

# How insurance intermediaries can cope financially

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#### **Branko Ltd**

#### FCA compliance consultants

- \* BIBA/AMII Compliance Manual
- \* Engaging Events
- \* Tailored Solutions





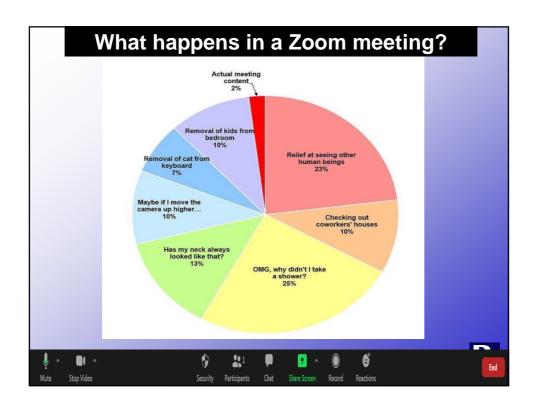




#### Today's event

- Thank you to your LI for hosting
- Participation/sharing of ideas is very much encouraged
- · Flexibility for the hour or so
- Verbal and chat forum questions welcome
- Feedback forms (venue)
- Slides will follow
- Connect with me on Linked in.





#### What I will cover

- a) Setting the scene
  - i. FCA expectations
  - ii. Chats that I have had
- b) Solvency rules
- c) Things to do
- d) Threshold Condition 2.4
- e) Senior Managers
- f) Summary



#### Learning objectives

By the end of this talk we will have looked at:

- What are the FCA's expectations right now
- Assessing overall business solvency
- Carrying out a review of all expenditure
- Reviewing exposure to key clients
- Taking advantage of what HMRC is making available
- Furloughing and other staff matters
- Looking ahead to the next stage of any cost reduction
- Does business interruption insurance cover this?
- Responsibilities of Senior Managers at this time



# a. Setting the scene



#### The Daily Telegraph

Camilla Tominey Does No IO think that the workers are all men?



Open season What to buy (& who to spot!) at garden centres In Features



Jan Etherington We need dogs more than ever during a crisis In Comment

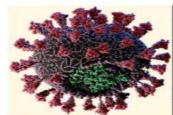


### Treasury says virus to cost £300bn as it warns of tax rises and pay freeze

Confidential analysis of economic impact lays out options for the Chancellor to cover extraordinary expense of lockdown

By Gordon Rayner POLITICAL EDITOR and Anna Mikhailova DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

A CONFIDENTIAL Treasury assessment of the coronavirus crisis estimates it will cost the Exchequer almost £300bn this year, which could require an increase in income tax, the end of the triple-lock on state pension increases a...



BASE CASE
SCENARIO

2337bn
interioration

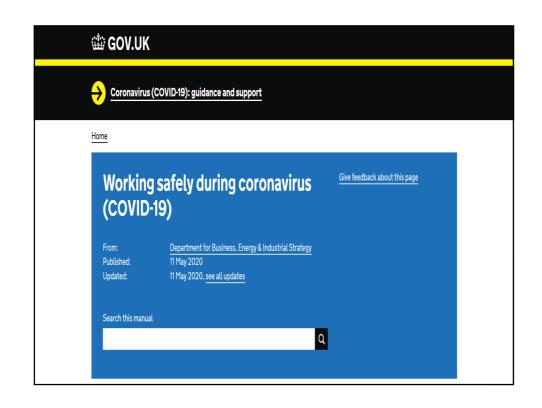
225-30bn
transeasourpromeerit

WORST CASE
SCENARIO

2516bn
interitation

£80-90bn

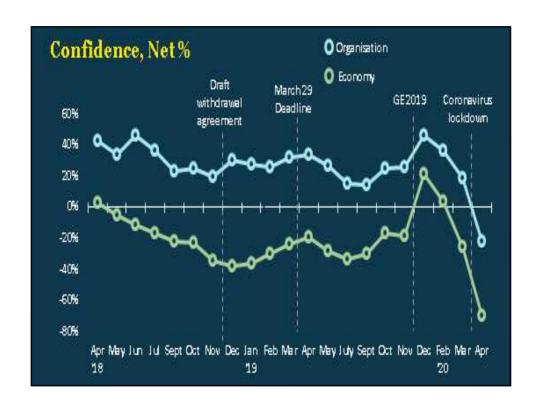
The most scientifically accurate and detailed 3D model of the Covid-19 virus, released by the organisation Visual Science



#### **Economy update**

- BoE "deepest recession on record"
- 1.8m new claims Universal Credit
- A quarter of businesses have stopped trading
- 7.5m furloughed workers
- 1m businesses using the scheme
- Extended to October





#### 1st. Poll

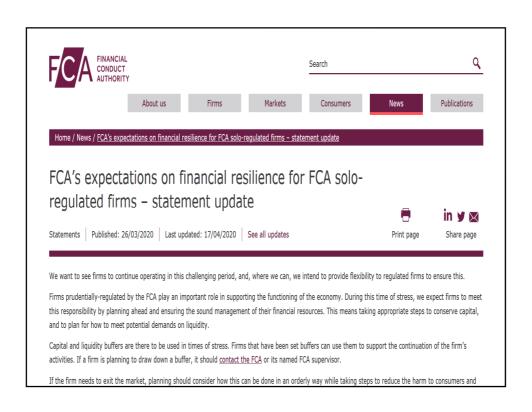
What level of threat does covid19 pose to your business?



## i. FCA expectations







#### Operational resilience and business continuity

It is essential that all general insurance firms have plans in place to manage and mitigate the operational impact of coronavirus. More generally, we expect firms to:

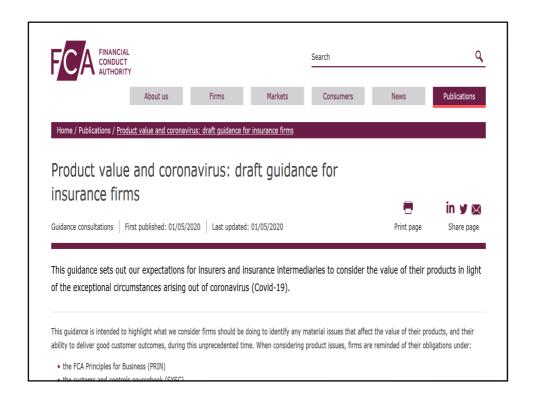
- Have sufficiently robust systems and controls to continue to operate effectively in a stressed situation with business continuity plans to manage this.
- Have a Senior Manager responsible for business continuity and for managing the impact of coronavirus.
- · Act fairly, honestly and professionally in accordance with the best interests of customers.
- Ensure that all customer communications are clear, fair and not misleading.

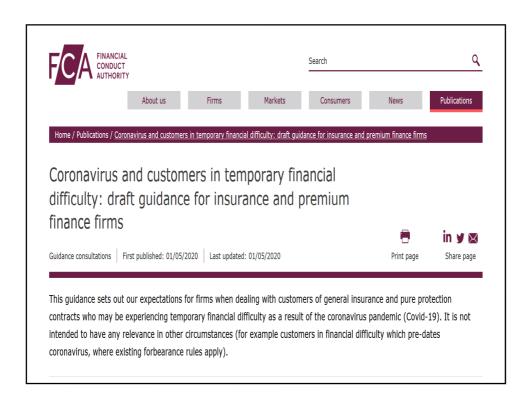
Firms should consider, along with other challenges, the impact of staff absences and the need to ensure staff wellbeing on continuity of service. Firms must identify how staff absence or inability to use business premises can be sufficiently mitigated to ensure critical services are provided to customers. Where firms identify gaps through their planning that will, or could, cause harm to customers, they should notify the FCA through their usual supervisory contact.

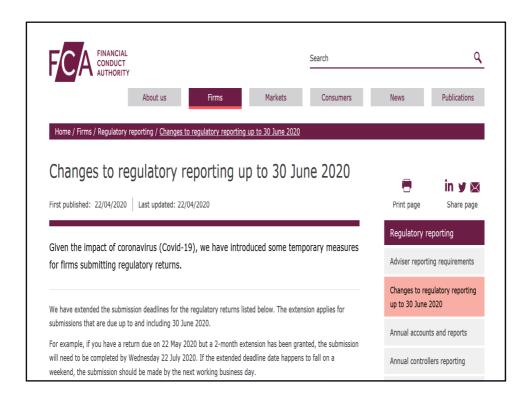
#### What have FCA done

- Very conscious and have responded with help for those with credit cards, overdrafts, mortgages, motor finance, loans and insurance policy premiums
- As few key workers should be in the office and compliance remains a key function
- If key audit dates will be missed advise them
- Unprecedented action re BI policy cover





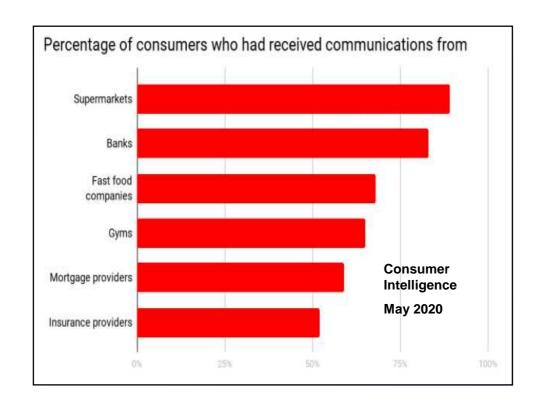




#### **Opportunities**

- You need to stand out service and support
- Adding value so the client knows you are there for them - keep in regular contact using multiple platforms if need be, answer questions, handle claims, challenge less than robust policy wordings
- Be agile and available
- Find ways to engage
- Recognise value in partnerships







#### Chats I have had

"My immediate response is that brokers are generally bomb proof - we manage to go through recessions generally unscathed and that companies will always need insurance and we would be there to service them."



#### Cont...

- The longer this goes on the more concerns I have for a number of my clients not seeing this through
- With low costs, we will get through this
- It will hinder our growth plans and plan for the worst which I would envisage a 15-20% reduction on our existing book
- NB is up 25%, quotes 40% and retention 10%



#### Cont...

 The problem is that we don't know how long this lock down will last - everyone is hoping that it will only last a couple of months but any longer and we will see clients cancelling policies



#### Cont...

- Well I am hoping most brokers should weather the storm! If been trading strong and not taking too much out of the business
- A little tightening in costs maybe necessary and feel confident that most will survive
- It may however shake confidence and more smaller brokers may look to exit and take the money and run leaving the big boys to drive harder deals from insurance companies!



#### Cont...

- I have run budgets on business losses at various percentages to see if we are vulnerable and we seem to be resilient
- As with most financial shocks I am expecting this to hit at the end of the period rather than during; when we get downturns shown in the year end declarations
- We don't get bad debt issues
- On the whole we think we can ride the storm but many brokers are vulnerable
- Seek a safe harbour perhaps?

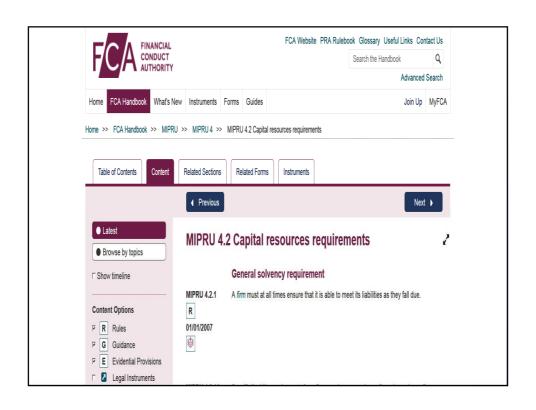


#### What have insurers done?

- Premium holidays/deferrals and delaying payments if client having trouble and removing interest on DD payments
- Admiral refunds of £25 per vehicle insured and others have made available funds if needed
- Laid up cover for fleets (no need to SORN) and recognising that exposure all round is less
- Free extended cover for the lockdown and waiving unoccupancy clauses
- Early payments to brokers for trading deals and to clients if they have a low claim rebate policy



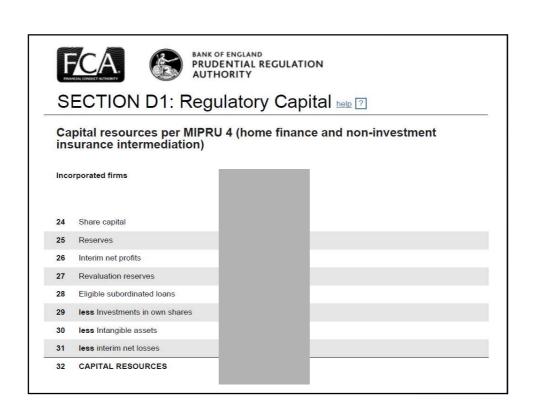
# b. Solvency rules



#### **Minimum** capital requirements

Type of Firm	Capital Resource Requirements
A firm that <u>does not</u> have a permission to hold client money	£5,000 or if higher 2.5% of firm's annual income from regulated activities
A firm that <u>holds</u> insurance client money in a statutory trust	£10,000 or if higher 5% of its annual income from regulated activities
A firm which holds commercial insurance client money in a statutory or non-statutory trust	£10,000 or if higher 5% of its annual income from regulated activities
A firm which <u>holds</u> retail insurance client money in a non-statutory trust	£50,000 or if higher 5% of annual income from regulated activities









#### 1. Expenditure

- Continue to review all items immediate, next few weeks, next few months
- What HAS to be paid/what doesn't have to be paid or can be cut completely with no detrimental effect on the business
- If offices are not full then reduce/cut things that are dependent on them being fully occupied
- · What areas of spend can be reduced
- Ensure your client and insurer money processes remain watertight (guidance)



#### Cont...

- Is WFH is effective in terms of IT equipment, networks, cyber threat, etc and what is expected of staff and how this will work
- Hold on recruitment
- Encourage staff to take a break
- Repeat tight control on expenses



#### 2. Key clients

- Continue to talk to your top clients personally and ascertain how they are
- Inspection issues with plant, etc plus need to notify material changes to the business
- Provide whatever help you can in line with the help you have been able to secure
- Their value should also be on your risk register so plan for the worst and how you would respond
- If you have schemes in affected sectors (leisure, entertainment, restaurants, aviation, bus transport, motor trade, etc) you will already have made detailed plans for them and you

#### 3. Gov help

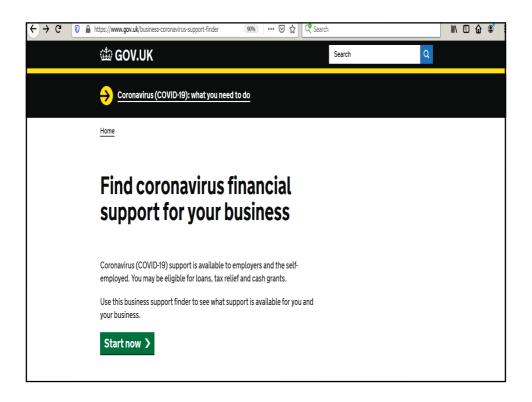
- Discuss with your accountant
- Work out what is available and whether needed
- Grants better than loans
- VAT usually not an issue
- Tax deferral and business rate relief/grant could be useful
- Various loan schemes



The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

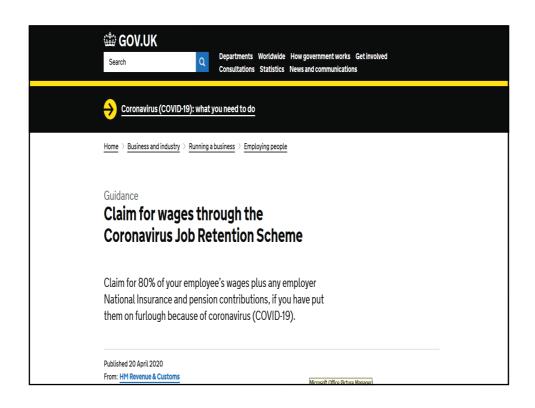
- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Self-Assessment payments
- a Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- a Statutory Sick Pay relief package for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs)
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme



#### 4. Furloughing/staff

- Useful if non-key staff can be temporarily laid off as government will pay 80% of their salaries for 8 months from 1 March
- No work for you can be done (volunteering)
- Of use if you have a large office and demand has fallen - ensure though that social distancing is maintained
- For staff who remain how are they coping and how are you supporting them?
- How is home working being managed?





#### 2nd. Poll

Have you sought help from any of the following?



#### 5. Next stage

- Be honest and adopt various scenarios optimistic, realistic and pessimistic
- Depends on how quickly the lockdown will ease fully and a return to 'normal' happens but some businesses will fail and won't need insurance cover
- Discretionary insurances already hit



#### 6. Pear-shaped

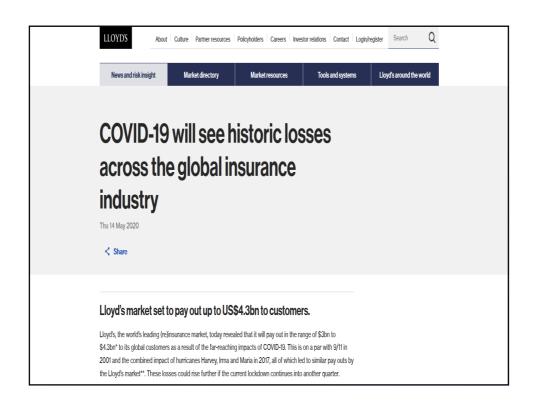
- Keep FCA informed they prefer early engagement and assurance that the management team is taking this seriously
- Have a well-considered plan to address issues
- Likely that the FCA will be supportive provided that there is a low risk of detriment to clients
- Keep clients, insurers, bank and staff all informed



#### 7. Your own insurance

- Most only cover a notifiable disease if it has manifested itself at, or occurred specifically on the insured premises leading to its closure
- Action of government to close down premises is not covered
- Some policy wordings confusing!
- Some do provide cover if a notifiable disease occurs within 25 miles of your premises
- PII cover being restricted for brokers!!

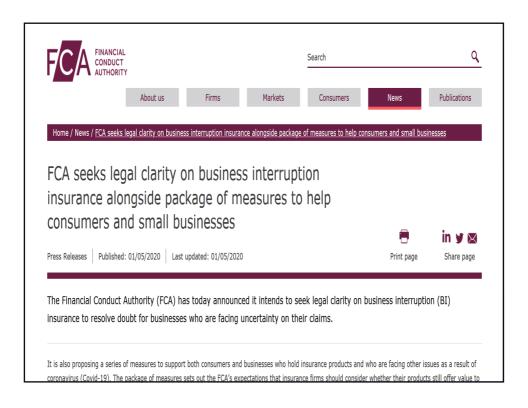












#### **Expectations**

- Authoritative declaratory judgment regarding the meaning and effect of some BI policy wordings where there remains unresolved uncertainty
- Is there is a gap between firms' and customers' understanding of what they thought was covered by the policy?
- What did the customer request or instruct?
- What was the customer told was being provided?
- Check you have undertaken a proper assessment and explained things adequately



#### Considerations?

- Mis-selling firms may suggest that they were sold the wrong policy
- Poor advice there may be allegations that they were advised that this level of cover wasn't required, or they assumed this cover was in place (suitability of cover included)
- Misleading or unclear policy wordings, or exclusions hidden within lengthy policy documents
- Claims being unfairly or unreasonably declined
- Claim payment delays (partial or full settlement)
- Partial settlement only rather than full entitlement
- Claims handling delays



#### **FOS**

"We'd expect any insurer to remember its
duties to deal with claims fairly and promptly,
and not to reject a claim unreasonably. This
is a very unique situation. So we would
expect the insurers to think beyond a strict
interpretation of the policy terms and consider
carefully what's fair and reasonable in each
case, taking into account the unprecedented
situation created by Covid-19."



### 3rd. Poll

**BII claims** 



d. Threshold
Condition 2.4
(adequate resources)



#### **COND 2.4 Assessment**

- P&L + cash flow forecasts
- Identify key risks from your risk register (the crisis will have increased business risks)
- Robustly stress test the financial forecasts on P&L, cash flow and overall solvency
- If finance is recourse then what will happen with clients who ask for deferral?



#### **Non-financial COND 2.4**

- · Personnel quality and quantity
- · Back office functions
- IT
- Premises
- WFH
- Acquisitions and disposals practicality right now of effective due diligence?



#### Issues (1)

- How much fat is there?
- Do you have adequate net current assets
- Possible breach of threshold conditions
- You should be able to quickly prove your position
- Government loans do not constitute regulatory capital



#### Issues (2)

- You must pay attention to your financial viability and don't underestimate future demands on it
- MIPRU regulatory capital requirement should be seen <u>only as a minimum</u>
- Assets of sufficient quality, quantity and availability should be retained
- Critical you ensure the adequacy of your resources to allow you to continue to trade



# e. Senior Managers



#### **Notifications to FCA**

- SoRs should be kept up to date but no need to send in (incl Form D)
- Temporary arrangements (where cover is from a non-SM) extended 12 to 36 weeks
- Furloughed SMs will retain approval and responsibilities should be temporarily reallocated
- SMs performing required functions only as a last resort and where not mandatory flexibility exists but should be documented



#### **Senior Managers**

- SMs need to be clear about their individual accountability and your response plan needs to be agile to reflect the current uncertainty
- This may mean changing day-to-day activities in order to take (and evidence) reasonable steps to manage the impact of the pandemic



#### Steps to consider

- Adjusting business practices for WFH and RTW
- FCA expect SMs to identify employees that are unable to perform jobs from home and support them accordingly
- Considering fit and proper assessments for SMs to ensure they're healthy and able to focus on business-as-usual and crisis management
- Making contingency plans in case a significant portion of the SM team is unable to work
- MI needed/should be reviewed and made available to enable anomalies to be reviewed



#### f. Summary



- Be honest and have those difficult conversations
- How diverse is your book of business if concentrated in affected sectors this will be much more urgent for you
- Talk to all stakeholders
- Put back money into the business if this is available (or take less out)
- Facilitate local networking IoD, FSB, Chambers, CBI, etc as everyone is in this and insurance is at the core of all business



Let's hope that we are in a much better place sooner rather than later!



#### Learning objectives

By the end of this talk we will have looked at:

- What are the FCA's expectations right now
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- Responsibilities of Senior Managers at this time



Thank you for listening

Questions and debate please

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