

Unlocking Northern Ireland

2017



Unlock Northern Ireland

Expanding into new international markets can be challenging due to the many rules and regulations to consider and resolve. Our 'Unlock Northern Ireland' service can provide expert advice and insight to support you every step of the way.

From helping you understand the benefits of a devolved rate of corporation tax (expected to be 12.5% or lower), to setting up a branch or subsidiary, we are committed to providing pragmatic and timely advice that allows you to focus on achieving your business goals. International expansion is an important step, but with a dedicated international business adviser, who takes time to understand your business and customise the specific services you require, you'll know you have the support to manage the risks and maximise the potential a new market offers your business.

Our advisers can help at every stage of your company's growth cycle from starting-up, raising venture funding, listing on a global exchange, acquiring or merging with another company, or using Northern Ireland as a base to expand into other markets which means that whatever the challenge, we're at your side.

Our services include:



Company set up:

- determining the appropriate corporate structure;
- company registration;
- intellectual property advice; and
- help with opening a UK bank account.



Audit and assurance:

- statutory and non-statutory audits;
- new GAAP conversions;
- financial reporting advisory;
- international financial reporting standards advisory; and
- royalty/contract assurance.



Taxation services:

- corporate and international taxes;
- indirect taxes;
- transfer pricing;
- personal taxation advice;
- stock options and repatriation of funds; and
- advice on 12.5% Northern Ireland Corporation Tax (NICT).



Business risk services:

- advice on local governance structure;
- internal audit of key financial systems;
- cyber security testing and advice;
- business continuity planning;
- process improvement reviews; and
- value for money assignments.



Employment issues:

- employer solutions;
- help with work permits and visas;
- pensions and benefits; and
- global mobility.



Funding your business:

- advice on debt or equity funding;
- listing on the London Stock Exchange; and
- mergers and acquisitions.



Back office services:

- fixed fee book keeping for start-ups;
- payroll and other HR services;
- fully outsourced solutions; and
- financial reporting and accounting services.



Business growth support

- expert, tailored support to help you grow your business;
- market assessment and competitor analysis;
- market entry strategy; and
- introductions to key business communities.

Why choose Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland is an integral part of the United Kingdom and, outside of London, is the leading UK region for attracting inward investment. Ideally situated between mainland Europe and the US, Northern Ireland has a superb infrastructure, competitive costs and an educated work force.

Almost 80% of new inward investors to Northern Ireland have chosen to reinvest here. Furthermore, a devolved corporate tax rate of 12.5% could apply from April 2018 making Northern

Ireland the most attractive proposition in Western Europe based on a combination of talent, technology, tax and track-record.

Skilled workforce

- a workforce that is multi-skilled and work-ready;
- almost 50% of the population is under 35 years of age;
- Northern Ireland pupils are consistently the top performing in the UK at GCSE and A-Level;
- over 75% of high school graduates go onto further and higher education; and
- government-industry and academia work closely to deliver training programmes to meet industry needs.

Track record

- leading UK region for attracting inward investment;
- Belfast is the world's top destination city for financial services technologies investments; and
- world class clusters in a variety of sectors – software development, financial services and legal outsourcing.

Business friendly environment

- at the centre of the world's time zones;
- a 12.5% rate of corporation tax from April 2018; and
- Belfast named the world's most business friendly city of its size.

Cost efficient location

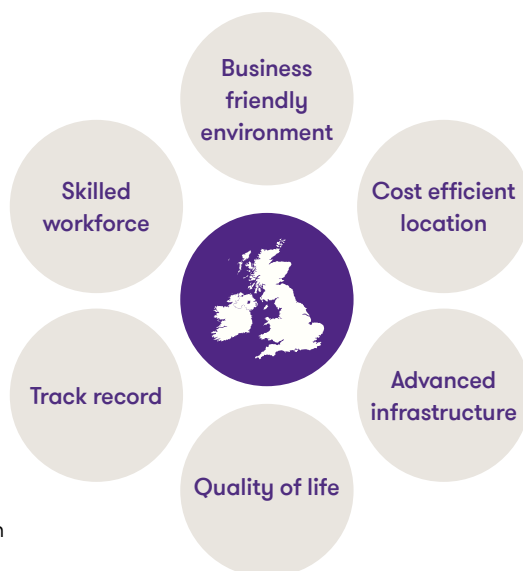
- low attrition – labour turnover rates are amongst the lowest in Europe;
- operating costs up to 50% below London and Dublin;
- salary costs are lower than the rest of the UK;
- prime office rents are among the lowest in Western Europe;
- the overall tax burden is the lowest of all major European economies; and
- telecoms cost are among the most competitive in the world.

Advance infrastructure

- high capacity, low-latency transatlantic cable system providing connectivity between Northern Ireland and North America;
- services up to 100G per wavelength;
- protected services offering 99.999% availability;
- onward connectivity to GB and Europe together with alternative diverse routes across the Atlantic; and
- fully digital, fully fiber optic communications network.

Quality of life

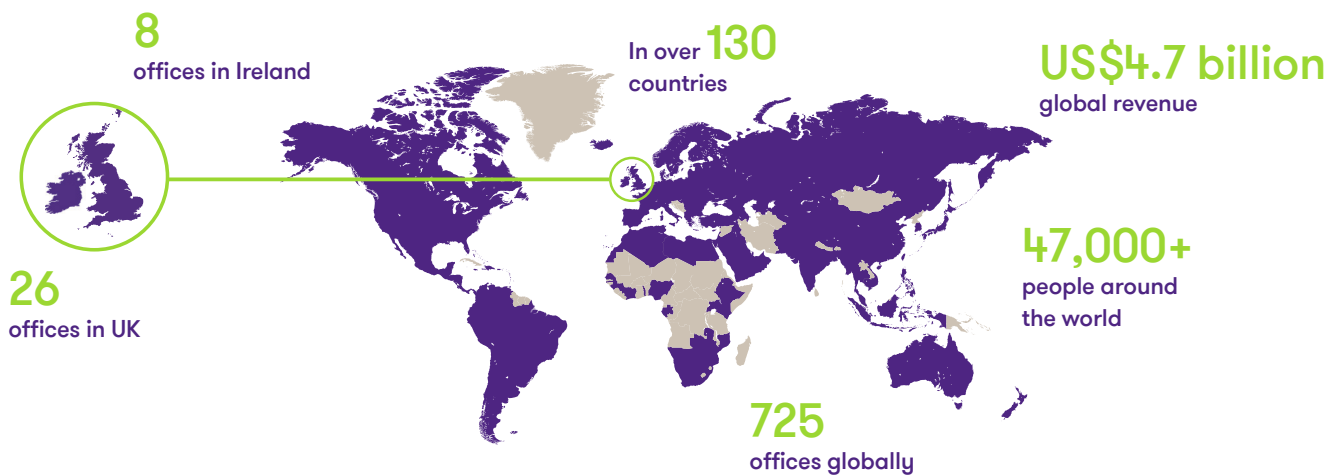
- an excellent education system, a world class health care service and very affordable property;
- Northern Ireland is renowned for its work ethic, but it places equal emphasis on the friendliness of the people and the quality of life.



Grant Thornton – A truly global organisation

Grant Thornton is one of the world's leading organisations of independent assurance, tax and advisory firms. Wherever you choose to do business, you want access to people with the best ideas and critical thinking that will enable you to grow your business at home and abroad.

To ensure continuity of service we have 40 international business centres (IBC) led by experts from around the world, that work together to provide and coordinate the gateway to the resources of Grant Thornton.



Contact



Peter Legge
Partner, Tax
T +44 (0)28 9587 1081
E peter.legge@ie.gt.com

Over 1,000 people operating from offices in Belfast, Dublin, Cork, Galway, Kildare, Limerick and Longford.



www.grantthornttonni.com



#GTtax



Grant Thornton (NI) LLP



Grant Thornton
An instinct for growth™

grantthornttonni.com

© 2017 Grant Thornton (NI) LLP. All rights reserved.

'Grant Thornton' refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL) and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. This publication has been prepared only as a guide. No responsibility can be accepted by us for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material in this publication.