

Restructuring for the future



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With rapid advances in technology and ever changing consumer attitudes, the retail industry has come used to change, but the effects of COVID-19 have changed the game. More than ever businesses will need to be flexible and make tough decisions to remain resilient in the years to come.

We have seen first-hand how COVID-19 restrictions have affected businesses within the Retail & Consumer sector, and our team has been dedicated to supporting our clients through the initial crisis phase. But more importantly, we have been supporting them with future plans, offering tailored legal and strategic advice to best prepare them for what is likely to be a difficult period ahead.

Undoubtedly, many businesses will need to make difficult decisions in the short to medium term, and our Corporate Restructuring & Insolvency team (**CRI**) have extensive experience guiding businesses through these periods, supporting business and business owners as they look to refocus on core growth areas. The CRI team are also on hand, should the worst happen, to provide support in any formal restructuring processes. The CRI team can advise you on:

- Corporate restructuring plans and facilitation and 'stress testing' any current / ongoing plans
- Directors' duties and potential exposures, including an audit of past decision making and reasons for taking those decisions / actions
- Supplier insolvency
- Planning for any formal restructuring processes and, where appropriate, introducing you to our extensive network of trusted insolvency practitioners
- Strategic acquisitions of insolvent businesses and assets from insolvency practitioners.

The CRI team can also work with you to resolve disputes as quickly and cost effectively as possible, whether that be issues with landlords or with suppliers. The CRI team, and more broadly, our Property Litigation and Commercial Dispute Resolution teams, are experienced in all forms of dispute resolution including negotiation, arbitration and mediation. If litigation is inevitable, we have a formidable reputation for achieving results.

We understand the complex issues facing the Retail & Consumer sector through this difficult time, and have the industry expertise to help offer tailored solutions for you. We would be delighted to offer **30 minutes' free advice** to discuss your particular concerns and identify the best route forward. If you have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and would like to talk to our team about how we can help, please do not hesitate to get in touch.