
DAC Beachcroft to open in Northern Ireland

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International law firm DAC Beachcroft is pleased to announce it will launch a new office in Belfast, Northern Ireland - its second office launch of 2019, following Paris in January.

DAC Beachcroft will establish its presence in Belfast by taking on the highly regarded insurance business of Northern Irish firm McKinty and Wright. The two firms have had a formal ‘best friends’ relationship in place since 2016. The deal is expected to complete in early July 2019 and will see up to 17 fee earners, including six partners, join DAC Beachcroft.

Together with its offices in London, Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport and Winchester, DAC Beachcroft will now be able to provide clients with seamless coverage across all four jurisdictions in the UK and Ireland. The firm also plans to use its new base in Northern Ireland to continue transforming the way it delivers services to clients - from investing in and developing new technologies to capitalising on Belfast’s top-notch talent pool for legal services and business support.

David Pollitt, DAC Beachcroft’s Managing Partner, said, “We go where our clients need us. Having a presence in Northern Ireland is important to many of our insurance clients in particular, and this is a strategic move in response to increasing demand for us to be able to serve our clients across all jurisdictions in the UK. Our best friends relationship with McKinty and Wright has served us and our clients well and this is a further step in cementing DAC Beachcroft’s name and position in the Belfast market. We see considerable opportunities for insurance, as well as other parts of our business, and have ambitious plans to grow our presence and capabilities quickly in this new office so that we can better serve our clients.”

McKinty and Wright acts for several leading global insurers and is known for its expertise in professional indemnity, motor, public and employers’ liability claims. The Belfast team, led by partners Lester Doake and Sean McGahan, who are both top-tier ranked in Chambers and Partners in personal injury (mainly defendant), will focus on litigation, professional negligence and risk management.

Craig Dickson, CEO of DAC Beachcroft’s Claims Solutions Group, said, “We know McKinty and Wright very well. They are a highly regarded practice and have a proven cultural fit with DAC Beachcroft, as well as an enviable track record of success when it comes to working with insurer and corporate clients. They bring a wealth of expertise and talent and are well known for their excellent client relationships.”

DAC Beachcroft is a founding member of Legalign Global, a closely integrated alliance of four multi-national law firms with 60 offices across the globe. In addition, it has a strong international presence, comprised of dedicated offices in Ireland, Spain, France, the United States, Singapore, Mexico, Colombia and Chile. The firm’s clients, including world-leading insurance companies and large corporates, have immediate access to insurance expertise and local knowledge through its international offices and its wider network of associated firms and Legalign Global.

Sean McGahan of McKinty and Wright added, “We are very pleased to be joining forces with a firm of DAC Beachcroft’s calibre and global standing. Over the last three years we have become trusted partners and have built an effective relationship that has enabled us both to serve all of our clients better. To be able to offer our clients the breadth of know-how across such a vast network is a huge advantage and one that sets us apart from the competition.”

Establishing a new Belfast office follows closely on from DAC Beachcroft’s launch in Paris in January 2019 and continues driving forward the firm’s strategy to grow its footprint in strategically significant centres, while strengthening both the international and domestic support it offers to clients.