

Member Update: Covid-19 Policy Activity

Ongoing support for members

Government Engagement: ACCA's Policy Team is working to develop recommendations and lobby for government policy to support members and the businesses they advise. The team maintains close relationships with a number of government departments and ministers to ensure that members have clear and relevant guidance.

Members have been sharing a range of helpful insight and experiences which we have reported back in response to government requests for business intelligence and our targeted lobbying and we continue to welcome a broad range of views and insight from members to shape lobbying at UKPolicy@accaglobal.com

Activity Updates 22 June

ACCA joins the Professional & Business Services Council

In June ACCA's Chief Executive, Helen Brand was invited to join the [Professional Services Business Council](#), convened by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The Council met to discuss the sectors response to covid-19, future recovery and the Councils working group progress on responsible business, skills and inclusion and EU Exit.

ACCA was able to highlight the work of our members in supporting many businesses throughout the covid-19 outbreak and where ACCA and members will be able to support and advise throughout the recovery period.

SME Cashflow Survey

At the beginning of the covid-19 lockdown period, ACCA UK launched a survey in collaboration with the Corporate Finance Network (CFN) to identify the urgency and prevalence of liquidity concerns for businesses. This month, member feedback has received coverage on [BBC](#) online pages and BBC Radio as well as a host of trade press.

Recent data shows around 2.9% of SMEs have liquidated or dissolved their business and 15% of practice clients feel they will be unable to reopen their business with social distancing guidelines in place. Business client appetite to offer supply chain credit is in decline with 18% of clients tightening credit terms for new customers.

We urge members from practice to share their views and client experiences [here](#).

Ongoing engagement with HMRC

ACCA regularly attends a number of HMRC forums and this month we have taken part in meetings with the HMRC Representative Body Steering Group, Employment and Payroll Group, Agent Digital Design Advisory Group and CJRS Stakeholder Group. We were able to raise several critical areas of

member feedback including simplification of agent applications for CJRS, Director Payroll Applications and CBILS take-up. HMRC have noted member concerns and ACCA will share relevant feedback or actions with members in due course.

Questions to Northern Ireland Office:

ACCA attended an event with Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP. We submitted two questions during a Chatham House style event:

- How can the UK government help balance the need to get people back into urban centres to support commercial property, hospitality and retail as lockdown eases, with the opportunities that a green recovery will provide both in short term and long term?
- Could the Secretary of State reassure the business sector that there will not be a no deal scenario, with Northern Ireland having to trade under WTO terms at the end of the year, as one of the most adversely affected, post COVID, UK regions?

Both questions were well received, and the Minister reassured us that the Government will look closely at both issues raised.

Upcoming engagements and invitations for member collaboration:

Labour Policy Forum:

Throughout June and July ACCA will be submitting evidence to the Labour Party Policy Forum on a range of policy areas including economic recovery, trade, Brexit and skills. We welcome evidence from members on what principles or areas of focus the Labour Party should adopt in their policy development. Opposition policy is a useful mechanism for holding existing government measures to account and advocating for new mechanisms to improve business support.

On the 29th of June ACCA's Executive Director for Government, Maggie McGhee will take part in a Labour Policy Forum panel with Shadow Chancellor Annaliese Dodds MP to discuss Covid-19 Economic Recovery. Member views are welcomed at UKPolicy@accaglobal.com

BEIS Select Committee – Post-pandemic growth: The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee is holding an [inquiry](#) into post-pandemic business growth. ACCA will be submitting a response by 17 July and invites members to send in thoughts and market intelligence for inclusion in our submission. Members can follow the link above for the full call for evidence. The main relevant questions for ACCA members will be:

- What should the guiding principles of the government's recovery package be (e.g. productivity, green-growth, protecting jobs, promoting education and training etc)?
- How can the government invest in economies and business to secure post-pandemic growth?
- Should the government prioritise certain sectors or company groups within its recovery package and what criteria should be used to identify those in greatest need?

- Are LEPS, devolved mayoralities, growth hubs and councils best placed to deliver local growth? What do local businesses require from local authorities to help them thrive and grow?

Members can access previous Policy activity updates on ACCA UK's covid-19 hub for members here: <https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/cam/coronavirus/policy-updates.html>