



# UK Tax Strategy

## Introduction

This Tax Strategy statement applies to the companies of Telefónica S.A. in the UK. It covers:

- Telefonica O2 Holdings Limited and its subsidiary
- Other Sub-groups as referred to at the end of the statement

Telefónica in the UK is a leading digital communications business. Our business generates substantial amounts of direct and indirect taxes including taxes such as corporation tax, 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.

## Telefonica O2 Holdings Limited

### Roles and responsibilities

Telefónica operates a number of brands in the UK within the VMED O2 UK Limited joint venture which include O2, giffgaff and Weve.

Telefonica O2 Holdings Limited only has one subsidiary with more than 50% shareholding, named mmO2 Limited.

The Board of Directors of Telefonica O2 Holdings Limited and the Board of Directors of the head company of each Sub-group listed at the end of this statement are responsible for the tax strategy.

### Resource management

The tax team within the Telefonica UK Limited finance department is responsible for managing the taxes of all of the Telefónica 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 policy of Telefonica O2 Holdings, mmO2 Limited, and the other Sub-group companies noted at the end of this statement:

**Good Governance** – We manage our tax affairs in accordance with our framework and processes of corporate governance of the Group. The Board of Directors of the head company of each Sub-Group 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 Telefónica S.A. in Spain. 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 returns 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 Telefónica

We are part of the wider Telefónica S.A. group. 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.

As part of a multi-national group we rely on Telefónica S.A. to provide us with key services such as technology, finance and management services.

## Group companies

The Boards of Directors of the top company of each of the following Sub-groups are ultimately responsible for the tax strategy of the relevant Sub-group. The above tax strategy applies equally to them.

- 1) O2 (Europe) Ltd and its subsidiaries: Telefonica Germany Holdings Limited, O2 (UK) Limited, O2 International Holdings Limited, O2 Pine Limited, O2 Willow Limited, Telefonica O2 UK Limited, Telefonica UK Holdings Limited and The Link Stores Limited.
- 2) Telefonica Digital Limited
- 3) Wayra UK Limited and its subsidiary Wayra Social Ventures Limited.
- 4) O2 Worldwide Limited
- 5) Telefonica Insurance UK branch
- 6) O2 Oak Limited

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 of Telefonica O2 Holdings Limited on 16 September 2022 and will be reviewed annually.