



EY Claims and Disputes: Claiming government financial support for COVID-19-related business interruptions

As the threat of the COVID-19 outbreak continues, governments around the world are implementing unprecedented measures to try to control the spread of the disease. These measures are already having profound economic consequences for the business community, and we are seeing more and more governments pledging packages of financial support to assist disrupted businesses. EY teams have set out some considerations for businesses seeking to make claims for government financial support as a result of COVID-19 related business interruptions and how EY Forensics teams can support businesses and their legal advisors making these claims.

Considerations for businesses seeking to make claims for government financial support as a result of COVID-19 related business interruptions

Faced with disruptions such as mandatory closures, repurposing of normal trade, impacts on supply chain, travel restrictions and significant uncertainty, many businesses will suffer losses as either a direct or indirect consequence of measures implemented by governments to control the spread of COVID-19.

Affected businesses seeking to mitigate these losses by accessing and drawing down on government financial support packages should put forward a robust and evidenced claim for those funds that:

1. Sets out their entitlement to the funds
2. Demonstrates that the losses were caused by the COVID-19 outbreak rather than attributable to another cause
3. Justifies that the amount being claimed is reasonable

How EY Claims and Disputes can help

EY Claims and Disputes professionals are experienced in assisting organizations and their legal advisors making claims of this nature. EY teams help effectively drive the claim development process in order to expedite claim cash flow and allow management to focus on running its businesses. For example, we can assist you with:

- ▶ **Early stage advice:** EY professionals can help you understand the packages available and advise on the merits of any proposed claim
- ▶ **Demonstrating causation:** Attributing a business's financial performance to the underlying causes is often complex. We can help you to demonstrate the extent to which your losses (both lost profits and additional costs) resulted from the COVID-19 outbreak. The Claims and Disputes professionals have extensive expertise and experience assessing causality in these types of situations. EY teams can provide tailored advice and assessments to support discussions and negotiations with governments, as well as more formal independent expert opinions, as required
- ▶ **Justifying quantum:** EY professionals can help quantify (or sense-check the business's own quantification of) the financial impact that the COVID-19 outbreak has had on business performance, by providing a defensible assessment of what the business position would have been had the outbreak not occurred. The EY Claims and Disputes professionals have wide-ranging and deep expertise in modelling these types of complex counterfactual scenarios using well-tested and robust methodologies that will stand up to external scrutiny
- ▶ **Collating evidence:** EY teams can also advise on and support the gathering and collating of relevant information, in preparation for a claim

For further information, please contact the Forensic & Integrity Services team members listed below:



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