



# Group Tax Strategy

March 2025

## **Our approach to risk management and governance arrangements**

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Our Chief Financial Officer has overall responsibility for tax governance and strategy with oversight from the Board and the Audit Committee.

Our tax strategy is supported by a detailed internal Group Tax Policy, together with a framework of internal systems and controls which govern the commercial operations of Glas Cymru Holdings and its subsidiaries (the Group). Our Head of Tax is responsible for the day-to-day application of the tax strategy and the management of the Group's tax affairs. Our Head of Tax works closely with our Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance. All material tax issues, risks and developments are regularly communicated to the Audit Committee.

Our tax team comprises a small group of professionals with extensive experience of tax in the water sector. This expertise is supplemented by the use of reputable external advisers where required.

### **Our approach to tax planning and tax risk**

All our group companies are UK tax resident and subject to UK corporation tax on their profits. We do not use tax havens for tax avoidance purposes, or to take advantage of the secrecy that many such jurisdictions provide for transactions recorded within them.

Our focus is on compliance; ensuring that all taxes are correctly calculated, accurately reported and paid when due.

We do not engage in artificial arrangements with no commercial purpose, or transactions which are directed at exploiting tax legislation in order to reduce the tax we pay. We comply with the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law.

Tax risks are held within the Group's risk register and are updated regularly.

Our key tax risks principally arise from business developments and changes to tax legislation which may result in unforeseen tax implications. Where possible we seek to mitigate tax risk so that residual risk is minimal.

Our tax team is involved in all significant business developments enabling a full assessment of the tax implications to be made. We seek input from reputable external advisers where the tax implications are still unclear. In cases where residual uncertainty remains, we liaise with HMRC to gain clarity.

Our tax team participates in a number of water industry tax forums. The team receives regular technical updates from our professional advisers and from our periodic meetings with HMRC. This ensures that the team is kept informed of all relevant developments in tax law, enabling them to develop appropriate systems and controls to address legislative changes.

We actively contribute to the UK tax policy making process by participating in Government consultations.

### **Our relationship with HMRC**

We are committed to an open, transparent relationship with HMRC. Our policy is to fully disclose any issues or errors as they arise, and seek to resolve them as soon as practicable.

We meet HMRC annually to formally discuss our business plans and developments, together with relevant changes to tax legislation.

The Group has been classified as low risk by HMRC from the inception of the Business Risk Review process in 2009. This was reviewed and reaffirmed by HMRC in the most recent business risk review which took place during the year ending 31 March 2025.

### **Tax reliefs and incentives**

Our Group has no shareholders and is run solely for the benefit of our customers. We therefore seek to utilise available tax reliefs and incentives put in place by the Government in order to maximise funds available to benefit our customers.

The Group invests heavily in capital expenditure, for example treatment works and our network of pipes and pumping stations, to continually improve the service we provide to our customers. We are therefore able to take advantage of tax reliefs which aim to stimulate this type of investment. A significant proportion of this capital

expenditure can be deducted in calculating the Group's taxable profit. We are also able to deduct interest costs incurred to fund this capital investment. This effectively delays corporation tax payments to future periods. Our customers therefore also benefit from cheaper bills.

The Government's Research & Development (R&D) Expenditure Credit regime incentivises companies to increase their investment in R&D. The Group invests continually in R&D and claims tax credits under this regime.

### **Transparency**

We understand the value of insightful financial reporting to our customers, investors and other stakeholders. Taxation is an area which can be difficult to understand. We therefore seek to provide enhanced disclosures in order to give a clear and balanced view of our tax affairs.

### **Contribution**

The Group is subject to a range of taxes and duties, including corporation tax, business rates, environmental taxes, employment taxes, National Insurance, VAT, fuel duty and licences. The Group thus makes a significant contribution to public finances, as well as employing nearly 3,800 people and playing an important role in the regional economy.

*We regard the publication of our group tax strategy as complying with our duty under paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 19 Finance Act 2016 in the current financial year of 31 March 2025.*

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