

Insolvency Practitioner Regulation Section 16th Floor 1 Westfield Avenue Stratford London E20 1HZ

Tel: 020 7291 6771

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/insolvencyservice

DEAR INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONER Issue 103 – June 2020

Message from the Insolvency Service

Dear Reader

Please find enclosed the latest updates from the Insolvency Service on the steps being taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this issue:

Information/Notes page(s):

Chapter 29 COVID-19

Article 19 The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill

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Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)

19) The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill passed through the House of Commons on Wednesday 3 June 2020 and is expected to proceed to the House of Lords on Tuesday 9 June 2020. Updates on the passage of the Bill can be followed online.

Guidance for monitors (who will oversee the new moratorium) is being refined and has been shared with RPBs, ready for publication as soon as possible.

<u>Factsheets</u> which explain the detail of the Bill have been published on GOV.UK. These are designed to explain the detail of the Bill in a more accessible way, and answer some of the questions people may have.

The factsheets cover:

- 1. Overview of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill
- 2. Summary of Retrospective Provisions
- 3. Financial Services Exclusions
- 4. Moratoriums
- 5. Restructuring
- 6. Statutory Demands and Winding Up Petitions
- 7. Wrongful Trading
- 8. Termination Clauses
- 9. Annual General Meetings
- 10. Filings
- 11. Delegated and Henry VIII powers.

If you have any feedback or queries about the factsheets, please contact Policy.Unit@insolvency.gov.uk.

20) Electronic Communications with HMRC in Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)

In order to speed up communications with HMRC, insolvency practitioners can now use its secure email system to contact the IVA team.

The IVA team's email address is vas@hmrc.gov.uk

Secure email is a safe and tested method and can speed up processes. HMRC have rules and protocols in place to safeguard personal information when using email to contact customers.

Even with secure email however there is an element of risk and emails may not carry the same evidential weight as a letter. For this reason, HMRC is asking that those insolvency practitioners wanting to use email communications confirm they accept these risks.

What insolvency practitioners need to do

When sending a first email to the IVA team, please can practitioners please include the following disclaimer;

'I understand that if I correspond with HMRC by e-mail, I accept the risks associated with using e-mail and I am happy for HMRC to send my company e-mails containing personal information. I understand that HMRC will reply to the e-mail address we have used, unless I specify an alternative'.

HMRC is also planning to expand the use of secure email across its Enforcement and Insolvency divisions. HMRC will provide further details about this as it becomes available.

Enquiries regarding this article maybe sent to: louize.brady@hmrc.gov.uk