



Construction, Contracts and Covid-19 in the South West

Pioneering — Bahrain — Construction — Public sector — Energy — Real estate — London — Tax — IT — Dubai — Manchester — Infrastructure — Diverse — Regeneration — Spirited —
 Connecting — Knowledge — Pragmatic — Malaysia — Exeter — Thought leadership — Housing — Agile — Creative — Connecting — Private equity — Funding — Housing — Islamic finance — Charities —
 Local government — Manchester — Environment — Focused — Islamic finance — Projects — Abu Dhabi — Corporate finance — Passionate — Team work — Technology — Development — Oman — Innovat
 Employment — Regulation — Procurement — Expertise — Specialist — Planning — Investment — Committed — Delivery — IT — Governance — Experience — Pensions — Focused — Care —
 IP — Corporate — Infrastructure — Value — Development — Private wealth — Oman — Governance — Birmingham — Corporate finance — Connecting — Pragmatic — Charities — Dispute resolution —
 Dynamic — Pensions — Dispute resolution — Insight — Banking and finance — Arbitration — Diverse — Regeneration — Care — Communication — Public sector — Specialist — Projects — Talented

The Panel

- **Oliver Williams**

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Oliver acts for local authorities; utility and energy companies; commercial and private developers; contractors; and sub-contractors in all forms of dispute resolution including adjudication, arbitration, court proceedings and mediations.

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Helen provides commercial advice and acts on behalf of clients on contentious construction issues predominately in the residential, hotel and leisure and education sectors.

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Maq specialises in construction contracting and has a particular focus on alliancing and collaborative work. As well as housing and mixed used developments, he also has a particular focus on Education sector projects, leads Trowers' firmwide Education Sector Group, and leads our work for the Secretary of State for Education.

Format

- Introduction from Maq
- Oliver will discuss trends in the South West market and the initial impact of Covid-19 on construction projects
- Helen will address the procedure for re-opening sites and the applicable guidance
- We will then turn to your questions

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Introduction

- 23 April 2020 – ONS Statistics for the Construction Industry relating to 23 March – 5 April:
 - 34.4% decreased working hours
 - 63.6% laying off staff in the short term
 - Of companies still trading, construction is the second highest industry (ahead of hotels and restaurants) with the % of staff on furlough at 32%
 - Businesses within the construction industry had one of the highest proportions of reducing staffing levels in the short term, at 64%

Introduction

- 23 April 2020 – ONS Statistics for the Construction Industry relating to 23 March – 9 April:
 - 29.1% temporarily closed / paused trading
 - 70.9% continued trading
- 27 April 2020 – Construction Manager and the CIOB:
 - 56% said their organisations were keeping all or some sites open
 - Of these, 57% said their organisations believed health guidelines and rules around social distancing could still be followed

Background

- Trends in the South West construction market
 - Delays
 - Site Closures
- Lockdown date (23 March 2020)

Industry and Government Guidance

- What rules / regulations / guidance is there on keeping sites open?
 - Different positions in devolved nations
 - No statute / regulations closing sites in England
 - Government letter to industry
 - Public Health England guidance
 - CLC Site Operating (now version 3)

What now?

- Sites are beginning to re-open (from now onwards?)
- Reduced productivity
- Material issues
- Proactive discussions on claims and way forward (WPSTC)

Questions