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# iXBRL adoption in the UK

- UK XBRL requirement
- Challenges faced by preparers
- Observations from UK adoption
- Practical insights learned
- Useful tips for Irish preparers
- Approaches to tagging
- In-house vs Outsource
- Recap and key messages

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### UK XBRL requirement - overview

- HMRC mandated iXBRL filings in UK
- Requirement applies to all UK returns filed
  after 31 March 2011
- Financial statements form part of tax filings, so must also be tagged
- Each set of accounts needs to be tagged to UK GAAP or IFRS XBRL taxonomies – a complex process

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### Challenges faced by preparers

- Complexity of XBRL it's not easy!
- Steep learning curve in familiarity with tagging and taxonomies
- Over 5,000 possible tags to choose from
- Even minimum tagging list has >1,200 items
- Repetitive and boring exercise
- Market (preparers and software vendors) was largely unprepared



## Challenges (continued)

- Common errors
- Consistency of tags
- Inefficiencies in existing statutory accounts process
- Pressures on resources of finance team
- Difficult to evidence/review what's been done





### **Observations from UK adoption**

- Process requires accounting knowledge and taxonomy familiarity
- Passing the regulator's validation tests
- "Validation" ≠ Quality
- Quality expectations of regulator rise in subsequent years
- Desired level of tagging quality has impact on:
  - Cost
  - Approach to mapping/tagging
  - Choice of in-house and outsource options

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# Practical insights learned

- Controls and review procedures
- Dry run exercise
- IFRS switch
- Define who is responsible
  - Finance or Tax?



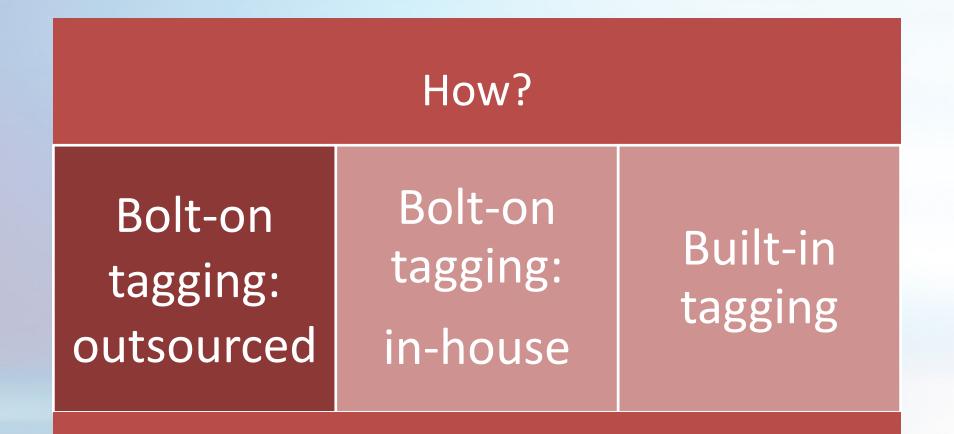


# Useful tips for Irish preparers

- Some preparers filed early to miss the first year reporting requirement
  - Check your dates
- Consider whether you need to purchase
  and implement new software
  - IT budget and resource
  - Take a wait and see approach?
- Legal entity rationalisation



# Approaches to tagging



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### Factors to consider whether to outsource

- Appetite for selection and implementation of new software
- Immaturity of software market
- Switch to IFRS from 2015
- Delaying in-house implementation may reap benefits

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- Outsource provider with both accounting and XBRL taxonomy expertise provides peace of mind
- Popular where companies don't use accounts production software



### In-house vs. outsource

#### **In-house tagging**

- Full control
- Upfront investment (software and time)
- Steep learning curve
- Integrated into internal processes
- Statutory accounts process ripe for change

#### **Approach criteria**

- Level of control?
- Cost?
- Time/skills available to select and implement new software?
- UK GAAP or IFRS?
- Maturity of software?
- Word/Excel or accounts production software?
- Interest of finance team in XBRL expertise
- Execution risk

#### **Outsource tagging**

- Saves time/cost selecting software
- Removes new compliance burden from finance team
- Finance team focus on business reporting
- No changes to existing statutory accounts process.

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### How an outsource service works

Company prepares statutory accounts in Word/Excel (as normal) and sends to outsource provider

Outsource provider tags the accounts and performs detailed review and HMRC validation checks

Outsource provider sends company the tagged document, a review report and the iXBRL file

Company submits iXBRL document with tax return to HMRC





## Recap and key messages

- XBRL tagging is more complex than many were led to believe
- Evaluate options available
- Many considering outsourcing until:
  - XBRL software matures
  - IFRS conversion
  - Ready to transform accounts production process
- Key to in-house vs. outsource decision are:
  - Planning
  - Resources (tools, time and taxonomy knowledge)
  - Timeline
- Outsource provider with both local accounting and XBRL taxonomy expertise can take away the hassle

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