



Highlights





Introduction

For many UK-based accounting firms, the **holiday season** brings a recurring dilemma. With the **financial year-end** approaching, critical compliance **deadlines** are stacked up against widespread **staff absences**. A prominent UK accounting firm found itself in this exact situation year after year–until it turned to **Corient**.

What followed was a **transformation** in their approach to the **holiday period.** Corient's year-end support safeguarded the firm's compliance and client relationships and allowed their team to take **real time off** for the holidays.



The Initial Problem: What Went Wrong?

The issue began as it often does—**mid-December** rolled around, and many of the firm's staff went on **holiday leave.** What was left behind was a skeleton crew tasked with handling a **mountain of work**: year-end accounts, VAT return filings, and the all-important **personal tax submissions due by January 31.**

As the work piled up, partners became increasingly concerned about **visibility into progress** and potential errors. Delayed responses to client queries started to create frustration, and the **looming threat of missed deadlines** put the firm's reputation on the line. Despite the team's dedication, the lack of bandwidth was overwhelming.



Corient's First Solution: The Fix

Corient quickly responded with a well-coordinated plan. A **holiday-ready support team** was deployed, working round the clock to ensure all <u>year-end</u> <u>accounting</u> tasks stayed on track. They collaborated closely with the firm to identify critical priorities and developed a **structured workflow**, including **pre-scheduling VAT returns and tax preparations**.

At the same time, Corient took over **client communications**, providing a direct line of support so the firm's internal team could **focus on high-value activities** or take time off—without sacrificing service delivery.

The partnership was built on the same model in Corient's <u>Accounting</u> <u>Outsourcing Services</u>, ensuring continuity, reliability, and quality control.



The New Problem: A Surprise Roadblock

While things were under control internally, a new challenge surfaced—**clients** weren't submitting the necessary documents on time. Many client records remained incomplete as the **deadline for personal tax returns** approached.

This unexpected bottleneck jeopardised the well-laid plans. Despite having the **manpower** and **systems in place**, the process couldn't move forward without **client input**, and the **risk of late submissions** and penalties began to rise rapidly.



Corient's Second Solution: Fixing the New Problem

Step 1: Implementing a Follow-Up Framework

Corient rolled out a **dedicated follow-up system**, combining automated **email reminders** with personalised **client calls** to encourage document submissions early.

Step 2: Expanding Team Capacity

As the volume increased, Corient scaled its team to handle the influx of **lastminute data** without delay, ensuring no task was left behind.

Step 3: Managing Client Communications

Taking complete control of **client coordination**, Corient resolved queries, tracked missing inputs, and maintained response timelines without overburdening the firm's partners.

Step 4: Enforcing Quality and Compliance Checks

Corient implemented rigorous internal checks for every submission to avoid penalties, ensuring **full compliance with HMRC requirements.**

Step 5: Maintaining Transparent Reporting

Corient informed the firm with **regular updates** and clear dashboards, providing peace of mind and enabling **informed decision-making.**

OUTCOME

The Final Outcome: Success Story

The results spoke for themselves. The firm completed all its **year-end filings**, **VAT returns**, and **personal tax submissions** well before the statutory deadlines. There were **no penalties**, errors, or **last-minute scrambles**.

Internal staff enjoyed their **holidays without the stress** of looming compliance tasks. On the other hand, clients experienced **smooth**, **timely service**—even during the traditionally chaotic period. The firm's leadership praised Corient's proactive approach, transparency, and **problem-solving** under pressure.



What the Client Said

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"The holidays used to be our most stressful time of year. Corient completely changed that. Their team handled everything—filings, client communication, and deadlines—while we finally enjoyed a real break. We couldn't ask for a better partner."

Key Takeaways: Why This Matters for Businesses

Proactive planning and outsourcing ensure business continuity during staff absences

- Structured workflows and scalable teams eliminate deadline anxiety
- Managing client communication externally frees up internal resources
- **Transparency** and **compliance checks** guarantee peace of mind

Corient's **year-end support** is more than just holiday coverage—it's a strategy that empowers firms to deliver results, protect client relationships, and **reclaim their time** during the **year's busiest season.**