

# PwC - Postpones Plans to Return to Office Amid COVID-19 Pandemic - UK

- HSBC, Goldman Sachs, and PwC have postponed plans to bring staff back to their offices in England after the government came out with a new directive amid COVID-19 pandemic
- A memo sent to staff at HSBC informed them that the investment bank, based in London's Canary Wharf financial district, was pausing its planned return of phase one teams to the office
- The bank stated that its staff working in branches and those supporting customers in call centres would continue to go into work, although the majority of office-based staff would work from home
- PwC had previously aimed to have more than 50% of its workforce back in its offices by the end of September 2020
- However, the company reversed those plans on September 23, 2020, and expects the majority of staff to work from home unless there is a clear personal or business need to be in the office
- PwC would follow the government guidance, while offering staff flexibility, and added that the building had been adapted to make it COVID-19 secure, including temperature checks on arrival, a one-way system inside the building, and social distancing between staff

## Source(s)

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/sep/23/hsbc-and-goldman-sachs-delay-plans-for-return-to-offices-in-england-covid-19>

<https://www.standard.co.uk/business/pwc-says-majority-of-its-uk-employees-will-now-work-from-home-a4554406.html>

## Targets Affected:

HSBC UK Bank PLC - PwC

## Category(s):

Solutions Maturity Risk

## Event:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Incident(s)

# Impact level Definitions

Impact Level	Definitions
Immediate	<b>Certain</b> - Supply Wisdom recommends considering prompt action. Examples of Immediate level alert events may include bankruptcy filings, data breaches, unexpected curfews, strikes, power black-outs, major geo-political events etc.
High	<b>Highly likely to occur in the near term (within 3 months)</b> - Supply Wisdom recommends being in a state of readiness to take quick action. Examples of High level alert events may include withdrawal of rating by ratings agencies, hostile takeover, multiple cyber-attacks, new business policies causing significant hardship etc.
Medium	<b>Likely to occur in the mid-term (within 3 to 6 months)</b> - Supply Wisdom recommends reviewing current mitigation steps and being ready to take proactive actions if and when situation deteriorates further. Examples of Medium level alert events may include unplanned C-level exits, suppliers caught in bribery cases, economy slipping into recession.
Low	<b>Possible in the long-term (after 6 months)</b> - Supply Wisdom recommends taking proactive action if situation does not resolve. Examples of Low level alert events may include lawsuits filed against suppliers, client losses, air pollution alerts issued by country's local authorities, unexpected holidays announced for the location etc.
Informational	The event is pertinent information but does not have a risk element associated with it. Examples of Info level alert events may include launch of new solutions, partnerships signed, industry outlook, positive changes in government policies, announcements regarding launch of software parks/ free trade zones/special economic zones etc.