



**WIG**

The Whitehall & Industry Group  
connecting the sectors



## 'Brexit and International' Series

### The Impact of COVID-19 on Brexit, Insight from London and Brussels

## Expert Insight

We were joined by Alex Deane, Senior Managing Director and Head of UK Public Affairs at FTI Consulting, and Hans Hack, Senior Managing Director and Head of Brussels at FTI Consulting to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Brexit. They touched upon points including:

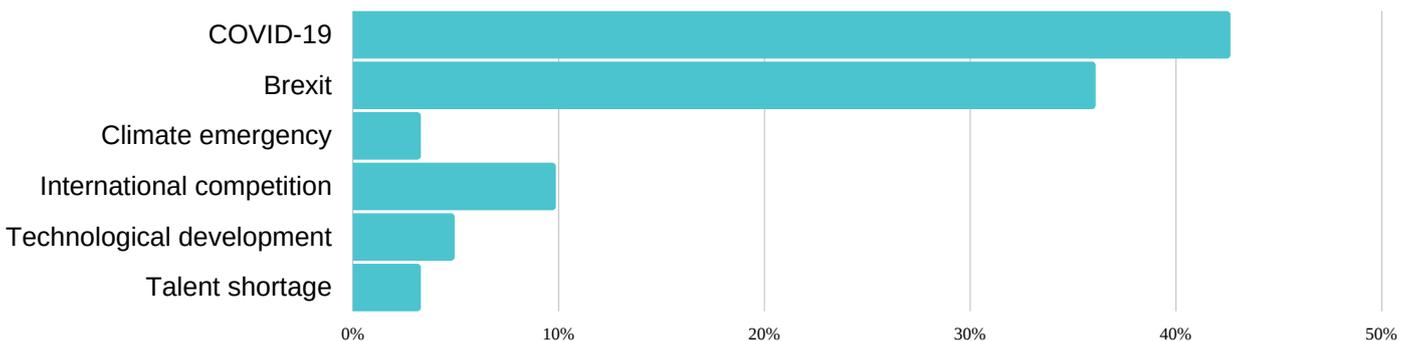
- Carrying out negotiations digitally has slowed them down and made them more difficult on both sides.
- The UK Government is currently determined to see the transition period end on time. Extending the transition period is seen to potentially harm the prospect of deals with third parties such as the USA and Australia, and to expose the UK to the risk of having to pay for EU COVID-19 bailouts.
- In the EU, unity has been particularly strong. The political priority for Brexit has been low for some time and COVID-19 has only exacerbated this.
- Brexit is even seen to open up new possibilities in the EU, such as allowing the EU to be able to consider recovery package proposals that would have previously been impossible, and opening up the chance to solidify French-German access.
- The UK government's position on Brexit has hardened and from both the London and Brussels perspectives, the chance of a no-deal is now more likely.



## Cross-sector Opinion

Attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them:

**Which of the following is the biggest challenge facing UK-centric supply chains?**



## Our members' questions

Our members raised some challenging questions to be answered, some of the big issues raised included:

- The nature of the longer-term UK-EU relationship
- International trade and supply chains in context of the climate emergency in comparison to COVID-19 and Brexit
- The practical implementation of any deal by the 1st of January 2021
- The financial impact of the pandemic on the emphasis within Brexit

WIG members can listen to Alex and Hans' presentation [here](#)  
To see our full programme of webinars, visit [www.wig.co.uk](http://www.wig.co.uk)