EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

Corporate reorganizations

The industrials M&A perspective

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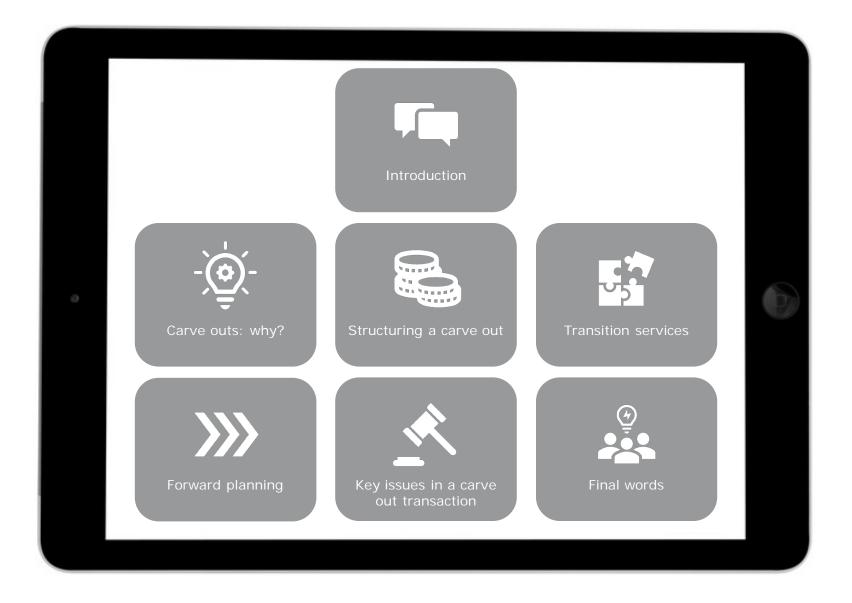
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Session Overview









why?



carve out



services







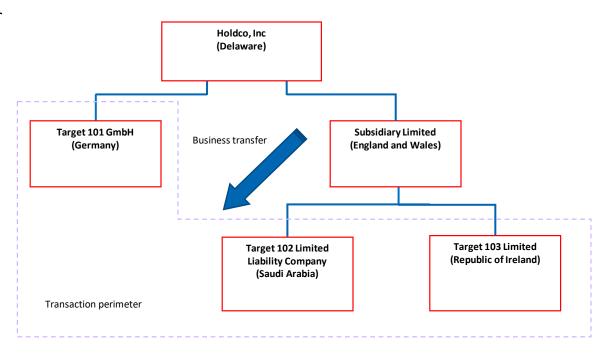
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Introduction

Corporate carve outs

Why carve out?

- Disposition of a subsidiary (or multiple subsidiaries) or portion of a business (business line, division, plant, etc.)
 - Transactions are often to sell an underperforming business line or non-core asset or to list a business division in its own right; could be dual track
- Some of our largest recent transactions were sales of large divisions of clients:
 - G4S' disposal of its conventional cash handling business
 - Rolls Royce plc's sale of its Marine Engine division
 - Capita plc's disposal of Capita Asset Services















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Introduction

Corporate carve outs

Typical reorganization lifecycle

Legal implementation of any reorganization involves a number of workstreams, many of which run simultaneously. The carve out is no different.











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Strategy of corporate carve outs

Recent drivers and trends towards carve out



- Products/services, plant(s) or cost centers not core to primary business
- Downward pressure on enterprise value
- Could realize full potential under new ownership

shifting STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- COVID-19 impact on broader corporate strategy impacting long-term business direction
- Limited expectations for carve out value improvement if transaction shelved for 12-24 months



- Ties up resources and capital that could be redeployed to primary business
- Generate cash via sale for other uses

external factors

- Write-down impact to overall fiscal year performance now vs future periods
- Shareholder activism
- UK Brexit

















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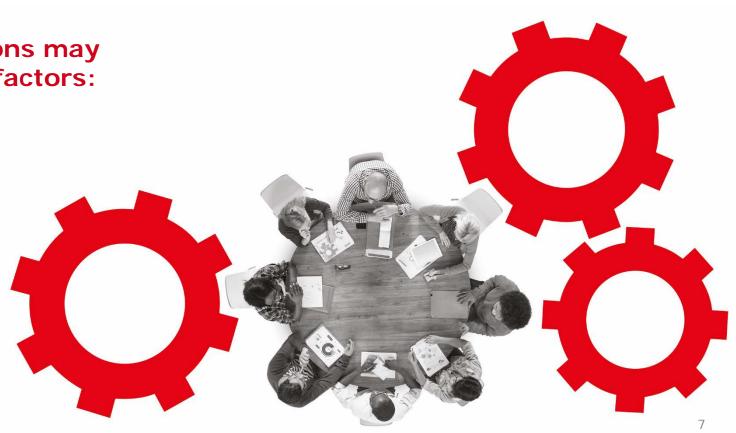
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Structuring carve outs

General

Structures of carve out transactions may differ depending on a number of factors:

- Location of business within corporate structure
- Joint ventures/third party partner considerations
- Tax implications always key
- Ownership of material assets and liabilities















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Structuring carve outs



Things to consider – top tips

- Where early consideration can be vital
 - Third party shareholder/partner structures
 - Clear communications with all stakeholders (eg advisers and counterparties to contracts)
 - Early engagement
- Strong project management is vital
 - Set up good systems early!

















A note on transitional services

- Consider who your buyer will be and whether or not they can stand up the business on their own
- Be ready to draw boundaries around what services you as seller will be willing to provide
- Consider pricing for services (including employees) sooner rather than later
- Consider right to end transition services
- Consider right to use third-party service providers















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Forward planning

Project Management: what can go wrong?





Signing and closing may be delayed



Employee consultations or works council approvals may be missed



POA may need to be re-executive if expiry dates are not long enough or approval authority is inadequate

















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Forward planning

The importance of additional planning during COVID-19

Gathering the underlying information

- Consider 'working from home' implications in the planning process
- Have a clear, uniform request list in to which key stakeholders have input, and which is used globally and is clearly managed by identified points of contact / project managers with clear responsibility
- Have lawyers and accountants work together so as to avoid duplication of requests/multiple pieces of paper
- Consider what internal corporate restructuring is necessary
- Consider need for new corporate entities to house business line or if existing structure suffices



















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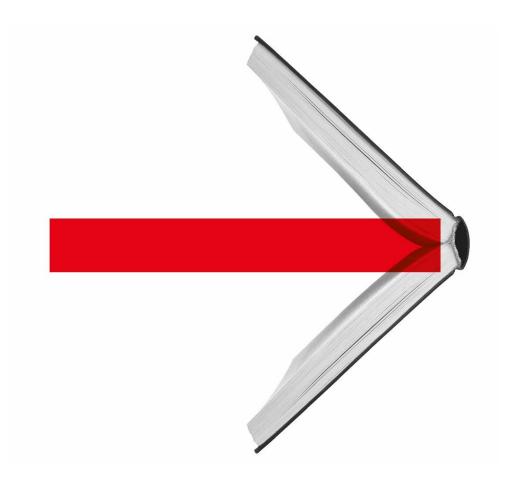
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Forward planning

The importance of additional planning during COVID-19



Traditional challenges become more challenging during COVID-19:

- Delivering
- Project management
- Data volume
- **Execution issues**
 - Logistics
 - Powers of attorney
 - Notaries/apostille
 - Electronic execution













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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Third-party consents and notices

Business contracts

- Material customers/suppliers
- Change of control; assignment; novation
- Assigning contracts to fit within transaction perimeter?
- Partial assignment of contracts?

Finance

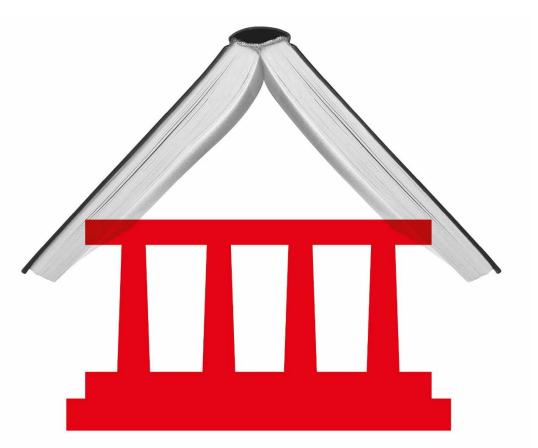
Lenders

Real property

Landlords

Regulatory

Regulatory (eg permits, operating licenses)















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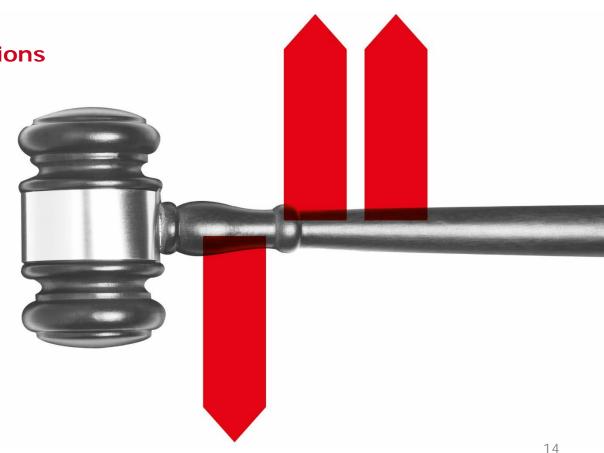
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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Shared assets

Shared agreements and intercompany considerations

- Global and shared agreements
- Intercompany agreements and intercompany debt
- Shared "back-office" support services
- Shared productions/distribution operations
- Shared employees
- Shared real estate
- Insurance policies
- Treasury and finance support















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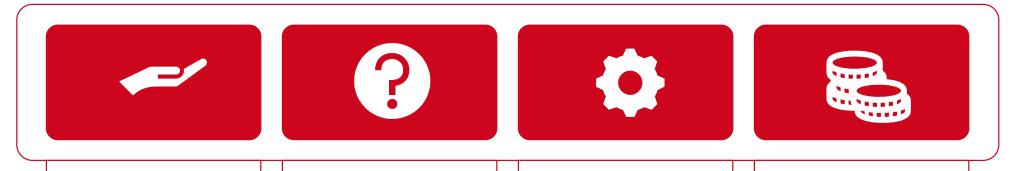


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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Historical liabilities



Ongoing litigation support

Retention of certain liabilities?

Retention of liabilities of shared assets

Consider how historic liabilities impact financial statements













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Key issues in a carve out transaction

IP and IT issues

- Who owns the IP? Does it need to be assigned?
- IP licences that need to be terminated?
- Shared IP
- Is new IP required as part of sale? (re-branding?)

















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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Indebtedness and encumbrances

- Separation of bank accounts?
- Parties to credit facilities? Capital leases?
- Lien releases
- Intra-group financing
 - Allocation of debt
 - Repayment
 - Waiver (noting potential tax downsides to the same)
 - Assigning/transferring the debt /notes receivable















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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Employees

- Confirming which entity(ies) employs employees of business
- Shared employees
- Employees carved-out of transaction
- Are all benefits centralized? Are there any benefits that are not centralized?
- Are there any outstanding employment claims?

- Timing and messaging (non-US)
 - Re-deployment where no TUPE transfer
 - Works councils/unions
 - Redundancies
 - Pensions/benefits















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Key issues in a carve out transaction

Common issues

Environmental

- EHS permits and approvals can be easily overlooked, but can add significant amounts of time and formality to your transfer process
- Be aware of historic environmental contamination issues – these issues can impact the group regardless of your documentation!















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Final words

Conclusion

- Do not underestimate the time that a transaction can take. The more time you can give yourself (and advisors) the better
- Prior planning and establishment of systems can be the differentiator between a well-managed process and timetable extensions, particularly where transitional services are required
- Validate and interrogate the steps plan from every angle
- Collate information in a uniform, coordinated manner
- Be alive to employee consultation and people dynamics
- Curve-balls will arise, but can typically be dealt with provided they are identified with sufficient time

















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Final words

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