

Meeting: Practice Sector Panel  
Location: Virtual meeting  
Date: 20 February 2023 – 11.00 AM

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## PRESENT

Carl Reader (Chair), Eriona Bajrakurtaj (Vice Chair), Ben Steele, Peter Jarman, Anthony Brice, Alex Black, Sach Yadav, Situl Raithatha, Lee Brocklehurst, Riaz Kala, Steve Collings, Barry Gill, Greg Houston, David Nicholls, Rachael Ball, Aidan Tucker, Kazi Haris Hussain, Nick Le Huray, Theresa Campbell, Sarmad Khan, Alastair Barlow, Krishna Dahal, Graham Parker, Bethan Evans, Orvil Plummer and James Lizars (ACCA Council member).

## APOLOGIES

Gavin Spencer, Zoe Whitman, Sherisse Ennis-Thomas and Gillian McCreadie (ACCA Council member).

## IN ATTENDANCE

Glenn Collins (Head of Technical & Strategic Engagement, ACCA UK), Melanie Venes (Sectors & Communities Lead, ACCA UK), Lloyd Powell (Strategic Engagement Lead, ACCA UK), Fiona MacPhee (Business Development Manager, ACCA UK), Sophie Hall (Sectors & Communities Manager, ACCA UK) and Pat Delbridge (Sectors & Communities Manager, ACCA UK).

### 1. PANEL PRINCIPLES

The panel noted the Panel Principles document and agreed to use Slack as a channel for discussions outside of panel meetings.

### 2. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT: UPDATE

Lloyd Powell – ACCA UK's Strategic Engagement Lead for Wales – described the work that his team does to ensure that ACCA's voice is heard across the UK market, and how vital it is for ACCA members to support that work by sharing their insights and participating in consultations. The team has relationships with senior stakeholders across the UK including politicians, ministers, other bodies, key employers, and members, and uses these to build ACCA's influence, reputation and profile on subjects that really matter. Examples of the real-world impact that this work has had include a delay to the implementation of MTD for ITSA.

### 3. GOVERNANCE UPDATE

#### Commissions

The panel provided feedback on ACCA's factsheet on *Accounting to Clients for Remuneration Received*.

### Review of ACCA's Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) Regulations

The panel noted that ACCA's Regulatory Board had agreed a number changes to ACCA's PII requirements following a review.

#### 4. SUPPORT FOR PRACTITIONERS

Panel members were invited to suggest topics for the 2023 series of free technical webinars for practitioners outside of the meeting. The series usually comprises seven webinars and is spread over the year.

#### 5. MARKET INTELLIGENCE – HMRC

Glenn Collins (Head of Technical and Strategic Engagement at ACCA UK) ran through the areas where ACCA is seeking views and thoughts – the R&D consultation, the impact of late payment on clients and any unfair contract terms, the dire service levels from HMRC, and HMRC not working within the Charter remit. ACCA is keen to gather evidence to take to HMRC to highlight those areas causing professional agents concern and taking up unnecessary time.

Panel members reported that recent issues that have come up with HMRC are being resolved more quickly – however long-standing issues are seeing no progress. With R&D issues, HMRC has an SLA of 40 days but where it misses that SLA, the issue can then drag on for much longer.

VAT registrations are taking 2-4 months to come through, and calling the VAT registration helpline is incredibly frustrating with long hold times.

Insolvency practitioners are facing lengthy delays in getting clearance. Even where all matters have been dealt with, it can take years to get that clearance and the costs cannot be recouped from the client.

For the Spring Budget 2023, panel members raised the following:

- a return to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme would be very welcome
- concern around the impact of associated companies for smaller businesses
- more support for smaller startup businesses
- the impact of cliff edge taxes.

#### 6. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on 19 October.