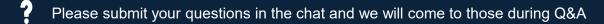


Welcome



Andrew Bush Host









The session will be recorded

Agenda

22nd June 12-2.30pm				
Topic	Time			
Welcome and Intro	12.00pm			
Economic Overview	12.05pm			
Policy update	12.15pm			
Audit & financial reporting update	12.25pm			
Tax Update	12.45pm			
Break	1.15pm			
Pensions	1.25pm			
Financial Sustainability	1.40pm			
TRAC	2.05pm			
Q&A	2.15pm			
Closing Remarks	2.25pm			
Finish	2.30pm			

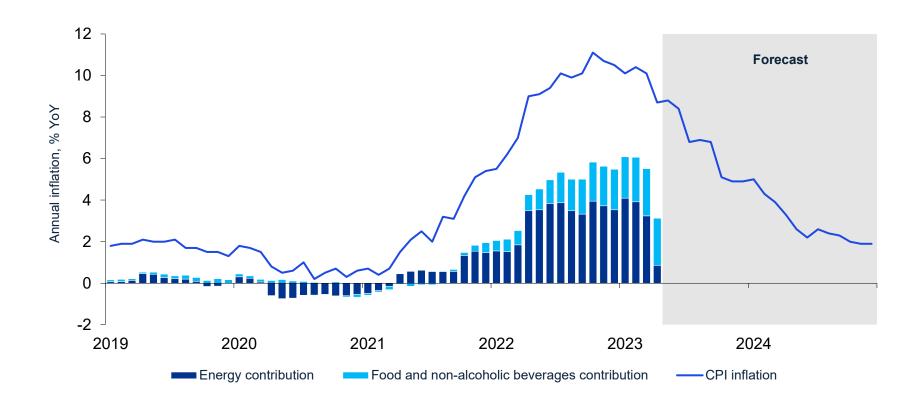




O1 **Economic Outlook**

Dennis Tatarkov

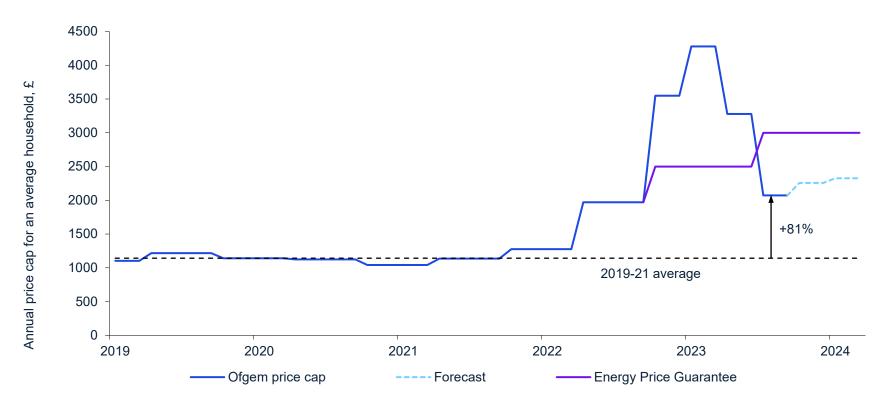
Inflation is set to fall through 2023 and 2024



Source: ONS, KPMG projections.

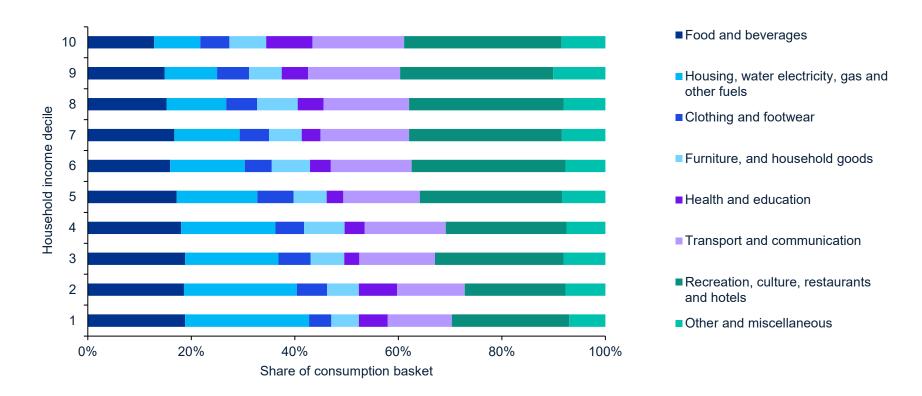


Ofgem's price cap has been reduced but prices remain high





Lower income households are more exposed to fluctuations in food and energy prices...



Source: ONS, KPMG analysis.



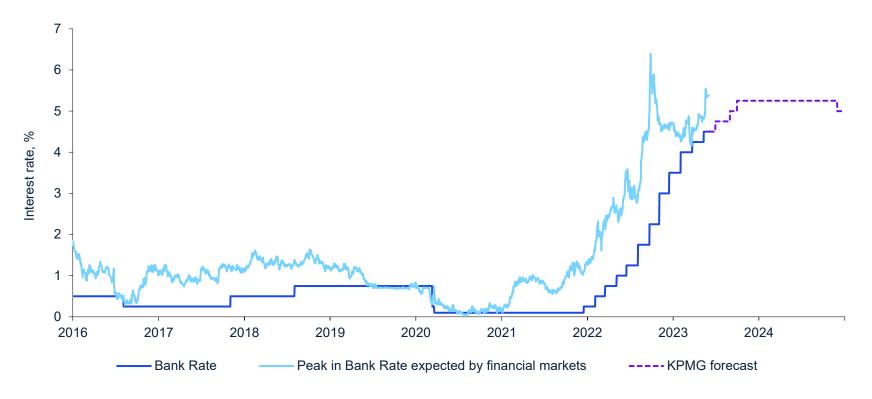
...and experienced greater inflation compared to higher income households







Base interest rates are close to their peak in this cycle



Source: Bank of England, BIS, KPMG analysis.



Company insolvencies have risen above prepandemic averages

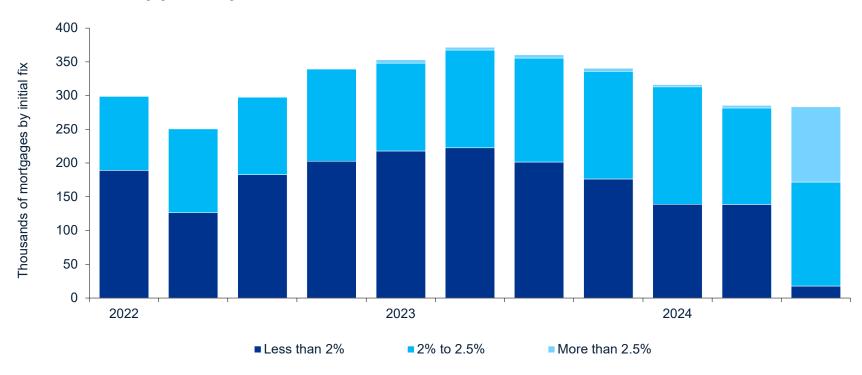


Source: The Insolvency Service, KPMG analysis.



1.4 million households are set to reach the end of their fixed rate mortgage term during 2023

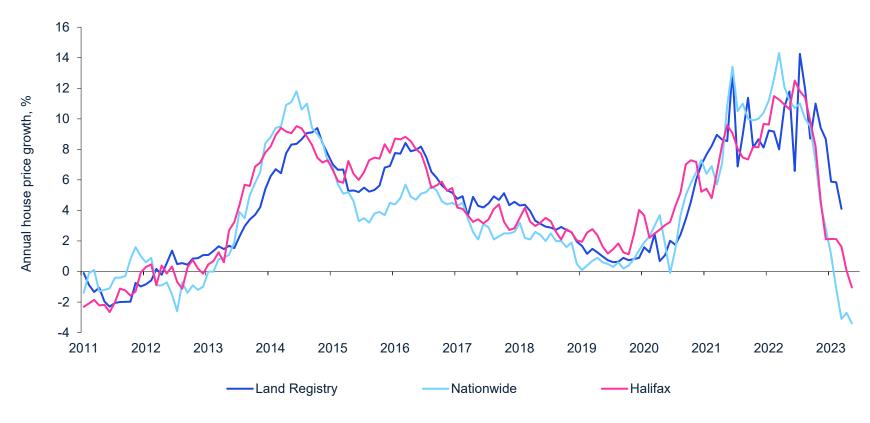
The number of mortgages reaching the end of their fixed term







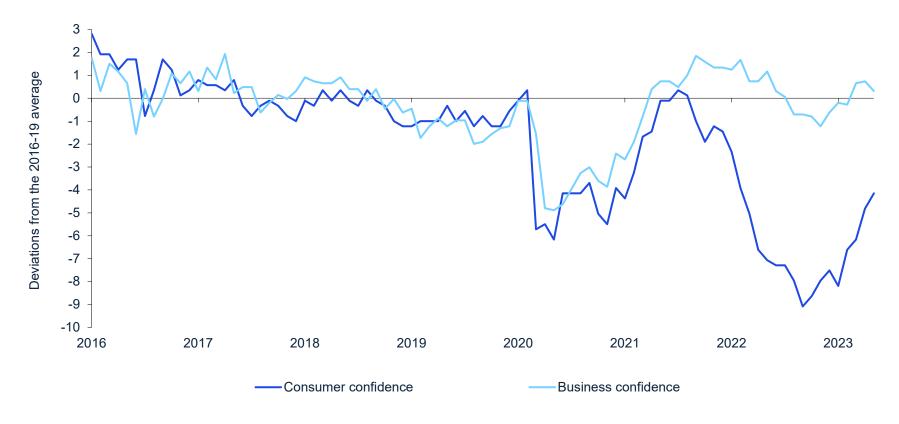
Indicators of house price growth have weakened markedly



Source: HM Land Registry, Nationwide, Halifax.



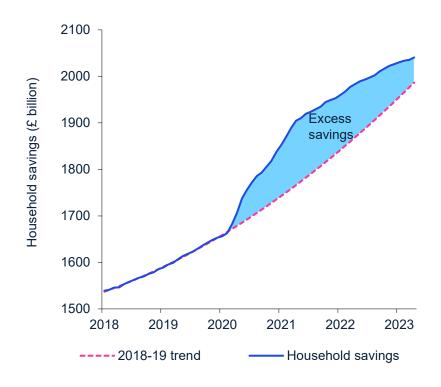
Consumer and business confidence have been volatile

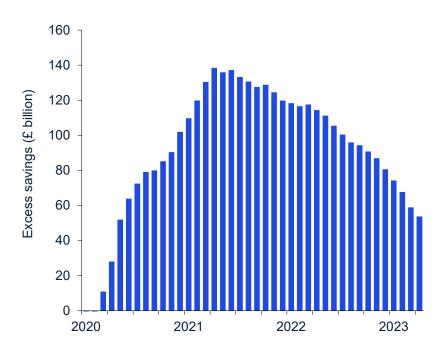


Source: GfK, Lloyds Business Barometer, KPMG analysis.



Households have used up around 60% of their excess savings

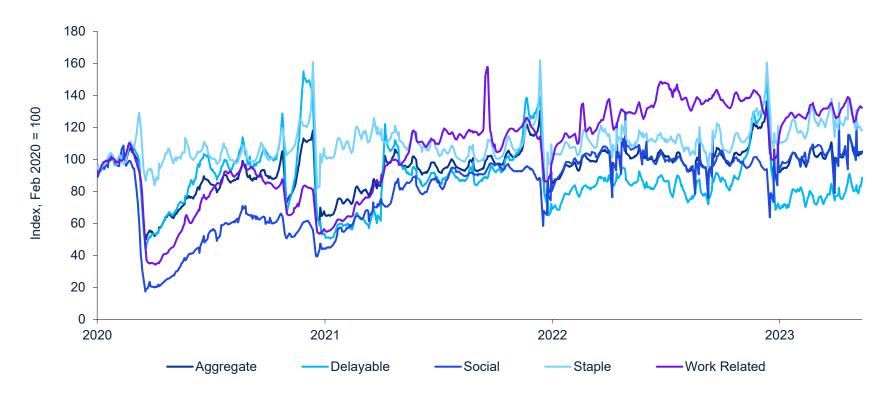




Source: Bank of England, KPMG analysis.



Credit card purchases down on delayable and up on work-related spending





Source: Bank of England's 'UK spending on credit and debit cards' experimental data series and ONS calculations.

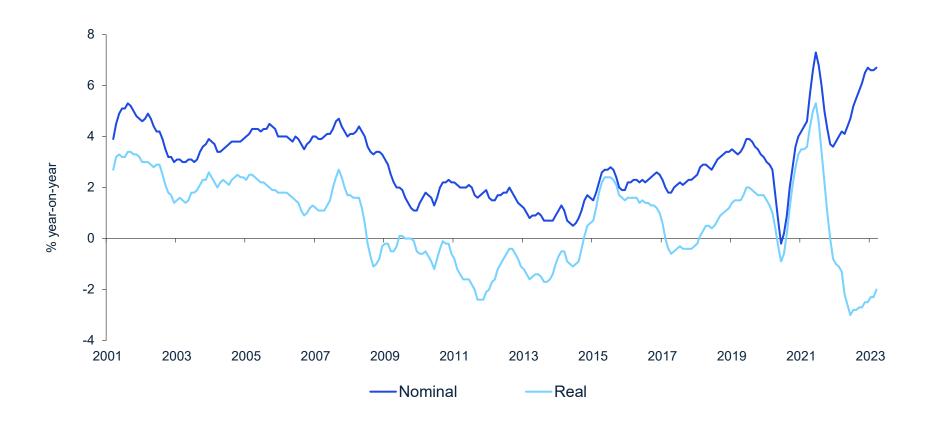
Labour supply has not kept up with labour demand





Source: ONS, KPMG analysis. Supply is total workforce participation. Demand is the sum of employment and vacancies.

Real pay growth has been negative for a while



Source: ONS, KPMG analysis.



17

Outlook for UK unemployment



Source: ONS, KPMG projections.



KPMG forecasts

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Real GDP	7.6	4.1	0.3	1.1
Consumer spending	6.3	5.3	0.2	0.6
Investment	6.1	8.6	0.8	0.8
Unemployment rate	4.5	3.7	4.3	4.6
Inflation	2.6	9.1	7.7	2.9
Base interest rate	0.25	3.50	5.25	5.00

Source: ONS, KPMG forecasts. Average % change on previous calendar year except for unemployment rate, which is average annual rate, while interest rate represents level at the end of calendar year. Investment represents Gross Fixed Capital Formation and inflation measure used is the CPI and the unemployment measure is LFS.



Policy update

Further coverage at:

- wonkhe.com

Or via our daily and Monday briefing emails



Key policy issues (June 2023)

01 FEE FREEZE

Severe real terms cut in fee income, alongside rising costs.

02 LIFELONG LEARNING

A dash for short courses and adult/vocational learning?

03 INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Concerns over graduation. Pay and pensions focus.

04 REGULATORY CHANGES

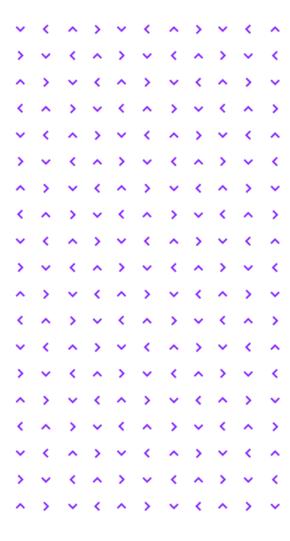
New regulator in Wales coming, Scotland in flux, England under review.

05 RECRUITMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Is slight deflation of demand and access last year a postpandemic blip.

06 ESG AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

Coming carbon emissions targets. Culture wars. Cost of finance. Liquidity.



Audit and financial reporting

Rees Batley

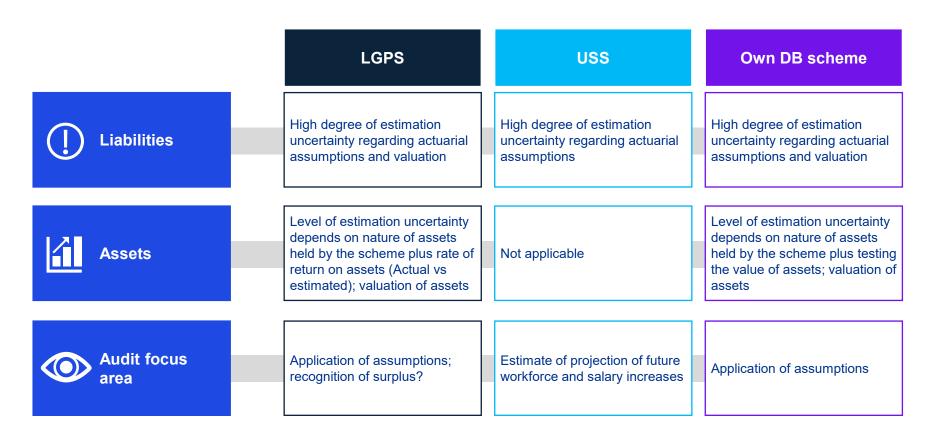
Areas of auditor focus





Pension reminders

Significant estimate – Valuation of Pension Assets and Liabilities





Pension reminders

Preparing for audit

- Early engagement across all stakeholders – including with actuaries and Pension Fund
- Ensure relevant judgements considered
- Assumptions reflect your entity / current market / inflation
- Consider recognition if scheme in surplus
- Disclosures include sensitivity analysis
- Triennial valuation 31 March 2022 LGPS in England and Wales

USS

- Assumptions align to future strategy (headcount; pay awards etc)
- Modeller revised
- triennial valuation date of 31 March 2023 will not impact on accounts



Changes in auditing standards









Accounting and financial reporting update

FRED 82 - Draft amendments to FRS102

- Revenue accounting a new Section 23, based on the IFRS 15 five-step model for revenue recognition.
- Lease accounting requirements a new Section 20, based on the IFRS 16 on-balance sheet model.
- Proposed implementation date for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025 – first impacting financial years ending 31 March 2026.

02 FRC areas of focus

- · Reporting in uncertain times
- Strategic Report
- Discount rates
- Material assumptions
- Pension schemes
- Cash flow statements
- Financial instruments
- Provisions and contingencies
- · Judgements and estimates

ACCOUNT' principles of corporate reporting:

Accurate

Connected and consistent

Complete

On-time

Unbiased

Navigable

Transparent

03 Climate reporting

- Existing company and listed company requirements
- ESG



Audit and Corporate Governance reform

In May 2022, the Government released its response to the former department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) white paper on Restoring Trust in Audit and Corporate Governance.

The King's Speech will take place in Autumn 2023; if the Audit Bill is included, primary legislation for the creation the Audit Reporting Governance Authority (ARGA) will be introduced in 2024. If not included, finalisation of primary legislation will take place after the next election.

In the absence of primary legislation, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) have progressed measures which can be implemented via Code changes or secondary legislation. See opposite for more detail.

Ongoing and upcoming developments

FTSE 350 entities

- The FRC released their minimum standard for Audit Committees in May 2023.
- It focuses on the Audit Committee's responsibility to oversee and appoint the statutory auditor only. Voluntary adoption anticipated for 2023 year ends. Supervision against the standard will commence once the FRC becomes ARGA.

Premium listed entities and voluntary adopters of the UK Corporate Governance Code

- The FRC released a consultation on revisions to the UK Corporate Governance Code in May 2023.
- Includes provisions for a statement of effectiveness on the internal controls over financial reporting throughout the reporting period, as well as changes to malus and clawback provisions and references to the new resilience statement (as opposed to viability statements).
- Effective from 1 January 2025.

750:750 companies

- New reporting requirements will be applicable for companies with more than 750 employees and more than £750 million turnover have been drafted to be introduced within the Companies Act, covering:
 - the fraud statement
 - the resilience statement
 - the audit and assurance policy
 - new capital maintenance disclosures

Audit firms

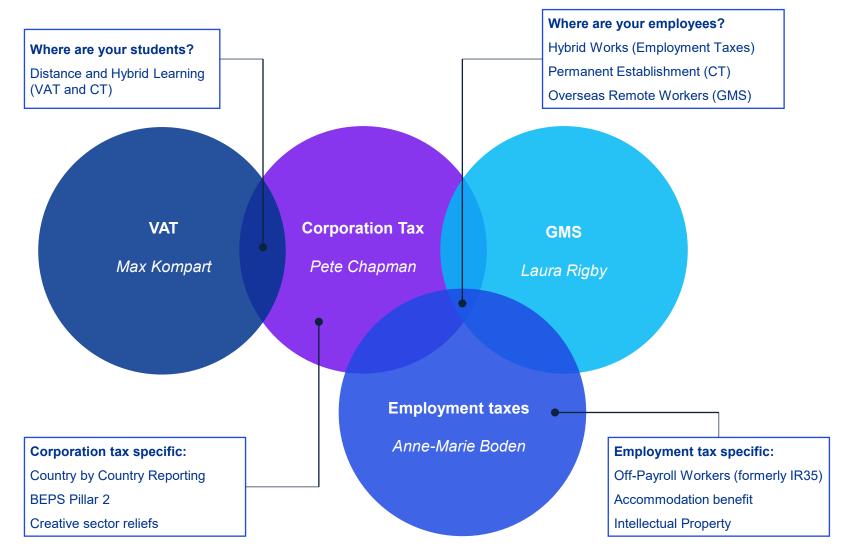
- During 2022, it became mandatory for all public interest entity (PIE) audit firms, as well as the responsible individuals (RIs), to register with the FRC before undertaking any audit work. KPMG LLP and relevant RIs have been registered.
- KPMG LLP has voluntarily implemented operational separation ahead of the 2024 deadline set by the FRC.
- The FRC will be consulting on revisions to the Ethical Standard during 2023.



04 Tax Update

Peter Chapman

Agenda





Employment Tax Specific Issues

Anne-Marie Boden

Off-Payroll Workers (IR35)

Since April 2017, HE's have been required to apply the OPW regulations when engaging workers outside of the payroll presenting challenges and complexity in the labour supply chain.

We have already seen the eye watering amounts paid/owed by government departments and agencies, around £263m due to incorrect employment status determinations.

 HMRC enforcement activity has begun in the HE sector with several bodies currently being reviewed

What are the some of the key risks?

- · Not identifying all relevant workers to be assessed
- Incorrectly assessing employees using HMRC's or another assessment tool
- · Working practices not reflecting the contractual position used to make the assessment
- Contracts being amended or extended without being reassessed
- Basic requirements of the scheme not being maintained
- Not considering employment agencies and longer labour supply chains
- Not considering outsourced services correctly
- Not considering the employment status of other workers engaged outside of the payroll e.g. self-employed workers.





Off-Payroll Workers (IR35) (cont.)



What do HE's need to do?

- Review processes and controls and ensure they remain fit for purpose in light of the issues identified by HMRC in other reviews
- Increase awareness throughout the organisation to help maintain compliance
- Ensure changes from April 2021 were incorporated in current processes
- Consider wider 'Off-payroll' workforce
 - Self-employed workers
 - Bursaries, Stipends, Honoraria, etc.
 - Visiting Fellows
 - Volunteers







Employment Taxes



- Payments to employees, students and other creators can have different treatments depending on:
 - Who owns IP?
 - What is the employment status at time of creation and payment?
- Many Universities unclear on the correct treatment.

Accommodation benefit

- Removal of representative occupier exemption from April 2021.
- Previous removal of better performance and customary exemption.
- HMRC higher GRV and MV
- Need to review all employer provided accommodation to re-asses the tax treatment.



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Where are your employees?

Peter Chapman

Anne-Marie Boden

Laura Rigby

Hybrid Working

Hybrid working

- Changes in working practices have multiple tax implications that need to be considered including:
 - Travel expenses
 - Home office equipment and costs
 - National minimum wage
- HE's are reviewing the employee remuneration and benefit offerings to ensure fit for purpose and aid in employee retention and recruitment







Corporation Tax -Permanent Establishment risk

Are your overseas staff potentially creating a permanent establishment?

Assessing level of risk to allow overall management of risk

- Alignment with tax strategy?
- Tax risk register?
- Accounts provisioning?

Why does a PE matter?

- Potential reporting requirements
- Potential corporate tax liability in country
- Implications can extend to wider taxes (e.g. VAT/ GST or withholding obligations for personal income tax)
- No credit relief likely to be available for taxes incurred due to the absence of a UK CT liability

Overseas Remote Workers







Overseas Remote Workers

Income Tax and Social Security

- Personal income tax
- · Domestic rules
- Tax treaty agreements
- · Totalisation agreements
- EU regulations
- · Cost management



04

Employer Withholding Obligations

- Income tax and social security registrations
- Requirement to operate a payroll in overseas country
- Interaction with UK withholding obligation (possible dual obligations)
- · Historic and go forward compliance

Immigration / Employment law

- · Visas / Work permits
- Posted Workers Directive requirements / local labour law
- Employment contract terms
- Provision of / cost of benefits

03

06

Corporate Tax

- Permanent Establishment
- Fixed place of business
- Academic role (research / teaching / other)
- PE position effects employer income tax withholding reporting

Process and Controls

- Policy / guiding principles
- Process for assessing new requests
- Ongoing tracking and monitoring
- Cost management
- Overseas payroll compliance process
- Resource
- Training for schools / faculties

Other considerations

- Pension entitlement
- Remuneration / expenses
- Health and Safety
- Regulatory

05

- Indirect tax / VAT reclaims
- · Data security and confidentiality
- Technology access / home office logistics

Cost Management

- · Budget approval / informed decisions
- Provisions for tax / social security liabilities
- · Administrative costs e.g. overseas payrolls, corporate registrations
- Responsibility for overseas liabilities e.g. University / employee



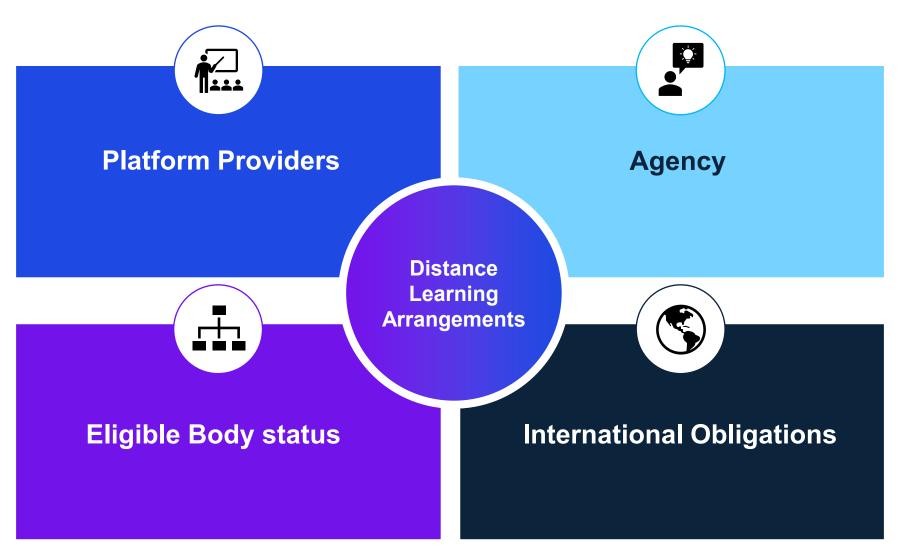


Where are your students?

Max Kompart

Peter Chapman

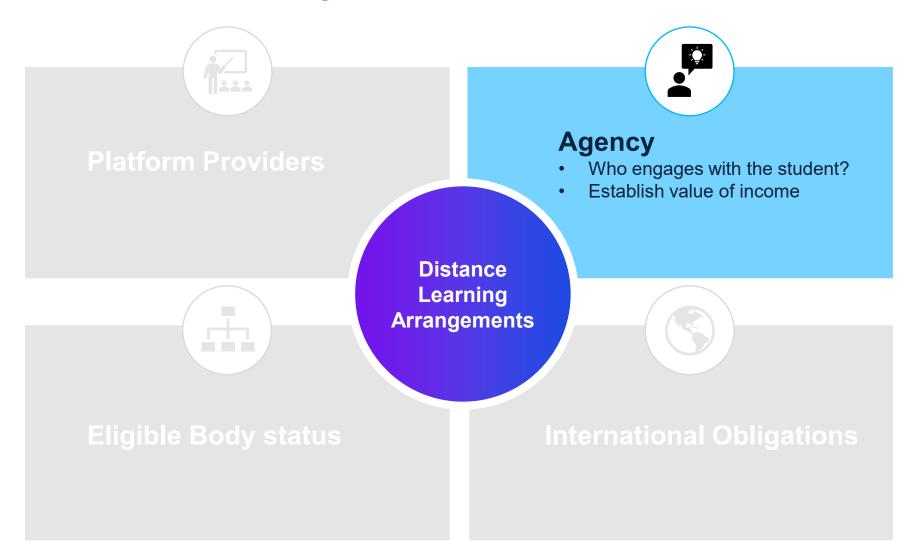
Distance Learning update



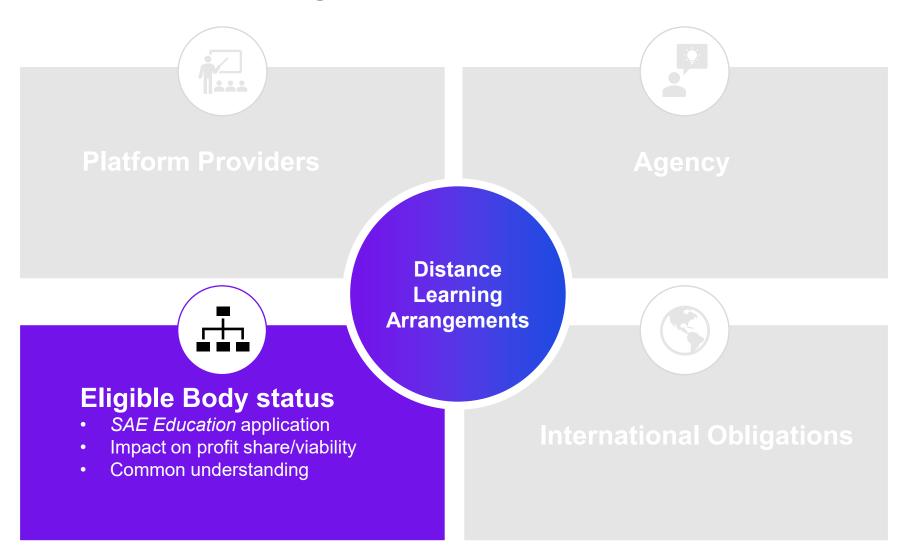




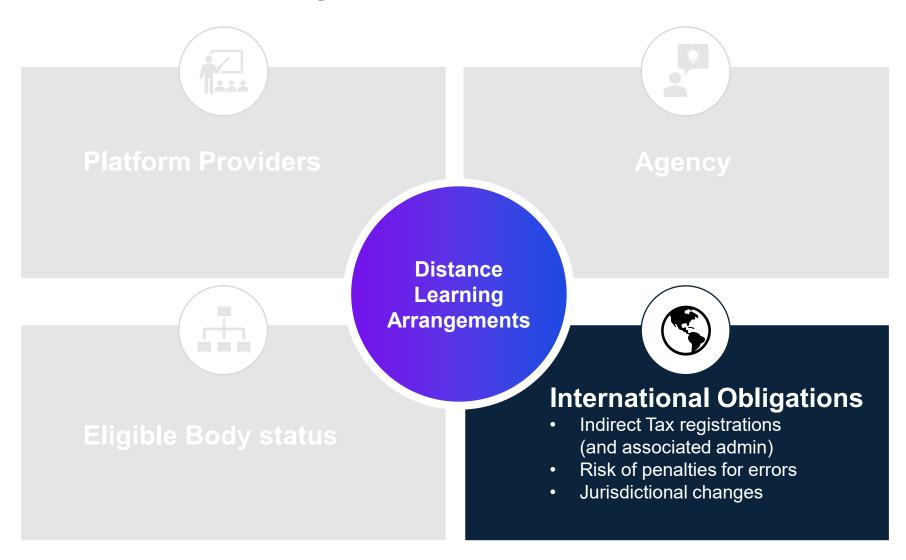
















Platform Providers

- Who is providing what to whom?
- Clear agreement
- Partnership status



Agency

- Who engages with the student?
- Establish value of income



Distance Learning Arrangements



- SAE Education application
- Impact on profit share/viability
- Common understanding



International Obligations

- Indirect Tax registrations (and associated admin)
- Risk of penalties for errors
- Jurisdictional changes



Some recent jurisdictional changes

European Union

- "Minimal human intervention" will be removed with effect from 2025
- Supplies of distance learning into the EU will be treated as taxable where the student is based
- Some countries don't recognise UK universities as eligible bodies for the purposes of the education VAT exemption.

China

- China removed the Covid exemption in 2021 and based on our discussions with the Beijing tax authorities now consider that where student access course material from China, this is within the scope of Chinese VAT.
- In addition to the VAT, there are daily penalties which accrue

India

- India have started to expand the applicability of OIDAR (indirect tax) to any services provided online, regardless of human intervention (which previously prevented capture under OIDAR). Not signed into law yet, but bill has been approved.
- Indian tax authorities continue to raise awareness on the applicability of the Equalisation Levy – likely increase in focus on this as time goes on?

Singapore

- Broadening of scope from "digital services" to "remote services" provided into Singapore (distinction being the level of human interaction involved).
- Tax authorities sent a letter earlier this year to a number of UK universities, suggesting the need to register.



Corporation Tax Specific Issues

Peter Chapman



artnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organisation of independent member firms

Country by Country

Not a new requirement – just a reminder! When is there a filing requirement?

· Overseas presence (subsidiary, branch, permanent establishment)

BEPS Pillar 2

What is it?

A minimum rate of tax (both internationally and domestically)

When will it apply?

• From year ended 31 July 2025

Provisions included for charities following lobbying and consultation will mean in many cases this is not likely to apply

When could it still apply?

- ONLY for HE groups with a turnover >EUR750m
- Turnover in subsidiaries >EUR750m
- Joint ventures with commercial entities



Creative Sector tax relief



Museums & Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief



Orchestra Tax Relief



Theatre Tax Relief

01Core expenditure

Tax deductible expenditure on:

- Producing
- Closing

02

Additional deduction

Additional deduction in tax computation of up **80% of core expenditure**.

03

Tax credit

Loss-making trade can surrender deduction for tax credit at 20%-50%.

Break

WE WILL RESTART AT 1.25PM

Agenda

- 1. Overview of Higher Education pension schemes
- 2. Current market conditions and broader landscape
- 3. The 'funded' schemes vs Teachers' Pension Scheme
- 4. Opportunities and challenges
- 5. Questions



Sophie Ash

Pensions Actuary and Higher Education lead, Isio

0121 227 3588 / 07900 053121

sophie.ash@isio.com

Overview of Higher Education pension schemes

Academics

Non-academics

Senior grades

Lower grades

Post 92

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

Fully defined benefit - unfunded

(some staff may be in USS)

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Fully defined benefit - funded

(some staff may be in Defined Contribution schemes)

Pre 92

Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

Defined Benefit up to a salary level of c£40,000 Defined Contribution on remaining salary ('exclusivity rule')

- Defined Benefit open / closed to new / closed outright, including SAUL
- Defined Contribution

Since 31 March 2022: (latest USS formal update and LGPS valuation)

Guardian The mini-budget that broke Britain 31 March 2023 31 March 2022 LGPS (E&W) **USS** and **SAUL** valuation Bank confirms pension funds almost valuation date date collapsed amid market meltdown The reason the BoE is buying long gilts: an LDI blow-up FINANCIAL TIMES June 2023 Government bond UK must rapidly restore its yields remain high economic credibility FINANCIAL TIMES Long term inflation relatively stable Private sector pension May Jan Sept 22 Now 22 23 schemes are 'lockingin' to favourable market conditions September 2022 Mini-budget announced Bank of England intervention CPI 10.1%

Interest rates driving an increase in government bond yields



Source: Bank of England government bond yields 20 year maturity

Illustration of impact on liabilities 31 March 2022 £300m liability 2 May 2023 £190m liability Reduced by more than a third Isio analysis for a scheme with a 20 year duration

Inflation



USS - 31 March 2023 valuation

Monitoring results	Valuation	Monitoring		Monitoring
	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-23	Change	31-Dec-22
Assets (£bn)	66.5	73.7	+7.2	71.4
Technical Provisions liabilities (£bn)	80.6	66.1	-14.5	66.4
Technical Provisions deficit (£bn)	14.1	-7.6	-21.7	-5.0
Future service cost	25.2%	17.5%	-7.7%	17.9%
Deficit recovery contribution	6.2%	0.0%	-6.2%	0.0%

[&]quot;...it may be possible to increase benefits, decrease contributions, or do a combination of both"

Source: USS, Financial Management Plan as at 31 March 2023 and 31 December 2022

...what else might be possible?

LGPS 'low risk' deficits are disappearing

Illustration of how the 'low risk' position on for an employer in an example LGPS fund has moved since 31 March 2022



Source: Isio analysis

Based on an illustrative LGPS employer with £200m assets invested 80% in equity, 12% bonds and 8% cash and other, on a government bond based discount rate

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Teachers' Pension Scheme – 31 March 2020 valuation

Current TPS employer rate is 23.68%

Valuation underway as at 31 March 2020 (every 4 years)

30 March 2023 statement:

"The government concluded that a methodology based on long-term future GDP growth expectations, as set by the OBR, best met the balance of objectives."

CPI+1.7% is the new SCAPE* rate, reduced from CPI + 2.4%

...what might this mean? A rate of 5 - 7% more? close to 30%...from April 2024

Short term: Lobbying DfE to finance the additional cost

Medium term: Explore options to mitigate impact

- proportionate participation?

- utilising subsidiaries?

- preference for sector-wide solution?

^{*} SCAPE: Superannuation Contributions Adjusted for Past Experience

Opportunities and challenges



University 'own schemes': The Pension Regulator's new funding code



Student Union Superannuation Scheme (SUSS) – valuation 30 June 2022



McCloud (TPS, LGPS, NHSPS)



Cost of living crisis – impact on employees and options



USS – Capita cyber incident

Employee financial well-being and communications

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Any questions?



06 Financial Sustainability

Marc Finer and Margaret Daher

Feeling the Squeeze: cost pressures in HE in 2023

Universities continue to face persistent cost pressures:

Long-standing challenges

- More pressure than ever to deliver 'value for money'
- Continued competition for home students
- Aisling infrastructure (both physical and digital)
- Costs of retaining students

Current challenges

- Record energy and commodity prices
- Rising interest rates
- Unprecedented wage inflation
- Post-Covid-19 adaptation / recovery
- Supply chain pressures
- War for talent and the 'Great Resignation'

Challenges on the horizon

- Home tuition fee stagnation
- Changing nature of teaching, learning and researching
- Impact of digital/blended learning and working
- Threats to international student recruitment
- Cost of living crisis amongst staff and students
- Challenges of casualisation and industrial action

Addressing inefficiencies, when combined with investment in technology, can be a key part in improving service quality:

- ✓ More efficient and effective ways of working amongst staff
- ✓ Faster and more reliable advice and support for students
- √ Fewer manual tasks and less duplication
- ✓ Opportunities for support services to be proactive rather than reactive
- ✓ Freed-up cash for reinvestment where it really matters



The pursuit of financial sustainability can start in different places

Universities can approach their journey to financial sustainability from multiple starting points, and will want to balance institutional need with the (often long) lead times to deliver benefits.

Grow

- Innovative Growth
- Building capacity to deliver

Stabilise

- Evaluating the current position
- · Create a platform for growth



Realign

- Strategy Refresh
- Target Operating Model
- Academic Portfolio



Transformation and Cultural Change

3 x starting points



Benefits

07 TRAC

Andrew Bush

The Transparent Approach to Costing

Why are we talking about TRAC?

- Institutions are not following / correctly understanding the governance requirements in TRAC
- UKRI are reviewing TRAC closely
- Material non-compliance can have a financial consequence
- Senior Finance staff have an important role to ensure compliance with TRAC requirements





What are the key governance requirements



Chapter 2 of the TRAC Guidance (<u>www.trac.ac.uk</u>) Key groups:

- TRAC Oversight Group
- · Committee of the Governing Body

Summary of the journey to submitting the TRAC return:

- · Planning the process
- TRAC Oversight Group contributes to development of the process
- Committee of the Governing Body (i.e. Audit / Finance committee) is assured that the process to be followed will comply with TRAC requirements –or- that an action plan is established to address areas of non-compliance
- TRAC Practitioner collates data and produces draft return
- Reasonableness checks, self assessment against TRAC requirements and Assurance reminders document undertaken
- TRAC Oversight group reviews draft return (sometimes several times), reasonableness checks, self assessment against TRAC requirements and Assurance reminders document and recommends for approval and submission
- Accountable Officer approves TRAC return
- TRAC return submitted



So what can go wrong regarding governance?

01

Committee of the governing body not meeting until after the TRAC submission

02

Committee of the governing body meeting before benchmarking was issued

03

Definition of a Committee of the governing body not followed 04

No involvement of a Committee of the governing body



Change to TRAC Guidance for 2020-21 submission onwards

TRAC Oversight Group REVIEWED the TRAC Return TRAC Oversight Group APPROVE the TRAC Return Committee of the governing body APPROVED the TRAC Return Committee of the governing body APPROVED the TRAC Return Accountable Officer signed off the TRAC Return Accountable Officer signed off the TRAC Return

NOTE:

- TRAC Return can still be approved before submission by Committee of the governing body, but still requires a Committee of the governing body to approve the PROCESS
- Submitting the TRAC return to a Committee of the governing body does NOT replace the requirements at 2.1.5.22 of the guidance



Reminder of other issues to engage with

Pension adjustments

Valuation of financial instruments

Endowments

Changes in asset values

The Margin for Sustainability and Investment

Useful sources of reference

TRAC Guidance: www.trac.ac.uk

Assurance reminders checklist – Annex 2.1b: www.trac.ac.uk/tracguidance/

TRAC Helpdesk: 0115 935 3400 or email: trachelpdesk@kpmg.co.uk

Regional groups: www.trac.ac.uk/contact/regional/

TRAC
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP

TRAC assurance reminders checklist, December 2022

Annex 2.1b - TRAC assurance reminders checklist

Introduction

The aim of this checklist is to provide a number of reminders to help institutions identify potential areas of non-compliance and take corrective action ahead of submitting their TRAC return. The checklist does not represent new guidance. This checklist is for reference and support, and its use is not a requirement in itself.

The checklist also consolidates all the 'What could go wrong' sub-sections of the TRAC guidance. The reminder checklist will be useful to various stakeholders;

- TRAC practitioners will find the summary a useful reminder when reviewing their
 approach against the full TRAC statement of requirements. The reminder checklist
 includes specific references to the TRAC guidance.
- TRAC oversight groups will be able to consider these issues in their reasonableness checking of the TRAC return.
- Internal auditors will be able to ensure that their reviews consider the common areas of non-compliance.

If you have any questions about the reminder checklist, or indeed any questions about the TRAC process, contact the TRAC support unit on 0115 935 3400 or tracklehelpdesk@kpmg.co.uk.





Closing remarks

Thank you





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The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavour to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

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