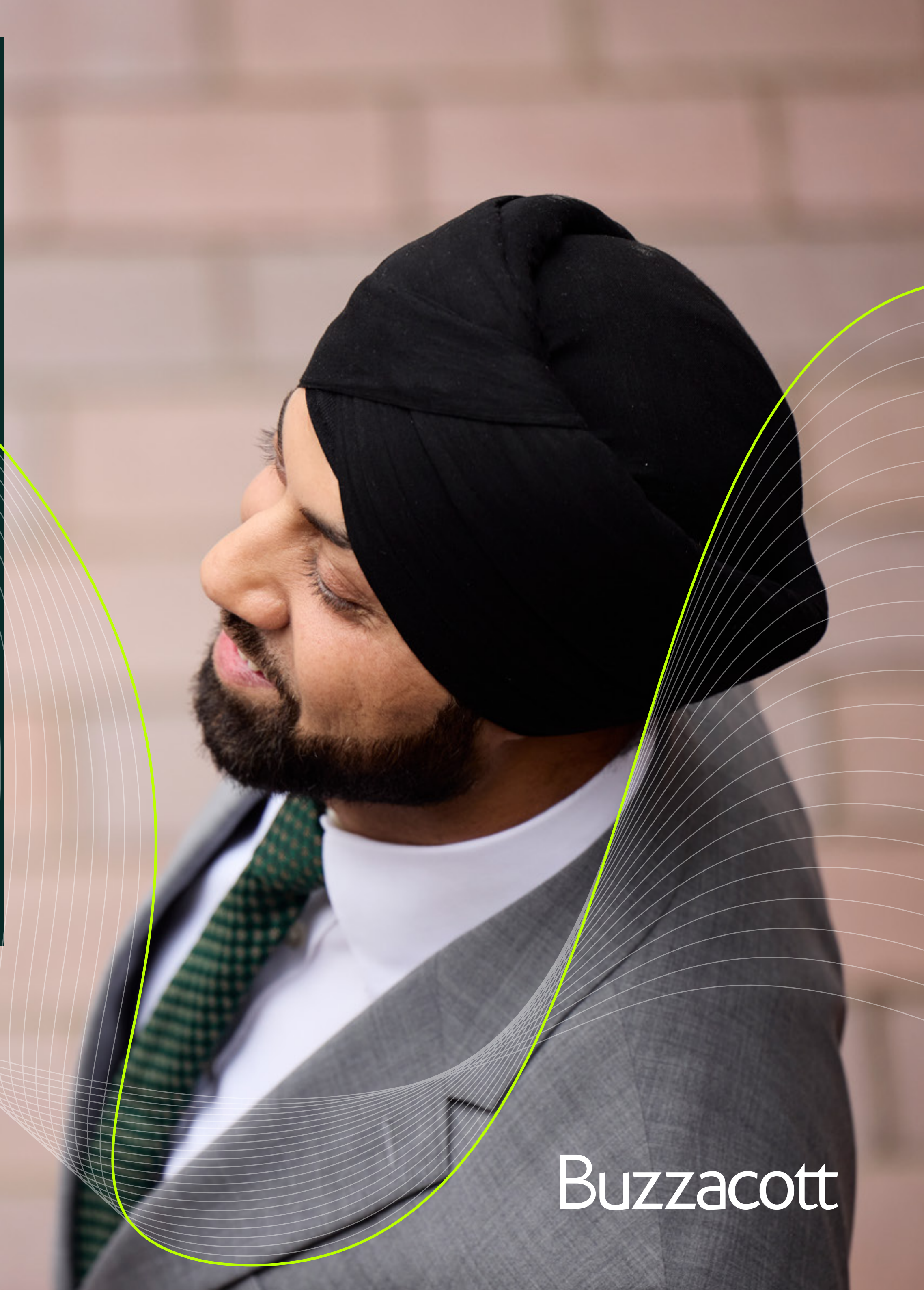
Investment consultancy

Empowering you with transparent, tailored investment advice



Buzzacott

Buzzacott • Investment consultancy

Contents

Introduction to investment consultancy	3
Investment strategy	5
Investment policy	6
Investment manager selection	7
Investment monitoring	8
Cash management	9
Why work with us?	10
Get in touch	14

Investment consultancy

Making informed investment decisions is essential, especially if you oversee charity or not-for-profit funds.

These roles carry a growing weight of responsibility, and we're here to share that with you. Our expert team combines deep technical knowledge with genuine care, helping you navigate complex choices with confidence and empathy.

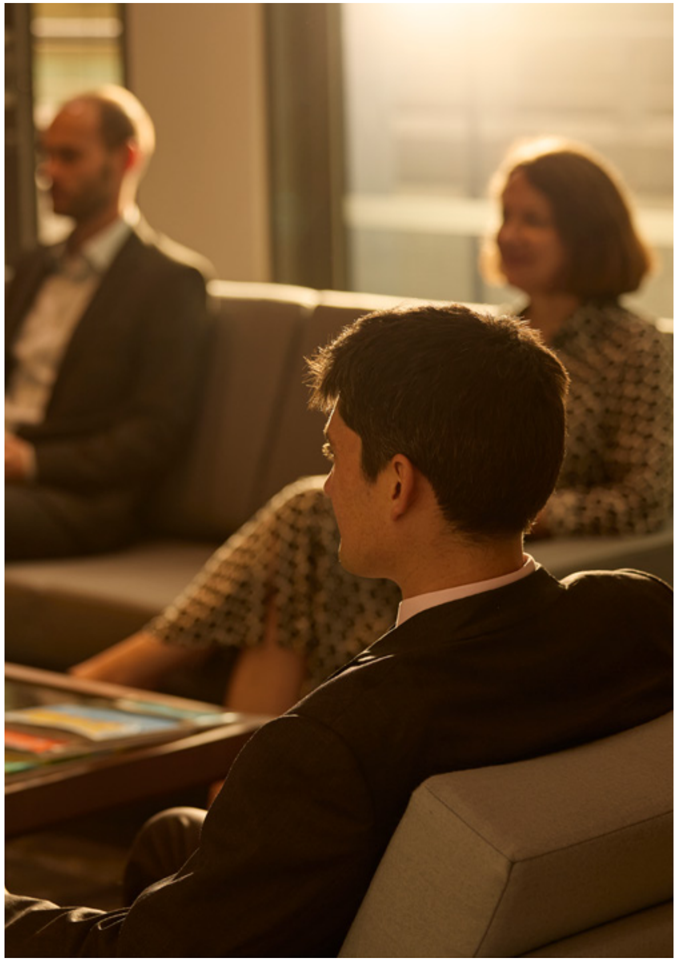
Investment consultancy from Buzzacott is designed to support your organisation's financial governance.

When it comes to investing, doing things right from day one is critical to success. Whether you're considering strategy, risk, investment policy, investment manager selection, investment monitoring, or cash management, our advisers can support you with evaluating what's best for your organisation.

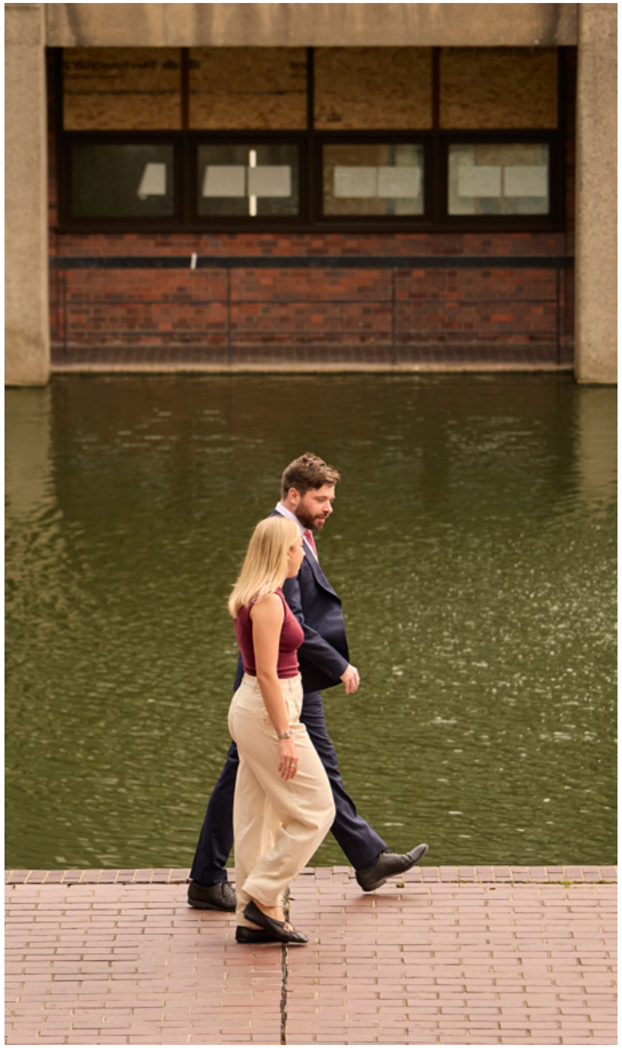
Our independent advisers offer tailored support that fits your unique needs. Our services are flexible and inclusive, allowing you to choose the area of our expertise that benefits you most. We will always act in your best interests, never pushing a one-size-fits-all approach.

Appointing Buzzacott as your investment adviser means you benefit from professional consultancy that's both technically sound and empathetic to your situation. We hold investment managers to account, ensure strong governance, regulatory alignment, and take on the burden of suitability.

We provide cost-effective, bespoke service packages that fit around your unique requirements, so you can benefit from just one aspect of the service, a mix of services, or our full investment consultancy solution. Whatever you require, we'll tailor-make an approach for you that is aligned to your objectives.



Our services



Investment consultancy

Investment strategy

We can support you with reviews of your investment and risk strategy, helping you understand risks and agree a suitable approach. We have a deep knowledge of ethical, environmental, social, and governance factors, and we will always consider your specific circumstances and objectives in our approach.

Investment policy

To give you peace of mind that you are meeting regulatory requirements and industry guidance, we'll review your existing investment policy statement, recommend changes, or draft a new one entirely to ensure alignment with your objectives.

Investment manager selection

Through a rigorous process, we can help select the right investment manager for you. We'll conduct analysis, support interviews, provide recommendations, and negotiate with the most suitable investment firms to deliver on your requirements.

Investment monitoring

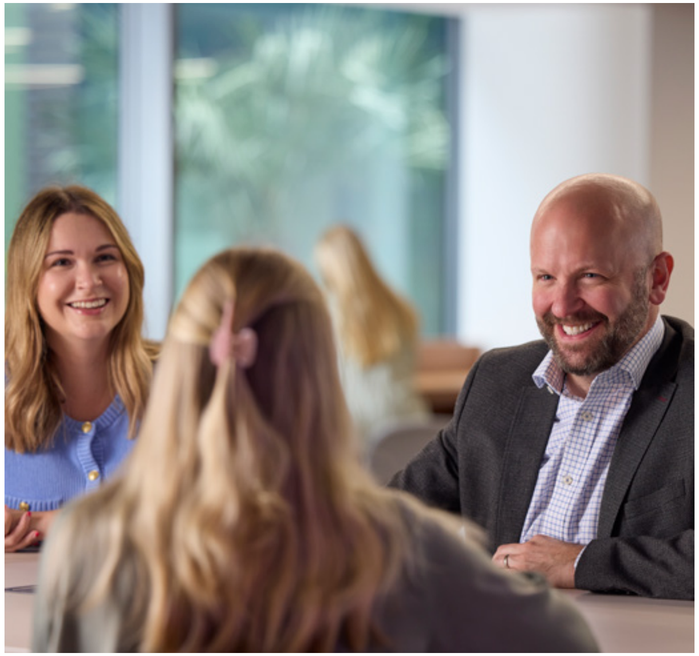
When assets are invested, it's important for them to be monitored and reviewed regularly. We track and benchmark portfolio performance, scrutinise your investments and managers on your behalf, and help you assess risk taken versus return achieved.

Cash management

What works for a long-term portfolio is very different from what's needed to manage liquid assets. Whether it be cash funds, corporate or government bonds, or deposit accounts, we evaluate the full range of risks to help you decide on the best cash and treasury policy, to mitigate risks and maximise return.

Investment strategy

Whether new to investing or overseeing long-term investments, it's important to regularly review the overall strategy for your organisation's assets. Changes to trustees, your organisation's circumstances or objectives, are all prompts for strategy reviews.



1 Set objectives

Clear, well-defined objectives are crucial, acting as a benchmark for future decisions and monitoring.

We help by discussing your objectives, ethical requirements, and ability to take risks. Once discussed, we will then help you by writing, revieiwing or updating your investment policy to reflect your position.

2 Review arrangements

It is important to ensure your investments are aligned to your Investment Policy.

We help by assessing your investment arrangements against your Investment Policy, adjusting your portfolio in areas that may be out of line.

3 Implement change

Adjustments to investment arrangements can carry risk, be complex, costly and time consuming.

We help by taking on this burden, managing risk, minimising costs and saving you time. Our knowledge and relationships with investment managers can be invaluable.

4 Monitor

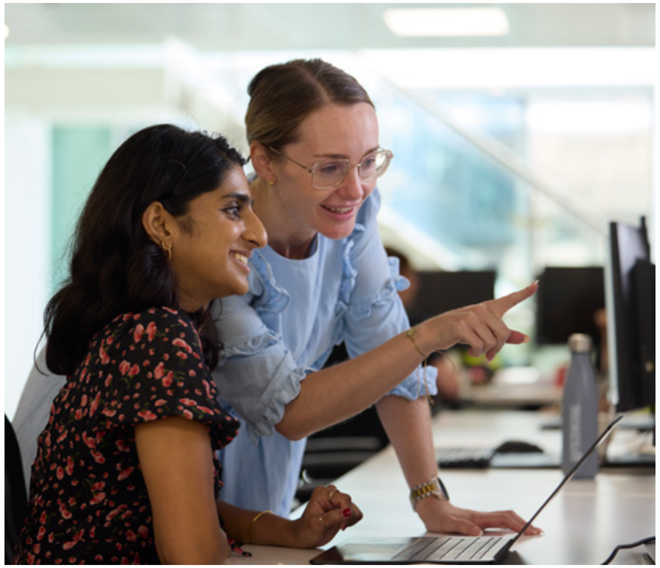
Your investment arrangements should be reviewed independently of your investment managers.

We help by ensuring you remain compliant with guidelines, your portfolio aligns to your investment policy and your investment managers remain accountable.

Investment policy

Agreeing a suitable level of risk, ensuring your objectives and views (ethical or ESG) are accurately recorded and using relevant benchmarks for comparison, are all crucial elements of an effective investment policy.

An Investment Policy Statement (IPS) documents this detail and more, allowing your assets to be managed effectively.



Challenges

- Understanding what needs to be included in your IPS and how to align this with guidance or best practice.
- Adequately covering investments that are suitable for your organisation and ensuring specific charitable objectives, ethical or ESG requirements are reflected.
- Not including unnecessary restrictions in your IPS, potentially hindering returns.
- Understanding how to record appropriate performance targets and relevant benchmarks.

How we can help

- We can provide **a review of your existing IPS.**
- Our team will **understand your organisation's needs and objectives** to ensure they are reflected in your IPS.
- Our experts will **advise you on how to ensure your IPS aligns** with guidance and legal obligations.

> "
> Take advice from someone experienced in investment matters unless you have a good reason for not doing so.
>
> Charity commission guidance

> "
> The Commission expects all charities that invest to have a written policy.
>
> Charity commission guidance

Investment manager selection

There are many reasons why you may need to create an investment portfolio, appoint an investment manager or replace an existing manager.

Selecting a suitable investment solution or appointing an investment manager requires careful consideration of several key factors.

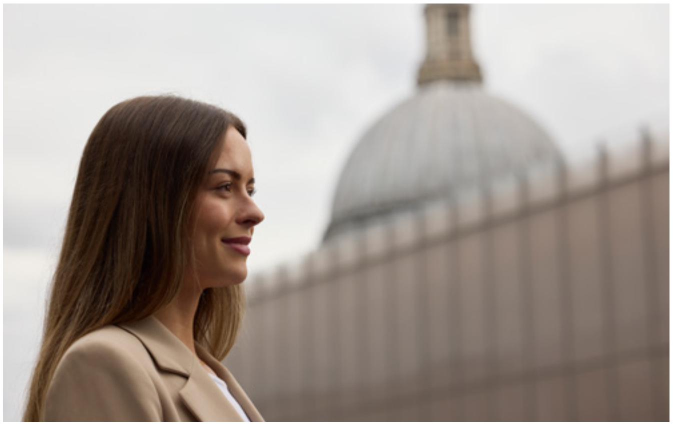
It is important to agree an investment mandate that covers your objectives and incorporates any views e.g. ethical or ESG (and how you might report on these), without being overly restrictive.

Filtering down the plethora of investment managers or types of solutions can be a minefield. Documenting the process and how your final selection of appropriate managers were chosen is key.

Understanding how to then measure each on a level playing field, negotiate fees and implement a strategy can be additional challenges.

How we can help

- We can **review your existing investment arrangements** or conduct a **market review** and **tendering process** for new investment managers or solutions.
- We can construct **investment strategies** or **find, negotiate with, and appoint a suitable investment manager(s)** to deliver your requirements. Our team will provide peace of mind that a rigorous process has been followed and an appropriate solution implemented.



How the tendering process works

Objectives	Agree the investment objectives
Long-list	Research/create a list of possible investment managers/solutions
Proposals	Create an investment mandate and request proposals from selected investment managers
Short-list	Analyse proposals and short-list investment managers/solutions
Interview	Interview those short-listed where appropriate
Charges	Negotiate fee arrangements with managers
Appoint	Confirm appointment of investment manager(s)
Monitoring	Move to ongoing monitoring of portfolio

Investment monitoring

When assets are invested, it's important for them to be monitored and reviewed regularly to ensure they remain suitable.

Demonstrating an effective, expert driven process for review is a must, allowing for the understanding of investment performance relative to objectives, the industry and benchmarks.

The review process allows us to question results, review risks and objectively ensure investments are aligned to objectives.

If ESG or any other ethical criteria are important to your organisation, understanding what exposure you have to certain sectors will be important to demonstrate.

With our team's knowledge of investment suitability and performance on side, you can rest assured that we will independently hold your investment manager to account.

> Review your charity's investments on a regular basis.
>
> Charity commission guidance

How we can help

- We will **review your investment portfolio** at a frequency of your choice.
- If required, we can **meet with trustees and investment managers** as part of the review process.
- We **provide comprehensive reports** analysing your investment performance.
- Our reports track and benchmark **portfolio performance, scrutinise your investments** on your behalf, helping you **assess risk versus return** and dig deeper into what you are investing in to ensure your investments are aligned to your organisation's goals and beliefs.

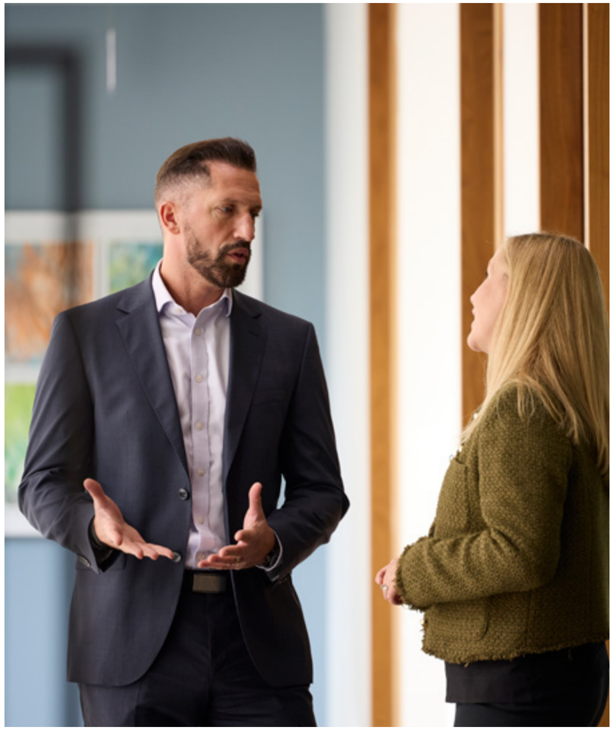
Our review reports include:

- Performance reporting
- Risk analysis
- Asset allocation
- Benchmarking
- ESG reporting
- Cost analysis

> If you have appointed an investment manager for your charity, you should regularly review the service that they provide. This should happen independently of the manager.
>
> Charity commission guidance

Cash management

What works for a long-term portfolio, is very different from what's needed to manage liquid assets.



Challenges

- You may want guidance on your approach and policy for your short, medium and long-term liquidity needs.
- Assessing the counterparty risk of different institutions or cash instruments can be difficult as is understanding the sustainability or ethical criteria of institutions.
- Implementing a strategy that provides protection, meets policy and ethical requirements and offers a competitive return can be challenging in a changeable market.

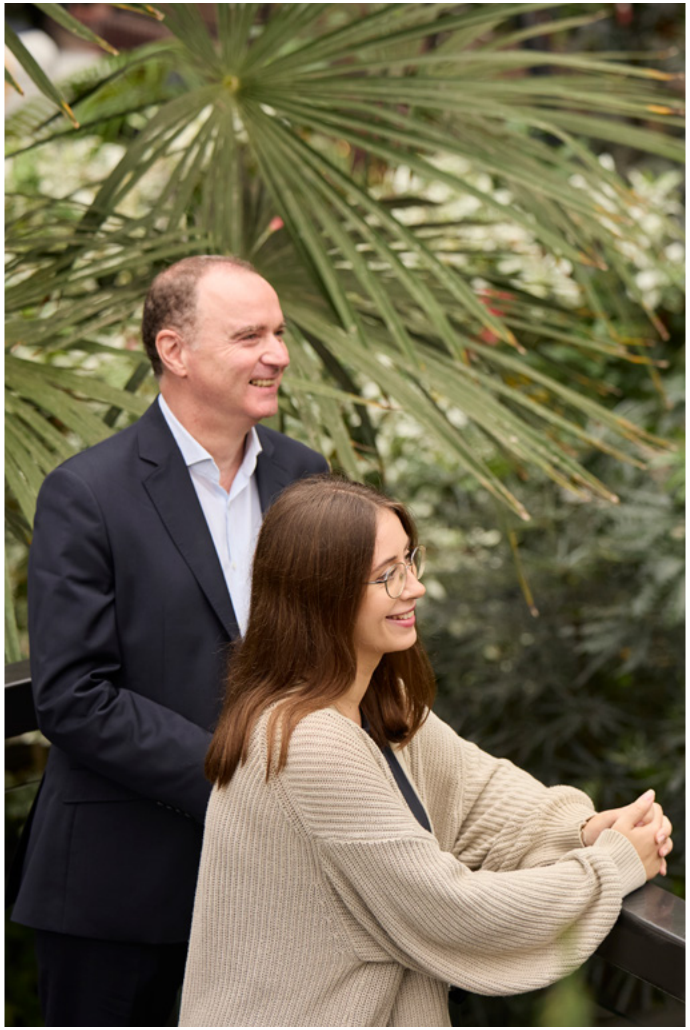
How we can help

- We can **review your existing cash and treasury requirements**, **help draft treasury policies and provide independent advice** on strategy and implementation.
- **Our analysis considers all cash and treasury solutions**, whether it be cash funds, government and corporate bonds, deposit accounts, or a combination of them.
- We look deeply into **the counterparty risk and protection** of all institutions and can consider **sustainability and ethical criteria.**

It is our mission to help you decide on the best cash and treasury policy that mitigates risks, matches your objectives and liabilities, and maximises your returns.

Why work with us?

Why Buzzacott?



Sector specialists

We have extensive experience supporting charities, not-for-profits, trusts and families with their investment requirements.

Our team understand the governance, regulatory and reporting frameworks these entities operate within, and bring this insight to every engagement.

Proven expertise

Our advisers are highly qualified, holding recognition from the CFA, CISI and CII. With over 30 years of experience advising on investments, they help put in place appropriate strategies and policies that align with regulation, risk, and long-term objectives.

Independent advice

We are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and operate without ties to any investment manager, bank, or product provider.

This independence ensures our recommendations are objective and based solely on what best serves our clients' interests.

Clear and transparent

We believe trust is built through openness. We are transparent about how we charge, flexible in how we work, and clear in the way we communicate. Our focus is always on achieving the best possible outcome, not on selling predefined services or solutions.

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG)

We think about the world beyond our office walls as much as the one inside them, and always consider our impact on the environment and our local community.

The Buzzacott Stuart Defries Memorial Fund (BSDMF) sits at the heart of Buzzacott's ESG programme. The Fund was established in 2003 in posthumous memory of Buzzacott Partner, Stuart Defries, with the aim of supporting small charities that work with children and young people based in and around the City of London.

We are dedicated to equal opportunities and equal treatment for all Buzzacott team members. As a firm we're continually developing our diversity and inclusion programme, and our culture is one that is open and inclusive, where individuals are comfortable bringing their true selves to work and where all team members are supported through every step of their career with us.

We take our environmental responsibilities equally seriously, both in the office and with our team members working from home. Sustainability is built into our building and our thinking – from the motion-controlled lighting to our careful treatment of waste materials. Looking to the future we are considering how we can become even more efficient with the introduction of new energy and carbon reporting protocols.

Total BSDMF donations

£71,183.22

including matched giving

of which foodbank donations

£41,745

85%
recycling rate

37,375kg
waste recycled

40 tonnes
CO_2 saved

6,950kwh
energy generated

340
trees saved

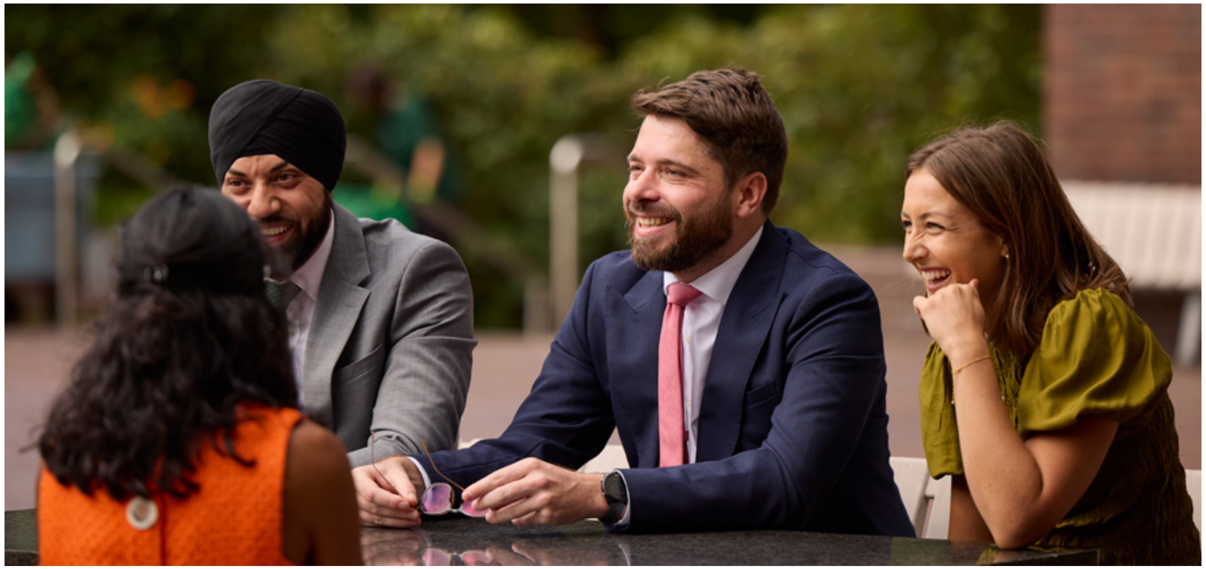
Read our latest ESG report →

Diversity and inclusion

At Buzzacott we all work together to champion diversity, inclusion and social mobility. We recognise the talents of all our team members and their different skills, perspectives, beliefs and experiences.

Our culture is built on a foundation of trust - everyone is respected, supported and encouraged to be themselves. Our team members are treated fairly and have equal access to opportunities to enable them to thrive individually and to contribute to the firm's success.

We celebrate similarities and differences. While our team members represent diverse beliefs and backgrounds, they share in our core values.



Our partnerships

We want everyone to have an equal opportunity to enter the accountancy profession, based on merit and passion rather than background. Because of this, we partner with Access Accountancy to support the provision of work experience opportunities to a diverse student demographic.

We maintain a strong partnership with Leadership Through Sport and Business (LTSB), actively participating in their "speed interview" sessions and contributing to their mission to improve social mobility by helping young people from disadvantaged backgrounds secure meaningful employment.

Get in touch

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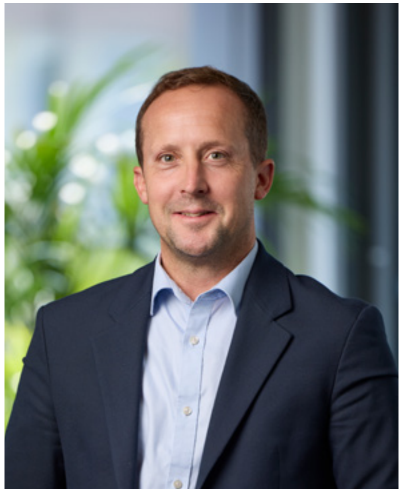

Matthew Hodge
Partner

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Matthew joined Buzzacott in 2015. **He is a Partner at Buzzacott and head of our Investment Consultancy team.**

As a CFA Charterholder and a Chartered and Certified Financial Planner, Matthew uses his considerable experience and expertise when advising clients on investments.

Prior to Buzzacott, Matthew worked as an investment consultant advising charities, businesses, trustees and large families at PwC.

Matthew is well-equipped to undertake a range of investment consultancy assignments, including:

- Advising charities and not-for-profits on the selection of investment managers
- Devising Investment Management Agreements
- Monitoring of investment performance and risk
- Advising on treasury policies and cash strategy

“

Partnering with an investment consultancy ensures your company continues to make well-governed, informed choices. Our team brings practical insight, years of experience and sector specialists ready to help support your organisation's long term financial governance.

Matthew Hodge, Partner

Buzzacott

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Some investment consultancy services may not be available to existing Buzzacott audit clients.