

# Project Initiation Plan

<b>Project Type</b>	Endorsement and adoption
<b>Project Scope</b>	Narrow-scope

## Purpose

- A1. This paper sets out the plan to assess whether to adopt<sup>1</sup> the narrow-scope amendments *Supplier Finance Arrangements: Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7* (the Amendments), expected to be issued by the IASB in May 2023, with an effective date of 1 January 2024 (with earlier application permitted by the IASB).
- A2. This Project Initiation Plan is presented to the Board ahead of the publication of the Amendments by the IASB as the IASB's accelerated effective date of 1 January 2024 results in an unusually short timeline for the UKEB endorsement work.
- A3. The IASB's proposals were set out in Exposure Draft ED/2021/10 *Supplier Finance Arrangements: Proposed amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7* (the ED). The Board actively influenced the development of the Amendments, submitting its Final Comment Letter on the ED to the IASB on 28 March 2022<sup>2</sup>.
- A4. The UKEB must consider the Amendments against the statutory adoption criteria before they can be formally adopted for use in the UK. The Amendments cannot be used by UK entities until formal adoption has taken place. The Board's aim would be to ensure an adoption decision is reached before the expected effective date of the Amendments of 1 January 2024.

## Background

- A5. The IFRS Interpretations Committee (the Committee) considered a question about the information an entity is required to provide in its financial statements about supply chain finance (reverse factoring) arrangements. In response to that question, in December 2020 the Committee published the Agenda Decision *Supply*

<sup>1</sup> The UK's statutory requirements for adoption of international accounting standards are set out in The International Accounting Standards and European Public Limited-Liability Company (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 no. 685 (the Regulations, or SI 2019/685)

<sup>2</sup> [Final Comment Letter - Supplier Finance Arrangements](#)

*Chain Financing Arrangements – Reverse Factoring* to explain the applicable requirements in IFRS Standards.

- A6. Feedback received on the draft Agenda Decision, including from investors and analysts, suggested that the information an entity is required to provide about this form of financing falls short of meeting user information needs. Users of financial statements want to understand the effects of these arrangements on an entity's liabilities and cash flows, as well as on liquidity risk and risk management.
- A7. The Amendments are intended to complement existing disclosure requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards that apply to supplier finance arrangements<sup>3</sup>. The Amendments to IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows* and IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* require entities to disclose additional information in the notes about those arrangements.
- A8. The Amendments aim to provide users of financial statements with the information that enables them to assess the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's liabilities and cash flows, as well as on its liquidity risk and risk management.

## Description of the Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7

- A9. The Amendments are expected to be published by the IASB in May 2023. A brief description of the expected Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7, as proposed in the IASB's ED and subsequently re-deliberated by the IASB<sup>4</sup>, is shown in the table below.

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<sup>3</sup> Also often referred to as supply chain finance, payables finance or reverse factoring arrangements.

<sup>4</sup> A table comparing the IASB proposals in the ED and the IASB's tentative decisions made in November 2022 is presented in Appendix A to IASB Agenda Paper 12A (February 2023) [here](#).

<b>Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7 – Supplier Finance Arrangements</b>	
<b>Issued for public comment</b>	Exposure Draft ED/2021/10 <i>Supplier Finance Arrangements: Proposed amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7</i> issued for public comment in November 2021 (IASB comment period ended 28 March 2022) <sup>5</sup> .
<b>Expected title and issue date of final amendments</b>	<i>Supplier Finance Arrangements - Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7</i> is expected to be issued by the IASB in May 2023.
<b>Origin</b>	See Background in paragraphs A5 – A8 above.
<b>What is the expected change?</b>	<p>The Amendments are expected to require an entity to disclose information about its supplier finance arrangements that enables users of financial statements to assess the effects of those arrangements on an entity's liabilities, cash flows and exposure to liquidity risk.</p> <p>This would be achieved by entities disclosing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The terms and conditions of the supplier finance arrangements;</li> <li>• As at the beginning and end of the reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the carrying amount of financial liabilities recognised in the entity's statement of financial position that are part of these arrangements and the line item(s) in which those financial liabilities are presented;</li> <li>ii. the carrying amount of financial liabilities disclosed under (i) for which suppliers have already received payment from the finance providers; and</li> <li>iii. the range of payment due dates of financial liabilities disclosed under (i).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As at the beginning and end of the reporting period, the range of payment due dates of trade payables that are not part of a supplier finance arrangement.</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> [Exposure Draft: Supplier Finance Arrangements \(ifrs.org\)](https://www.ifrs.org/standards/updates/exposure-drafts/2021/10-supplier-finance-arrangements)

<b>Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7 – Supplier Finance Arrangements</b>	
<b>Transition requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Amendments are expected to be effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024 with earlier application permitted. Where an entity applies the Amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.</li> <li>• In its first annual financial statements after the amendments become effective, an entity will not be required to provide information as at the beginning of that annual reporting period on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The carrying amount of financial liabilities recognised in the statement of financial position that are part of a supplier finance arrangement for which suppliers have already received payment from the finance providers; and</li> <li>ii. The range of payment due dates of both financial liabilities that are part of a supplier finance arrangement and comparable trade payables that are not part of such an arrangement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Comparative information will not be required in the annual reporting period an entity first applies the amendments.</li> <li>• Disclosures will not be required for any interim financial reports within the annual period in which an entity first applies the amendments.</li> </ul>

## Exclusions

- A10. The Amendments are expected to update existing guidance on implementing IFRS 7<sup>6</sup>. That guidance accompanies, but is not part of, IFRS 7. The UKEB's project does not address the guidance on implementing IFRS 7 as UK-adopted International Accounting Standards comprises only the mandatory sections of the standards<sup>7</sup>.

## Project plan

- A11. The project plan is guided by the following factors.

<sup>6</sup> Guidance on implementing IFRS 7 paragraph IG18.

<sup>7</sup> Non-mandatory guidance includes bases for conclusions, dissenting opinions, implementation guidance and illustrative examples, together with the IFRS practice statements. This categorisation is set out in the introduction to the IASB yearly Bound Volumes.

## The Amendments are narrow in scope

- A12. The Amendments are part of the IASB's activities on maintenance and consistent application of IFRS Accounting Standards.
- A13. The Amendments are intended to complement the existing requirements in IFRS Accounting Standards that apply to supplier finance arrangements. They will not propose changes to classification or measurement requirements applicable to supplier finance arrangements but would be limited to requiring entities to disclose additional information in the notes to the financial statements about those arrangements.

## The Amendments have been subject to public consultation

- A14. The Amendments were exposed for public comment as Exposure Draft ED/2021/10 *Supplier Finance Arrangements: Proposed amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7*.
- A15. The Board actively influenced the development of the Amendments. The UKEB considered the proposed amendments and consulted with UK stakeholders<sup>8</sup> ahead of the submission of its final comment letter to the IASB. The UKEB submitted its Final Comment Letter on the ED to the IASB on 28 March 2022<sup>9</sup>.
- A16. The IASB considered the comments from UK stakeholders, including the UKEB, in developing the final Amendments. In instances when the IASB decided not to take forward some of the suggestions made, it provided the rationale for its decisions (i.e. in IASB staff papers discussing the specific amendments and deliberations). Agenda Paper 6<sup>10</sup> of the December 2022 UKEB meeting summarises the main proposals in the ED, the UKEB response in its Final Comment Letter and the actions taken by the IASB in finalising the Amendments.

## Initial stakeholder feedback

- A17. Ahead of the publication of the Amendments, the Secretariat gathered preliminary views of the UKEB's Accounting Firms & Institutes Advisory Group (AFIAG), the Investor Advisory Group (IAG) and the Preparers Advisory Group (PAG). Overall, the increased transparency on the use of supplier finance arrangements was welcomed, particularly by the IAG, albeit with some potential application challenges highlighted by the PAG and the AFIAG.

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<sup>8</sup> [UKEB Feedback Statement - Supplier Finance Arrangements](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Final Comment Letter - Supplier Finance Arrangements](#)

<sup>10</sup> [UKEB Dec. 2022, Agenda Paper 6, General IASB update, paragraphs 17-29.](#)

## Project milestones

A18. A proportionate approach is proposed, incorporating the mandatory milestones listed in paragraph 6.11 of the UKEB's Due Process Handbook (Handbook)<sup>11</sup>. The table below provides a brief description of the work we have done and/or that we intend to do as part of this project.

A19. Future dates are based on current expectations and are, therefore, subject to subsequent modification. The Board will be alerted to any significant changes.

Milestone/activity	Brief description	Status
<b>Project initiation activities</b>		
Technical project added to UKEB technical work plan (mandatory) [Handbook 4.30 (d)]	Added to UKEB technical work plan.	Added to work plan (to be approved by the Board at this meeting - May 2023).
Board Education session (optional) [Handbook 4.10]	The Board had an education session on the Exposure Draft of the Amendments in December 2021.  In December 2022, the Board was provided with an update on the IASB's redeliberations.	Completed at December 2021 and December 2022 Board meetings.
Project Initiation Plan (mandatory) [Handbook 6.11]	This paper.	-
Desk-based research [Handbook 6.17]	The Secretariat has reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IASB's work on the Amendments (mainly staff papers and ED feedback)</li> <li>• Comment letters on the ED received by the IASB from UK stakeholders including the UKEB</li> <li>• Previous work done by the UKEB (early desk-based research, comment letters on our DCL)</li> <li>• Relevant material produced by other parties, including accounting firms.</li> </ul>	To be completed once the Amendments are published by the IASB

<sup>11</sup> [Due Process Handbook \(kc-usercontent.com\)](https://www.kc-usercontent.com)

Milestone/activity	Brief description	Status
	<p>The Secretariat will review the Amendments, once published, to assess whether there are any significant changes compared to the proposals in the ED and to the IASB's redeliberations that would require consideration.</p>	
<b>Other mandatory milestones</b>		
<p>Issue of a DECA (mandatory) [Handbook 6.23–6.26]</p>	<p>The Secretariat will develop a draft Endorsement Criteria Assessment (DECA) to assess whether the Amendments meet the UK's statutory requirements for adoption.</p>	<p>To be completed. Subject to timely publication of the Amendments by the IASB, we expect to bring the DECA for discussion to the July 2023 meeting.</p>
<p>Minimum outreach activities (mandatory) [Handbook 6.18 - 6.22]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish DECA for stakeholder comment on the UKEB website.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will share the DECA with relevant UKEB Advisory groups and will discuss any significant changes introduced in the Amendments (compared with the proposals in the ED and IASB's redeliberations), if any.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will carry out limited targeted outreach with relevant UK stakeholders, including some who have previously provided feedback to the IASB and/or UKEB.</li> </ul>	<p>To be completed. Subject to timely publication of the Amendments by the IASB, DECA publication for comment expected in July 2023. Targeted outreach activities are ongoing and will continue during the DECA comment period.</p>

Milestone/activity	Brief description	Status
Consultation period for the DECA (mandatory) [Handbook 6.28]	The DECA will be issued for comment for 90 days.	To be completed.  Subject to timely publication of the Amendments, DECA comment period expected to be late July – October 2023.
Project closure [Handbook 6.30]	The project closure process for endorsement projects will comprise the following mandatory steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of an ‘adoption package’ by the Secretariat comprising: the Final Endorsement Criteria Assessment (ECA), Feedback Statement, the Adoption Statement and a Due Process Compliance Statement for the project; and</li> <li>• Voting on the adoption of the Amendments.</li> </ul>	To be completed.  Subject to timely publication of the Amendments by the IASB, we expect to bring the Adoption Package for discussion and approval to the November 2023 meeting.  The final Due Process Compliance Statement is expected to be brought for noting to the December 2023 meeting.



## Resources allocated

- A20. On the basis of the project plan set out above, we consider that a project team consisting of one Project Director supported by a Project Manager, with oversight provided by one Senior Project Director, should be sufficient to ensure the project timelines are achievable.
- A21. In addition, we plan to obtain input from the economics team to develop the contents of the economic impact assessment and the legal team, if such issues arise during the course of this project.

## Setting-up an ad-hoc advisory group is not necessary

- A22. Given the narrow-scope nature of the Amendments and initial feedback, it is not considered necessary to set up a separate, ad-hoc advisory group specific for this project. Instead, the existing UKEB Advisory Groups have already been consulted at the influencing stage, and will be further consulted on the adoption criteria assessment, as appropriate.

## Project timeline

- A23. The proposed high-level project timeline, based on current expectations and subject to timely publication of the Amendments by the IASB, is as follows:

Date	Milestones
18 May 2023	Presentation of Project Initiation Plan for approval
13 July 2023	Presentation of Draft Endorsement Criteria Assessment (DECA) for approval
<b>DECA consultation period (90 days): Late July – October 2023</b>	
19 October 2023	Verbal update to the Board on feedback received on the DECA up to that date. (The DECA consultation period is not expected to have finished by then).
16 November 2023	Consideration of Adoption Package Board members provide a tentative vote
Mid-November – early December 2023	Estimated period for formal voting, publication of voting outcome and Adoption Package on the UKEB website
14 December 2023	Due Process Compliance Statement for noting

