

IFRS 9 Thematic Review: Review of Interim Disclosures in the First Year of Application

November 2018



Financial Reporting Council

Contents

Executive summary	3
Overview of the thematic	4
Transition	5
Non-banking entities	7
Banks	
Classification and measurement	8
Impairment: Policies and methodologies	9
Impairment: Staging and credit risk profile	11
Impairment: Alternative economic scenarios	13
Judgements and estimation uncertainty	14
Next steps	16

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report summarises the key findings of our thematic review of disclosures in 2018 interim accounts relating to the implementation of IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments', which:



Became effective on **1 January 2018**;



Replaces IAS 39 'Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurement' and expands the disclosure requirements of IFRS 7 'Financial instruments: Disclosures';



Introduces an **expected credit loss model** that leads to earlier recognition of losses on loans and other receivables; and



Aligns hedging requirements **more closely to risk management practices** than IAS 39.

Banking is the sector most significantly affected by IFRS 9, principally owing to the introduction of the expected credit loss model. Outside the banking sector, IFRS 9 has generally not had a material effect. Consequently, this thematic review focuses on the quality of interim disclosures in banking entities although other sectors are also considered. It aims to provide useful guidance for companies when considering the completeness of their upcoming, and more extensive, year-end disclosures.

Key findings

We noted some good examples of disclosure, some of which are highlighted in this report. These excerpts of published interim accounts are intended to illustrate helpful ways of communicating the effect of adopting IFRS 9 to users.

Our review also identified a number of areas where disclosure could be improved, and some areas where no disclosure had been provided at all.

Although we accept that interim disclosure requirements are less extensive than those for full-year accounts, we felt that some companies, in particular, some smaller banks, did not sufficiently explain the impact of adopting IFRS 9. We hope companies will provide more comprehensive disclosure in their upcoming annual reports and accounts.

Separate topics are addressed throughout this report, but our key findings were that **the following disclosures could be improved**:



Transitional disclosures analysing the principal differences between IAS 39 and IFRS 9;



Qualitative and quantitative disclosures made by the smaller banks regarding determination of significant increases in credit risk, including linkage to internal credit ratings;



Disclosure of estimation uncertainty, in particular quantification of sensitivities of expected credit losses to changes in assumptions; and



Discussion of the business model in assessing the classification of financial assets.

We encourage preparers to carefully consider the extent of disclosures included within their upcoming annual reports. Companies should aim to ensure not only that mandatory disclosure requirements have been met, but that sufficient explanation of concepts, elaboration of judgements made and conclusions reached have also been provided, where material.

We recognise that it may not be possible to implement all of our recommendations in 2018 annual reports. As disclosures develop, we will continue to review best practice.

We hope preparers find this review useful and we encourage engagement with external auditors to plan for the upcoming annual reporting period.

Overview of the thematic

Scope of our review

Our review consisted of a limited scope desktop review of the interim financial statements of a sample of companies. Our focus was on the adequacy of disclosures regarding the effect of the transition to IFRS 9 in the first year of adoption. We have only considered IFRS 9 transition documents published by the major banks to the extent necessary to support the interim disclosures.

The application of the expected credit loss ('ECL') model by banks, and especially the larger banks, requires the use of complicated models to determine the level of loan loss provisions. Our review did not consider the reasonableness of the assumptions used in those models nor did we assess the appropriateness of the methodologies applied.

Interim disclosure requirements

IAS 34 'Interim Reporting' does not specify how much detail entities must provide when explaining changes in accounting policy in interim accounts. The extent of disclosures is therefore largely left to management's judgement.

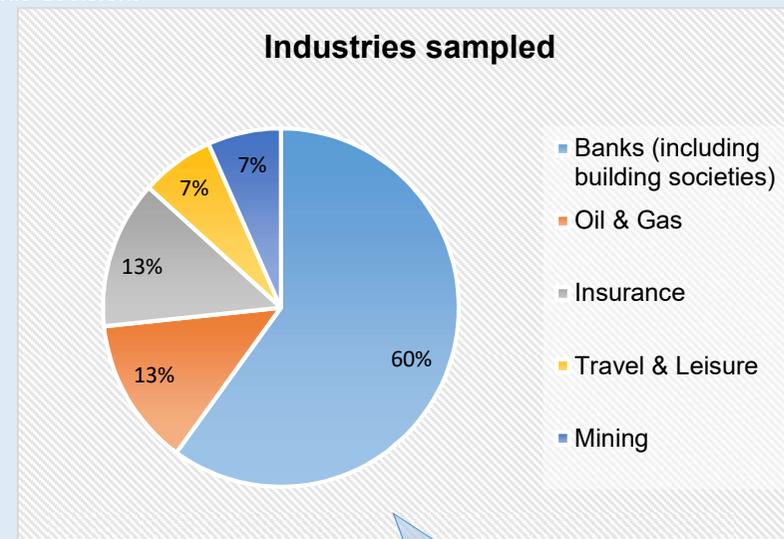
Where the adoption of IFRS 9 has had a significant impact for a company, we expect management to consider the requirements of IAS 8 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors' in order adequately to explain the adjustments made to financial statement line items for the comparative period(s). In addition, companies should consider the additional transitional disclosure requirements in IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' which are intended to explain the impact of the adoption of IFRS 9.

We also expect management to ensure that the disclosures are of a sufficient level of granularity as to allow users to understand fully the extent to which IFRS 9 has had an impact on the business. Consequently, we expect the disclosures for banks to be considerably more detailed than those for the non-banking sector.

¹ References to banks and banking entities throughout this report include the building society selected for review.

Our sample

We reviewed the interim financial statements of a sample of 15 entities. This sample was skewed to banking entities, including one building society¹. We also included one life insurance company that had adopted the deferral method to assess the adequacy of its disclosures regarding this decision.



We intend to review the full-year accounts of companies in our sample whose interim disclosures were weaker, to ensure improvements have been made at the year-end.

Transition

Comparatives

As permitted by IFRS 9, none of the entities restated comparatives, although a number of banks voluntarily presented their credit risk disclosures at 1 January 2018 on an IFRS 9 basis to enable greater comparability.

Classification and measurement

Most of the entities reviewed provided a reconciliation of the key balance sheet line items to highlight the key changes in classification between IAS 39 and IFRS 9. The qualitative analysis of the differences in classification could be improved. Most entities chose to set out the revised accounting policy under IFRS 9 without explanation of the key changes in the classification of assets and liabilities.

Two entities used the adoption of IFRS 9 as an opportunity to review the overall presentation of assets and liabilities. As a result, changes were made to the presentation of certain items which were considered to be more relevant for users of the accounts. Where this was the case, we found that they provided clear explanation of the changes made.

Own credit risk

Only the large banks in our sample have designated financial liabilities at FVTPL and thus present changes in own credit risk in OCI. All early adopted these requirements in their 2017 annual report and accounts.

Impairment

The only entities materially affected by the new requirements were banks. We found that there was no evidence that banks were taking advantage of some of the transitional exemptions permitted under IFRS 9.

Two banks provided a helpful analysis of the differences in the key terms in IFRS 9 and IAS 39. Most others provided a reconciliation of the impairment provisions under IAS 39 to the ECL provision under IFRS 9.

Most banks did not provide detail of key assumptions made on transition, in particular, to assess the probability of default ('PD') at origination and significant increase in credit risk for loans originating prior to 2018.

None of the banks disclosed that they were unable to determine significant increase in credit risk because it would require undue cost or effort.

Examples of good disclosure...

Virgin Money provided a helpful reconciliation of impairment provisions under IAS 39 to the expected loss provisions under IFRS 9.

The illustrative reconciliation of the IAS 39 retail impairment allowance at 31 December 2017 to the IFRS 9 retail ECL at 1 January 2018 is shown in the table below.

	£m
At 31 December 2017 – IAS 39 incurred loss provision	59.4
Removal of latent risk and other calibration differences	(14.0)
12 month ECL	3.9
Lifetime ECL	42.1
Undrawn balances	11.6
Multiple economic scenarios	1.2
At 1 January 2018 – IFRS 9 expected credit loss	104.2

- Virgin Money Holdings (UK) plc, p19

Hedging

None of the banks reviewed have adopted the hedging requirements under IFRS 9, all opting to continue to apply IAS 39. With the exception of the life assurer, the non-banking entities reviewed did adopt IFRS 9 hedging but few provided details of the new requirements compared to those under IAS 39.

Points to remember on transition

-  IFRS 7 has a number of additional transitional disclosures which are required on adoption of IFRS 9.
-  We expect the impact on deferred tax as a result of the transition to IFRS 9 to be considered and disclosed where material.
-  Companies will need to update hedging documentation and assess the effectiveness of existing hedges on application of the new hedging requirements.
-  An adjustment within opening equity is required for the time value of options where only the intrinsic value of the option was designated as a hedging instrument under IAS 39.
-  Companies should explain any key assumptions adopted on implementation of IFRS 9. We expect companies to explain and, where possible, quantify the material differences between IAS 39 and IFRS 9.

For example, the requirement to determine ECL on undrawn commitments could be a material change for banks with a large retail portfolio. We therefore expect the impact to be quantified.

Transition (continued)

Examples of good disclosure...

We found HSBC's manner of setting out the quantitative effect on the balance sheet of transition to IFRS 9 helpful. It was clear and provided the reader with a good understanding of how the new standard specifically affected the company.

14 Effect of reclassification upon adoption of IFRS 9

Reconciliation of consolidated balance sheet at 31 December 2017 and 1 January 2018

Footnote	IFRS 9 measurement category	IAS 39 carrying amount at 31 Dec 2017 \$m	Other changes in classification \$m	IFRS 9 reclassification to		Carrying amount post reclassification \$m	IFRS 9 re-measurement including expected credit losses ¹ \$m	IFRS 9 carrying amount at 1 Jan 2018 \$m
				Fair value through profit and loss \$m	Fair value through other comprehensive income \$m			
Assets								
	Amortised cost	180,624	—	—	—	180,624	(3)	180,621
	Amortised cost	6,628	—	—	—	6,628	—	6,628
	Amortised cost	34,186	—	—	—	34,186	—	34,186
	FVPL	287,995	4,329	9	(37,924)	254,409	1	254,410
	FVPL	29,464	313	10,056	(3)	39,714	32	39,746
	FVPL	219,818	—	—	—	219,818	—	219,818
	Amortised cost	90,393	(7,099)	(712)	—	82,582	(23)	82,559
	Amortised cost	962,964	(7,458)	(3,903)	—	951,627	(1,890)	949,737
	Amortised cost	201,553	—	—	—	201,553	—	201,553
	FVOCI	332,240	—	(3,131)	83	322,166	(3)	322,163
	FVOCI	3,917	—	(2,104)	—	1,813	—	1,813
	Amortised cost	52,919	—	—	(80)	59,980	(457)	59,523
	Amortised cost	67,191	9,915	(214)	—	114,792	(15)	114,777
	N/A	1,006	—	—	—	1,006	—	1,006
	N/A	22,744	—	—	—	22,744	(942)	21,802
	N/A	23,453	—	—	—	23,453	(79)	23,374
	N/A	4,676	—	—	—	4,676	38	4,714
	N/A	2,521,771	—	—	—	2,521,771	(3,341)	2,518,430

For footnotes, see page 110.

Impact broken down into principal impact categories

Clear comparison of measurement classifications under IAS 39 and IFRS 9

Impact on each Balance Sheet line item disclosed

Non-banking entities

IFRS 9 did not have a material effect on the results of non-banking entities

Using the 2017 auditor's assessment of materiality as a guide, we observed that IFRS 9 did not materially affect the results of the non-banking entities we reviewed. Notwithstanding this, we were pleased to see that non-banking entities provided some useful disclosures explaining the effect of adopting IFRS 9.

We identified one example of a contract that failed the solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) test and was classified in its entirety as FVTPL. This was clearly explained by the company. Whilst trade receivables and basic loans will usually meet the SPPI test, commodity purchase contracts that have repricing mechanisms or receivables linked to the value of an asset, such as housebuilders' shared equity schemes, will usually fail the test.

As mentioned previously, with the exception of the life assurer, all non-banking entities reviewed had adopted IFRS 9's hedging requirements, explaining that existing hedges under IAS 39 continued to qualify for hedge accounting under IFRS 9. Under IFRS 9, the time value of options has to be recognised as a cost of hedging in OCI and accumulated in a separate component of equity. Where only the intrinsic value of the option was previously designated as a hedging instrument, an adjustment within opening equity will be required on transition. The entities in our sample that used options to hedge had made this adjustment.

Insurance companies

We observed that the impact of IFRS 9 on general insurers was not material as most assets are managed on a fair value basis.

Most life assurers have applied the temporary exemption in IFRS 4 'Insurance Contracts' and have opted to defer implementation of IFRS 9 until 1 January 2021. The life assurance company reviewed provided adequate explanation as to how it met the criteria for deferral.

The main issues identified in our review of non-banking entities were:



Although we would expect non-banking entities generally to have a hold-to-collect business model, in many cases this was not clarified.



In one case, IAS 39 terminology ('available for sale') continued to be used for the interim balance sheet.



Only two entities clarified that they had adopted the simplified approach, recognising full lifetime credit losses on initial recognition. We acknowledge that there may not be a material difference between the three-bucket approach and the simplified approach when trade receivables have short credit terms but it would be helpful if this could be clarified.



One company in our sample had very significant equity and debt security investments but the explanation of the IFRS 9 classification (FVOCI) could have been improved.

Points to consider for non-banking entities



Many of the transition disclosure requirements will not be required.



However, we expect companies to explain *why* the impact is not material, particularly given that many non-banking companies recognise material financial instruments in their accounts



Take care not to overlook categories of financial instruments or assume too readily that IFRS 9 has no effect. For example IFRS 9's impairment provisions have been extended to include IFRS 15 contract assets and apply to loans to joint ventures and, for parent companies, loans to subsidiaries.



Remember where a host contract containing an embedded derivative is a financial asset, the embedded derivative feature will usually result in the entire asset being measured at fair value. Embedded derivatives should, however, continue to be separated where (i) the derivative is not closely related to the host contract and the host contract is a financial liability; or (ii) where the host contract is not a financial asset.



Under IFRS 9 it is necessary to reconsider the accounting for previous modifications of debt that did not result in derecognition, e.g. a refinancing that did not result in the loan being derecognised. Whilst the previous practice was to adjust the interest rate going forward for the modified terms and costs incurred, under IFRS 9 a gain or loss must be recognised to preserve the original effective interest rate.



Remember that IFRS 7's disclosure requirements have been expanded by IFRS 9. This should be factored into preparations for the 2018 report and accounts.

Banks - Classification and measurement

One of the key interim disclosure requirements in the first year of applying a new accounting standard is to provide adequate explanation of the nature and effect of any changes in accounting policies.

Most of the banks reviewed provided detailed reconciliations of the impact on the balance sheet of the change in measurement categories following implementation of IFRS 9.

Nearly all provided a description of the classification categories under IFRS 9 and the application of the business model and SPPI tests. However, we found that the quality of this disclosure varied greatly, with a marked difference between the larger and smaller banks.

For example, gains and losses on equity securities designated at FVOCI are recognised in equity and cannot be recycled

Examples of good disclosure...

“Non-trading equity instruments acquired for strategic purposes rather than capital gain may be irrevocably designated at initial recognition as held at FVOCI on an instrument by instrument basis. Dividends received are recognised in profit or loss. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these instruments, including foreign exchange gains and losses, are recognised directly in equity and are never reclassified to profit or loss even on derecognition.”

- Standard Chartered plc, p102

The main issues identified in this area were:



Use of boilerplate language which was generic and was often directly quoted from the standard



Where assets and liabilities were designated at FVTPL or, in the case of equity securities, at FVOCI, there was little explanation of the reasons for such designations; most banks quoted the designation criteria directly from the standard



Whilst most banks discussed the implications of loan modifications in assessing significant increase in credit risk and staging, only three discussed the accounting implications of modifications which do not result in derecognition



Not all banks disclosed the treatment of gains and losses in profit or loss or other comprehensive income



Whilst we have no concerns regarding the classifications adopted, we found that descriptions of the business model were often generic and did not address, for example, assets held for liquidity purposes.

For example, factors which are likely to prevent a financial asset meeting the SPPI test, assessment of the business model criteria and determination of the period over which cash flows are assessed.

Examples of good disclosure...

“Financial assets that are held to collect contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. A basic lending arrangement results in contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. Where the contractual cash flows introduce exposure to risks or volatility unrelated to a basic lending arrangement such as changes in equity prices or commodity prices, the payments do not comprise solely principal and interest. Financial assets measured at amortised cost are predominantly loans and advances to customers and banks together with certain debt securities. Loans and advances are initially recognised when cash is advanced to the borrower at fair value inclusive of transaction costs. Interest income is accounted for using the effective interest method”

- Lloyds Banking Group plc, p59

Points to consider when explaining classification and measurement



Avoid the use of boilerplate language or quoting directly from the standard.



Where assets or liabilities have been designated to a measurement category, companies should explain how they have met the criteria for designation.



Remember to address the key elements of IFRS 9 classification requirements in disclosing the accounting policies, including modifications, reclassification, recognition and derecognition.

Banks – Impairment: Policies and methodologies

On the whole, the disclosures were generally good regarding the policies and methodologies adopted in determination of ECLs.

Most of the banks defined the key terms underlying the ECL models and explained the basis on which probability of default, loss given default and exposure at default were determined for both retail and wholesale portfolios. In addition, the banks clearly explained how the expected life of assets was determined, in particular for credit cards and other revolving credit facilities.

The main issues identified in this area were:



A number of banks disclosed that they used regulatory models as a starting point for the development of the IFRS 9 models. However, few banks provided a comparison of the key terms and differences between the models used to determine ECLs under IFRS 9 compared to the regulatory models.

Examples of good disclosure...

IFRS 9 methodology

Approach for determining expected credit losses

Credit loss terminology

Component	Definition
Probability of default (PD)	The probability at a point in time that a counterparty will default, calibrated over up to 12 months from the reporting date (stage 1) or over the lifetime of the product (stage 2) and incorporating the impact of forward-looking economic assumptions that have an effect on credit risk, such as interest rates, unemployment rates and GDP forecasts. The PD is estimated at a point in time that means it will fluctuate in line with the economic cycle. The term structure of the PD is based on statistical models, calibrated using historical data and adjusted to incorporate forward-looking economic assumptions.
Loss given default (LGD)	The loss that is expected to arise on default, incorporating the impact of forward-looking economic assumptions where relevant, which represents the difference between the contractual cash flows due and those that the bank expects to receive. The Group estimates LGD based on the history of recovery rates and considers the recovery of any collateral that is integral to the financial asset, taking into account forward-looking economic assumptions where relevant.
Exposure at default (EAD)	The expected balance sheet exposure at the time of default, taking into account the expected change in exposure over the lifetime of the exposure. This incorporates the impact of drawdowns of committed facilities, repayments of principal and interest, amortisation and prepayments, together with the impact of forward-looking economic assumptions where relevant.

To determine the expected credit loss, these components are multiplied together (PD for the reference period (up to 12 months or lifetime) x LGD at the beginning of the period x EAD at the beginning of the period) and discounted to the balance sheet date using the effective interest rate as the discount rate.

Although the IFRS 9 models leverage the existing Basel advanced IRB risk components, several significant adjustments are required to ensure the resulting outcome is in line with the IFRS 9 requirements.

- Standard Chartered plc, p53

Examples of good disclosure...

“The maximum period considered when measuring ECL (be it 12-month or lifetime ECL) is the maximum contractual period over which HSBC is exposed to credit risk. For wholesale overdrafts, credit risk management actions are taken no less frequently than on an annual basis and therefore this period is to the expected date of the next substantive credit review. The date of the substantive credit review also represents the initial recognition of the new facility. However, where the financial instrument includes both a drawn and undrawn commitment and the contractual ability to demand repayment and cancel the undrawn commitment does not serve to limit HSBC’s exposure to credit risk to the contractual notice period, the contractual period does not determine the maximum period considered. Instead, ECL is measured over the period HSBC remains exposed to credit risk that is not mitigated by credit risk management actions.” - HSBC Holdings plc, p86

Points to consider when explaining policies and methodologies

-  Avoid the use of boilerplate language or quoting directly from the standard.
-  IFRS 7 requires disclosure of inputs, assumptions and estimation techniques used to determine ECLs. Users may find it helpful to understand how the ECL models differ from those used for regulatory purposes, particularly where regulatory models are used as a basis for ECL.
-  The policy should be sufficiently granular to enable users to understand the differences in the approach to model ECLs for significant product or business lines.

Banks – Impairment: Policies and methodologies (continued)

Examples of good disclosure...

The Royal Bank of Scotland provided a good analysis of the key terms of IFRS 9 compared to those under IAS 39 and the regulatory framework.

Key IFRS 9 terms and differences to current accounting and regulatory framework <small>(Within the scope of EY's review report)</small>			
Attribute	IFRS 9	IAS 39	Regulatory (CRR)
Default / credit impairment	To determine the risk of a default occurring, management applies a default definition that is consistent with the Basel/Regulatory definition of default. Assets that are defaulted are shown as credit impaired. RBS uses 90 days past due as a consistent measure for default across all product classes. The population of credit impaired assets is broadly consistent with IAS 39, though measurement differs because of the application of MES. Assets that were categorised as potential problems with no impairment provision are now categorised as Stage 3.	Default aligned to loss events, all financial assets where an impairment event has taken place - 100% probability of default and an internal asset quality grade of AQ10 - are classed as non-performing. Impaired financial assets are those for which there is objective evidence that the amount or timing of future cash flows have been adversely impacted since initial recognition.	A default shall be considered to have occurred with regard to a particular financial asset when either or both of the following have taken place: - RBS considers that the customer is unlikely to pay its credit obligations without recourse by the institution to actions such as realising security; - the customer is past due more than 90 days. For Retail exposures, the definition of default may be applied at the level of an individual credit facility rather than in relation to the total obligations of a borrower.
Probability of default (PD)	PD is the likelihood of default assessed on the prevailing economic conditions at the reporting date (point in time), adjusted to take into account estimates of future economic conditions that are likely to impact the risk of default; it will not equate to a long run average.	Regulatory PDs adjusted to point in time metrics are used in the latent provision calculation.	The likelihood that a customer will fail to make full and timely repayment of credit obligations over a one year time horizon. For Wholesale, PD models reflect losses that would arise through-the-cycle; this represents a long run average view of default levels. For Retail, the prevailing economic conditions at the reporting date (point in time) are used.
Significant increase in credit risk (SICR)	A framework incorporating both quantitative and qualitative measures aligned to the Group's current risk management framework has been established. Credit deterioration will be a management decision, subject to approval by governing bodies such as the Group Provisions Committee. The staging assessment requires a definition of when a SICR has occurred; this moves the loss calculation for financial assets from a 12 month horizon to a lifetime horizon. Management has established an approach that is primarily informed by the increase in lifetime probability of default, with additional qualitative measures to account for assets where PD does not move, but a high risk factor is determined.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Forward-looking and multiple scenarios	The evaluation of future cash flows, the risk of default and impairment loss should take into account expectations of economic changes that are reasonable. More than one outcome should be considered to ensure that the resulting estimation of impairment is not biased towards a particular expectation of economic growth.	Financial asset carrying values based upon the expectation of future cash flows.	Not applicable.

Key IFRS 9 terms and differences to current accounting and regulatory framework <small>(Within the scope of EY's review report)</small>			
Attribute	IFRS 9	IAS 39	Regulatory (CRR)
Loss given default (LGD)	LGD is a current assessment of the amount that will be recovered in the event of default, taking account of future conditions. It may occasionally equate to the regulatory view albeit with conservatism and downturn assumptions generally removed.	Regulatory LGD values are often used for calculating collective and latent provisions; bespoke LGDs are also used.	An estimate of the amount that will not be recovered in the event of default, plus the cost of debt collection activities and the delay in cash recovery. LGD is a downturn based metric, representing a prudent view of recovery in adverse economic conditions.
Exposure at default (EAD)	Expected balance sheet exposure at default. It differs from the regulatory method as follows: - it includes the effect of amortisation; and - it caps exposure at the contractual limit.	Based on the current drawn balance plus future committed drawdowns.	Models are used to provide estimates of credit facility utilisation at the time of a customer default, recognising that customers may make further drawings on unused credit facilities prior to default or that exposures may increase due to market movements. EAD cannot be lower than the reported balance sheet, but can be reduced by a legally enforceable netting agreement.
Date of initial recognition (DOIR)	The reference date used to assess a significant increase in credit risk is as follows. Term lending: the date the facility became available to the customer. Wholesale revolving products: the date of the last substantive credit review (typically annual) or, if later, the date facility became available to the customer. Retail Cards: the account opening date or, if later, the date the card was subject to a regular three year review or the date of any subsequent limit increases. Current Accounts/ Overdrafts: the account opening date or, if later, the date of initial granting of overdraft facility or of limit increases.	Not applicable for impairment but defined as the date when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.	Not applicable.
Modification	A modification occurs when the contractual cash flows of a financial asset are renegotiated or otherwise modified and the renegotiation or modification does not result in derecognition. A modification requires immediate recognition in the income statement of any impact on the carrying value and effective interest rate (EIR) or examples of modification events include forbearance and distressed restructuring. The financial impact is recognised in the income statement as an impairment release/(loss).	Modification is not separately defined but accounting impact arises as an EIR adjustment on changes that are not derecognition or impairment events.	Not applicable.

Banks – Impairment: Staging and credit risk profile

Some smaller banks provided insufficient disclosure of the credit risk profile and analysis of staging for key portfolios

The most significant disclosure for banks is the determination of credit risk for key portfolios. On the whole, the qualitative disclosure was good. All of the banks explained the difference between the stages and the measurement of the ECL at each stage. In addition, the banks defined how assets fell into each of the stages, specifically how significant increases in credit risk and default were assessed. Only one of the banks disclosed that it used the practical expedient for assets deemed to be of low credit risk.

We found it disappointing that two of the smaller banks did not provide an analysis of the credit risk profile of major portfolios, for example gross and net exposures by stage. The larger banks provided an analysis of balances for major portfolios which showed a split of gross exposures and ECLs between the three stages and the impact of backstops on stage 2.

Examples of good disclosure...

“IFRS 9 contains a rebuttable presumption that default occurs no later than when a payment is 90 days past due. The Group uses this 90 day backstop for all its products except for UK mortgages. For UK mortgages, the Group has assumed a backstop of 180 days past due as mortgage exposures more than 90 days past due, but less than 180 days, typically show high cure rates and this aligns to the Group’s risk management practices.”

- Lloyds Banking Group plc, p61

In addition, most of the larger banks mapped the distribution of assets by stage to their internal credit quality classifications used for risk management purposes.

Nearly all of the banks reviewed discussed the impact of cure periods, including explanation as to how long a balance must remain in stage 3 once it is no longer in default.

The main issues identified in this area were:



Although not strictly a requirement for interim reports, only two banks provided an analysis of the movement in gross exposures and associated ECLs during the period, including movement between stages



We expected most banks with significant retail banking portfolios to assess significant increase in credit risk on a collective basis or through the use of cohorts. However, it was not always clear if this was the case. We expect the banks to disclose how assets are grouped and how the assessment of significant increase in credit risk is performed.



Only one bank clarified that it used a 12 month PD as a proxy for lifetime PD in assessing whether there had been a significant increase in credit risk for retail portfolios.

Examples of good disclosure...

“ECLs are calculated by multiplying three main components, being the PD, LGD and the EAD, discounted at the original EIR. The regulatory Basel Committee of Banking Supervisors (BCBS) ECL calculations are leveraged for IFRS 9 modelling but adjusted for key differences which include: ...

- *ECL is measured at the individual financial instrument level, however a collective approach where financial instruments with similar risk characteristics are grouped together, with apportionment to individual financial instruments, is used where effects can only be seen at a collective level, for example for forward-looking information.”*

- Barclays plc, p59

Points to consider when explaining staging and credit risk profile



Disclosure should explain the qualitative and quantitative criteria used to assess if a financial asset is in stage 2 or 3, including the use of backstops and the impact of any cure or probation criteria.



Banks should clarify the basis on which assets are assessed. Where on a collective basis, the apportionment of the effect to individual assets should be clear.



Banks should disclose where a 12 month PD is used as a proxy for lifetime PD to assess whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred for material portfolios.



If non-performing loans are disclosed in the annual accounts, we expect these amounts to be reconciled to the stage 3 credit impaired balances.

Banks – Impairment: Staging and credit risk profile (continued)

Examples of good disclosure...

HSBC analysed the movements in gross exposures and ECLs for the period:

Reconciliation of changes in gross carrying/nominal amount and allowances for loans and advances to banks and customers including loan commitments and financial guarantees

	Non credit impaired				Credit impaired				Total	
	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		POCI			
	Gross carrying/nominal amount	Allowance for ECL								
	\$m	\$m								
At 1 Jan 2018	1,506,500	(1,488)	109,542	(2,435)	15,309	(5,738)	1,054	(242)	1,632,405	(9,903)
Transfers of financial instruments:										
- transfers from Stage 1 to Stage 2	(2,401)	(430)	(408)	635	2,809	(205)	-	-	-	-
- transfers from Stage 2 to Stage 1	(41,853)	120	41,853	(120)	-	-	-	-	-	-
- transfers to Stage 3	40,963	(537)	(40,963)	537	-	-	-	-	-	-
- transfers from Stage 3	(1,730)	18	(2,126)	263	3,856	(281)	-	-	-	-
- transfers from Stage 3	219	(31)	828	(45)	(1,047)	76	-	-	-	-
Net remeasurement of ECL arising from transfer of stage	-	360	-	(347)	-	(36)	-	-	-	(23)
Net new lending and changes to risk parameters	94,406	13	(11,384)	(155)	(1,000)	(614)	(526)	17	81,496	(739)
Changes to models used for ECL calculation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets written off	-	-	-	-	(1,154)	1,133	(1)	1	(1,155)	1,134
Foreign exchange and other	(30,700)	83	(1,273)	99	(355)	(23)	(183)	98	(32,511)	257
At 30 Jun 2018	1,567,805	(1,462)	96,477	(2,203)	15,609	(5,483)	344	(126)	1,680,235	(9,274)
ECL income statement charge/ release for the period	-	373	-	(502)	-	(650)	-	17	-	(762)
Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	261
Total ECL income statement charge for the period										(901)

- HSBC Holdings plc, p52

Clear analysis of movements between stages for both gross exposures and ECL

Mapping of stages to internal credit quality ratings

Impact of the backstop on stage 2 balances

Examples of good disclosure...

Standard Chartered mapped its internal credit ratings to the IFRS 9 stages:

Mapping of credit quality

The Group uses the following internal risk mapping to determine the credit quality for loans.

Credit quality description	Corporate & Institutional Banking and Commercial Banking			Private Banking	Retail Banking
	Default grade mapping	S&P external ratings equivalent	Regulatory PD range	Internal ratings	Number of days past due
Strong	Grades 1-5	AAA/AA+ to BB+/BBB-	0.000-0.425	Class I and Class IV	Current loans (no past dues nor impaired)
Satisfactory	Grades 6-8	BB+ to BB-/B+	0.426-2.350	Class II and Class III	Loans past due till 29 days
	Grades 9-11	B+/B to B-/CCC	2.351-15.750		
Higher Risk	Grade 12	B-/CCC	15.751-50.000	GSAM managed	Past due loans 30 days and over till 90 days

The table overleaf sets out the gross loans and advances held at amortised cost, expected credit loss provisions and expected credit loss coverage by business segment and stage.

By client segment

Amortised cost	30.06.18							Total \$million
	Loans to customers							
	Loans to banks \$million	Corporate & Institutional Banking \$million	Retail Banking \$million	Commercial Banking \$million	Private Banking \$million	Central & other items \$million		
Gross loans								
Stage 1	62,448	92,313	98,504	21,455	13,035	9,756	235,063	
- Strong	50,939	59,603	96,770	7,044	9,457	9,663	182,537	
- Satisfactory	11,509	32,710	1,734	14,411	3,578	93	52,526	
Stage 2	1,712	12,618	2,573	6,231	422	-	21,844	
- Strong	269	1,973	1,540	166	308	-	3,987	
- Satisfactory	1,431	9,829	524	5,844	10	-	16,207	
- Higher-risk	12	816	509	221	104	-	1,650	
Of which (stage 2):								
- Less than 30 days past due	-	929	524	295	10	-	1,758	
- More than 30 days past due	-	69	509	92	4	-	674	
Stage 3, credit-impaired financial assets	-	4,686	800	2,030	212	-	7,728	
Total!	64,160	109,617	101,877	29,716	13,669	9,756	264,635	
Expected credit loss provisions								
Stage 1	(4)	(58)	(332)	(38)	(7)	-	(435)	
- Strong	(2)	(22)	(185)	(22)	(6)	-	(235)	
- Satisfactory	(2)	(36)	(147)	(16)	(1)	-	(200)	
Stage 2	(3)	(243)	(156)	(70)	(1)	-	(470)	
- Strong	(3)	(12)	(27)	-	(1)	-	(40)	
- Satisfactory	-	(144)	(80)	(53)	-	-	(277)	
- Higher-risk	-	(87)	(49)	(17)	-	-	(153)	
Of which (stage 2):								
- Less than 30 days past due	(1)	(63)	(80)	(40)	-	-	(183)	
- More than 30 days past due	(2)	(15)	(49)	-	-	-	(64)	
Stage 3, credit-impaired financial assets	-	(2,536)	(372)	(1,395)	(96)	-	(4,399)	
Total	(7)	(2,837)	(860)	(1,503)	(104)	-	(5,304)	

- Standard Chartered plc, p33-34

Banks – Impairment: Alternative economic scenarios

Disclosures of the use of multiple economic scenarios were generally good

ECLs do not respond to changes in the macroeconomy on a linear basis. IFRS 9 requires that expected credit losses are measured in a way that reflects an unbiased probability-weighted amount that is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes. Banks simulate multiple economic scenarios in order to account for the potential non-linearity.

With the exception of two entities, the banks reviewed discussed the use of scenario analysis to determine ECL. Key highlights included disclosure of:

- the number of scenarios applied, although not all banks disclosed the weighting applied to each scenario;
- the economic assumptions underlying the base case scenario. A number of the larger banks with an international presence provided the assumptions for key geographical areas; and
- differences in the application of multiple economic scenarios to Retail and Wholesale portfolios.

The main issue identified in this area was:



Whilst banks referred to the need to make additional adjustments (overlays) to the models only two quantified the adjustments made.

Examples of good disclosure...

As at 30 June 2018	Scenarios		
	Base	Upside	Downside
House price index (5 year average)	2.0%	3.9%	(1.1)%
Unemployment rate (5 year average)	4.9%	3.8%	7.1%
Household debt service ratio (5 year average)	11.6%	11.8%	11.2%
Bank base rate (5 year average)	1.2%	1.5%	0.3%
Weighting assigned	40%	30%	30%

	Base case ECL	Probability weighted ECL	Difference
Impairment allowance as at 30 June 2018	£112.4m	£113.3m	£0.9m

-Virgin Money Holdings (UK) plc, p63

Difference between base case and the ECL provision quantified

Key assumptions identified

Probability weighting for each scenario is clearly disclosed

Examples of good disclosure...

“A management overlay of \$245m has been included in the 30 June 2018 ECL, adding to the result from the consensus economic scenarios; \$150m of this relates to Wholesale, and \$95m to Retail, to address the current economic uncertainty in the UK. This overlay was raised at transition on 1 January 2018 and reflected management’s judgement that the consensus economic scenarios did not fully reflect the high degree of uncertainty in estimating the distribution of ECL for UK portfolios...”

- HSBC Holdings plc, p51

Points to consider when explaining alternative economic scenarios

- 💡 We expect banks to explain how alternative economic outcomes are selected from a range of possible outcomes and to provide a description of scenario weightings.
- 💡 Key economic variables used to determine the central scenario should be disclosed.
- 💡 Where there are material additional adjustments (overlays) which are used to capture factors not specifically embedded in the models used, these should be disclosed.
- 💡 The difference between the base case scenario and the ECL provision should be quantified.

Banks: Judgements and estimation uncertainty

Whilst not a strict requirement of interim reports, most banks disclosed helpful information about the judgements made in applying IFRS 9. These disclosures assist the reader in understanding how the new standard has been applied to facts and circumstances specific to the company’s business model.

IFRS 7 requires disclosure of the key judgements and assumptions used to classify and measure financial instruments. We therefore expect companies’ year-end disclosures about significant judgements, **which are in addition to the requirements of IAS 1**, to be more extensive than the information that was disclosed for the interim period.

Examples of good disclosure...

Main judgments that have financial impact
 IFRS 9 introduces additional complexity into the determination of credit impairment provisioning requirements; however, the building blocks that deliver an ECL calculation already existed within the organisation. Existing Basel models have been used as a starting point in the construction of IFRS 9 models, which also incorporate term extension and forward-looking information.

There are five key areas that could materially influence the measurement of credit impairment under IFRS 9 – two of these relate to model build and three to their application:

Model build:

- The determination of economic indicators that have most influence on credit loss for each portfolio and the severity of impact (this leverages existing stress testing mechanisms).
- The build of term structures to extend the determination of the risk of loss beyond 12 months that will influence the impact of lifetime loss for assets in Stage 2.

Model application:

- The assessment of the significant increase in credit risk and the formation of a framework capable of consistent application.
- The determination of asset lifetimes that reflect behavioural characteristics whilst also representing management actions and processes (using historical data and experience).
- The determination of a base case (or central) economic scenario which has the most material impact (of all forward-looking scenarios) on the measurement of loss (RBS uses consensus forecasts to remove management bias).

- Royal Bank of Scotland plc, App2 p6

Disclosure examples		
Accounting judgement	Significant increase in credit risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the qualitative and quantitative measures used to determine significant increase in credit risk • Use of the 30 days past due backstop and rationale if rebutted • Whether 12 month PD has been used as a proxy for lifetime PD • Whether significant increase in credit risk has been determined on a portfolio basis
Accounting judgement	Definition of default	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the definition of default aligns to the regulatory definition • Interaction with forbearance and other concessions • Use of the 90 days past due backstop and rationale if rebutted
Estimation uncertainty	Economic scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key economic assumptions used to determine the base case scenario
Estimation uncertainty	Asset lifetimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach for revolving credit facilities such as credit cards and overdrafts • Use and impact of behavioural factors such as refinancing or prepayment

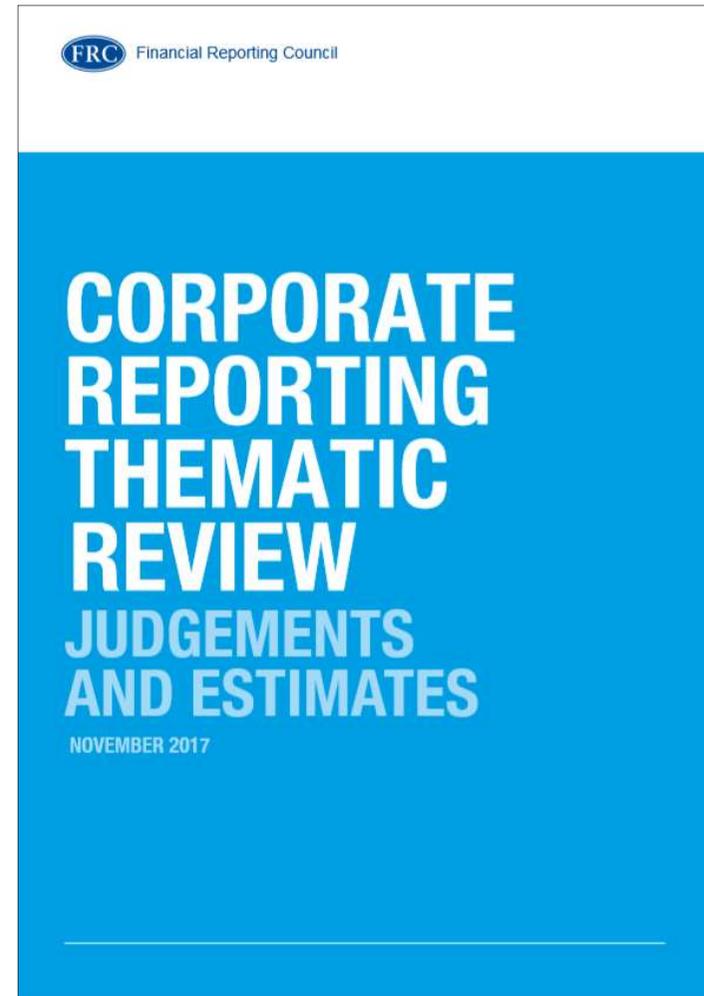
Banks: judgements and estimation uncertainty (continued)

All banks disclosed key assumptions in the determination of ECLs and noted that, in the future, there will be greater volatility in impairment given the uncertainty inherent in the use of forward looking information. None of the banks provided quantitative information on the sensitivity of ECL balances to changes in key assumptions.

Whilst not strictly a requirement for interim reporting, IAS 1 requires disclosure of assumptions and major sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period that have a significant risk of material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. This has been an area of focus for the FRC and was the subject of a thematic review in 2017¹.

In January 2018, the PRA sent an open letter to CFOs outlining their expectations for banks to provide quantitative sensitivity information in addition to that required under IAS 1 in order for users to better understand the uncertainty in the staging and provisioning levels, and the impact of changes in credit conditions on ECL measurement.

Historically, this has been an area where the banks' disclosures have required improvement. Given the increased subjectivity involved in determining ECLs, we expect banks to provide both qualitative and quantitative information, which discloses the sensitivity of ECL amounts to assumptions and estimates, and/or a range of reasonably possible outcomes within the next financial year.



¹ Available from the FRC website <https://www.frc.org.uk/getattachment/42301e27-68d8-4676-be4c-0f5605d1b467/091117-Judgements-and-Estimates-CRR-thematic-review.pdf>

Next steps

Impact on our future reviews

We intend to review the full-year accounts of entities in our sample whose interim disclosures were weaker, to ensure improvements have been implemented at the year-end. Our review sample for 2019 will also include a number of companies not considered as part of this thematic. We will engage in correspondence with those entities whose disclosures are considered inadequate.

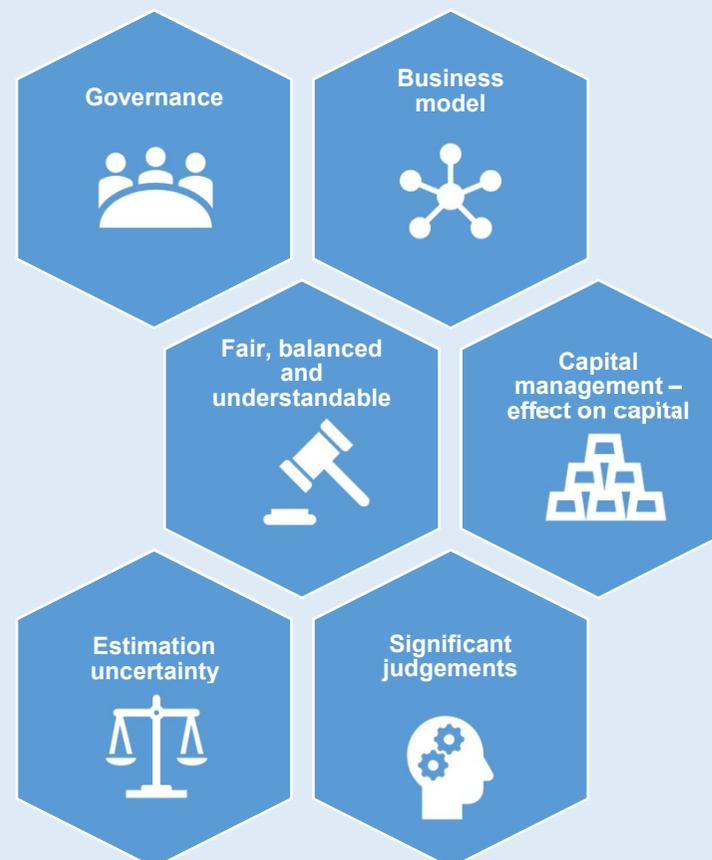
Key points for companies to consider when preparing year-end disclosures

The year-end disclosure requirements of IFRS 9 are more extensive than those required for interim reporting purposes.

We encourage companies to invest the time during their upcoming year-end reporting cycle to ensure that:

-  explanations of the impact of **transition** are comprehensive, and are linked to other information disclosed in the annual report;
-  changes made to **accounting policies** (including the reasons for these changes and associated judgements) are clearly articulated and convey company-specific information;
-  disclosures are **sufficiently granular** to enable users to understand the impact on the business and key portfolios; and
-  there is clear **linkage** to the business model and risk management strategy which underpin the classification and hedging requirements of IFRS 9.

Quick checks: have you met the annual disclosure requirements about...?



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