HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

BEN WARD

PARTNER

London

Ben is a Partner in our London Corporate Team.

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KEY SERVICES

Corporate
Mergers and Acquisitions

KEY SECTORS

Infrastructure
Healthcare

EXPERIENCE

Ben is a senior M&A and corporate finance expert.

Based in London, Ben has over 20 years experience in advising clients on M&A, joint ventures, complex restructures and equity capital raisings. He works with a number of our listed company clients on corporate governance and board advisory matters.

Ben works with clients from a number of sectors including, transport, TMT, water, retail and private equity. He helps multinational corporations, including those from the US and Japan, with their strategic investments into Europe.

Ben’s experience includes advising:

- Stagecoach Group plc on its recommended £595 million takeover by DWS Infrastructure and prior National Express merger proposal
- Workspace Group plc on its £277 million recommended takeover of McKay Securities plc
- Synthomer plc on its US$1 billion acquisition of Eastman Chemical's Adhesive business and related £220 million placing and US$330 million debt facility
- IBM on its acquisition of Nordcloud and Waeg
- Saga plc on its £150 million capital raise through a placing and open offer
- WH Smith PLC on its £166 million placing and convertible bond issue
- Principal shareholder in GoCo Group plc on the £594 million recommended offer by Future plc
- WH Smith on its $400 million acquisition of Marshall Retail Group in the US and related £155 million equity placing
- Synthomer plc on its $824 million acquisition of OMNOVA Solutions Inc and related rights issue
- GIC on its acquisition of a minority interest in container terminal operator TIL
- Virgin Group on the acquisition of Flybe through a consortium of Virgin Atlantic, Stobart Air and Cyrus
- the founder shareholder of esure Group plc on the recommended £1.2 billion cash acquisition of the company by Bain Capital
- Abengoa on its sale of 25% of Atlantica Yield plc to Algonquin Power and Utilities Corp
- Liberty Property Trust on a £110 million purchase of eight UK distribution centres
- a pension fund investor on the acquisition of a minority interest in one the worlds busiest airports
- PA Consulting Group on the acquisition of a 51% interest in the company by Carlyle Group
- Saga plc on the sale of Allied Healthcare to Aurelius
- Photobox on its sale to Exponent and Electra
- Mitsubishi on its acquisition of 25 per cent of South Staffordshire Water

- IBM on a number of acquisitions
- Saga on its £135 million cash offer for Nestor Healthcare and its US$ 170 million acquisition of Allied Healthcare
- Stagecoach Group plc on numerous matters, including rail franchise acquisitions, the disposal of the retail platform of its European Megabus coach business and the sale and subsequent acquisition of its London bus business
- Herbert Smith on its merger with Freehills
- hibu on its 2014 £2.3 billion debt and corporate restructuring
- Itochu on its £42 million investment in Bristol Water
- Sale of Saga Limited for £1.35 billion to Charterhouse
- Founding shareholder of esure Insurance plc on its initial public offering
- Bristol Water on its £165 million takeover by Aguas de Barcelona
- Jones Group Inc on its £215 million acquisition of Kurt Geiger
- European administrators of Nortel on the US$2 billion disposals of various businesses