

Commercial Law



ATHERTON
GODFREY

s o l i c i t o r s



All the support you need

Because good legal support is so crucial to business success, it is important to have total confidence in the quality of the advice and representation you receive.

The Commercial team at Atherton Godfrey is highly experienced in advising clients at all stages of the business spectrum, from start-ups to large well-established enterprises. We manage transactions for a wide range of sole traders, partnerships and limited companies, and we like to build strong and ongoing partnerships with our clients.

Our expert team ensures that even the most complex transactions run smoothly. We deal with the purchase, sale or leasing of all types of commercial property, including shops, offices, factories and farmland. The acquisition and sale of land for property development is a particular area of expertise.

Most of our commercial legal work is involved with helping clients who are:

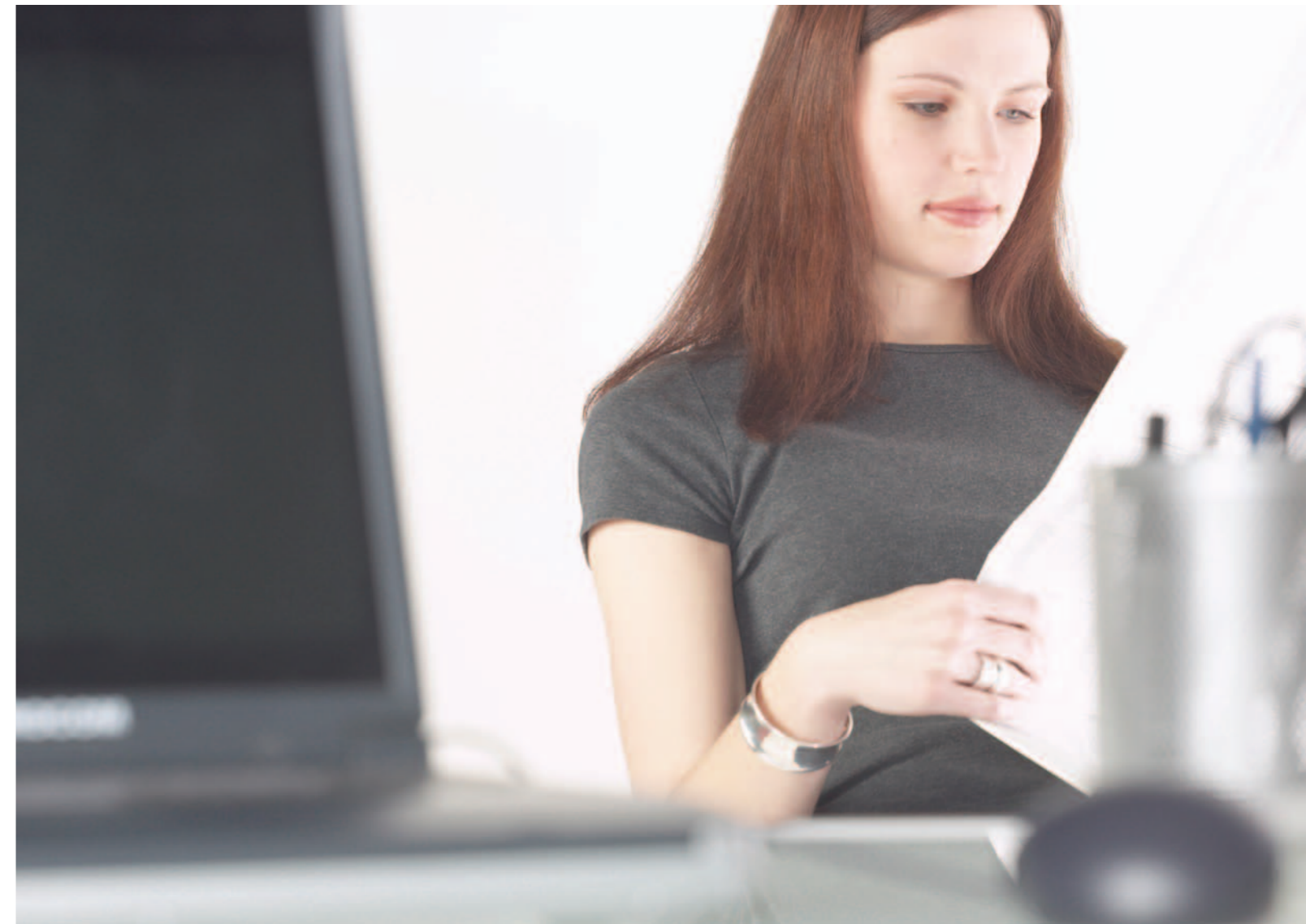
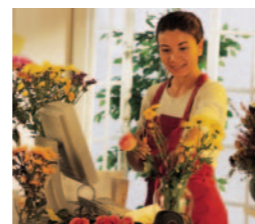
- buying a business or business asset such as land or a building
- selling a business or business asset
- running a business and who need legal advice on any aspect of their business affairs

We understand the pressures of business and appreciate that, at times, it is critical for you to have quick access to important legal advice. For that reason we aim to ensure there are always legally qualified members of staff available to give advice and take legal instructions during office hours.

We always aim to return telephone calls promptly and answer emails as quickly as possible.

Although it is not always possible to predict precisely how much work a particular commercial transaction will involve, we are normally able to give a written estimate of the legal cost at the outset.

For further information or to discuss a particular project, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Services for commercial clients

We offer an extensive range of legal services for our commercial clients and are happy to provide written estimates of fees.

For builders and developers

- Acquisition of development land
- Sale of residential plots
- Associated commercial agreements concerned with planning consent and site infrastructure
- Diversion of footpaths and road closures
- Demolition licences
- Building licences
- NHBC documentation
- Completion of security documentation

Commercial premises

- Acquisition of retail offices and industrial premises
- Leases

Commercial Agreements

- Terms and conditions
- Agreements for the sale and hire of goods and services
- Partnership agreements
- Agent agreements
- Franchise agreements
- Director and shareholder agreements

Other commercial services

- Business transfers
- Purchase and sale of businesses (incorporated or unincorporated)

How we have helped

Even relatively straightforward transactions involve complex negotiations and documentation. The following case studies outline what can be involved.

CASE STUDY 1

A family business

A married couple instruct Atherton Godfrey's Commercial team to oversee the purchase of a grocery business operating from premises which are held under a lease with nine years left to run.

The contract stating the sale terms was negotiated with the seller's solicitor. It contained all the necessary provisions relating to VAT, fixtures and fittings, stock, employees and liability warranties. The terms of the lease were checked and the landlord's consent to the lease assignment obtained. A transfer of the goodwill to the buyers was prepared and completed.

The business prospered and Atherton Godfrey helped the owners to obtain an off-licence for part of the store.

Subsequently, the owners' son and daughter in law became partners in the business and a partnership agreement was drawn up, which included provisions relating to the eventual retirement of the original owners.

CASE STUDY 2

A business sale

A chemical manufacturing company with 20 employees instructs Atherton Godfrey to handle the merging of the business with a larger competitor. Some redundancies will be necessary in both companies.

A merger agreement was negotiated containing the agreed terms and warranties, and including particular provision for liability for redundancy payments. At the same time, a service contract for our client's directors was drawn up along with a directors' and shareholders' agreement governing the relationship between the parties running the merged company.

The transaction also involved the sale of the lease of the client company's premises, and renegotiation of bank security arrangements.

Atherton Godfrey provides all the support you need on legal matters

- Commercial law • Clinical negligence
- Employment law • Family law • Family mediation
- Personal injury • Residential property



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