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# Today's Presenters

## Executive Directors



### James Dow

#### Chief Executive Officer

James established Dow Schofield Watts LLP in 2002.

James is qualified as both a Chartered Accountant and Management Accountant.

James joined KPMG in 1983 and after qualifying focussed on corporate finance becoming a partner at 33. After approximately 8 years as a partner leading Corporate Finance in the North West, James left to found Dow Schofield Watts LLP.

In 2019, James was nominated for the North West Insider Top Dealmakers of the last 25 years and is the author of six books focussed on private equity, corporate finance and deal structuring.

James is also a non-executive director of the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.



### Nicole Burstow

#### Chief Financial Officer

Nicole joined Dow Schofield Watts LLP as Group Finance Director in April 2019.

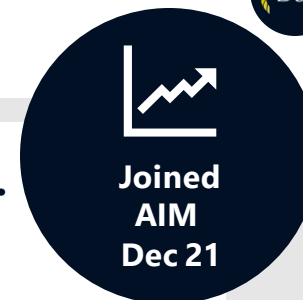
Nicole previously spent 15 years with Deloitte in Manchester. As a Director, she was responsible for leading the audits of some of the region's largest and most complex international businesses, more recently focusing on listed businesses.

She also played a significant role in growing the North West practice by recruiting and developing talent and expanding the local client base.

Alongside her CFO responsibilities, Nicole leads the recruitment, roll out and integration of new licensees as well as relationship management of the existing portfolio.

# Overview of DSW

- **Challenger “Big 4” mid market professional services network.**
- **97 licenced fee earners (“FE”)** predominantly trading under the DSW brand with 10 locations across England and Scotland.
- **Licence fee** is charged typically on a **percentage of revenue**.
- Provide the infrastructure to **empower ambitious professionals to build their own business.**
- **Scalable** model with **low operational gearing**.
- **Predictable cost base** – 8.2 full time equivalent employees (“FTE”) plus executive directors.
- **Cash generative** and can **support a 70% dividend pay-out ratio** based on Adjusted Profit-After Tax.
- **73%** revenue exposure to **SME M&A** (H1 FY22: 70%).



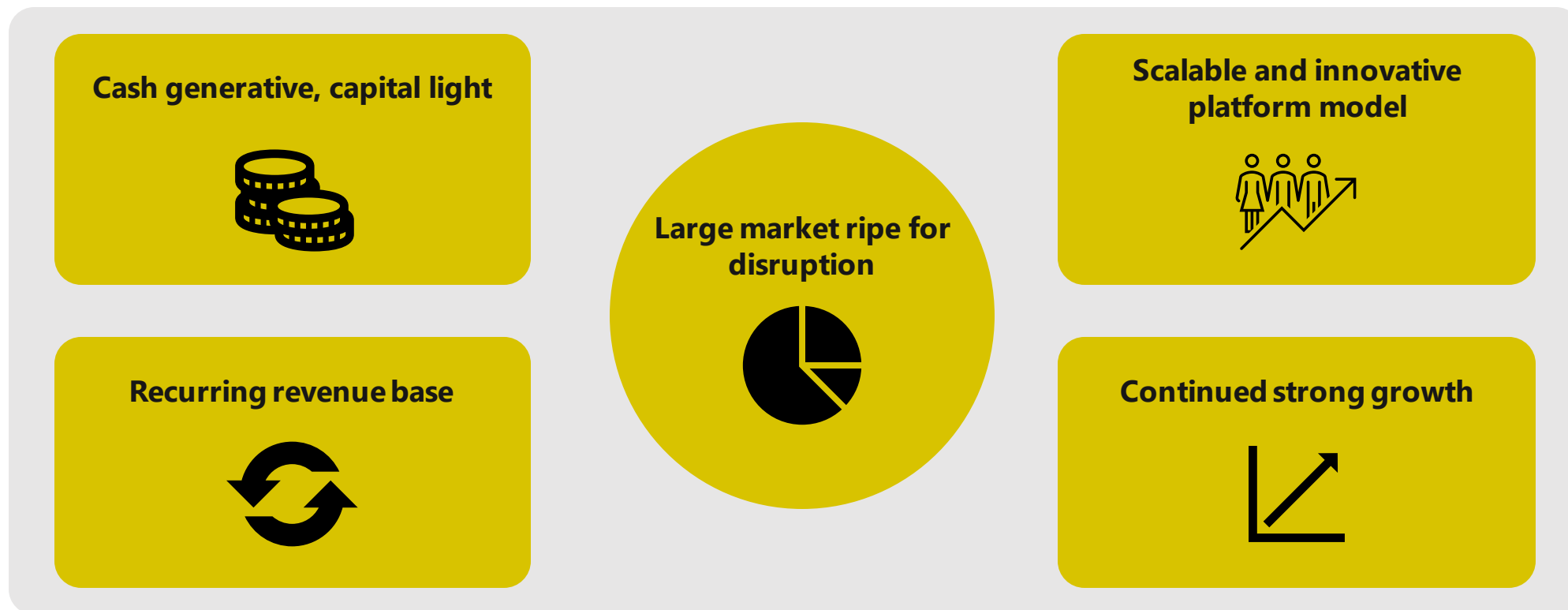
## Key Financials H1 FY23

**14.8%**  
YoY growth in FE

**34.5% YoY growth**  
in Network  
Revenue

**40.4% Total**  
Income Growth

# Investment Case



The **AIM listing** has:

- increased our **profile** to partner candidates;
- provided **capital** for the acquisition of licence fee income from other existing businesses; and
- accelerated **organic growth** through recruitment and Network Revenue.

# Current Service Lines



**Corporate  
Finance  
Advisory**  
FE=37



**Financial Due  
Diligence**  
FE= 19



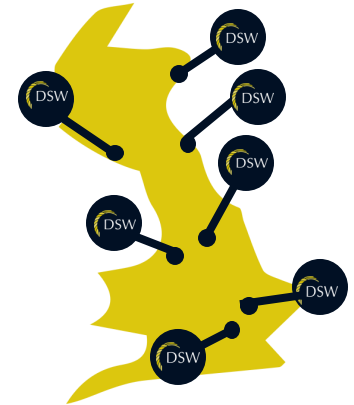
**Business  
Recovery**  
FE= 10



**Business  
Planning**  
FE=7



**Equity Finance**  
FE=4



**Forensic  
Services**  
FE=5



**Angels Network**  
FE=4



**Debt Advisory**  
FE=5



**Tax Services**  
FE=3



**Asset Based  
Lending Risk  
Management**  
FE = 2

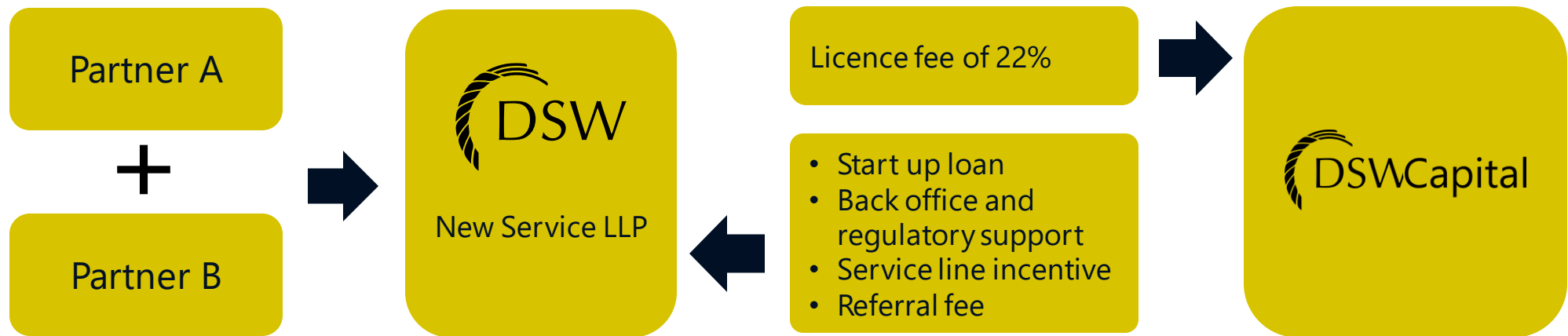


**Wealth  
Planning**  
FE = 1

# The DSW Licence Model

## Empowering ambitious professionals to build their own business


We recruit highly skilled professionals (typically “Big 4”) in focussed niches of expertise to run their own business and provide services to small to mid market corporates and their owner managers.





# The DSW Licence Model

## Strengths to DSW Capital


£ Recurring income.

 Minimal exposure to property and employee costs.

 Licensees are “self-starters”.


 Flexible licence agreements to introduce new partners.


 Back office support ties businesses in.


 Capital light and highly cash generative.


## Strengths to the Licensee


★ Strong perceptions of credentials and capability.

 Cross referrals and access to multidisciplinary services.

 Easier recruitment, central marketing and PR support.

 In-house Talent Development to aid retention and engagement of employees.

 Back office support - focus on growing their business.

 Start-up funding provided.



# H1 FY23 Performance Highlights

- H1 FY23 performance on track
- Network Revenue increased 34.5% to £9.8m (H1 FY22: £7.3m)
- We expect a 40:60 split between H1 & H2
- Income from licensees\* increased 40.4% to £1.6m
- Underlying EBITDA<sup>+</sup> grew by 8.8% to £1m, with the growth in revenue offsetting the costs of being on AIM
- Strong cash conversion with £4.6m cash at period end
- Proposed interim dividend of 1.76p\*\*. Total dividends paid post IPO of 5.98p
- Profile boost post IPO

**93 FE**  
(14.8% YoY Growth)



**4.7**  
Fee Earners per business



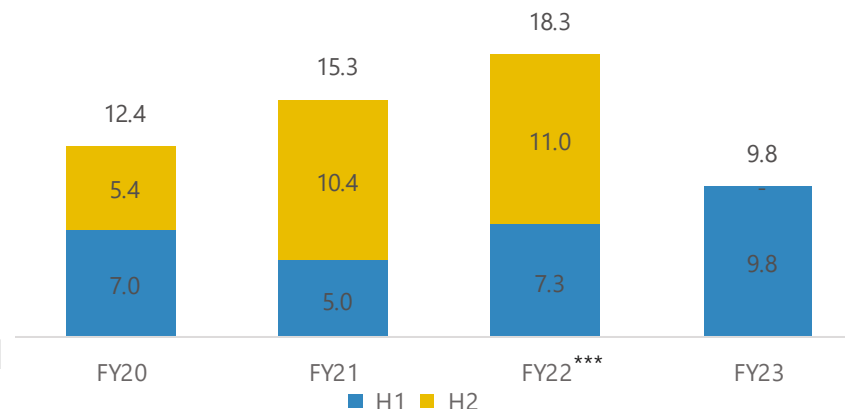
\*Income from licensees defined as statutory revenue of £1.5m plus share of results of associates of £0.1m.

\*\* The interim dividend has been based on the prior year Adj PAT, in line with dividend policy of 70% Adj PAT pay out with 1/3 payable at interim and 2/3 final.

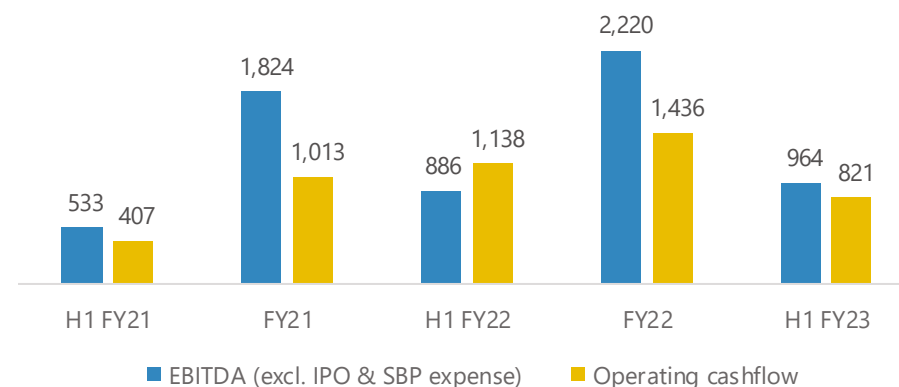
\*\*\*Buoyant regional M&A market drove exceptional Revenue per Fee Earner in FY22 H2

+ Underlying EBITDA is defined as profit before tax adjusted to add back depreciation, amortisation and interest and other the items not considered part of underlying trading (including share-based payment expense and IPO costs).

Network Revenue (£m)



Underlying EBITDA<sup>+</sup> & Operating Cashflow



# H1 FY23 Income Statement

£000s	Sept-22	Sept-21
Portfolio Income	9,786	7,276
Licence Income	1,491	1,094
Profit Share Income*	102	69
Sale of interest in LLP**	40	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,633</b>	<b>1,163</b>
Income from jointly controlled entity	-	17
Central Overheads	(669)	(294)
<b>EBITDA (excl. IPO costs &amp; SBP charge)</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>886</b>
Depreciation and amortisation	(92)	(36)
<b>Operating Profit (excl. IPO costs &amp; SBP charge)</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>850</b>
Finance income/(costs)	30	(4)
<b>Profit Before Tax (excl. IPO costs &amp; SBP charge)</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>846</b>
Tax	(170)	(135)
<b>Profit After Tax (excl. IPO costs &amp; SBP charge)</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>711</b>

## Key Highlights

- Demand for DSW services remains strong.
- SME M&A marketplace resilience.
- Profit share income increased 48% reflecting improved charge out rates vs H1 FY22.
- Resilient operating model, largely insulated from inflationary pressures - 8.2 FTE and limited exposure to property costs.
- Increased revenue more than covered the increase in costs from being on AIM and investment in central infrastructure.
- Adjusted Pre-tax Profit of £0.9m, an increase of 7% on the prior year.

\* Includes share of results in associates (H1 FY23: £124k, H1 FY22: £44k) classed separately below Gross Profit in the statutory accounts.

\*\* Consideration arising from the exit of DSW Wealth Advisory LLP

\*\*\* Adjusted Pre-tax Profit is defined as profit before tax adjusted to add back the items not considered part of underlying trading (including share-based payment expense and IPO costs).

Reconciliation to Statutory Profit for the Year		
£000s	Sept-22	Sept-21
Profit After Tax (exc. IPO & SBP)	732	711
IPO Costs	-	(92)
SBP Charge	(314)	(103)
<b>Statutory Profit for the year</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>516</b>

# H1 FY23 Balance Sheet

£000s	Sept-22	Mar-22
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Intangible assets	770	794
Property, plant and equipment	470	525
Investments	922	922
Investments in associates	187	290
Interests in jointly controlled entities	31	23
Prepayments and Accrued Income	170	175
Deferred tax asset	4	4
	<b>2,554</b>	<b>2,733</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	1,346	1,201
Prepayments and Accrued income	393	362
Cash and bank balances	4,567	4,722
	<b>6,306</b>	<b>6,285</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,860</b>	<b>9,018</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade Payables and other payables	147	140
Other taxation	228	210
Accruals and Deferred Income	70	163
Current tax liabilities	170	63
Lease liability	85	83
	<b>700</b>	<b>659</b>

£000s	Sept-22	Mar-22
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>5,606</b>	<b>5,626</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Lease liability	259	302
Dilapidation provision	73	72
	<b>332</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,033</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>7,828</b>	<b>7,985</b>

## Key Highlights

- £4.6m cash after payment of £0.9m dividend in the period and debt free.
- Intangible assets represents licensed brands.
- Robust balance sheet with net assets of £7.8m and capital available to deploy.

# Cash Flow Statement

£000s	Sept-22	Sept-21
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit for the half-year	418	516
Adjustments for tax, interest, non cash items	547	279
Operating cash flows before working capital	<b>965</b>	<b>795</b>
Working capital movements	(144)	343
<b>Cash generated by operations</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1,138</b>
Income taxes paid	(63)	(257)
Net cash from operating activities	<b>758</b>	<b>881</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(14)	(15)
Net cash used in investing activities	<b>(14)</b>	<b>(15)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Dividends paid	(890)	(127)
Finance lease payments	(51)	-
Interest received/(paid)	42	16
(Repayments)/proceeds from loans	-	(195)
Net cash used in financing activities	<b>(899)</b>	<b>(306)</b>
<b>Net cash flow</b>	<b>(155)</b>	<b>560</b>
<b>Closing cash</b>	<b>4,567</b>	<b>1,169</b>

£000s	Sept-22	Mar-22
<b>Operating cash conversion* (%)</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>105%</b>

*\*Calculated as cash generated by operations divided by Operating cash flows before movements in working capital. Expected OCC to range between 80-100%.*

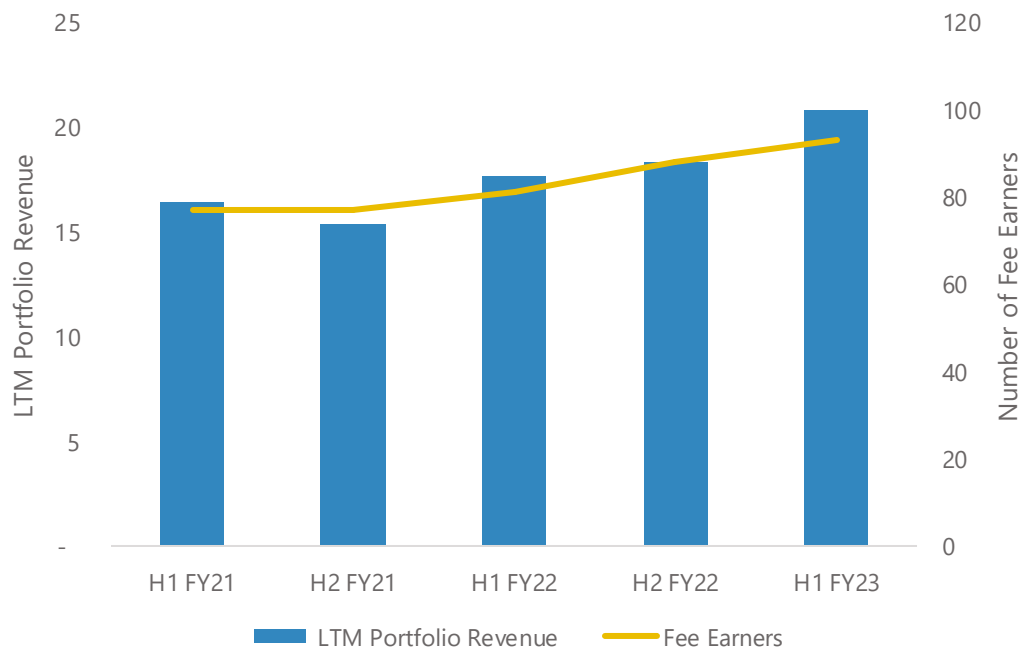
## Key Highlights

- Business model is cash generative.
- Strong cash conversion.
- Lock up equivalent 27 days\* well below peer group.
- Capital light.
- Operating cash conversion movement driven by high Network Revenue in Q4 FY21 collected in Q1 FY22 and quarterly licence fee invoicing and payment cycle.
- Cash generation lower in the current period due to high Network Revenue in September 2022 increasing working capital.
- FY22 final dividend £0.9m paid in the period.
- Closing cash £4.6m.

*\*Calculated as amounts owed to DSW Capital from licensees divided by Network Revenue*

# Network KPIs

LTM Portfolio Revenue vs. Fee Earners



## Fee Earners (H1)



**93**

**14.8% YOY growth**

## Network Revenue (H1)



**£9.8M**

**34.5% YOY growth**

**16.7%**  
**Average Licence Fee**

**1:1.3**  
**Partner to Employee ratio**

**62.4%**  
**FE Ex Big Four**

**10**  
**Locations**

**4.7 FE per business**

**22%**  
**Female Partners**

**48.2**  
**Average age per partner**

# Profile Boost Post IPO

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRM DSW HEADS FOR £21M FLOAT VALUE** – The Times, December 2021

**THE TIMES**

**DSW VENTURES LEADS £1M FUNDING ROUND** – Private Equity Wire, May 2022

**DOW SCHOFIELD WATTS OPENS NEW GLASGOW OFFICE** – Scottish Financial News, May 2022

**CHALLENGER ACCOUNTING FIRM TO LIST ON LONDON AIM WITH £21M MARKET CAP** – City AM, December 2021

**HALFORDS STRIKES DEAL FOR MOTORING SERVICES GROUP** – Insider National, December 2021

**NEW AIM ADMISSION: DSW CAPITAL LICENSING SUCCESS** – UK Investor Magazine, December 2021

**THE SCOTSMAN**

**insider**  
MEDIA LIMITED

**CORPORATE FINANCE FIRM STRENGTHENS SCOTTISH PRESENCE WITH EDINBURGH OFFICE OPENING** – The Scotsman, May 2022

**BUSINESS ADVISORY FIRM LAUNCHES WEALTH PLANNING ARM** – FT Adviser, October 2022

**DEALMAKERS RECOGNISED IN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS** – Insider Yorkshire, June 2022

**accountancy**  
TODAY

**DSW READING REPORTS BUOYANT FIRST YEAR** – Accountancy Today, October 2022



# Our ESG journey

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Aligned DSW behaviours framework with revised Purpose & Values



Highly-active social and wellbeing calendar



Identifying and rolling out initiatives

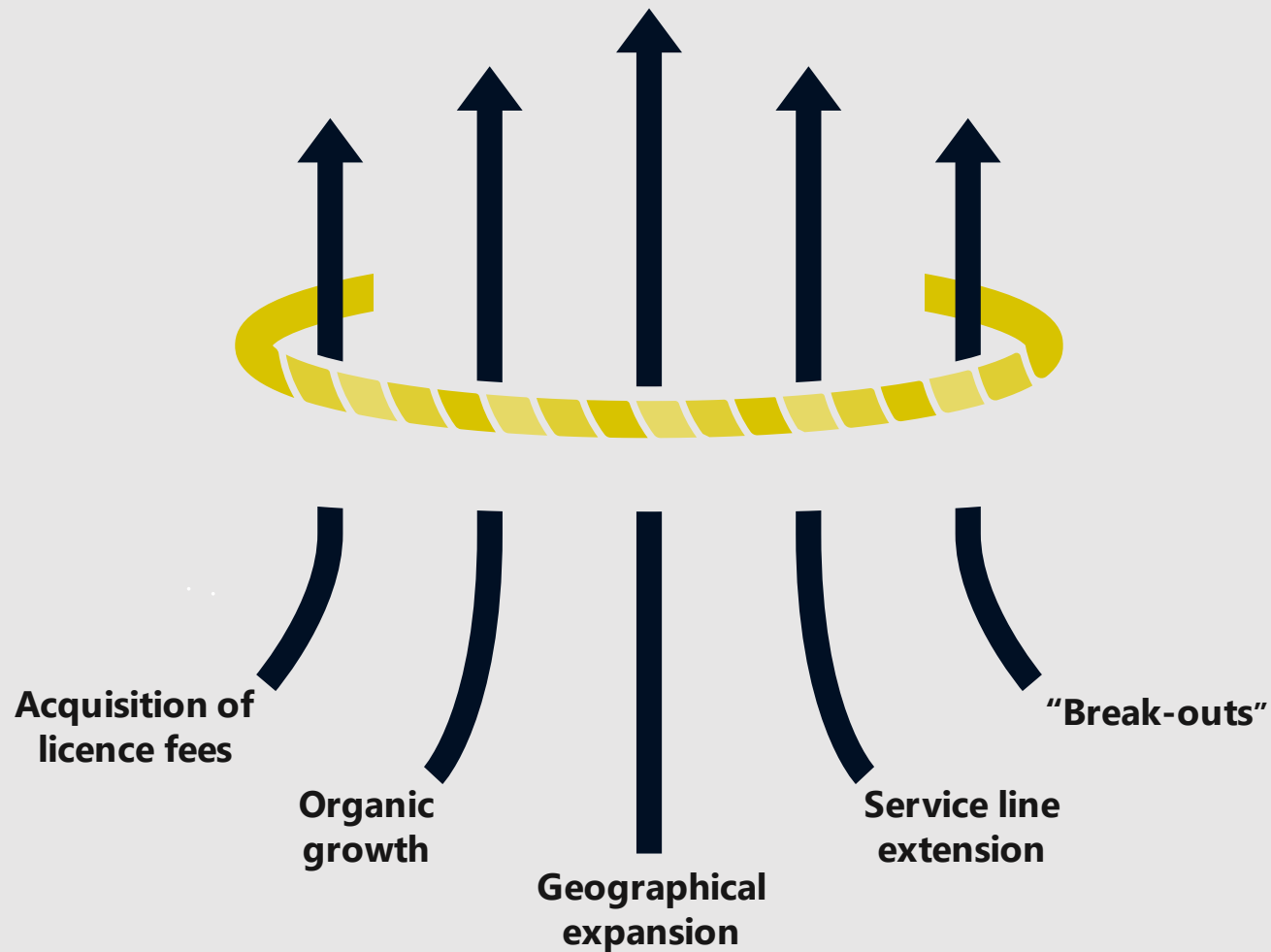


Collating Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions data



Launch of Future Leaders programme with BecomingX

# Opportunities for growth





# The accountancy profession is ready for something new.....

## The "Big 4" are under significant pressure to restructure

"We recommend that the CMA aims for a structural split or at the very least implements its proposed operational split between audit and non-audit." - BEIS report, March 2019

"The FRC has delivered a major step in the reform of the audit sector by setting principles for the operational separation of audit practices by 2024." FRC July 2020

"KPMG sells pension arm."  
December 2019

"Deloitte sells its restructuring unit before audit reform."  
February 2021

"EY bosses approve radical break-up of Big Four firm"  
September 2022

"KPMG completes sale of restructuring business"  
May 2021

"Insurgents take on the scandal-hit Big Four."  
- Financial Times, November 2021

## DSW Differentiators:

Greater flexibility

A direct link between fees and reward

100% operational autonomy

## Partners also continue to benefit from:

Central infrastructure support

Being part of a multi-disciplinary network

International network - Pandea Global

(M&A advisory firms in 28 key geographies)

# Target Acquisition Service Lines

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**High margin, high growth, niche professional services where there is a strong synergistic fit.**



Existing service lines in new locations.



Tax related services and family office.



Employer solution services.



Niche legal services.



Other Big 4 (non-audit) service lines.

# Summary and Outlook

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## Summary

- Strong growth in Network Revenue (34.5%) in H1 FY23.
- High activity levels.
- 15 new FEs post-IPO – heightened profile and licence model driving recruitment.
- Named by Experian as the 10<sup>th</sup> most active corporate finance adviser in the UK in the first half of 2022, compared to 13<sup>th</sup> in the first half of 2021.
- High cash generation has supported 70% dividend pay-out ratio based on Adjusted PBT.

## Outlook

- Demand for the DSW Network's services, which are primarily SME focused, has remained strong.
- A downturn is likely to affect M&A activity.
- Expect an increase in demand for insolvency, restructuring and debt advisory services.
- Opportunity for organic and acquisition growth remains significant.
- Recessionary risk presents opportunities to increase headcount.
- Predictable cost base with low operational gearing, insulated from inflationary pressures.
- Currently on track to meet market expectations for FY23.

# Questions

DSW Capital











# Appendices

**DSW Capital**

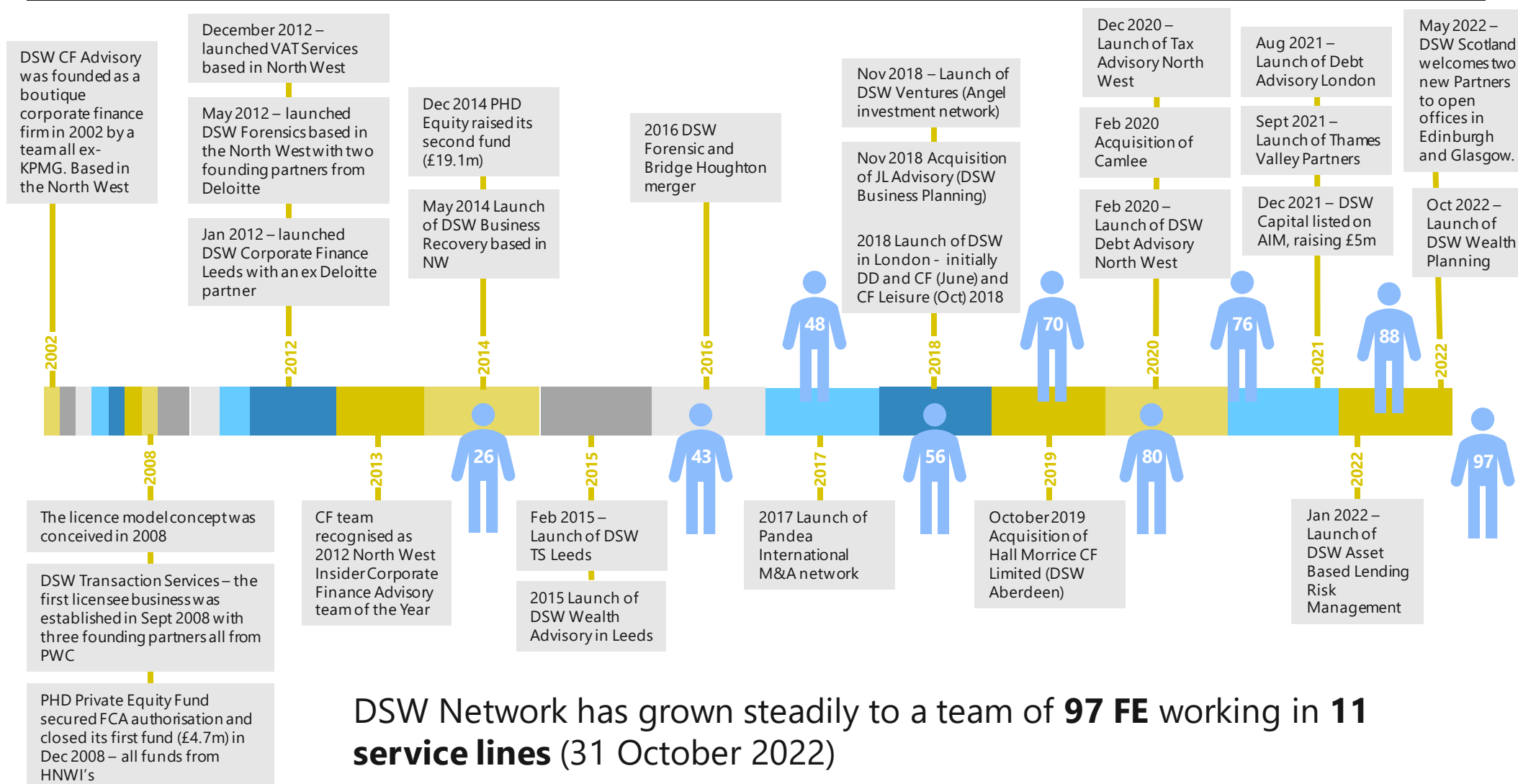
# Summary Investment Thesis

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## Why invest?

-  Robust, recurring income stream.
-  Predictable cost base with low operational gearing.
-  Capital light.
-  Scalable platform model.
-  Significant opportunity for organic and acquisition driven growth.
-  Cash backed profits which can support a 70% dividend pay-out ratio based on Adjusted Profit-After Tax.

# Timeline of the Business



DSW Network has grown steadily to a team of **97 FE** working in **11 service lines** (31 October 2022)

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