

FT statement on business continuity: coronavirus outbreak

The FT Group is well prepared to minimise the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on our business operations. This is a rapidly changing situation, and we continue to follow and monitor official government advice in our key regions. Global and local response teams, including the FT management board, meet daily to review our policies and guidance.

Our people

Our top priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all employees across the FT Group worldwide. This includes preparing for remote working arrangements at scale to reduce the density of people in offices and make it safer for smaller core teams to operate. Business travel, and attending large conferences and meetings, is also restricted.

Where a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 is identified, we follow government guidance for the location affected. Our current approach is to send staff in the vicinity of an employee with possible symptoms home while the area is deep cleaned. Depending on the public health assessment of that person, further decisions about workplace actions are followed through.

Working arrangements

Home and flexible working is already business as usual for many of our staff. Over the last few weeks, we also rolled out large-scale testing of remote working capabilities across departments to further identify any vulnerabilities and improve our systems.

The majority of our business systems operate in the Cloud. For activities where the FT is reliant on legacy technology, like VPN, we have taken steps to stress test and work within capacity restrictions.

Mitigations for high levels of absence

While we are taking action to reduce the spread of coronavirus infection, we are prepared for a scenario in which a higher than normal number of our staff may become ill. We have prioritised critical business tasks to reduce the workload on staff and nominated deputies for key staff.

Our suppliers and resilience

All FT suppliers complete a thorough business continuity questionnaire during procurement. Suppliers to the FT are geographically diverse and often have international presence. We have no specific geographic exposure to service interruptions.

The majority of systems under direct FT management are cloud based and running in multiple regions. Where we rely on physical data centres, these are resilient and diversely located.