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Ocean Village donates hand sanitizers to schools in Morocco

To coincide with the International Week of the Deaf, in October The Straits of Gibraltar Association, on behalf of Ocean Village donated a supply of hand sanitizer to the Centre Sinwane School for deaf children, in Tangier. 100 transparent masks were also donated to the same school by the Government of Gibraltar Civil Contingencies and private donors.

Additionally, The Straits of Gibraltar Association, in conjunction with the Gibraltar Morocco Business Association, also on behalf of Ocean Village presented

a supply of hand sanitizer to Association Assadaga School for children with down syndrome.

Aisha Serroukh, President, expressed gratitude to Ocean Village and commented: "As a school mostly funded by private donations, we are finding it difficult to keep the school open given the current Covid-19 pandemic and health regulations imposed, so this donation could not have come at a better time."

Emilia Hazell-Smith, Head of



Marketing at Ocean Village said: "We are delighted to donate these hand sanitizers to our friends across the straits, with the assistance of the Gibraltar Morocco Business Association".

Gibtelecom launches Gigabit Gibraltar

Gibtelecom has unveiled the next generation in fibre technology for Gibraltar by launching its Gigabit Gibraltar plan, that brings hyperfast connectivity to everyone, Gibraltar-wide, by the end of 2022. The new 1GB fibre broadband is already available to over 2000 homes in 13 residential areas.

Noel Burrows, Gibtelecom's Chief Executive said: "This is a giant digital leap forward for Gibraltar. For the first time ever, all of Gibraltar will be able to

ibtelecom

experience hyperfast and reliable Gigabit internet connections, thanks to the latest technology and the power of our network. This upgrade plan will see Gigabit speeds rolled out at an unrivalled pace right across Gibraltar, bringing our customers the future-proof connections of tomorrow."

Gibtelecom's Director of Consumer and Marketing, Adrian Ochello commented: "This is a huge technological stride for Gibraltar and we're proudly leading the way, making it faster and

Brexit Strategic Group ready

In early October the Deputy Chief Minister, Joseph Garcia, chaired a meeting of the Brexit Strategic Group, which is preparing Gibraltar's readiness for the possibility of a nodeal Brexit with the European Union.

A series of updates were received on the supply chain, commerce, critical services, health and social care, law and order, public services and legislation.

The meeting included the Chief

Secretary, Darren Grech, John Rodriguez, Customs, Manolo Tirado, Police Commissioner, Paul Peralta, Parliamentary Counsel, Ivor Lopez, Civil Contingencies, Ernest Francis, Chief Minister's Office, Michael Crome and Richard Montado, No 6 Convent Place, Stephen Warr, Sanderson, GHA, Daniel D' Amato,

> This no-deal group constitutes a parallel and separate workstream to the ongoing negotiations for the end, from the transitional period with an agreement.



on its GSX listing Hassans law firm has advised Canadian

investment fund managers, 3iQ, on its listing of The Bitcoin Fund on the Gibraltar Stock Exchange (GSX), debuting one of the world's first regulated and exchange-traded bitcoin funds on a European regulated exchange.

Hassans advises 3iQ

3iQ is one of the leading Canadian investment fund managers focused on investing

in disruptive technologies and digital assets. Having previously



been approved by the Ontario Securities Commission and listed and traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, a top 10 global exchange.

The Bitcoin Fund is designed to provide investors with institutional level access to Bitcoin without the burden of buying and safekeeping coins, while unearthing unique opportunities for long term capital appreciation.



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Regulators cannot effectively oversee the blockchain and cryptocurrency industry without the experts in the DLT community, writes
The Hon Albert Isola MP, Gibraltar's Minister for Digital and Financial Services

few months ago, an explanatory memorandum drafted by the European Commission on the regulation of Markets in Crypto-assets (MiCA) was leaked to the international media. Subsequently, the regulations were published by the European Commission and the reaction has been mixed among the Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) community. For example, some members of The International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA) have expressed concerns, while agreeing with the stated goals of the regulations. While the European Commission then clarified a

number of concerns surrounding the legislation. The fact that this debate is ongoing, however, is irrefutably important and positive. No stakeholder will be happy with legislative decisions that are made by one side without consultation of the other, but what is most important is that both sides are learning from each other in the process.

The DLT industry is still relatively nascent

The importance of such discussions cannot be overlooked, especially in times of crisis. The DLT industry is still relatively nascent, although this year, in particular, has shown its potential for resilience in the face of adverse situations. In Gibraltar, we are immensely lucky to have avoided some of the very worst impacts wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic. DLT exists in a similar vein. The DLT industry cannot only withstand turbulent times. It is built to

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How has the pandemic changed priorities of UK CEOs?

Read the UK CEO Outlook 2020: COVID-19 pulse survey

Find out more: info@kpmg.gi





FinTech

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thrive throughout such times due to its very nature. Distributed Ledger Technology is, by definition, distributed, or decentralized. A DLT company does not have to exist on one peninsula or in one jurisdiction; it can operate independently involving multiple stakeholders in various corners of the world. This makes the DLT

globalized world, we must learn to adapt our societies and economies to do so. The regulation of DLT should be at the forefront of the minds of the regulators, for the very reason that this pandemic may not be an isolated event. We may have more crises, or more challenges in the future, and proactively preparing our economies and



Many economists have argued that outbreaks similar to Covid-19 are an unfortunate consequence of globalization

industry uniquely positioned not only to withstand the oncoming effects of subsequent waves of the Covid-19 pandemic, but crises in general. It is for this reason that the coming together of regulators and DLT industry players is of utmost importance.

Many economists have argued that outbreaks similar to Covid-19 are an unfortunate consequence of globalization and that if we are to continue to live in a societies now rather than reactively embracing what is already on offer to us is simply not a viable option.

Crisis scenarios such as the global pandemic we face are at the extreme end of the spectrum, however Distributed Ledger Technology has the potential to weather turbulent times of all types. For example, in the face of the adversity we have all been burdened with this year, the Gibraltar regulator has had more

applications in the first period of this year than in the same period of last year, signalling an ever-increasing appetite towards this groundbreaking technology during times of crisis.

We have been preparing for a potential scenario of a No-Deal Brexit, In any scenario involving Britain's departure from the European Union, we are geared to supporting our burgeoning network of impressive DLT projects and companies based here, ensuring business continuity. Brexit will undoubtedly have an impact on Gibraltar, but the decentralized nature of DLT businesses will allow operations to continue as normal. We are wholly dedicated to continuing to push and invigorate our DLT community while making every effort to remain positive, hopeful and fully committed to facilitating the realisation of the immense benefits that this technology brings to Gibraltar and the world as a whole.

Longstanding change will impact how we face whatever comes next

Across the world, government responses to the pandemic have proven that vast change can take place in a relatively short period of time. Longstanding change will impact how we face whatever comes next, and it is essential that regulators and governments take action now to prepare ourselves for the future. The regulation of the DLT space is an equitable, commonsense and overdue option that should be seriously considered by governments all over, and when doing so, it is necessary to bring the experts to the table. By hearing every voice in the room, the best solutions to our world's most pressing problems may be uncovered, and we can build a future economy together that is more efficient, transparent and fair for all.



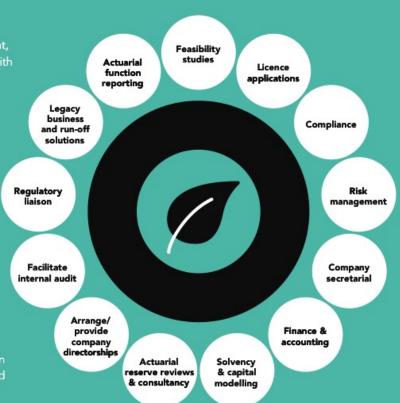
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Maritime

Choosing your dream yacht

and why Gibraltar is the vessel registry of choice



By Brett Dale Bridge, Director - Business Development, Europa **Trust Company Limited**

any people dream of one day owning a yacht or superyacht. For those that are lucky enough the dream comes true, but unfortunately many buyers have quickly discovered afterwards that they had chosen the wrong vessel for themselves.

With a lack of knowledge or experience many potential buyers find themselves led astray by sales teams who often have the wrong idea of what the clients vachting needs are. There are many important considerations to be made before choosing your dream vacht.

Sail or motor?

The first and simplest question to ask is, do you require a sail or motor for your intended vacht. Each choice offers different experiences and overall costs. Sailing yachts can be more environmentally friendly and less noisy for people on-board, while motor yachts require fuel and engine maintenance.

What is the purpose of your yacht?

It is important to have a clear idea of what you wish to use your yacht for. Is the purpose for it to be family orientated, for exploring, or will it be used for chartering, entertaining or racing? Each of these choices can mean a very different yacht to the one originally intended with many having technical capabilities that owners may never use.

Be patient and take the time to look at different types and what they offer which may be of interest for your vessel. Many internet sites offer virtual tours of various vachts which allow new owners to see what they might wish for in their vessels.

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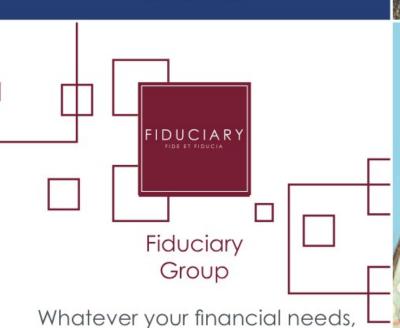
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Maritime

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To appreciate what feels right for you, you may wish to physically experience a particular type through chartering.

Size may not be everything

In the world of yachting, big is not always best. Make sure you choose the right size yacht for your needs and budget. Large vessels often require a large crew to manage. Additionally, large vessels require large operating fees which incorporate crew salaries, servicing equipment, maintenance costs, insurance, etc. Large vessels often become too burdensome and owners are often forced to sell their large yachts.

On a daily basis, we register and manage both private and commercial vessels in ports of registry worldwide.

Gibraltar, the vessel registry of choice

There has been huge global increased interest in Gibraltar to register marine vessels under the Gibraltar flag.

Is Gibraltar good for marine vessels?

Gibraltar offers all the onboard and onshore services required by vessel owners. International visitors will find all the facilities they would expect from top class marinas. The Gibraltar Yacht Registry is internationally

recognised. The registry is a fully fledged British, category one Red Ensign register with the same status as any other British register. The Red Ensign Flag for yachts predates the European Union. It is a premium maritime flag with international right of passage, providing the ability to seek assistance from the extensive network of British embassies and consulates worldwide where the vessel may be situated as well as protection of the Royal Navy.

Gibraltar is a politically stable, British Overseas Territory and is a parliamentary democracy, with the United Kingdom responsible for its foreign affairs and defence. It is within close proximity and access to Africa. It is a low tax jurisdiction and is VAT free. It has no capital gains, estate duty, wealth, inheritance, gift or other capital taxes. The legal system in Gibraltar is based on English Common Law with some local statute law variations. There is easy and efficient access to an English justice system with the Privvy Council as the highest court of appeal. It has an excellent health system with robust structures in place to deal with a crisis. There

is an International airport; excellent road and sea links into Europe and Africa, Gibraltar has been listed as a "White" territory by the OECD since 2009.

Individual registration

British citizens, European Union and European Economic Area nationals may register a vessel in their own names, provided they have a majority interest in the vessel. However, it is often more beneficial for British and non-British individuals to use a company to own and operate a vessel.

Corporate registration

Corporate registration is a solution for persons who do not qualify to register a vessel as an individual. Companies registered in the European Union, the European Economic Area, Foreign Marine Entities and Gibraltar companies may register a vessel in their name.

Using a corporate structure to own and operate a vessel provides a degree privacy to the ultimate owner, because otherwise, their name will appear on vessel documentation. It also limits personal liability in the event of a claim. Claims may arise from third-party agreements (for example maintenance, repairs, etc), employment of crew members, accident, or when negotiating the purchase or construction of the vessel. Sale of the vessel by transferring the shares of the company may facilitate an easier, speedier and more cost-effective transfer of the vessel. A corporate structure may also assist in overcoming costly inheritance issues.

In principle everyone may benefit from the Gibraltar flag. The manner of acquiring the benefit varies according to nationality.

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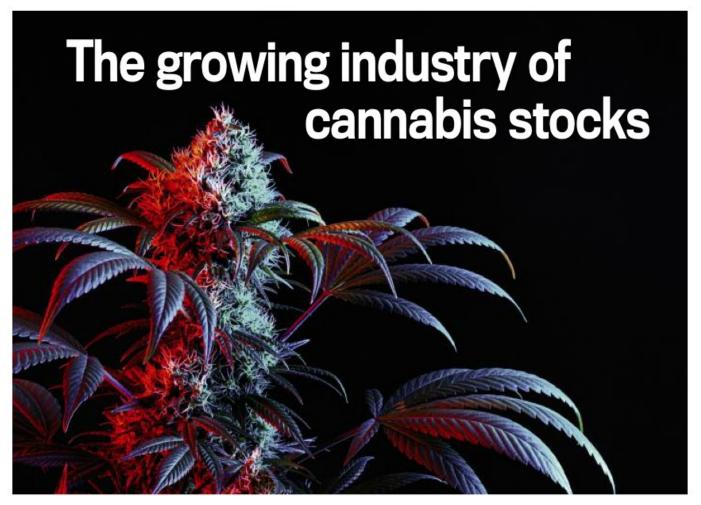
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COMPLIANCE - REGULATION - STRATEGY - DIRECTORSHIPS - FINANCIAL SERVICES - DLT - FINTECH - STARTUPS

When the world seems upside down, you may just need a different perspective





By Jay Gomez, Javi Triay, Rupert Moffatt, Triay & **Triav Financial Services Team**

annabis stocks are hot property right now. Over the last few years there has been a surge in interest in investment in the industry which has led to proliferation of opportunities for pioneering investors prepared to take a punt (both from a legal and asset class point of view) on the growing industry.

Some market analysts have estimated that the total cannabis industry in Europe by 2028 will be worth over £100 Billion. Coupled with the growth and changing legislation across North America there is space for investors to claw back losses in the post-Covid economy seeking high returns through canny investment in regulated ventures.

The growth has largely been driven by changes in attitudes towards cannabis over the recent years - the UK, Canada, and the US providing real examples of change. The then UK Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, made changes to the

licensing and use of medical grade cannabis after high profile medical cases, such as that of Alfie Dingley, highlighted the potential benefits of the drug as a treatment for severe epilepsy. As well as this, the British and Gibraltar highstreets have seen a flood of cannabis related products deriving their ingredients from CBD, the non-psychoactive substance within cannabis said to have health benefits from relieving anxiety to relieving

Strict controls in place

On the other side of the pond, we've seen Canada become the first G7 country to legalise the production, sale and use of cannabis to a potential market of nearly 40 million people, with over \$1,2 Billion in legal sales of cannabis in 2019 while contributing many more billions to the GDP of the country. Whilst in the US. California alone saw over \$3.1 billion in sales over the course of 2019.

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Law



However, unlike other more conventional or crypto-based investments, there are strict controls in place based on the criminalisation of the growth and sale of cannabis. This has prevented institutional and retail investors investing without significant risk. The risk comes from uncertainty brought about by the interaction of the Crimes Act 2011 (CA) and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2015 (POCA).

What we have then is a situation where the production and sale of cannabis containing THC, the psychoactive substance in cannabis with a level over 0.3%, in Gibraltar remains illegal as a result of CA. When combined with POCA, any money gained as a result of the growth and sale of cannabis outside the strict regulations, will be considered criminal conduct, resulting in any income being considered "criminal property". This all seems very clear. However, when we look abroad to make investment in cannabis where the same restrictions do not apply, certainty is not guaranteed.

Legal and regulated

Very simply, conduct deemed illegal in Gibraltar may also be deemed illegal by the Gibraltar authorities if the same conduct takes place abroad, even in a jurisdiction where the activity may be legal and regulated, and thus, any proceeds of said conduct may be considered the proceeds of crime. This is commonly referred to as the 'Spanish Bullfighter' problem – bullfighting is legal in Spain, but illegal in many other countries. If a bullfighter holidays and spends their money in a country where bullfighting is illegal, they

what an investor may or may not do in regards to cannabis investment – investors are at real risk of returns being deemed the proceeds of crime and falling foul of the Gibraltar authorities and their antimoney-laundering obligations.

Risk free access into cannabis related products

So, whilst the future of cannabis legislation in Gibraltar is uncertain, opportunities remain available to investors.

We have been at the vanguard in seeking to change legislation to enable risk free access into cannabis related products providing that they are legal in the jurisdiction where the activity is being carried out. As a result, the Gibraltar government have been consulting with stakeholders and other interested parties on what steps can be taken to protect incomes from investment overseas without the risk entailed when investing in other jurisdictions.

Facilitating the investment in new and growth sectors has been a speciality for



Alfie Dingley highlighted the potential benefits of the drug as a treatment for severe epilepsy

may be guilty of using the proceeds of crime.

Unfortunately, there are few defences baked into the legislation — and with sentences for producing and selling cannabis ranging from 12 months to life in prison, the downsides are considerable when investing in a jurisdiction where the regulatory regime is different to Gibraltar. Whilst there has been no definitive guidance from the Gibraltar authorities on

Gibraltar, where there exists a strong and well-developed financial and legal infrastructure to protect investors. The cannabis economy looks set to ignite and trusted partners are needed to help negotiate the potential pitfalls. Gibraltar is set to be well placed to offer the services and certainty lacking elsewhere to help investors who are keen not to miss the boat when it comes to cannabis investment.

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Insurance

An increase in activity for the Gibraltar insurance market

By Andy Matthews, Managing Director, Robus Gibraltar and John Harris, Business Development Consultant, Robus Group

obus Risk Services' Managing
Director, Andy Matthews believes
that the current challenging UK
insurance market will give rise to
further opportunities for Gibraltar
to set itself apart as a domicile which
encourages innovation, and which enables
growth. "Despite the challenges we have all
faced this year, new enquiries have led to an
increase in licence applications across the
market".

Covid-19 has been dominating insurance industry agendas for many months now, but even before this unprecedented situation, the insurance market was showing significant signs of hardening. The hardening or, as some commentators would say, "harsh" market is going to be here for some time to come.

The compounded effects on the current environment have seen significant price increases in many business lines, restrictions in coverage and in some cases the removal of insurance capacity altogether.

Maintaining security of capacity

The knock-on effects for carriers, brokers and Managing General Agents (MGAs) have, in many cases, required a significant review of strategic direction and the need to have fresh thinking on how to maintain business as usual, let alone strive for growth.

Maintaining security of capacity, whether for direct insurance or reinsurance, has become ever more critical to ensure the ability to trade effectively and plan over time.

As a result, Gibraltar has seen a significant increase in demand for insurance managers to support new clients with feasibility studies, business plans and new licence applications for authorisation from the GFSC.

In the UK insurance broker market, sustaining long term growth can be a challenge. Many successful insurance broking firms have built strong books of business through the distribution of non-standard motor insurance products, whether through direct distribution, via aggregators or, by designing unique (often InsureTech driven) products and marketing them to niche customer bases.

However, challenges such as securing longer term capacity agreements under binding authority schemes, ensuring stable pricing on profitable books of business and maintaining revenues where commissions have come under pressure from carriers, have led to the desire to build more robust businesses for the future.

Protected Cell Company legislation

Trying to find an alternative way to control their own destiny has led to a sharp rise in inquiries from brokers wishing to consider capitalising their own risk baring vehicles – hence the need for the services of professional insurance managers.

Currently we have three very strong prospects that are looking to utilise Gibraltar's Protected Cell Company (PCC) legislation. Their business models are completely different from each other and hence are all exciting opportunities for the domicile. Two would be non-life entities and the other a life entity. Of the non-life propositions, one would offer more traditional insurances for selected books of business and the other a new type of venture.

The latter intends to use innovation specific to Gibraltar. The prospect is looking to lead the way by establishing a new to market SPV PCC. The SPV legislation was established some 5 years ago with the objective of attracting fully collateralised (re)insurance vehicles. Not only will the prospective vehicle be a fully collateralised

insurance structure, they aim to attract new entities to participate in their insurance structure, with a view to encouraging additional businesses to be set up in the jurisdiction, supporting growth in the economy. If successfully established, it will be the first vehicle of its type in Gibraltar and it will be testament to the sound SPV regulation strategy introduced by the government.

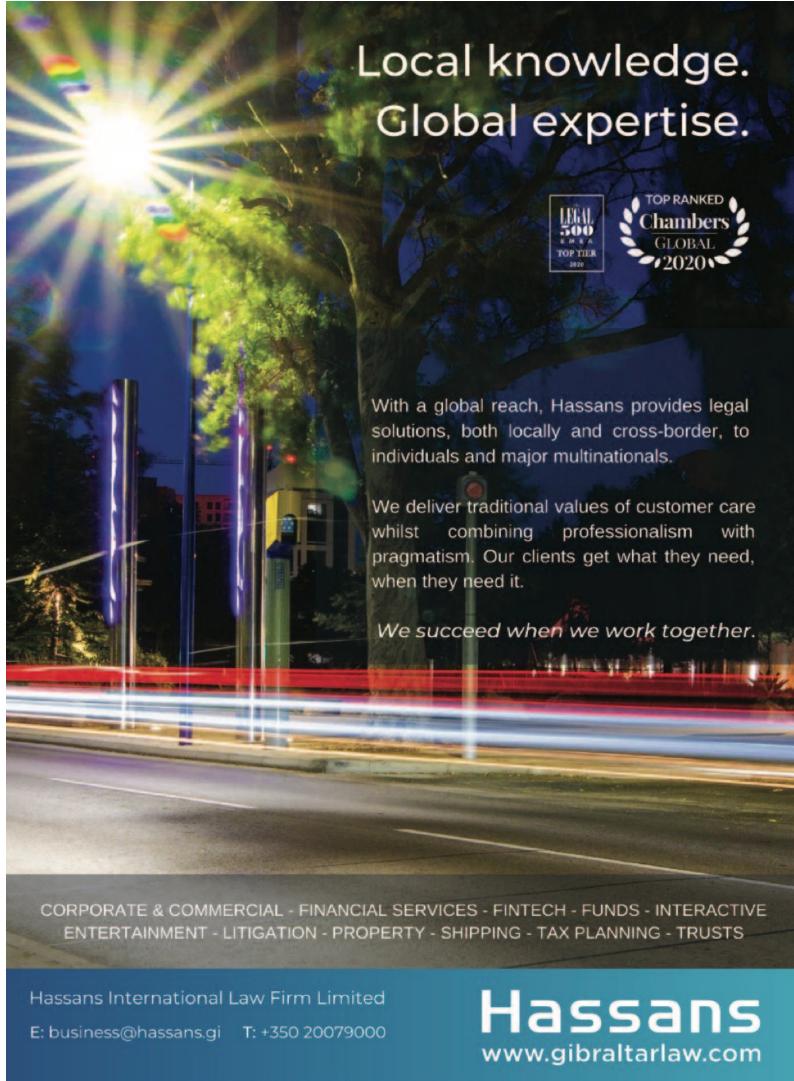
Other Gibraltar based PCC's have seen increases in cell applications, these are being driven by the hardening market. Those current market conditions could well give rise to the prospect of direct writing captives being established. Traditionally, such entities have been established in non-Solvency II (SII) jurisdictions using fronting insurer's for compulsory lines. Market changes including increasing fronting fees charged by direct markets are making Gibraltar increasingly appealing.

Revision of regulation enabling insurance managers to support the set-up and management of new MGAs has featured heavily in the press recently. The regulatory regime has a great deal to offer the MGA sector, delivering robust regulation whilst aiming to provide an application process which is more efficient than in the UK. The number of inquiries is increasing, and new applications are in the pipeline. The GFSC has consulted with the insurance sector and taken account of the views of the industry to establish a pragmatic supervisory approach.

Simply put, insurance managers are seeing increasing levels of interest, which in turn will help to build the economy and support the government in its ambition to grow and continue to attract new business to this thriving domicile.

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Business

The life of a working mum during the global pandemic

By Christina Marie Giuffré, Volunteer Comms Manager, Girls in Tech Gibraltar

hether you're already a parent, or planning to have children, the current climate for working parents continues to change dramatically, especially in light of the global pandemic.

Although the pandemic has affected us all, there are statistics demonstrating the disproportionate impact on women. The BBC's 'How Covid-19 is Changing Women's Lives' discusses the increased likelihood of British mothers becoming unemployed, due to a higher representation of women in the sectors hit hardest by the pandemic, such as hospitality, leisure, retail and tourism. Not to mention the challenges placed on all parents in supervising their children attending online classes, while trying to work from home (in roles where this is possible).

Celine Courcy, Product Manager at Lottoland, describes her experience and learnings as a working mum and what it has been like during the global pandemic:

"I live in Spain and work in Gibraltar. At 41 years of age, I had my first and only child, while growing my career in Product Management. I'm so proud of our boy; at only 4 years old, he's kind, smart and has a great sense of humour. Being a parent has challenges but it's wonderful, especially the unconditional love and cuddles!

As a working parent, I've learned not to let work take over my life completely and to care less about the stuff that doesn't really matter. If (like me), you're not the '9 to 5 type', you'll learn to get your work done regardless of the hours but realise you need to focus more on the quality of your work, rather than quantity. It's important to prioritise ruthlessly, delegate more and accept help when it is offered but also not be afraid to ask.

It was tough during the lockdown in juggling work and time with our son. I'm lucky my colleagues and my employer are flexible and supportive. At the beginning of lockdown, we had no childcare support (for obvious reasons), which was really tough, especially without a support network in Spain, as our families are located in other countries. Our son's grandparents often visited from the UK before the pandemic but have been unable to see him for some time.

A typical day

During lockdown, a typical day would look like this for me:

6-7am Wake up, prepare breakfast and feed the cats and dogs. Plan my day and check messages, while the little one is eating.

9.30am Attend stand up with the team at work.

10-2pm Support my son with school homework and online classes.

2-7pm Work, work work! My son will be with my partner (after lockdown more support was available at this time).

7pm Dinner, bath and bed for my son. **8pm** Dinner for my parter and I.

9-11pm Work, work, work!

The hardest thing for me when we were stuck at home was the concern that our son was spending too much time in front of screens, including classwork. I also found it challenging not getting any time for myself. I can't imagine how hard it must be as a single parent during these times."

In addition to Celine's story, it was insightful to hear the experiences of Amy, a single mum based in Gibraltar, who decided to give up her successful career in the financial sector to become a full-time mum and prioritise 'being there' for her two young children. Although she was lucky to have help



from her parents, the decision still didn't come easily and without mixed feelings.

I personally relocated to Gibraltar with my husband less than 12 months ago and I can understand it's not easy for anyone during this time; especially without an established community of family and friends.

Amidst challenging times

Whether you are a full-time parent or balancing work and parenting, there is no right or wrong choice. It's about deciding what's right for you and your family, and ultimately accepting that you're doing the best you can.

Although we're still amidst challenging times, it's inspiring to hear heart-warming stories of kindness and coming together to champion us and our future generations. The emergence of a new culture that embraces and supports flexible and remote work, will offer us more opportunities than ever!

Girls in Tech Gibraltar support inclusivity, promote gender equality and work towards positively impacting the accessibility, presence and support for women in our community. We encourage anyone of any gender to share their ideas, connect with us and attend our free events.

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The changing UK tax landscape

By Lynette Chaudhary, Tax & Research Director, STM Fiscalis

any non-UK residents own UK property. For Gibraltar residents this is often a result of retaining a previous UK residence or having built up a property portfolio in the UK. The law in this area has changed significantly in recent years and compounded with the radical shifts in property markets due to Covid-19 and government measures introduced to tackle this, keeping up with the changing UK tax landscape can be challenging for owners.

The following outlines the UK tax obligations if a Gibraltar resident individual or trustee disposes of UK property or UK land. It also highlights the temporary increase (due to Covid-19) of the Stamp Duty Land Tax threshold which may benefit purchasers until March 2021.

UK Capital Gains Tax position from April 2020

The changes since April 2020 require non-UK resident individuals and trustees to:

- File a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on UK Property Account online, within 30 days of completion of a direct or indirect sale of a UK property/land, and
- 2. Pay any CGT to HMRC in that timeframe.

For non-UK residents, there is no exemption from filing this CGT Account even if no capital gain (and hence no tax) arises on the disposal of the property. This position is different for UK residents. Furthermore, there are penalties for late filing.

HMRC guidance indicates that UK
Government Gateway login details are
required to file this Account. However, many
non-UK residents may not be able to set up a
Government Gateway account, for example, if
they do not have a UK National Insurance
number or UK Unique Tax Reference. In such
cases, it is possible to access this CGT

reporting service using an alternative process.

It is worth noting however that there is a specific CGT exemption for gains made by certain overseas pension schemes (e.g. QROPS/QNUPS). This exemption results in any gains made on the disposal of UK property/land by such schemes not being liable to UK tax. There are also special rules for qualifying Collective Investment Vehicles.

Annual UK Self-Assessment also required

A non-UK resident individual or trustee may feel quite satisfied that they've "ticked their UK tax compliance box" after submitting the required CGT Account and paying any CGT, within the required timeframe. However, they also need to file their annual UK Self-Assessment Tax Return in which details of the property disposal and CGT Account must be included.

Currently non-UK residents cannot utilise HMRC's Self-Assessment online service, although many mistakenly think that they can, by erroneously filing with HMRC as a UK resident (which can lead to further issues)!

Non-UK residents must either complete a paper Self-Assessment Tax Return and send it to HMRC by post, or use commercial UK tax software that supports their non-UK resident filing position, often by engaging the services of a suitable tax adviser.

Separately, since April 2019, non-UK resident companies are required to register for UK Corporation Tax within three months of a disposal of UK property/land.

Gibraltar/UK Double Taxation Agreement

For Gibraltar residents, whilst there is no CGT payable in Gibraltar on the UK disposal, liability to UK tax remains. The Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) in force between Gibraltar and the UK continues to generally give the UK the right to tax such capital gains on UK property/land disposals, unless less

than 50% of the gain relates to the UK property.

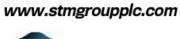
Stamp Duty Land Tax temporary "holiday"

In an effort to boost the UK property market due to the effects of Covid-19, the UK Government introduced a temporary increase of the Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) threshold for residential properties to £500,000, which applies from July 2020 to March 2021. As a result, purchasers can potentially save up to £15,000 in SDLT. This temporary increase of the threshold applies to UK and non-UK resident investors alike.

However, where purchasers are acquiring an additional residential property, a 3% SDLT charge continues to apply. Furthermore, draft UK legislation published in July 2020 introduces a new 2% SDLT surcharge from April 2021 for non-UK resident purchasers of residential property. This brings the concept of tax residence into SDLT, which until now has been levied only on the basis of where the property is located.

The need to review

Many non-UK residents are unaware of these changes in the UK tax landscape, and some may still believe that CGT does not apply to them because they are non-UK resident. This ceased to be the case from April 2015 for UK residential property and April 2019 for UK commercial property. To exacerbate this, many advisers in the UK are experienced in dealing with the tax regime for UK residents only and are not fully aware of the changes that apply to non-UK residents. The 30 day filing requirement also means that owners must act quickly on completion in order to avoid costly penalties.









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Global employee mobility

Relocation assignments in the current difficult climate



By Eran Shay, Managing Director, Benefit Business Solutions Ltd

ttracting quality talent to Gibraltar has traditionally been a challenge for many local companies, particularly in the online gaming and the finance sectors. The task is going to be even more challenging over the coming year as global employee mobility has been severely affected by Covid-19. Despite the fact that Gibraltar has been very lucky so far in withstanding the current crisis, with no coronavirus-related deaths to date, the pandemic has raised a whole new set of concerns for both employers and employees in respect of international relocation assignments, with new emphasis on healthcare insurance, employer's duty of care, remote working and possible economic slowdown in the post-corona era.

Over the last few months, there have been a series of webinars with panels of experts in various relocation-related subject matters, to assist clients and contacts around the world currently on relocation assignments. In addition, we have been able to provide a rapid-response team to assist employers and employees in real time with urgent questions that have risen due to the pandemic.

From the insights we have gained, we believe global employment mobility will be impacted by the virus in the following ways:

- 1. Before Covid-19, sending an employee on an international assignment was a trivial matter. In the post-corona era, HR or hiring managers will first ask the question: Could this role be done remotely and how can we make it work remotely?
- 2. If remote working is not preferred/possible, there is likely to be greater opportunity for home working in the host country. The CEO of Barclays recently announced offices may never see the same crowds again, and he is not alone in this view (Facebook, Google, and other tech companies have recently extended work from home until the end of 2020).
- 3. Many mobility managers have expressed there could be some reluctance for a while to take an assignment and be away from family and home healthcare. Companies may have to shift their talent planning to include more remote team collaboration until restrictions on travel are fully lifted. As many countries are already experiencing a second wave, delays to relocation assignments are inevitable.
- 4. Duty of care and compliance will gain importance This crisis has highlighted how important it is to track your mobile workforce, including business travellers. More attention to data and having the right technology to track will be essential, as well as communication tools and being able to get reliable information to employees (thus avoiding employee's reliance on social media). Moreover, from a liability perspective, the employer may want a proper legal review of assignment documentation to eliminate risk of litigation.

Continued p28





Global employee mobility

Continued from p26

To overcome travel bans and assignment delays, HR may focus on hiring local talent who already have work rights (i.e. nationality or Permanent Resident status) in host locations rather than relocate existing staff.

6. Mobility teams will need to work with internal risk to develop sophisticated Business Continuity Plans to be able to trigger in the future, in terms of security in place, evacuations, ensuring families are together, business travel management, etc. Ideally policy support should be developed so that cases are dealt with in a consistent and fair way, as opposed to ad-hoc.

7. With the expected economic downturn - will companies re-evaluate projects and assignments? Will assignments currently on hold still go ahead once restrictions are lifted or will companies rethink investments? What mobility alternatives are available? Cost management will become more important and mobility managers will need to think of new

and creative ways to control costs.

8. In some industries, especially involving larger long-term projects such as infrastructure and engineering, mobility operations will likely return to normal as soon as the restrictions are lifted. However, mobility managers and team members will need to focus more on new skills as we move forward. The 'reluctant assignee' and their family may require much more empathy than before and the manager may need to increase the use of external relocation specialists for coaching to assist with this empathy and assurances, as well as to be better equipped to provide assignees with more detailed information about healthcare systems, insurance and other aspects of the destination country.

9. Finally, although there may be fewer assignments, the ones which do go ahead may be more business critical and expensive, which will contradict the pressure to reduce costs. Rather than trying to reduce costs and limit exceptions. HR teams will need to be able to ensure managers do not cut corners on protecting the assignee and family, and will provide them with access to ongoing relocation support services, spouse and family support etc.

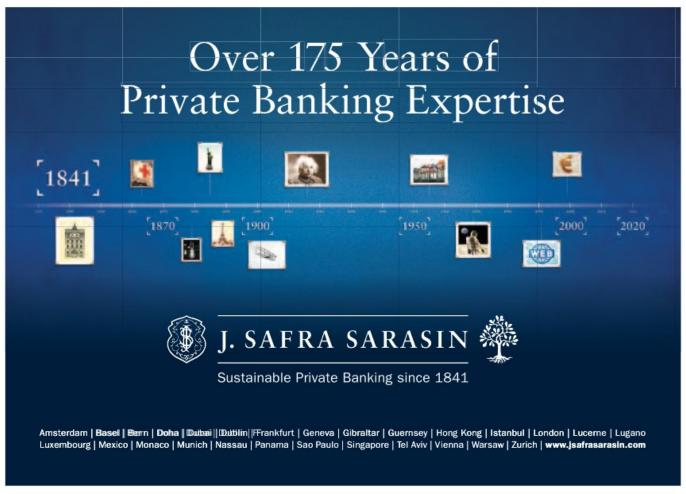
caring and reassurance

While we believe that Gibraltar can showcase its great success in withstanding the corona pandemic, in order to attract talented employees to the jurisdiction, successful employers will be those who place more attention on caring and reassurance for their relocating employees both before and throughout the relocation period, providing their assignees with access to both internal and external personal and spouse support.

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