

Blurred Expense Lines:

The confidence gap in company spending

Expense policies are meant to bring clarity, but when the rules on paper don't match how people feel or behave at work, blurred lines appear. This can result in hidden costs, inaccurate financial data and employee stress.

Hesitation costs everyone



55%

of UK employees and 45% of Italian employees hesitate before submitting a claim



2 in 5

buy something for work but never claim the cash back



38%

of UK employees avoid spending altogether

What finance leaders see as clear rules can feel stressful and uncertain for employees, becoming personal costs that never make it into the books.

Stress can feel very personal

1 in 4

Nearly 1 in 4 employees in both countries say expense claims are stressful



challenging

a rejected claim ranks just behind asking for a pay rise in workplace stress

Simple paperwork to finance can feel like a personal risk to employees.

Forgetting to claim



35%

of finance leaders say their employees forget to claim expenses.

Day-to-day spending falls through the cracks, leaving gaps in financial data and leaving employees worse off.

Al fraud: A new frontier



74%

Nearly three-quarters of UK leaders (74%) worry about Al-generated fake receipts.

Italy has taken steps to close the gap with Legge di Bilancio, mandating digital audit trails for every transaction. The UK is following suit with Making Tax Digital, which will extend to income tax from 2026.

Clear lines, not blurred ones

The answer is not more checks after spending. It's systems that make the rules clear before the money is spent:



Company cards with built-in controls



Visibility of every payment as it happens



Digital trails that make compliance easy and automatic

Download the full report

Methodology • 1,010 employees in the UK and 650 employees

- in Italy

 250 finance leaders in the LIK and 250 in Italy
- 250 finance leaders in the UK and 250 in Italy Data source: Blurred Expense Lines Survey / Sondaggio: La zona

grigia (Aug – Sep 2025)

Book a demo to see how Soldo can help.

Book a demo



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