

## RETAIL AND CONSUMER HUB

Welcome to October's Retail & Consumer newsletter brought to you from Dubai.

### **Retail Week launch**

The main news item this month is the launch of the Retail Week Report. For the last 4 months, representatives from Addleshaw Goddard's UK and international offices have been working in conjunction with Retail Week to launch the report: "Retail's top five global hotspots: Mapping your fast track to international growth". There will be a launch event in London on 23 November at 3.30 – 6pm, chaired by Retail Week and featuring panellists from prestigious retail brands John Lewis and Ted Baker, as well as global investment bank Houlihan Lokey.

Separately, the Retail team here in Dubai will be leveraging the Retail Week Report by giving targeted seminars to retail clients on the results contained in the report.

### **Breaking news: Dubai is no longer tax-free**

Tax is currently the main talking point amongst UAE retailers. Not only is VAT set to be introduced in the New Year (see article below) but something that has informally been labelled a "Sin Tax" was introduced earlier this month targeting unhealthy products. This has seen the price of soft drinks increase by 50% and tobacco double in price.

### **UAE retailers embracing disruption**

The UAE is traditionally a bricks and mortar market as people like to visit the mall to browse and shop as a hobby as much as anything else. But major retailers in Dubai are adapting to combine traditional shopping with digital disruption. One of the main supermarket chains is looking to roll out a system where customers can still spend an hour browsing and scanning with their smartphones any items they wish to purchase. When finished, they simply walk out the shop and head home with their shopping arriving shortly afterwards.



**PAUL HUGHES**  
**LEGAL DIRECTOR**  
[p.hughes@aglaw.com](mailto:p.hughes@aglaw.com)  
+971 4 350 6402

## This month's articles...

### VAT to hit the UAE

Robin Hickman and Ben Sims from our Dubai office have authored an informative bulletin on the introduction of VAT in the UAE, which is set to be implemented by 1 January 2018. In (what was previously) a tax-free jurisdiction, businesses (and expats) are not geared up to pay any tax (even the proposed rate of 5%) and so its implementation is a key talking point and fraught with logistical and legal difficulties. We will keep you posted on developments and the impact on retailers in the region.

Robin and Ben's article can be accessed [here](#).

### Product recalls increasing problematic?

Statistics from 2014/15 show that about 36% of incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue services related to the misuse of electrical equipment or appliances within the home. Given there are now an estimated 41 domestic electric appliances in daily use in the average UK home, the issue of product safety has been pushed into sharp focus. In light of these alarming statistics, Mark Chesher looks [here](#) at the problems associated with product recalls and how the traceability of goods can be improved.

## Dressed to repress?

In an interesting and topical article, Helen Almond looks at how retailers need to strike a balance between promoting the image they want for their brand (their "look policy") and not straying into discriminatory behaviour by imposing a dress code.

Helen's article can be found [here](#).

## Events...

- ▶ If you are interested in attending our Retail Week London launch event on 23 November 3.30 – 6pm, discussing the themes addressed in our recent report alongside panellists who can give valuable insight into the internationalisation process, please register with [Katie Smith](#)
- ▶ We are also running a Mock Employment Tribunal on Wednesday 31 January 2018 in Leeds. This is an event for in-house employment lawyers, HR professionals and line managers alike, offering the opportunity to gain the experience of an employment tribunal in a safe environment. Delegates will be given packs to take away including the pleadings, witness statements and the relevant documentation relied on by the parties. The cost of this event is £99 plus VAT, and we are offering an early bird discounted rate of £49 plus VAT for any reservations placed on or before 15 November 2017. To reserve your place please contact [Vicky Lightowler](#)

Twitter: [@AG\\_RandC](#)

Website: [www.addleshawgoddard.com/retailandconsumer](http://www.addleshawgoddard.com/retailandconsumer)

10-17934779-1

[addleshawgoddard.com](http://addleshawgoddard.com)

Aberdeen, Doha, Dubai, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hong Kong, Leeds, London, Manchester, Muscat, Singapore and Tokyo\*

\*a formal alliance with Hashidate Law Office

© 2017 Addleshaw Goddard LLP. All rights reserved. Extracts may be copied with prior permission and provided their source is acknowledged. This document is for general information only. It is not legal advice and should not be acted or relied on as being so, accordingly Addleshaw Goddard disclaims any responsibility. It does not create a solicitor-client relationship between Addleshaw Goddard and any other person. Legal advice should be taken before applying any information in this document to any facts and circumstances. Addleshaw Goddard is an international legal practice carried on by Addleshaw Goddard LLP (a limited liability partnership registered in England & Wales and authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Law Society of Scotland) and its affiliated undertakings. Addleshaw Goddard operates in the Dubai International Financial Centre through Addleshaw Goddard (Middle East) LLP (registered with and regulated by the DFSA), in the Qatar Financial Centre through Addleshaw Goddard (GCC) LLP (licensed by the QFCA), in Oman through Addleshaw Goddard (Middle East) LLP in association with Nasser Al Habsi & Saif Al Mamari Law Firm (licensed by the Oman Ministry of Justice) and in Hong Kong through Addleshaw Goddard (Hong Kong) LLP, a Hong Kong limited liability partnership pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance and regulated by the Law Society of Hong Kong. In Tokyo, legal services are offered through Addleshaw Goddard's formal alliance with Hashidate Law Office. A list of members/principals for each firm will be provided upon request. The term partner refers to any individual who is a member of any Addleshaw Goddard entity or association or an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications. If you prefer not to receive promotional material from us, please email us at [unsubscribe@addleshawgoddard.com](mailto:unsubscribe@addleshawgoddard.com). For further information please consult our website [www.addleshawgoddard.com](http://www.addleshawgoddard.com) or [www.aglaw.com](http://www.aglaw.com).