

# Are your contracts fit for purpose in a post COVID era?

Andrew Uprichard APSE Associate 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# Are your contracts fit for purpose in a post COVID era?



- Revisiting risk assessment and management
- Force majeure provisions curse or blessing
- Scope for variations



Revisiting risk assessment and management

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#### Risk assessment



- Who identified a global pandemic as a contract risk issue?
  - Should we have done?
  - What about in future?

#### Risk management



- Risk transfer
  - Good or bad?
- Risk mitigation
  - Can you really make it go away?
- The importance of a good contract relationship
  - The proof of the pudding?



Force Majeure provisions – curse or blessing?

## Force majeure

- What is it?
- How does it work?
- Does it really help?





#### Scope for variations

### What does your contract say?



- The problem with silence
- Limitations on variations
  - Contract procedure rules
  - Public Contracts Regulations 2015
- Best practice



#### Some conclusions

- •We need to revisit what we do about risk
- •Is disruption better than continuity and change
- build in flexibility for the future
- keep working on those relationships



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