ICAEW KNOW-HOW AUDIT AND ASSURANCE FACULTY



# Brexit and audit

4 FEBRUARY 2021 DONNA WILCOX,

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# Today's presenters



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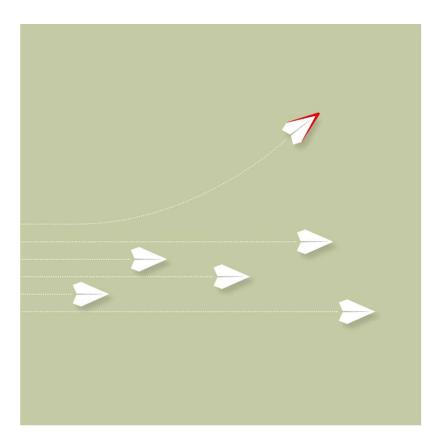


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# Impact on Risk Assessment

#### Identifying risks relating to Brexit

- What new risks are relevant following Brexit?
  - · The entity and its environment
    - Industry, regulatory and other factors
    - The entity's operations
    - Business risks (objectives and strategies)
  - Internal control

#### Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement

- What is the risk of material misstatement arising from the identified risk factors?
- Is there an impact on financial statement level risk, e.g. Going Concern?
- Are there any significant risks? (e.g. related to recent economic or other developments)

#### **Combination of Brexit and COVID-19**

• Does the combined impact of Brexit and COVID-19 factors increase the risk of material misstatement?

# Economic risk factors

**General economic well-being** 

- Is the industry/sector reliant on the general strength of the economy (e.g. retail, hospitality)? What about inflation?
- Is there a dual impact of COVID-19 and Brexit?

#### Impact of market performance

- Does the entity rely on investments subject to market volatility?
- What about foreign exchange fluctuations?

#### Increased risk of fraud?

• Do the pressures of Brexit (and COVID-19) increase the risk of fraud?

# Industry and sector specific risk factors

Import / export turnaround times

Reliance on EU supply chains vs. domestic/international

EU agreements, licenses and quotas

Reliance on EU labour

Reliance on EU funding

Additional import / export costs

Cashflow management

# **Entity Risk Factors - POLL**

What are your client's business relationships with the EU? You may select more than one.

- Importer of goods from the EU
  Exporter of goods to the EU
- 3) Provider of services in the EU
- 4) Affected by EU quotas
- 5) Affected by EU licences etc.
- 6) Other EU relationship [text box]

# **Entity Risk Factors**

### The entity and its environment

- What are the changes to the entity, its suppliers, customers?
- Can the entity fulfil orders if goods are held at ports?
- Does the entity rely on EU staff for critical roles or staff regularly working in the EU (& vice versa)?
- Will the entity face increased costs (administration, tariffs, duties, transport) on exported and imported goods?
- How exposed to macro-economic factors is the entity (e.g. currency fluctuations, interest rates, inflation)?

# **Entity Risk Factors**

Laws and regulations

- What legal and compliance issues impact the entity's operations?
- Can the business continue to operate in the EU?
- Are products and services subject to EU regulatory and compliance law?
- Are there any new risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations?
- There will be need to ensure compliance with dual legislation (UK and EU)

# **Entity Risk Factors**

#### **Internal control**

- How has the control environment been impacted by Brexit ?
- What changes have been made to internal control, specifically over import / export transactions?
- What controls are in place to ensure tariffs and duties are properly recorded
- What impact is there on control over subsidiary operations?
- Has the risk of fraud increased? Think about the fraud triangle.

# **Topics**

Financial reporting risks

- UK Law
- EU Law
- Business and its environment

### Practical audit considerations

- Group audits
- Auditing EEA entities

# Financial reporting risks - POLL

How far advanced are the <u>majority</u> of your clients with their consideration of the trade and cooperation agreement? [please select one]

- **1)Very prepared**, they have identified the requirements that apply to their business and have implemented a clear action plan and controls
- 2) Reasonably well prepared, they have a general awareness of the requirements that apply to them but have not tied down the specifics or put clear action plans and controls in place
- 3) Still preparing, they are still trying to understand what requirements apply to them

### Financial reporting risks

Legal requirements

The business and its environment

# Legal requirements

#### **UK Law**

- UK-adopted IAS "prepared in accordance with international accounting standards in conformity with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006"
- Consolidation exemptions (equivalent GAAP)
- Distributions

#### EU Law

- EU subsidiaries
- EU branches
- EU listing requirements

# Financial reporting risks - POLL

How have your clients' businesses been affected by Brexit? You may select more than one.

- 1) Supplies have been delayed and/or are more costly
- 2) Demand for products/services has fallen
- 3) It's more difficult or costly to get staff
- 4) Exchange rate or interest rate fluctuations
- 5) Additional or extended funding requirements
- 6) Brexit has provided opportunities and the business has expanded

### The business and its environment

### **Increased uncertainty affects**

- The economy
- Market activity
- Forecasts

# Economy and market activity

Discount rates > e.g. lease liabilities, impairment reviews, provisions

Fair values > e.g. investments, investment properties, derivatives, pension assets

Complex transactions > e.g. hedging

Contract modifications > e.g.loans, leases, SBP, bonuses

Business or financial restructuring

Legal or contractual breaches

Taxation

### **Forecasts**

Non-current asset impairments > e.g. PPE, intangible assets, right of use assets, investments

Other asset impairments > e.g. inventory, financial assets, receivables

Going concern > e.g. covenants, trading, mitigating actions, material uncertainties

Other activities > e.g. sales returns, contract accounting, onerous contracts

Other events > e.g. contingent consideration in a business combination, deferred tax assets

# Financial reporting risks

### **Inventory example**

- Obsolescence
- Returns
- Reduced demand
- Increased costs

# Financial reporting risks

### Disclosures

- Subsequent events
- Narrative reporting
- Exceptional items
- Key estimates and judgements
- Note disclosures

(such as impairments, going concern, contingencies, discontinued operations/held for sale)

Accounting policies

### **Practical audit considerations - POLL**

# What types of entities do you audit in the EEA? You may select more than one.

- 1) Groups with EEA components?
- 2) Companies with EEA branches?
- 3) Companies with securities listed on an EEA market?
- 4) Subsidiaries with an EEA parent?
- 5) EEA incorporated entities?

# Practical audit considerations

# EEA entities and members of a group

- Group Audits (EEA components, data transfers, site visits)
- Auditing EEA entities
- Subsidiary audit exemption (EEA parent)

# Thank you for attending



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