

Global Connect - Frequently asked questions

The following gives model answers to some questions that you may have. If you need more information or have questions not addressed below, please contact your AGN Regional Director or London Head Office, and we will make sure you get the information you want.

WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHY?

- **Is this a merger?**
No. Both DFK and AGN will continue as fully autonomous organisations. Whilst we will look for areas of cooperation and synergy, there are no plans to merge the organisations. We believe that we can strengthen each other in various ways, without combining our interests and still preserving the separate nature and character of our organisations, which our members value.
- **Why are you doing this?**
To ensure that both organisations remain strong and competitive in a changing market, and above all are as effective as possible in delivering the best possible international solutions to the clients of our respective members.
- **What benefit is this to AGN members?**
We believe it will strengthen both our global coverage and our penetration of various industry sectors and specialisms, to support the best possible solutions for members' clients. Thus, we will have access to DFK members in areas where AGN does not have coverage, or to DFK members with specialisms that AGN members may not have.
We also believe that in the medium term it will be possible to achieve organisational synergies and efficiencies.
- **Will Global Connect have other members in the future?**
It is anticipated that AGN and DFK will operate Global Connect for at least 12 months before considering other memberships. However, it is likely that Global Connect membership might expand in the future, subject to the approval of both Boards. It is possible that future Global Connect membership might be with non-accounting organisations.

MEMBER PROGRAMS & RELATIONSHIPS WITH DFK MEMBERS

- **Will we contact DFK members locally, and if so how?**
There is nothing to stop you making local contact if you wish, but it is expected that contact with DFK will usually be introduced via the AGN London Head Office.
- **Who do we contact at AGN to ask for advice concerning DFK members?**
Please contact your AGN regional director in the usual way, or the AGN London Head Office if you prefer.



- **Will DFK have access to AGN Private Members Area and AGN programs such as Sharegroups?**
Not initially. The programs of both organisations will continue as before, being available to the members of that organisation only. It may be that joint member initiatives could be developed in the future, but only if the Boards of both organisations decided that there was benefit to their members.
- **What happens if I don't get on with the DFK member locally or I have concerns about them?**
Both organisations are similar in outlook, and we sincerely doubt that this should be a significant issue. However, you should contact your AGN regional director to make known and discuss any concerns you may have. There is no compulsion for you to contact or have a relationship with your local DFK member if you prefer not to.

WEBSITE & MEMBERS DIRECTORIES

- **Will we have access to DFK website members' area?**
AGN members will have access to the DFK public website only.
- **Will we be combining member directories?**
No. Each organisation will continue to have member directories as at present. Other than what is already in the public domain, information will be shared at a head office levels only.

WORK REFERRALS

- **How will client work referrals be dealt with?**
In most cases, nothing will change. Both organisations require that work is preferentially referred within its own membership. Global Connect is intended to address situations where AGN does not have a member or situations requiring a special skill or sector in which the AGN member does not have capability. In such cases, you should contact your AGN Regional Director or London Head Office for further guidance.
- **Will AGN still favour their members in a given location or will the referral go to a member who responds to the email sooner?**
As noted above, in most cases members of both AGN and DFK will continue to refer work to fellow members of their own association, exactly as at present.
- **If we need to make a referral that cannot be covered by AGN, can we contact DFK members directly?**
We ask you please to contact your AGN Regional Director or AGN London Head Office, so that we can ensure that any matters are connected appropriately. However, there is no prohibition on direct contact if you know the people or prefer this approach.

- **Will I be held responsible if I refer work to DFK and it goes wrong for my client?**
The situation will be exactly as for referring to a fellow AGN member. It will depend on engagement terms, but it is likely that the firm performing the work will be responsible for its delivery.

DUES/FEES & COSTS

- **Will this affect our membership dues/fees?**
No. There are no plans for either organisation to change its dues/fees structure because of this initiative.
- **What will be the cost of running Global Connect?**
The costs will be minimal as Global Connect will not employ its own staff or acquire its own facilities. A small investment in an expertise database will be expected, but for the most part it is likely that the assets of one of its member associations can be employed.

OTHER MATTERS

- **Will AGN staff work for DFK too?**
In the short term, it is unlikely that AGN and DFK will share staff, and things will continue as at present. However, efficiencies and synergies will be investigated for the future.
- **Are DFK members monitored to ensure high standards as in AGN?**
AGN and DFK have similar approaches to ensuring and maintaining high standards of membership. Both organisations require a pre-admission review, both monitor annually the continued good standing and “fit and proper” status of members, and both follow up on any instances of non-compliance or poor client service.
- **Don't DFK members use “DFK” in their practice names? Does this impact AGN members or carry any liability risk?**
Some DFK members are network members, within the DFK association. They use the DFK name and comply with additional quality control and compliance procedures, for which they pay an additional fee. We do not believe this practice carries material risks of liability contagion beyond those using the DFK name. Furthermore, Global Connect is structured to minimise any such risks impacting others.
- **Will you be sharing members confidential information held by AGN?**
No. Any data shared will be that which is publicly available from our websites, or otherwise will be specifically given by members for the purposes of such sharing, which will be made clear at the time.



- **What is the legal structure of Global Connect?**

It will be a UK corporation limited by guarantee, operating on a not-for-profit basis. Members will be Global Connect's participating associations, who will give a guarantee of £1.

- **Will Global Connect be publicly promoted and, for example, have a website or its own logo?**

Global Connect will have its own logo, but its promotion will be "low key" and any website will be basic. Certainly, the promotion of the AGN and DFK brands will be a clear priority. It is anticipated that Global Connect might be referenced where members are using its capabilities in a client service situation. A protocol will be developed for this to ensure that Global Connect is correctly described in such cases and risk management is appropriate.

- **I have other questions – how do I get more information?**

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