

Each structure below has different legal, taxation, statutory and compliance regulations. Please be in contact when deciding - we are happy to help you get started or get better and help you decipher the varying opportunities and limitations.

#### **Sole Trader**

A sole trader is the simplest form of business organisation.

There is a minimal amount of legislation to comply with compared to other business structures. However, unlimited liability means that the sole trader is personally liable for the debts of the business and all the profits - you pay tax on them all!

#### **Partnerships**

A Partnership is also a popular and often misunderstood type of business structure.

Relatively inexpensive to establish, it combines the labour, expertise, and resources of the partners: including dollars and potential capital.

Ensure you have a good agreement as disputes and break ups are common

It is not a separate legal entity - the partners are.

#### **Companies**

Companies are a popular form of business organisation and again readily misused.

They can have significant financial and legal advantages, but are also closely regulated and involve a number of formalities.

Shareholders may have limited liability and they can be formed by one person.

However, note they tend to be more expensive to set up and maintain than the others

#### **Trust**

A trust has significant advantages, particularly when combined with a company. However, trusts are subject to an ancient body of law and can become relatively complex. We can help you work through it and understand it.

#### **Joint Venture**

A joint venture is the relationship which exists between parties carrying on a commercial undertaking together for commercial gain.

#### **Business Name**

Note that a 'business', irrespective of its structure typically needs to register the name under which it carries on business.