

EWC meetings in 2021 – BEERG Survey Results

We recently circulated a questionnaire on whether BEERG member companies were planning to hold Face to Face (F2F) meetings with their EWCs, their SNBs, or the select committees in 2021.

We drafted six questions (See list of questions in the Appendix) and invited members to comment or make observations. We received 35 responses. As usual, no companies are identified by name. We have an anonymised table with the responses and comments which we can circulate on request.

Here are the results to the six survey questions in statistical format. While most questions elicited a simple Yes/No response, some required a more detailed response that captured a particular circumstance or issue. These replies (which appear in the statistical responses as “other”) along with the comments and observations form the basis of the accompanying commentary.

Survey Results Qs 1 – 6:

Q1. Do you plan to hold a F2F EWC (or SNB) meeting in 2021?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	10	29%
No	23	66%
Don't know/Other	2	5%

Q2. Do you plan to meet F2F with your select committee in 2021?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	3	9%
No	28	80%
Don't know/Other	4	11%

Q3. If No, when do you think you will begin F2F meetings again?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
In Q1 of 2022	4	14%
In Q2 of 2022	7	25%
In 2022 (unspecified)	14	50%
Don't know/Other	3	11%

Q4. Are you coming under pressure from your EWC to restart F2F meetings?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	7	20%
No	23	66%
Not yet	5	14%

Q5. Are you meeting virtually with your select committee more often than previously as a result of Covid restrictions?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	11	32%
No	19	54%
Don't know/Other	5	14%

Q6. Do you plan changes in the way you meet with your EWC as a result of the experiences of the past year?

<i>Reply</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes	6	17%
No	21	60%
Don't know/Other	8	23%

Commentary:

It is clear from the above figures that it is highly unlikely that F2F EWC meetings will resume this year. While close on 30% of respondents said they were planning to have a meeting in 2021, comments suggest that this is subject to it being safe to do so. 70% have no plans for meetings in 2021 and 80% have no plans to meet with the select committees F2F either. It will be 2022 before F2F meetings resume.

It is also clear from the replies that many companies plan to make more use of virtual meetings in the future, building on the experiences of the past year and a half. One F2F annual meeting, with all other meetings being conducted virtually, may well be the future template.

No doubt, there will be pressure in some companies for a return to the pre-Covid “normal” of all meetings being F2F, but EWC meetings cannot be the exception if remote work and an increasing use of virtual meetings becomes established business practice.

Appendix: Survey Questions:

EWC Questionnaire:



We have been asked if we are aware of any BEERG member companies planning to hold a F2F meeting with their EWCs (or SNBs) or select committees in 2021. So, we have put a few questions together. We will circulate the results.

As usual, no companies will be identified by name.

1.	Do you plan to hold a F2F EWC (or SNB) meeting in 2021?	
2.	Do you plan to meet F2F with your select committee in 2021?	
3.	If not, when do you think you will begin F2F meetings again?	
4.	Are you coming under pressure from your EWC to restart F2F meetings?	
5.	Are you meeting virtually with your select committee more often than previously as a result of Covid restrictions?	
6.	Do you plan changes in the way you meet with your EWC as a result of the experiences of the past year?	
7.	Any other comments?	