



# Alexander Watt

**Partner**

**Real estate**



Clients describe him as "very commercial and pragmatic," and also say he is "good at managing a lot of detail and ensuring large transactions get done on time."

———— Chambers UK, 2019

**Primary practice**

Real estate

# About Alexander Watt

**Alex is head of our global real estate sector group and jointly leads the firm's sovereign wealth funds group.**

Alex has extensive experience of corporate real estate matters and he regularly advises clients on property investment and co-investment through complex cross-border structures.

His long-standing clients include private equity houses, funds, institutional investors and some of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds.

## Recent work

- Advising Thomas White Oxford (the development company of St John's College, Oxford) on the formation of a c.£700m development joint venture with Canadian-based Cadillac Fairview and Stanhope for the development of Oxford North, Oxford, UK - a new global innovation district, which will primarily focus on life sciences with almost a million square feet of laboratory and work space, as well as 480 new homes.
- Advising Brookfield on the acquisition from U+I Group of a 50 per cent stake in Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire, including an extensive land bank for development.
- Advising Ares Management in respect of its acquisition and financing and subsequent sale of a stake to Investec in a 40 property pan-European logistics platform, for a headline price of €900m.
- Advising Oxford University on its ten-year joint venture programme with L&G to develop research facilities and student and staff accommodation at the University and on the funding and leaseback arrangements with L&G for the new Life and Mind Building.
- Advising Americold Realty Trust on the acquisition of Argo Merchants Group, the global cold storage business, from an investor group led funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management for US \$1.74bn and on its bolt on acquisition of Bowman Stores Limited for £74m.
- Advising Ares Management on the establishment of a joint venture in respect of a pan-European logistics platform with an asset manager, and securing exclusivity on a pipeline of seed assets across Europe;
- Advising Blackstone on the regearing and subsequent sale of seven holiday parks in the

Netherlands, Germany and Belgium, leased to Pierre and Vacances.

- Advising Brookfield on their entry into the German residential market by way of an acquisition from a German residential asset manager of a majority 89.9% stake in a portfolio of German residential housing assets with residential units across Germany, together with their go-forward joint venture and management arrangements.
- Advising TPG on the acquisition from Goodman Group, financing and subsequent disposal to Brookfield for £714m of the Arlington Business Parks Platform. Arlington is a UK business park platform focussing on space for life science and technology based tenants, made up of 36 assets across sites in Oxford, Cambridge and London which are a mix of standing and development assets.

## Qualifications

- Exeter University, UK

## Contact Alexander

[alex.watt@freshfields.com](mailto:alex.watt@freshfields.com)

### **London**

100 Bishopsgate

London

T +44 20 7936 4000

F +44 20 7832 7001