



# Structured reporting: an early implementation study

## Key findings and recommendations

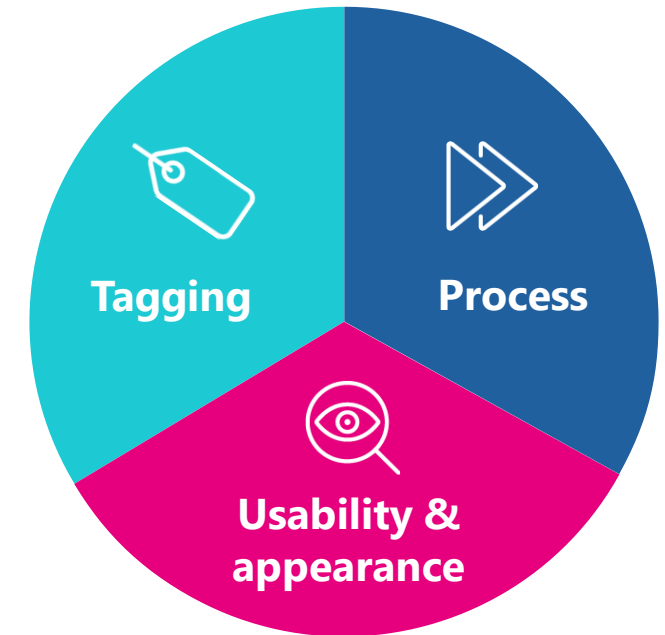
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# Key messages

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- The majority of reports across the sample **fell short** of the **quality** that is expected for companies' official filings.
- More than 70% of the files contained **tagging errors**, more than half had issues limiting their **usability** and more than 25% had **design issues**.
- Although many issues were identified during the review, almost all issues could be solved with **appropriate care and attention**.
- The Lab identified **practice tips** across three broad areas: **process, usability & appearance and tagging**.



**Read full report [here](#)**



1. Understand the requirements and get the right teams involved
2. Pick an approach (and service provider)
3. Consider whether to tag information voluntarily
4. Test, Test, Test
5. Set up a robust governance process

Factors to consider in choosing an approach and service provider:

## Timing and workflow

Bolt-on



Parallel

## Company involvement

In-house



Outsourced

## Design

Compliance-based



Full design



## Attitude to the file

- Companies traditionally spend significant amounts of time, attention and resources on ensuring that communication is well-designed and accurate.
- Companies should devote the same level of care and attention to their structured report as it becomes the official version of the annual report.

## Formatting issues

- Although the software available to create designed XBRL files has evolved, there are still issues caused by poor translation of design from PDF into XHTML.
- Companies should consider spending time to adapt their design upfront or building in sufficient review and remediation time.

## Usability

- Companies should make sure the structured report includes all the components of an annual financial report.
- It is helpful if companies put the structured report on their website, with an Inline XBRL viewer.



## Choosing the right tag

- Companies should make sure the tags they use correctly reflect the accounting meaning of the reported information and reflect the judgements made in preparing the human-readable report.
- Carefully consider the tag labels and references to the related requirements in IFRS Standards.

## Creating extensions

- Extensions should only be used when necessary, that is, when no suitable tag exists in the core taxonomy.
- However, companies should not try to 'shoehorn' their disclosures into core taxonomy tags to avoid extensions at all costs.

## Common tagging issues

- Producing a structured report introduces a risk of new types of errors.
- Plan a review process and look out for common issues such as wrong signs (+ or -) and calculation inconsistencies.
- Warnings should be investigated but not all warnings must be resolved.

# Next steps

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## Supporting high-quality filings

The Lab intends to continue supporting companies in their implementation of the requirements:

- we will work together with the FCA to monitor the quality and usability of filings during the first year of mandatory adoption;
- we may produce further guidance if necessary; and
- we are planning to host a webinar on 7 December for companies and service providers.

[Sign up here:](#)



## Opportunities for using the data

We plan to do further work to better understand:

- how investors and other stakeholders are using or may use the data;
- what tools are available to analyse the data; and
- what challenges investors and other stakeholders face in using the data (for example, timeliness) and how those could be resolved.