netherlands Moore Stephens MTH B.V.

Netherlands Moore Stephens Witlox Van den Boomen B.V.

Netherlands DRV Accountants & Adviseurs

Norway Moore Stephens DA

Poland Moore Stephens Central Audit Sp. z o. o.
Portugal Moore Stephens & Associados SROC SA

Romania Moore Stephens KSC

Romania Audit One SRL Slovakia BDR, spol. s r.o.

Spain Moore Stephens Hispania, S.L.

Spain Moore Stephens AMS, S.L.

Spain Moore Stephens Hispania, S.L.

Spain Moore Stephens Fidelitas Auditores, S.L.

Spain Moore Stephens JMC, S.L.

Spain Moore Stephens Ibergrup, S.A.P.

Spain Moore Stephens LP, S.L.
Sweden Moore Stephens KLN AB
Sweden Moore Stephens Ranby AB
Sweden Moore Stephens Allegretto AB
Sweden Moore Stephens Malmö AB

United Kingdom Mitten Clarke

United Kingdom Moore Stephens (Bath)
United Kingdom Moore Stephens (South) LLP
United Kingdom Moore Stephens (North West) LLP
United Kingdom Moore Stephens (Scarborough)
United Kingdom Moore Stephens (NI) LLP

United Kingdom Scott-Moncrieff

United Kingdom Moore Stephens (Northern Home Counties)

United Kingdom Moore Stephens LLP
United Kingdom MA Partners LLP

United Kingdom Moore Stephens (Stoke on Trent)
United Kingdom Moore Stephens (East Midlands)

#### Total statutory audit fee turnover as at 31/12/18 in Euros €180.61m

# Our office

#### **Limassol Office**

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