

NetScout Group UK Tax Strategy

Background

NetScout® is a multinational organization headquartered in the United States with global operations in over 32 countries. NetScout is dedicated to assuring digital business services against disruptions in availability, performance and security. This allows the connected world to run smoothly and safely, as NetScout can solve network performance and security problems. NetScout's approach allows organizations to transform the way they plan, deliver, integrate, test and deploy services and applications through the combination of patented smart data technology with smart analytics.

In the United Kingdom, NetScout has six companies, namely the below:

- NetScout Systems (UK) Limited;
- Psytechnics Limited;
- NetScout AC (UK) Limited;
- NetScout Systems Holdings Limited;
- Arbor Networks UK Limited; and
- Cragen Limited.

The tax strategy has been published for the UK companies in the NetScout group in accordance with paragraph 19(2), Schedule 19 of Finance Act of 2016 for the fiscal year ended 31 March 2020. The tax strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

NetScout's Approach to Managing Tax Risks and Governance Arrangements

NetScout is committed to maintaining trust in society. As such, NetScout has appropriate governance arrangements in place to ensure risks facing the business are properly identified and managed, including tax risks. NetScout's governance arrangements include supervision by the Board of Directors and the Audit committee, who management reports to on a quarterly basis. The Board of Directors has a high level of involvement, with management ensuring that all major transactions are communicated to the Board and approved accordingly.

The worldwide tax affairs are monitored by NetScout's global tax team based in the US. The global tax team is responsible for ensuring processes and controls in relation to tax affairs are frequently tested, assessed and monitored to ensure ongoing operation design and effectiveness. NetScout's management in other operating jurisdictions are supported by external tax advisors who assist NetScout in satisfying mandatory compliance requirements.

The tax affairs of the UK companies are managed by the tax function in the US. The tax function in the US authorizes the UK tax filings and receives additional support from external advisors to ensure NetScout meets appropriate disclosure obligations.

NetScout's Attitude Towards Tax Planning

NetScout's approach towards tax planning is aligned with the values of the business from both a global and UK perspective; and adhering to OECD's principles, for example, on transfer pricing. NetScout seeks to balance stakeholder interests, maintain the trust of consumers and wider stakeholders in society and therefore, would only undertake transactions if there are valid and ethically sound commercial drivers. The group continues to not engage in aggressive tax planning and does not participate in artificial transactions for which the sole purpose would be to obtain a tax advantage.

NetScout engages with external tax advisors for any material or unusual transactions to ensure that any tax outcomes are well understood by management to make informed decisions which uphold the group's business conduct guidelines.

NetScout's Acceptable Level of Tax Risks

NetScout has a low tax risk appetite and accordingly reflects this in the management of the group's tax affairs. NetScout considers several areas of the business when analyzing tax risks such as operational, financial and reputational impact. The risk averse corporate culture supports NetScout's decision not to accept risk that would be considered high from both a global and UK perspective. The CEO, as well as other members of senior leadership, establish the tone for the entire organization by modelling appropriate and ethical behaviors which encompass NetScout's values.

NetScout's Relationship with HMRC

NetScout acts with honesty and transparency when engaging with all tax authorities, including HMRC, and promptly discloses legally required information to taxing authorities. The NetScout UK group does not have a customer relationship manager. Notwithstanding this, NetScout is committed to a proactive attitude in contacting HMRC and engaging in dialogue as appropriate. NetScout takes the initiative to fully understand the tax matters affecting the business and where appropriate seeks the advice of external advisors to clarify the group's understanding of the legislation and to correspond with HMRC.

For Tax Year 3/31/2020

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