



Company & corporate

We handle the legal machinery behind your company — incorporation, shareholders' agreements, share sales and the deal that lets you exit — so you spend your time running the business, not the paperwork.

ai-law.co.uk

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Most corporate problems are cheaper to prevent than to litigate.

We advise companies and their founders on corporate law: how a business is owned, governed, funded and eventually sold. We draft shareholders' and founders' agreements, structure and incorporate companies, run share purchase agreements and M&A deals, advise directors on their duties, and set up share schemes.

A clear shareholders' agreement settles who decides what, what happens when someone leaves, and how a deadlock is broken — before it becomes a dispute. We write these documents to be read and used, not filed and forgotten.

We read everything first, so the conversation starts at strategy rather than admin. When you instruct us you get a tailored fee quote, and advice in plain English about the commercial trade-offs — not just the law.

Who we act for

Founders and early-stage teams

SMEs and owner-managed businesses

Investors, lenders and borrowers

Overseas businesses with UK dealings

Charities, CICs and social enterprises

What to expect

01

A tailored fee quote when you instruct us — hourly rates, an estimate, fixed or staged fees, or a retainer

02

Advising business owners, shareholders, investors and management teams

03

A tidy closing pack, so the position is clear and provable later

Matters we handle

Shareholders' agreements

The rulebook for how owners run and exit a company: decision rights, dividend policy, transfer restrictions, drag-along and tag-along, and deadlock resolution — paired with tailored articles of association.

Founders' agreements & equity splits

For early-stage teams: who owns what, vesting and good-leaver/bad-leaver terms, IP assignment into the company, and roles. It protects the venture if a co-founder leaves in year one.

Company structuring & incorporation

The right structure — single company, group, holding and trading split, or subsidiary — with share classes that match how you want to raise and reward, and Companies House handled from day one.

Share purchase agreements & M&A

Buying or selling a business or shares: heads of terms, due diligence, the SPA itself, warranties, indemnities and disclosure, through to completion and post-deal filings.

Selling your business

Acting for owners exiting through a trade sale or management buyout — preparing the company, negotiating price and earn-out terms, and managing warranties so the deal closes cleanly and you get paid.

Directors' duties & governance

Practical advice on the statutory duties in sections 171 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006, conflicts, board procedure and personal exposure — especially around distressed trading.

Startup & scale-up advice

Legal support for founders, scoped to the stage you are at: incorporation, contractor and employee terms, IP protection, investor-ready documents and EMI option schemes.

Share schemes & EMI options

EIS/SEIS-friendly structures and tax-advantaged EMI option schemes to recruit and retain talent, with the option agreements and board approvals to match.

Charity & social enterprise

Setting up charitable companies and CICs, advising trustees on their duties and conflicts, and getting governing documents right for the Charity Commission.

Services in this area

Startups & structuring

The right structure, the right documents and a shareholders' agreement that says what happens when things go wrong — set up once, properly, before the business is worth arguing over.

- Shareholders' agreements & articles
- Company & group structures
- Founder & investor terms
- Share options (EMI)
- Director duties & governance
- Companies House compliance

Commercial contracts

The agreements your business runs on — terms of business, supply and services, agency, distribution, franchising and licensing — drafted to be enforceable, and negotiated to protect your margin.

- Terms of business
- Supply & services agreements
- Agency, distribution & franchising
- NDAs & heads of terms
- Licensing
- Contract disputes

Lending & securitisation

For lenders and borrowers: facility agreements, security packages, guarantees and the registrations that make them enforceable. Commercial, property-backed and private lending, done to bank standard.

- Facility agreements
- Security packages
- Guarantees & indemnities
- Intercreditor & subordination
- Registration & perfection
- Enforcement & recovery

Mergers & acquisitions

Buying, selling or merging a business. Structure, due diligence, warranties and the negotiation that decides what the price really is — run to a timetable.

- Share & asset sales
- Due diligence
- Warranties & indemnities
- Pricing mechanisms
- Management buy-outs
- Post-completion

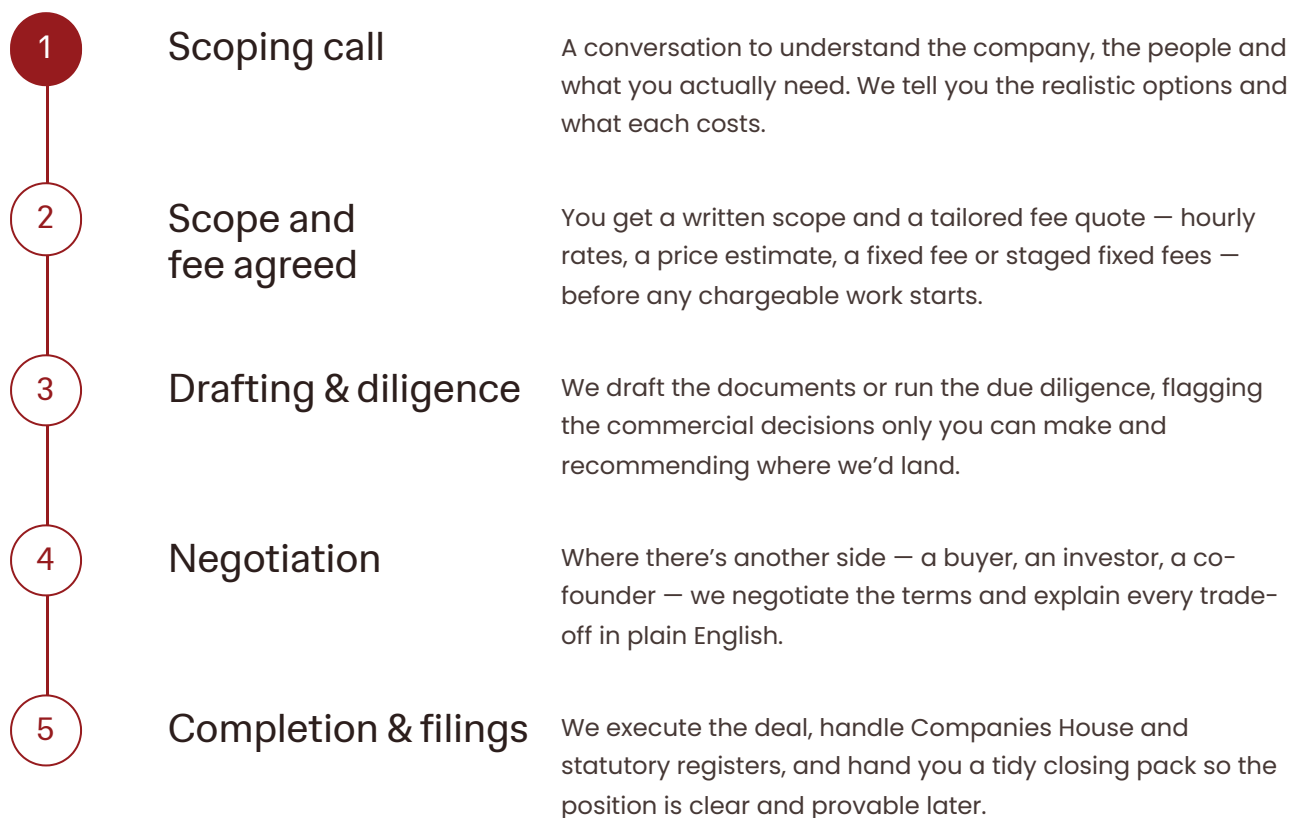
Charity law

Structures, governance, trustee duties and the Charity Commission — for charities, trustees, founders and faith-based organisations that need commercial-grade advice.

- Formation & registration
- Governance & trustee duties
- Restructures & mergers
- Trading & commercial
- Regulatory & inquiries
- Public law

Each service has its own page, with the questions clients ask most, at ai-law.co.uk/corporate.

A clear path, start to finish.



Good to know

Articles are not enough

without a shareholders' agreement, the Companies Act 2006 and the articles fill the gaps — and those defaults rarely reflect what the founders intended.

Seven duties

a director owes the company the general duties in sections 171 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006, which matter most when it is in financial difficulty.

Shares or assets

sellers usually prefer a share sale and buyers often an asset sale; tax usually decides it, so we work with your accountant from the outset.

21 days

to register a charge a company creates at Companies House — miss it and the security is void against a liquidator and other creditors.

No surprises on the invoice.

Transactional and advisory work — shareholders' agreements, share sales, acquisitions — is charged at our hourly rates, or for a fixed fee, staged fixed fees or a price estimate agreed in writing before chargeable work starts. Our published company fees are below.

Company planning

Setting up a UK limited entity	£144 incl. VAT (£120 plus VAT)
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UK service address and mail forwarding	£240 incl. VAT (£200 plus VAT) per year
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Maintaining statutory books Subject to annual filing.	£420 incl. VAT (£350 plus VAT) per year
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Corporate nominee service On request.	£480 incl. VAT (£400 plus VAT) per year
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Bespoke retainers

Bespoke retainer agreements for clients who require ongoing legal support — ideal for SMEs and high-value clients who need comprehensive, priority service across commercial areas.

- A fixed monthly retainer gives you access to ongoing legal support
- Covers a wide range of commercial areas, from contracts to acquisitions
- Top-ups only requested if work exceeds your monthly retainer
- Fast response times and direct access to the legal team
- We develop a deep understanding of your business to offer tailored advice

All prices exclude VAT (currently 20%) and disbursements such as Companies House filing fees, which are charged at cost and flagged in advance.

Hourly rates range from £145 to £350 plus VAT, depending on the nature of the case and seniority of the person acting.

Our published fees, with the stages, timescales and disbursements for each, are at ai-law.co.uk/pricing. We always agree your fee with you in writing first.

Relationships that last.

“ Having previously used multiple solicitors across various matters, once we approached Ai Law we quickly established that they were experts in most areas of law. We subsequently gave the firm all of our business exclusively, and we haven't looked back.

Ai Law client

Ai Law are a professional service provider that really knows what they are doing. They are an asset to our business.

Ai Law client

These guys are constantly delivering their services. Donna is always on the top of all things and her team is very efficient. I have used their services before and again, they have not disappointed. I am certain I will use these guys again.

Lukasz, ReviewSolicitors, January 2026

Recognition



Legal Team of the Year 2025 (joint winner)

Sunday Express Construction and Property Awards — in Property and Construction

Royal Television Society Awards North West

Sponsor, 2024 and 2025

Rated 4.9 out of 5 from 111 reviews on ReviewSolicitors

reviewsolicitors.co.uk, October 2026



Talk to us

Tell us what you need today. We respond quickly to enquiries and quote requests.

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Ask **Ai Guy**[®], any time. Describe your situation in plain English. Ai Guy, our AI assistant, gives general information about the law of England and Wales and points you to the right solicitor. ai-law.co.uk/ask



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