

PKF Francis Clark

Corporate finance update

Summer 2026

The corporate finance team at PKF Francis Clark continues to go from strength to strength, celebrating a record year of performance and growth.

View of the market

Despite ongoing uncertainty, the South West's corporate finance market has stayed active in the first half of 2026 with many businesses choosing to move forward rather than wait.

Uncertainty around the economy, tax and global markets hasn't gone away, but it's become the norm. Some businesses have held back, particularly those affected by rising costs or policy changes. But others especially in the lower mid-market have continued to push ahead with deals and growth plans.

Waiting can come at a cost. Businesses that delay decisions risk missing good opportunities - whether that's strong buyer demand, available funding, or the right timing in the market.

Tax remains a key factor. Ongoing changes have led many business owners to review their succession plans earlier, with more choosing to take advice and act now rather than wait for complete clarity.

There is still plenty of interest from buyers and investors, especially for strong, well-prepared businesses. However, buyers are being selective, so preparation and realistic expectations are more important than ever.

Looking ahead, while greater stability would help confidence, the businesses that are likely to succeed will be those willing to make decisions and move forward even while uncertainty remains.



#1 most active dealmaker in the South West for the last three years



Recent deals



Sale | GMC Group Ltd

Sale of GMC Group Limited to Integrated Doorset Solutions Limited



Fundraise | Spiral Cellars Ltd

Fundraise by Frontier Development Capital to facilitate a management buy out



Energy | Innova Renewables

Sale of eight UK Solar and co-located BESS projects to Uniper



Acquisition | Ocean Cove Group Ltd

Acquisition of AG Gara Rock Limited by Ocean Cove Group Limited



Fundraise | MDV Ventures

Fundraise for MDV Ventures to facilitate the acquisition of Tayrol Limited



Energy | Wilson Renewables

Sale of Bankend Rig II, Bankend Rig III and Hawkwood wind farms to OnPath

Client feedback



Due Diligence | Maven

Investment into Virtual Class Limited by Maven



Energy | Aviva Investors

The sale of 12 energy project lease income strips to RELA



Fundraise | YFM

Fundraise by Swanky from YFM to expand the business

“PKF Francis Clark were excellent in supporting us with our investment in Third Space Learning. They provided clear, practical financial and tax due diligence. Their work was well structured, commercially focused and surfaced issues that mattered to the deal. They were responsive throughout and great to work with under a tight timetable.”

Rafi Khan, Investment Manager, Maven

“PKF Francis Clark provided exceptional support throughout a complex and protracted transaction. Their commercial insight, technical strength and calm execution were invaluable in navigating a deal with a series of challenges and evolving dynamics. The team worked seamlessly alongside management and advisers, maintaining momentum and helping deliver a successful outcome. PKF Francis Clark demonstrated a deep understanding of both the business and the broader investment context, and were a trusted adviser to YFM throughout the process.”

Matt Gordon-Smith, YFM

Southwest dealmaker awards



Events

Shortlisted eight times across six categories:

- Corporate finance advisory team of the year
- Deal of the year (outside the region)
 - Low Carbon, sale of 500mw Gate Burton DCO solar project to EDF Renewables
 - Sale of Sunrise Eggs to Agrova International
- Medium deal of the year
 - Sale of Glanville Environmental to Adler & Allan
- Small deal of the year-
 - Investment by YFM into Shopify agent Swanky
 - Sale of Quanterra to Vaisala



**Andrew Killick -
Lifetime achievement award**



**Richard Harris -
Dealmaker of the year**

We run a series of online and in-person events aimed at helping business owners explore the full range of funding and exit strategies available to them. If you are interested in attending one of our events, please contact Lara Bloxham-
lara.bloxham@pkf-francisclark.co.uk

Valuing your business: Practical ways to improve and protect value ahead of a sale or equity raise

7 July 12:00pm

Thinking about selling your business or raising equity now or in the next few years? This is the one webinar you can't afford to miss.

- Join our corporate finance, valuation and due-diligence specialists as they uncover:
 - The practical steps that increase valuation and buyer appeal in the run-up to a sale or equity fundraise
 - The real drivers behind maintainable earnings and valuation multiples and how to strengthen them before investors or buyers dig into the detail
 - How understanding the sale and fundraising process gives you a critical advantage when preparing for a transaction
 - How understanding the bridge between the headline offer to the value received for the shares can protect significant value

**To register for the event
please scan the QR code:**



How we support our clients

- We provide lead advisory corporate finance services including the following:
 - Company sales & acquisitions
 - Management buyouts
 - Fundraising (debt & equity)
 - Valuations
 - Employees ownership trusts
 - Due diligence
- Our experience shows that businesses that are well prepared are more resilient during transactions and achieve a better outcome
- Our comprehensive approach in preparation and our extensive experience ensures that clients maximise value and successfully achieve their strategic objectives in a smoother and more controlled process
- **Senior expertise with a proven track record**
 - Hands-on senior deal team with a consistently high completion rate, giving you confidence in smooth execution and successful outcomes
- **Extensive buyer and investor access, both UK and global**
 - Strong connections across strategic buyers, private equity and the PKF Global network, creating competitive tension and driving higher valuations
- **Sector insight and deal experience on both sides**
 - Credibility with buyers, stronger negotiation positioning and better preparation through first-hand understanding of how transactions work
- **End-to-end value optimisation and hands-on management**
 - Integrated tax expertise, rigorous preparation and proactive process management to maximise proceeds and keep deals on track to completion
- **End-to-end due diligence and transaction support**
 - From buy-side and sell-side diligence through to transaction support and integrated tax and cyber insight. We identify risks early which protects value and supports confident decision-making

Contact us

If you want to discuss any transactions you are considering or want to discuss your business with our corporate finance team then please contact:



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