

# Isle of Man Private Trust Companies

Protecting Your Family's Legacy

## Who are Manavia

Manavia is a globally focused corporate and trust services provider based in the Isle of Man, offering businesses the expertise and support they need to operate efficiently, expand internationally, and remain compliant in highly regulated markets. Our services span corporate structuring, trust management, regulatory compliance, and eGaming licensing, ensuring that businesses receive strategic guidance and operational efficiency across multiple jurisdictions.

Established in 1997, Manavia was founded in the Isle of Man to meet the growing need for agile, high-quality corporate and trust services backed by deep regulatory knowledge and professional integrity. Since our inception, we have built a reputation for delivering strategic, compliant, and client-focused solutions, helping international businesses navigate complex regulatory landscapes and establish a strong operational presence in key markets.

Manavia is part of a larger group of companies, which includes MannBenham Advocates, a leading Isle of Man law firm, which provides our clients with a distinct advantage—access to specialist legal expertise when required. This ensures that corporate structures are established on a solid, legally sound foundation, mitigating risks and supporting long-term success. We integrate corporate governance, financial structuring, and compliance solutions, delivering a seamless, full-service experience that meets international regulatory standards.

We assist businesses globally by providing tailored corporate solutions that ensure compliance with international regulations, support strategic market entry, and optimise operational structures. With extensive expertise in cross-border business structuring and regulatory compliance, we help companies navigate complex legal frameworks, enabling businesses to expand, operate efficiently, and maintain a strong corporate foundation across multiple jurisdictions.

Our strategic approach ensures that businesses benefit from efficient structures, robust compliance measures, and financial optimisation, allowing them to focus on growth rather than regulatory challenges. Whether businesses are looking to establish a new entity, manage corporate governance, or navigate licensing complexities, Manavia provides the insight, security, and efficiency needed to succeed in today's fast-evolving business landscape.

# Private Trust Company

## Decoding the Mysteries

**Trusts are widely used globally for protecting wealth and assisting with succession, estate planning, and asset protection.**

However, business owners often face challenges with typical discretionary trusts, such as high operating costs and some professional trustees' reluctance to manage certain asset types. They may also wish to retain greater control over their assets.

Private Trust Companies (PTC) have emerged in various jurisdictions as a specific trust structure designed to address these concerns.

- A PTC is an entity established as a corporate trustee.
- Its sole purpose is to provide trust and fiduciary services to a single trust or a number of "connected" trusts.
- In many offshore trust jurisdictions, a PTC is exempt from licensing requirements, provided it does not offer services to the general public, unconnected trusts, or persons unrelated to the settlor(s).



# The need for a Private Trust Company

Private Trust Companies (PTC) represent a sophisticated, client-centric alternative for managing significant family wealth, offering a crucial path for families to retain direct oversight of their assets without the obligation of placing them under the exclusive control of a third-party professional trustee.

## Enhanced Control and Continuity

A PTC is established specifically for the individual family's private needs, ensuring the family's interests and legacy retain continuity for generations to come. For business owners and settlors, relinquishing legal ownership and control to an unfamiliar third party can be a difficult proposition. A key advantage of the PTC is the additional element of control it provides to the settlor and the family.

The company can be managed by the settlor or any individual they deem suitable. It is common practice for the settlor and their family members to sit on the PTC's board of directors, actively participating in the management and key business decisions concerning the family assets.

Through tailored arrangements, the settlor or their successor can appoint or dismiss members of the board as they see fit. This mechanism facilitates the generational transfer of management, allowing new family members with genuine interest and business experience to contribute to the growth of the family enterprise.

## Managing Complex Assets

A PTC strategically addresses scenarios where a standard professional trustee might be reluctant to become involved.

Professional trustees often avoid interfering with the management of an operating business or a highly concentrated asset class due to concerns regarding their fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries.

A settlor may utilise a PTC precisely for these assets, effectively addressing the concern of relinquishing control over their family business and strategic assets.

## Fiduciary Duties and Professional Guidance

It is essential to approach the appointment of directors to the PTC with mindfulness regarding potential conflicts of interest.

If a beneficiary is appointed as a director, they must fully understand the requirements of the position. Their decisions must prioritise the interest of the beneficiaries as a whole, ensuring they are not unduly influenced by personal circumstances or interests.

To enhance the administration of the entire structure and provide objective assistance, it is often useful to appoint experienced professional director(s) to the board.



# Ownership

The shares of a Private Trust Company (PTC) can be held in several distinct ways, each offering different levels of control, asset protection, and continuity for the family legacy. We explore the principal ownership alternatives:

- Direct Ownership via a Private Trust Company by the settlor and/or their family members.
- Ownership via a non-charitable Purpose Trust.
- Ownership under a Foundation.

## Private Trust Company

The most straightforward method is to place the ownership and management of the PTC directly under the name of the settlor or the settlor’s family.

Diagram 1 illustrates a typical arrangement whereby the settlor directly holds the Private Trust Company.

While this option is simple to implement, it carries significant risks and limitations:

### Lack of Contingency and Protection

This structure unfortunately lacks robust contingency planning or protection from potential legal actions.

### Succession Risk

If the PTC is solely owned by one individual, the entire structure—including the PTC, the trust, and all underlying entities—may collapse upon that individual’s demise if proper succession planning has not been meticulously implemented.

### Creditor Risk

Even when owned jointly by the settlor and family members to ensure continuity, there remains the risk that the owners’ creditors may make claims against the shares of the Private Trust Company to satisfy personal debts.

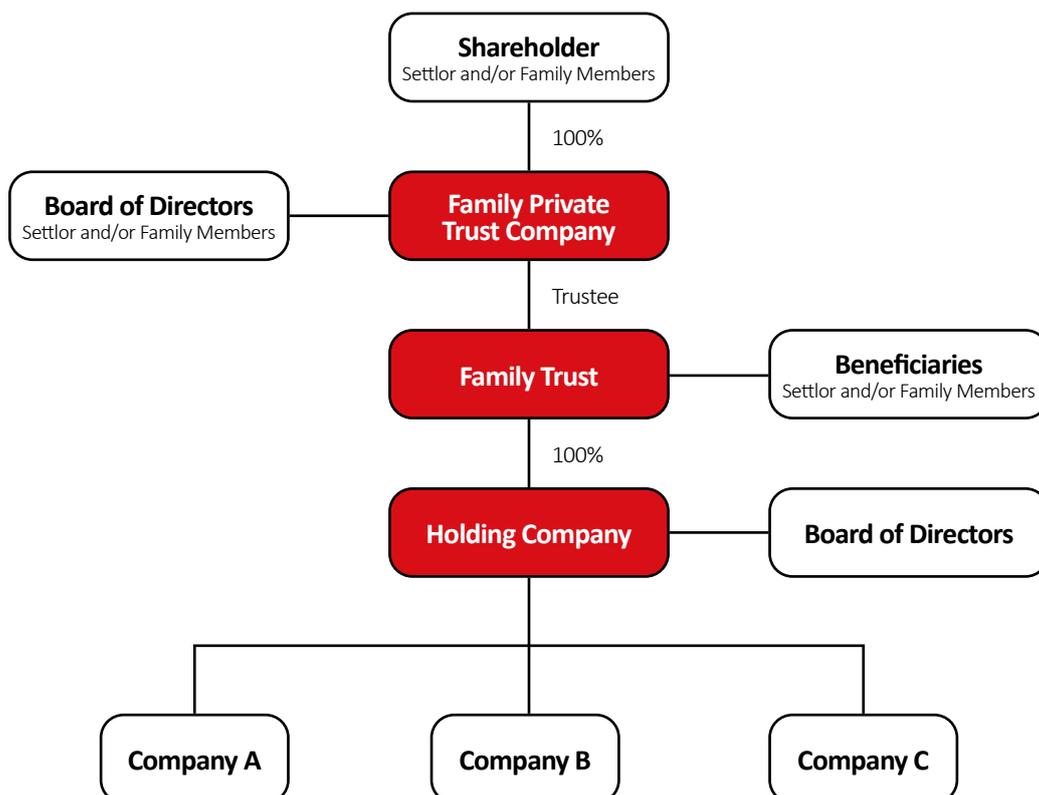


Diagram 1

## Private Trust Company via a Purpose Trust

A Purpose Trust is a specific type of trust established to hold assets for a defined purpose rather than for named individuals or classes of people as beneficiaries.

This structure is highly effective for enhancing security and continuity:

### Holding the PTC Shares

A Purpose Trust can be strategically utilised to hold the shares of the Private Trust Company (PTC).

### Professional Administration

The trustee of the Purpose Trust is typically a professional trustee.

### The Role of the Enforcer

A core feature of this model is the appointment of an Enforcer or an Enforcer's committee.

### Oversight and Direction

The Enforcer's role is to provide necessary directions to the professional trustee, ensuring the trustee fulfils its duties under the Purpose Trust.

### Guiding the PTC

Crucially, the Enforcer may also provide guidance regarding the composition, appointment, and removal of the directors of the underlying Private Trust Company. This mechanism ensures the family's strategic influence is maintained without direct ownership risk, providing a robust governance layer.

*Diagram 2* illustrates the structure of a Private Trust Company which is held by a purpose trust.

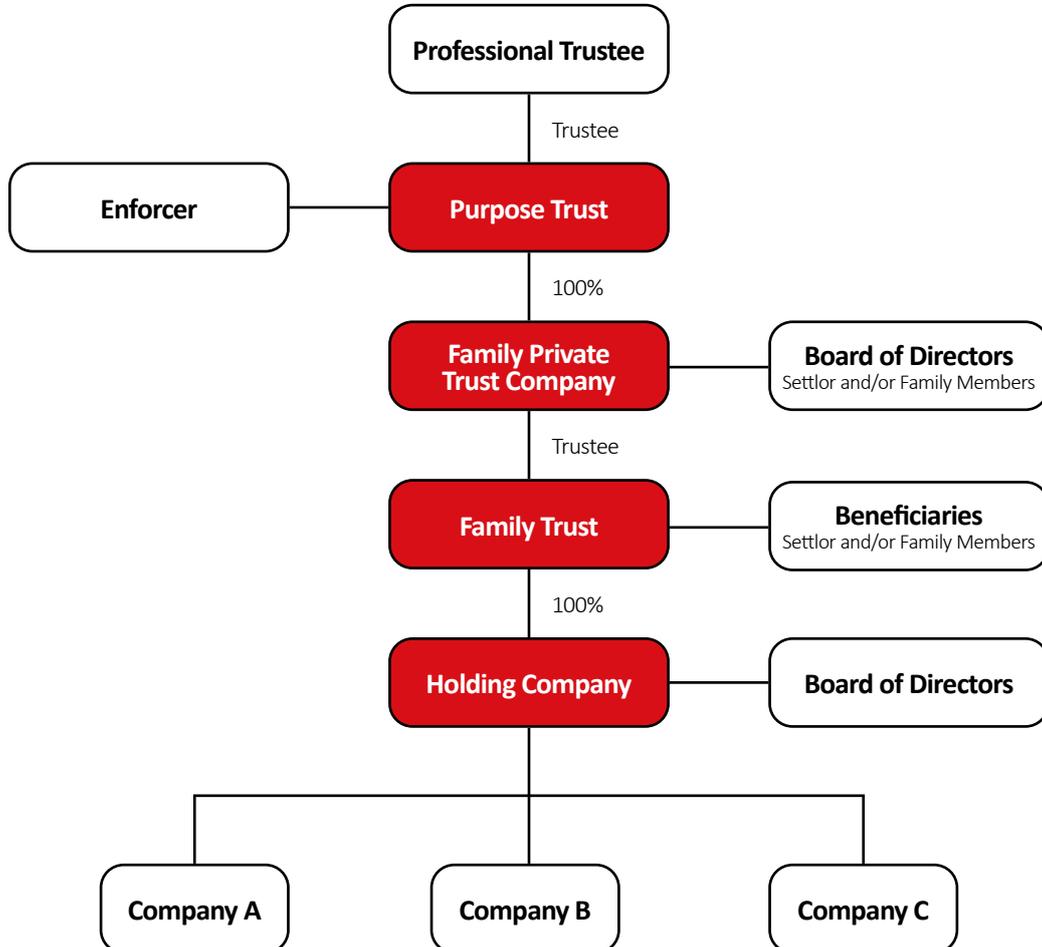


Diagram 2

## Private Trust Company via a Foundation

A Foundation offers a highly sophisticated and robust alternative for the ownership structure of a Private Trust Company (PTC).

Under this framework, the structure maintains a degree of family involvement:

- The settlor and/or beneficiaries can be appointed to the Foundation’s management board.
- They can also maintain an active involvement as directors of the Private Trust Company.

*Diagram 3* illustrates how a foundation is used to hold a Private Trust Company.

### Distinct Legal Entity

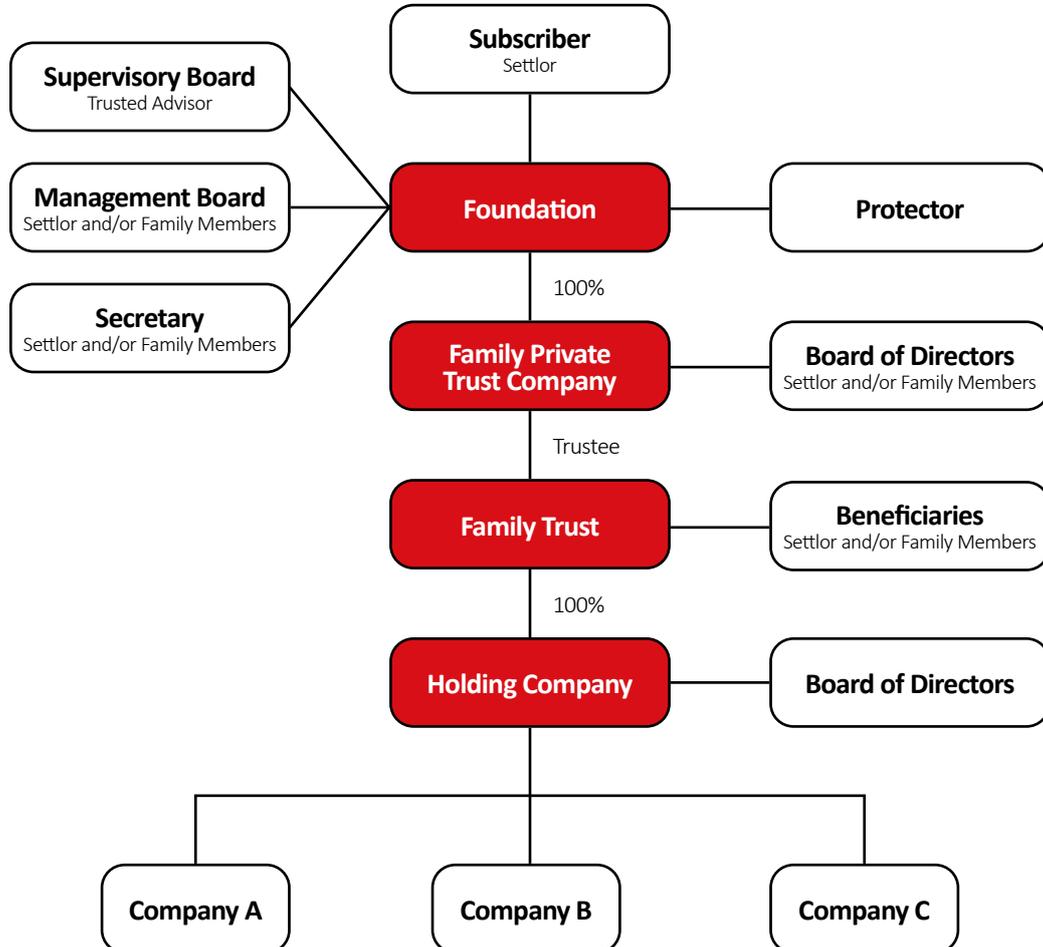
The Foundation holds the PTC’s shares and is an entity that is separate and distinct from all other interested parties of the PTC.

### Self-Owned Structure

A Foundation does not have owners per se ; instead, it is a legal person capable of bringing and defending legal actions in its own name.

### Dual Function

A Foundation can simultaneously act as the owner and manager of the Private Trust Company. It is a self-owned structure endowed by the settlor of the PTC to be utilised for persons or purposes detailed in its charter.



*Diagram 3*

## Securing Your Future with Manavia

For families whose assets and aspirations demand a level of sophistication and personal involvement that a traditional trustee cannot provide, the Private Trust Company (PTC) is the definitive solution. It is more than just a legal structure; it is the ultimate expression of family governance, ensuring that your values and vision for the future are embedded at the heart of your wealth's management.



A Manavia Private Trust Company, established in the Isle of Man's stable and well-respected jurisdiction, places you and your trusted advisers directly on the board of the corporate trustee. This empowers you to oversee and influence decision-making with unparalleled speed and intimate commercial knowledge, providing the control and flexibility essential for managing complex, non-traditional assets like operating businesses, properties, or passion investments.

By choosing Manavia, you benefit from our quarter-century of experience and our unique affiliation with MannBenham Advocates, providing immediate access to specialist legal expertise. We don't just administer the structure; we deliver the professional guidance, compliance rigour, and on-Island substance required to ensure your bespoke arrangement is robust, confidential, and fully compliant for generations to come.

Protecting Your Legacy is Personal. We invite you to begin a dialogue with our dedicated team to craft a PTC solution that is perfectly tailored to your family's unique circumstances. Choose the Manavia PTC—where control, continuity, and confidentiality converge to safeguard your family's wealth for the next generation, and beyond.

## Conclusion

In the realm of global wealth planning, complexity demands a bespoke response. A traditional trust serves many purposes, but for families managing significant, often intricate assets—from operating businesses to diverse global portfolios—the need for direct influence and rapid decision-making becomes paramount.

A PTC is the gold standard for family governance. It is the sophisticated vehicle that grants you the unparalleled ability to place trusted family members and advisers at the heart of your wealth structure. This is not simply about administration; it is about embedding your family's values, commercial knowledge, and long-term vision directly into the trusteeship, ensuring genuine continuity for generations.

By establishing your PTC with Manavia, you gain the assurance of a quarter-century of expertise, anchored in the stability of the Isle of Man. Crucially, our unique affiliation with MannBenham Advocates provides a seamless legal shield, ensuring your structure is not only administratively sound but is constantly supported by specialist legal counsel—a layer of risk mitigation few can match.

Your family's legacy is unique; its protection should be too. We invite you to move beyond conventional solutions and partner with Manavia to architect a Private Trust Company that secures your assets, preserves your privacy, and empowers your family to actively shape its financial future.

**Contact Manavia today to explore how a bespoke Isle of Man Private Trust Company solution can be implemented to secure your family's financial legacy.**

## Contact Us



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David has a demonstrated history over the last 30 years in the Financial Services industry working for large multi-national organisations and running his own commercial businesses.

David is skilled in business planning, operations management, cross-border transactions, trading structures, asset protection and wealth preservation. Throughout his career, David has specialised in business development, offering personalised financial services and bespoke global solutions for HNWI.



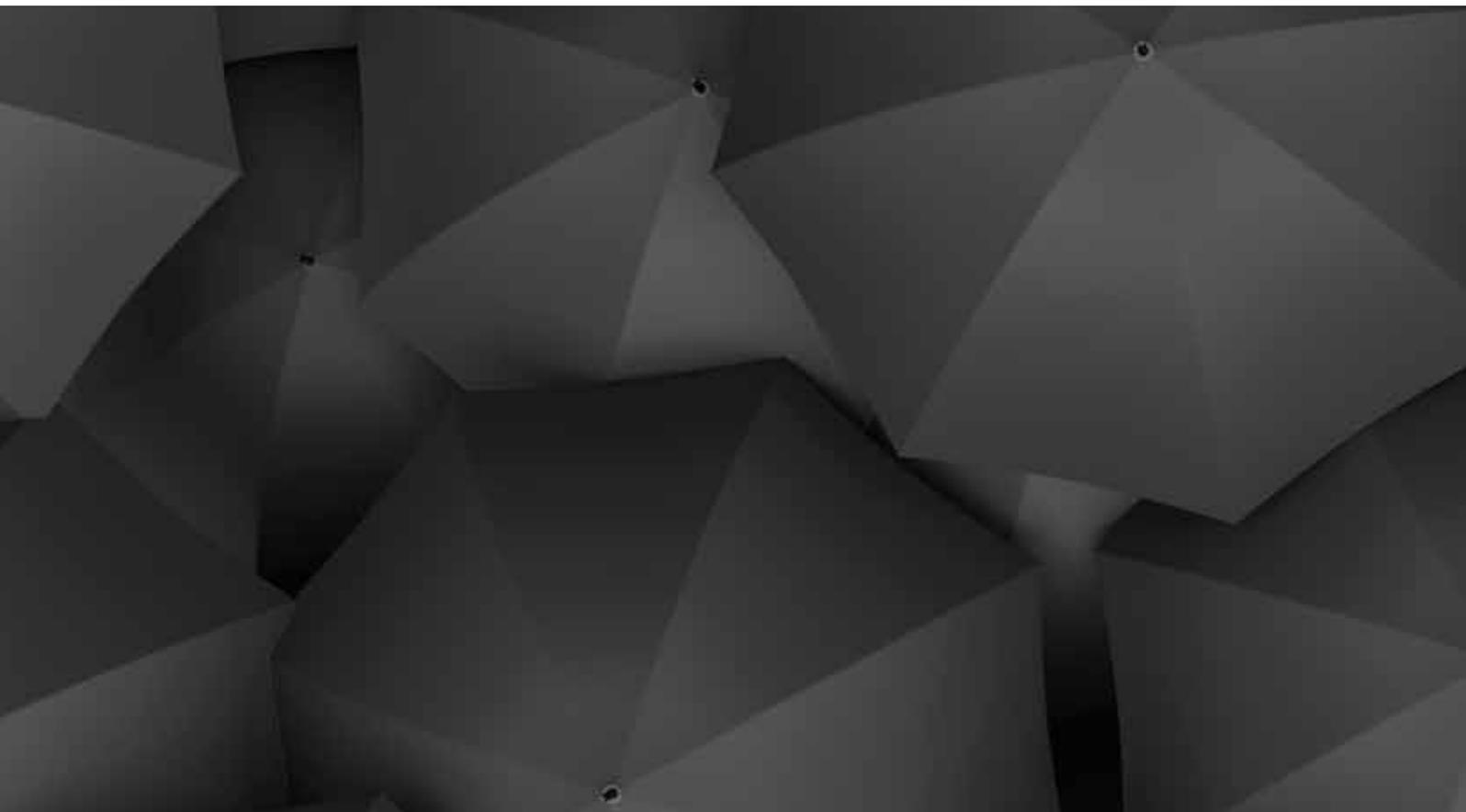
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Born and raised in the Isle of Man, James has been working in the banking and eGaming industries for more than 13 years and was excited about his new role when he joined the Manavia team in March 2024.

Originally starting his career in the banking sector, James then made the industry change to the eGaming sector. James has a wealth of experience from notable roles within the eGaming and banking industries, with an extensive background in compliance, risk, and fraud.





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