

Compliance & Risk

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Headlines

- Competition regulations relaxed to help feed UK, p.18
- Virus suspends gender pay gap reporting, p.19
- Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner reacts to new UK points-based immigration system, p.19

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Compliance measures for dealing with coronavirus crisis

As the UK has moved to the 'delay' phase in the fight against coronavirus, the government's new social-distancing guidance advises everyone (for whom it is practical to do so) to work from home temporarily. For people falling into certain vulnerable groups, the guidance strongly advises them to work from home, or if this is impossible, to vary commuting times and to try to avoid public transport.

The Health and Safety Executive is publishing regularly updated advice on the situation for employers, accessible

at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news>, and general government guidance for businesses and employers is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

All sources urge employers to consider whether it is possible for high-risk staff, in particular, to work from home, and to take steps to facilitate homeworking wherever possible.

The importance of reinforcing the self-isolation guidance is also highlight-

ed. Government advice stresses that staff should be instructed to follow the current self-isolation guidance (7 days for an individual/14 days for a family).

Allowing staff to ignore the self-isolation advice, (e.g. because the employee is not currently sick, but someone in the household is), may lead to more widespread illness within the workforce and leaves the business open to potential personal injury claims from staff who contract coronavirus after being forced to work

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Chancellor confirms anti money laundering levy to go ahead in UK

In the recent UK Budget, Chancellor Rishi Sunak confirmed government plans to supplement public sector funding of money laundering action with a charge paid by 'firms subject to the money laundering regulations' a wide-ranging group that includes banks, accountants, estate agents and solicitors.

The levy, designed to generate £100m to combat money laundering,

will be deployed primarily to enact measures in the latest Economic Crime Plan, unveiled by the National Crime Agency (NCA) in July 2019, which aims to crack down on illicit financial flows by coordinating efforts between the public and private sector. It is envisaged that the fund will be used for, amongst other things, investment in new technology for law enforcement, and hiring more

financial investigators.

In the *Financial Times*, Michael Harris, director of financial crime compliance at consultant LexisNexis Risk Solutions, and regular contributor to this journal, said the "economic crime levy is very welcome". The Financial Intelligence Unit, which gathers information about suspicious activity, and the NCA

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