

Financial Support

New redundancy protection legislation came into force 31 July 2020 (5 August 2020)

Workers made redundant while on furlough will be guaranteed redundancy pay based on their normal wage and not their furloughed rate under the new legislation.

Read more:

<https://covid19.healthyworkinglives.scot/news/general/3056/new-redundancy-protection-legislation-comes-into-force-300820>

Further details of the Job Retention Bonus announced (4 August 2020)

Details of how jobs will be protected through the government's new Job Retention Bonus were unveiled by HMRC on 31 July.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-of-the-job-retention-bonus-announced>

How different circumstances affect the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (4 August 2020)

If you're self-employed or member of a partnership find out how your circumstances can affect your eligibility for the scheme (Updated 3 August).

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-different-circumstances-affect-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Eat Out to Help Out launches – with government paying half on restaurant bills (4 August 2020)

Diners across the UK will see their restaurant bills slashed by as much as 50% from 3 August as the UK Government's landmark Eat Out to Help Out scheme officially opens for business (Monday 3 August).

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eat-out-to-help-out-launches-today-with-government-paying-half-on-restaurant-bills>

If you've claimed too much or not enough from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (29 July 2020)

Find out what you need to do if you've claimed too much or not enough from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/if-youve-claimed-too-much-or-not-enough-from-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Families to be alerted to additional financial support (29 July 2020)

The Scottish Government is to actively inform families that they may be eligible for Best Start Foods and the Best Start Grant. A first for social security in Scotland.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/families-to-be-alerted-to-additional-financial-support/>

Check which employees you can put on furlough to use the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (20 July 2020)

Find out which employees you can put on furlough and claim for through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Updated 17 July).

Find out more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-which-employees-you-can-put-on-furlough-to-use-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

£100 million for employment support and training (17 July 2020)

People looking for work or those at risk of redundancy will benefit from additional assistance to move into work or retrain.

The package of support, outlined by Economy Secretary Fiona Hyslop, is backed by £100 million for 2020/21, with at least £50 million of that funding set aside to help young people get into work.

The measures include a job guarantee for young people, a new national retraining scheme, and more funding to provide immediate assistance and advice if people are made redundant.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-100-million-for-employment-support-and-training/>

HMRC reminder to taxpayers - Self Assessment taxpayers can automatically defer their July payment

Anyone who has difficulty paying their second 2019 to 2020 self-assessment payment on account can take advantage of automatically deferring the payment until 31 January 2021, HMRC is reminding taxpayers.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/11-billion-boost-for-taxpayers-facing-difficulty-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Further information released on Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (14 July 2020)

The UK Government have released further information on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to provide clarity on paying employee taxes and pension contributions and the possibility of claiming for individuals who are not employees. A calculator has also been introduced on to provide further assistance on calculating claims for employees. The calculator can be used to find out what you can claim for in a claim period ending on or before 31 August 2020.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/individuals-you-can-claim-for-who-are-not-employees>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/calculate-how-much-you-can-claim-using-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Summer statement plan for Scotland (8 July 2020)

The Chancellor's Summer statement was released yesterday announcing a furlough bonus scheme, £2 billion Kickstart scheme to subsidise jobs for young people and 5% VAT cut for the hospitality sector.

Read more [here](#)

PPE expenses during covid-19 (7 July 2020)

If your employees work in a situation where there is a risk of COVID-19, then PPE is required and must be provided free of charge. Any PPE you provide must fit properly. The provision of PPE to your employees is non-taxable

If your employee requires PPE to carry out their role and you are unable to provide this, you must reimburse the actual expenses of employees who purchase PPE themselves. This is non-taxable and employees cannot claim tax relief on these expenses from HMRC.

Read more [here](#)

Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund (6 July 2020)

The Scottish Government and Business Gateway have introduced the newly self-employed hardship fund. If you're newly self-employed on or after 6 April 2019 and facing hardship, you will be eligible for a £2,000 grant. Applications are now open and will be managed by Local Authorities. Applications close on 10 July.

Read more [here](#)

Deferral of VAT payments due to COVID-19

If you're a UK VAT-registered business that deferred VAT payments between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you now need to:

- set-up cancelled Direct Debits in enough time for HMRC to take payment
- continue to submit VAT returns as normal, and on time
- pay the VAT in full on payments due after 30 June

Any VAT payments you have deferred between 20 March and 30 June should be paid in full on or before 31 March 2021.

Read more [here](#)

Flexible furlough scheme starts today (1 July 2020)

From 1 July there are changes to the Job Retention Scheme. Furloughed staff can be brought back to work for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim CJRS grant for the hours not worked Scheme.

Read more [here](#)

Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill now an Act (26 June 2020)

The act will relieve the burden on businesses during COVID-19 and allow them to focus all their efforts on continuing to operate. This includes:

- introduces temporary easements for Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and filing requirements for public limited companies (PLCs)
- introduces new corporate restructuring tools to the insolvency regime to give companies the time they need to maximise their chance of survival
- temporarily suspends parts of insolvency law to support directors during this difficult time

Most companies will also be given more time to file their accounts.

Read more [here](#).

Paying Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme grants back (26 June 2020)

If you've overclaimed through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, you can either:

- [correct it in your next claim](#)
- make a payment to HMRC (only if you're not making another claim)

Read more [here](#).

Updated information when claiming back statutory sick pay (25 June 2020)

Information about employees who have transferred under the TUPE regulations has been added.

Read it [here](#).

Download a template if you're claiming for 100 or more employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (22 June 2020)

Complete a template with the details of the employees you're claiming for and upload this when you claim (for claims on or after 1 July 2020).

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/download-a-template-if-youre-claiming-for-100-or-more-employees-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Deferral of VAT payments due to coronavirus (COVID-19) (22 June 2020)

The guidance on the temporary changes to the VAT payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 has been updated with information regarding the ending of the VAT deferral period.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: step by step guide for employers (22 June 2020)

The UK Government has updated their guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to include more information about flexible furlough and overpayments.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-step-by-step-guide-for-employers>

Working capital loans to support your business through the COVID-19 pandemic (17 June 2020)

Business Loans Scotland have working capital loans to help your business manage the financial impact of COVID.

Read more:

<https://www.bls.scot/covid-19-working-capital-loan>

Return to Work package launched (17 June 2020)

A £230 million Return to Work package has been unveiled to help stimulate Scotland's

economy following the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/return-to-work-package-launched/>

Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (15 June 2020)

The UK Government has updated its guidance on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to incorporate the changes that will come into effect from 1 July 2020.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme/changes-to-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Financial support for students (11th June 2020)

The Scottish Government has brought forward access of £11.4m of discretionary funds which will be administered by colleges and universities. Colleges now have flexibility to offer funds to help between bursary payments ending in June and Universal Credit payments starting. SAAS have also suspended all debt recovery in respect to grants and bursaries until September for students whose circumstances have changed and may have to return overpayments

Read more [here](#).

More support for small businesses (9 June 2020)

Small businesses which share properties but do not pay business rates are now eligible to apply for grants to help with the impact of COVID-19.

The extension to the Small Business Grant Fund will apply to firms occupying shared office spaces, business incubators or shared industrial units and who lease the space from a registered, rate-paying landlord. Separately, eligibility has also been extended to companies occupying multiple premises with a cumulative value of more than £51,000.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/more-support-for-small-business/>

Trade Credit Insurance backed by £10 billion guarantee (8 June 2020)

The UK Government is to provide guarantees of up to £10 billion to Trade Credit Insurance schemes for business to business transactions.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-credit-insurance-backed-by-10-billion-guarantee>

Important changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from 1 July (5 June 2020)

The final date you can furlough an employee for the first time will be Wednesday 10 June. Find out if you're eligible and how much you can claim here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Domestic Reverse Charge VAT for construction services – delayed to 1 March 2021 (5 June 2020)

The Revenue and Customs Brief 7 (2020) published by the UK Government explains that the introduction of the domestic reverse charge for construction services will be delayed from 1 October 2020 until 1 March 2021 due to the impact of the coronavirus on the construction sector.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revenue-and-customs-brief-7-2020-domestic-reverse-charge-vat-for-construction-services-delay-in-implementation>

More than £100 million awarded to Scottish businesses (4 June 2020)

Businesses across the country have now been awarded more than £100 million through the Scottish Government Business Support Fund.

Read more: <https://www.gov.scot/news/more-than-gbp-100-million-awarded-to-scottish-businesses/>

Chancellor extends Self-Employment Support Scheme and confirms furlough next steps (30 May 2020)

The UK Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will be extended, giving more security to individuals whose livelihoods are adversely affected by coronavirus in the coming months, the Chancellor announced today.

Find out more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-self-employment-support-scheme-and-confirms-furlough-next-steps>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for individuals and businesses in Scotland (29 May 2020)

The UK Government has published specific information tailored to individuals and businesses in Scotland to provide guidance and support during COVID-19.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-individuals-and-businesses-in-scotland>

Expansion of Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (28 May 2020)

The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) provides financial support to larger businesses affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). The scheme has been expanded so businesses may borrow up to a maximum of £200 million.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-large-business-interruption-loan-scheme>

Coronavirus: MOTs due from 30 March 2020 (28 May 2020)

Your car, van or motorcycle's MOT expiry date will be extended by 6 months if it's due on or after 30 March 2020 - but you must keep your vehicle safe to drive.

Read more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-from-30-march-2020>

Check if you can claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to employees due to coronavirus (28 May 2020)

You can now claim for employees who are self-isolating because they've been notified by the NHS or public health bodies that they've come into contact with someone with coronavirus.

Read more [here](#).

Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus (COVID-19) (26 May 2020)

The UK Government has published further information on how to use the Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme to claim back employees' coronavirus-related Statutory Sick Pay (SSP).

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-your-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Up to £15 million to support the Citizens Advice service during COVID-19 pandemic (23 May 2020)

Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland are to receive a funding boost of up to £15 million to help them deal with increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/up-to-15-million-to-support-the-citizens-advice-service-during-covid-19-pandemic>

UK Government introduces legislation to relieve burden on businesses and support economic recovery (21 May 2020)

The UK Government has introduced the Corporate Governance and Insolvency Bill, which will put in place a series of measures to amend insolvency and company law to support

businesses to address the challenges resulting from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Read more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-introduces-legislation-to-relieve-burden-on-businesses-and-support-economic-recovery>

Larger businesses to benefit from loans of up to £200 million (20 May 2020)

The Government has extended the maximum loan size available through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme from £50 million to £200 million.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/larger-businesses-to-benefit-from-loans-of-up-to-200-million>

Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme

Employers will be able to claim through the Coronavirus Sick Pay Rebate Scheme from 26 May.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-statutory-sick-pay-rebate-scheme-set-to-launch>

Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF) is now open for new applications (14 May 2020)

The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund set up by the Scottish Government is now open for new applications. The volume of applications will be closely monitored and it is expected that full capacity will be reached quickly. It is anticipated that the fund will close at 5pm on Monday 18 May 2020.

Apply here: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/service/coronavirus/pivotal-enterprise-resilience-fund>

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (14 May 2020)

Applications are now open for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. If you are self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been adversely affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) you may be eligible for a grant under this scheme.

Check your eligibility here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Chancellor extends furlough scheme until October (12 May 2020)

The UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is to remain open until the end of October, the Chancellor announced today (Tuesday 12 2020).

Read more:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october?utm_source=469e4bd6-b6c1-4149-a76b-97f84a86bb07&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: step by step guide for employers (12 May 2020)

The UK Government have released a guide for employers that explains the information they need to provide a claim for their employees' wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Access the guide here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-step-by-step-guide-for-employers?utm_source=73b46ff3-74f7-4a6d-a97b-e14a240d14c0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Additional funding confirmed for Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (11 May 2020)

The Scottish Government will provide an additional £45 million for SME firms who are vital to Scotland's economy but have been impacted COVID-19.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.scottish-enterprise-mediacentre.com/news/additional-funding-confirmed-for-pivotal-enterprise-resilience-fund>

Second Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill (11 May 2020)

Emergency measures to protect people financial hardship and allow public services to operate effectively have been introduced to Parliament in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read more:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/second-coronavirus-scotland-bill/>

Bounce Back Loan Scheme – Over 69,000 loans approved (7 May 2020)

More than 69,000 Bounce Back Loans worth over £2 billion have been approved during the first 24 hours of the scheme, the Chancellor has announced. The scheme offers small businesses loans from £2,000 up to £50,000.

Read more: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-69000-loans-approved-in-the-first-day-of-the-bounce-back-loan-scheme?utm_campaign=566619_FindBusinessSupport%20-

[%20COVID-](#)

[19%20Updates%2037&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,C57F,3LJY8F,1CUWC,1](#)

Economy Minister Diane Dodds announces £40 million microbusiness Hardship Fund for Northern Ireland (6 May 2020)

A new Hardship Fund aimed at microbusinesses across Northern Ireland which require financial support due to the impact of COVID-19 has been introduced.

Details on the scheme including eligibility criteria and arrangements for applying will be released next week.

Read more: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/news/dodds-announces-ps40-million-secured-microbusiness-hardship-fund>

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (6 May 2020)

This week, HMRC will be contacting customers who may be eligible to apply for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. However, you can also use the HMRC checker to find out if you are eligible.

More information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme?utm_campaign=564884_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%2035&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,C3V8,3LJY8F,1COHH,1

Bounce back loans launched (4 May 2020)

Small businesses in Britain can now apply for quick and easy to access loans of up to £50,000. Businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 with the cash arriving within days. Loans will be 100% government backed for lenders, and businesses can apply online through a short and simple form.

Click here to [apply](#).

Treasury to cut tax on PPE (30 April 2020)

PPE purchased by care homes, businesses, charities and individuals to protect against Covid-19 will be free from VAT for a three-month period. The move will save businesses and care homes more than £100m.

Read more [here](#).

Support scheme now open (30 April 2020)

The Scottish Government have opened their support scheme for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) and newly self-employed people this afternoon. An extra £100m will be available to firms. The three funds available are:

- Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund
- Creative, tourism and hospitality enterprises hardship fund
- Newly self-employed hardship fund

Find the support [here](#).

New loan scheme for small businesses (27 April 2020)

Small businesses are to benefit from a new fast-tracked finance scheme which will provide loans of between £2,000 and £50,000 with a 100% government-backed guarantee for lenders. Businesses can apply easily online and the first 12 months will be interest free. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months.

Read more [here](#).

Furloughed workers to receive full parental leave entitlement (27 April 2020)

Furloughed workers who are taking paid parental or adoption leave will be paid based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate. This applies to maternity pay, paternity pay, shared paternal pay, parental bereavement pay and adoption pay.

Read more [here](#).

Scottish Enterprise welcomes more support for businesses affected by COVID-19 (22 April 2020)

Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop has stated that an extra £100m will be available to firms suffering hardship and the newly self-employed. Applications for the funding will be open by the end of the month and the [FindBusinessSupport](#) website will be updated with all the relevant information for those seeking to access the funds.

[Read more here](#).

Business support finder tool (21 April 2020)

The UK Government has launched an online platform to help businesses easily access the financial support they are eligible for during the coronavirus pandemic. Owners will fill out a quick online questionnaire and then be directed to a list of financial support available to them.

[Click here for the support finder tool](#).

Extra support for Northern Ireland (20 April 2020)

The UK Government has confirmed an extra £50m of funding to help Northern Ireland tackle COVID-19. This takes the total funding the UK Government has made available to the Northern Ireland Executive to support its efforts to tackle coronavirus to almost £1.2 billion.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis, said, "The additional £50 million for the Northern Ireland Executive announced today will help bolster vital public services as they respond to the challenges of Coronavirus."

Read more [here](#).

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is now open (20 April 2020)

The HMRC portal for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is now open. Businesses are able to claim £2,500 a month towards staff wages. HMRC has 500 staff operating the scheme and millions of people across the UK are expected to benefit from the scheme.

[Click here for the online portal.](#)

The Government have also published a step by step guide for employers to help them while applying for the scheme. [Read it here.](#)

Loan scheme expands for large businesses (17 April 2020)

The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme has been expanded to cover more businesses.

Ahead of its launch on Monday, The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, said all firms with a turnover of more than £45 million will now be able to apply for up to £25 million of finance, and up to £50 million for firms with a turnover of more than £250 million. Business with turnovers of more than £500 million was originally not eligible for the scheme. The change will help ensure even more firms can benefit from the support.

Read more [here](#).

Furlough scheme cut-off date extended (16 April 2020)

Thousands more employees will be able to receive support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme as the eligibility date has been extended to 19 March 2020. The change makes the scheme more generous and will help a lot of people.

Read more [here](#).

Further grants available for Scottish businesses (15 April 2020)

The Scottish Government have announced the second phase of funding for businesses. Around £220m of further grants are available to businesses, including the self-employed. Included in the new packages is:

- 120 million to extend the Small Business Grant scheme
- A further £100 million fund is also being made available to protect self-employed people and viable micro and SME businesses

For more information [read here](#).

Job retention scheme update (15 April 2020)

The UK Government has today published The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Sections 71 and 76) and stated that the HMRC are responsible for the payment and management of amounts to be paid under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

The treasure direction can be [read here](#).

Protection for Business Tenants (14 April 2020)

The notice periods for commercial leases have been extended from 14 days to 14 weeks. Previously, commercial tenants served with a warning letter for non-payment of rent would have 14 days to pay outstanding rent. This has been extended due to the COVID-18 pandemic. It applies to all commercial property leases, including those where a warning issue has already been raised.

Read more [here](#).

Coastal business support (14 April 2020)

The Scottish Government are helping coastal businesses and third sector organisations who are affected by COVID-19 by providing £7.2 million Scottish Crown Estate fund which is devolved to councils.

The fund which is from Scottish Crown Estate net revenues is normally used for projects delivering coastal community benefit. This is on top of the £2.2 billion package of business support already announced by the Scottish Government.

Read more [here](#).

£600m COVID-19 funding for Scotland (14 April 2020)

Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack, has today welcomed additional funding of £600m to help Scotland respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Business and individuals in Scotland will also benefit from UK-wide support measures. This includes a £330 billion package of loans and guarantees for businesses, access to the Job Retention Scheme and support for the self-employed.

Read more [here](#).

Adoption Support fund (14 April 2020)

The UK Government have announced they will provide £8 million funding for adoptive family's needs. This will focus on online help and couples therapy to help meet needs arising from the outbreak of coronavirus.

Read more [here](#).

Support for self-employed through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme (updated 8 April 2020)

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended depending on the circumstances.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Support for larger firms through the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (updated 8 April 2020)

Under the new COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility, the Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies. This will support companies if it has been affected by a short-term funding squeeze and allow you to finance your short-term liabilities.

All non-financial companies that meet the criteria set out on the Bank of England's website are eligible.

The scheme is now available for applications and more information can be found here:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notice/2020/ccff-market-notice-march-2020>

Increase to Working Tax Credits (updated 7 April 2020)

The UK Government has announced that Working Tax Credit payments will be increased from 6 April 2020. The aim of this increase is to help support the country during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Further information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means?utm_source=c0f6119b-34c3-4a22-9c54-375e88a15ec0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (updated 6 April 2020)

The temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme supports SMEs with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years.

The government will also make a Business Interruption Payment to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees, so smaller businesses will benefit from no upfront costs and lower initial repayments.

The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to pre-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The scheme will be delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the government-owned British Business Bank.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/for-businesses-and-advisors/>

Support for large businesses through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (updated 6 April 2020)

The new Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) will provide a government guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make loans of up to £25 million to firms with an annual turnover of between £45 million and £500 million.

The scheme is expected to be delivered through commercial lenders. The government will provide lenders with an 80% guarantee on individual loans for businesses that would be otherwise unable to access the finance they need. The scheme allows lenders to specifically support businesses that were viable before the COVID-19 outbreak but now face significant cash flow difficulties that would otherwise make their business unviable in the short term.

Further information and eligibility for the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-through-the-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme>

Deferred VAT and Income Tax Payments (updated 6 April 2020)

The UK Government are supporting businesses by deferring Value Added Tax (VAT) payments for 3 months. If you are a UK VAT registered business and have a VAT payment due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you have the option to defer the payment until a later.

Find out how to defer your VAT payment here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Impact of coronavirus on business insurance (updated 3 April 2020)

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) have created an information hub for useful information relating to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on business insurance.

Access the information hub here:

https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/coronavirus-hub/?utm_campaign=540341_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%2012&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,BKXH,3LJY8F,1A6OT,1

Skills Development Scotland Redundancy Support (updated 2 April 2020)

Skills Development Scotland are offering free redundancy advice and support for people and businesses in Scotland. The aim is to help minimise the impact for people and businesses facing redundancy challenges.

More information can be found here:

https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/what-we-do/employability-skills/partnership-action-for-continuing-employment-pace/?utm_campaign=539366_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%2011&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,BK6E,3LJY8F,1A2XO,1

Job Retention Scheme (updated 1 April 2020)

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is a temporary scheme open to all UK employers for at least three months starting from 1 March 2020. It is designed to support employers whose operations have been severely affected by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Employers can use a portal to claim for 80% of furloughed employees' (employees on a leave of absence) usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month, plus the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and minimum automatic enrolment employer pension contributions on that wage. Employers can use this scheme anytime during this period.

The scheme is open to all UK employers that had created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on 28 February.

Further information can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme?utm_campaign=538719_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%2010&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,BJOF,3LJY8F,19TQT,1

Changes to insolvency rules (31 March 2020)

The UK Government has announced changes to the current insolvency rules to allow businesses greater flexibility as they face the coronavirus pandemic. Insolvency legislation is

to be amended in order to provide more legal options to companies. The changes are to include rescue or restructure, giving companies extra time and space to recover whilst ensuring creditors get the best possible return in the circumstances.

Further information is to be released this week.

Suspension of wrongful trading rules (31 March 2020)

The UK have announced a suspension of wrongful trading provisions during the coronavirus pandemic, to remove the danger of directors becoming personally liable for measures they need to take to ensure the survival of their business throughout the pandemic. This will have retrospective effect from 1 March. Other checks and balances to ensure directors carry out their duties will remain in force.

Grants and loans available to businesses in Scotland (27 March)

The Scottish Government has compiled a list of the current grants, loans and advice for business in Scotland to help with the impact of COVID-19.

More information can be found here:

https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice/sources-of-funding?utm_campaign=535784_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,BHEW,3LJY8F,19H6Z,1

Business Support Grant Schemes for NI businesses (26 March 2020)

Registration is now open for businesses to apply for the £10,000 Small Business Grant Scheme in NI. The schemes are administered by the Department for the Economy and Invest Northern Ireland working with the Department of Finance's Land & Property Services.

Registration and further information can be found here:

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-business-support-grant-schemes>

Vehicle owners to be granted MOT exemption (25 March 2020)

Vehicle owners are to be granted a 6-month exemption from MOT testing, enabling them to continue to travel to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home. All cars, vans, and motorcycles which usually would require an MOT test will be exempted from needing a test from 30 March 2020.

Vehicles must be kept in a roadworthy condition, and garages will remain open for essential repair work.

Further information can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vehicle-owners-to-be-granted-mot-exemption-in-battle-against-coronavirus?utm_campaign=534501_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7

[B,BGF9,3LJY8F,19BUQ,1](#)

Business Support helplines (26 March 2020)

HMRC tax helpline

HMRC have introduced a helpline for businesses and self-employed workers who are concerned about paying their tax due to COVID-19. You can call 0800 0159 559 for help and advice.

Invest NI helpline

Businesses based in Northern Ireland can also call the Invest NI helpline for help and information on 0800 181 4422.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.investni.com/support-for-business>

Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts during COVID-19 (25 March)

UK businesses are now eligible for an additional 3 months from 25 March 2020 to file accounts with Companies House to help avoid penalties as they deal with the impact of COVID-19.

Full guidance on applying for an extension can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-more-time-to-file-your-companys-accounts>

Commercial insurance (25 March)

Most commercial insurance policies are unlikely to cover pandemics or unspecified notifiable diseases, such as COVID-19. However, those businesses which have an insurance policy that covers government ordered closure and pandemics or government ordered closure and unspecified notifiable disease should be able to make a claim (subject to the terms and conditions of their policy).

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

£1 billion business Support Fund opens (25 March)

Businesses can now apply for grants to help them deal with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The one-off grants are designed to protect jobs, prevent business closures, promote economic recovery. It is estimated that more than 90,000 ratepayers across Scotland will be

able to benefit.

More information on how to apply can be found at:

<https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/>

Help with non-domestic rates in Scotland (25 March)

To help owners of non-domestic properties, including businesses, to deal with the impact of COVID-19, the Scottish Government has made changes to non-domestic rates (business rates) for 2020-21. Extra reliefs (discounts) have been introduced and these reliefs will be available to non-domestic properties from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Further information can be found here:

https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/?utm_campaign=532949_FindBusinessSupport%20-%20COVID-19%20Updates%204&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Scottish%20Enterprise&dm_i=4X7B,BF85,3LJXWT,196GM,1

Demand for more self-employed support during the coronavirus outbreak. (24 March 2020)

Scottish Government Economy Secretary Fiona Hyslop and Finance Secretary Kate Forbes have written to Chancellor Rishi Sunak calling for the Jobs Retention Scheme he announced last week to be expanded to include the self-employed. They also appealed for a change in the rules to enable more people to access statutory sick pay.

To view the letter please click here: <https://www.gov.scot/news/call-for-action-to-help-self-employed/>

Support for business water bills (24 March 2020)

A package of measures worth £60 million has been agreed between the Scottish Government and the water industry to help businesses facing difficulties with water charges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Scottish Water has agreed to suspend pre-payment charges for licensed providers for two months, beginning with the April payment. This means providers - who supply water services to businesses - can be flexible with their own customers at this difficult time.

For more information: <https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-business-water-bills/>

The Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of Her Majesty's Exchequer (Chancellor of the Exchequer) has implemented various new measures to help businesses in the UK during this period of disruption caused by COVID-19. We have outlined some of the support available below:

As the coronavirus pandemic worsens, small and medium-sized businesses with fewer than 250 employees, are being greatly affected. Please read below for financial guidance to help your business in these tough times

Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees

The UK Government will bring forward legislation to allow SMEs and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to the on-going coronavirus pandemic. The eligibility criteria for the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-who-are-paying-sick-pay-to-employees>

Support for businesses paying tax: Time to Pay service

All businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through a new Time to Pay service introduced by HMRC. These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.

You are eligible if your business pays tax to the UK Government and has outstanding tax liabilities.

If you have missed a tax payment or think you will miss your next payment as a result of COVID-19, please call HMRC's helpline: 0800 0159 559.

Scottish business coronavirus advice helpline

A new helpline has been launched to supply Scottish businesses with tailored advice on coronavirus.

The helpline is open from Monday to Friday from 08:30 – 17:30, based at Scottish Enterprise's call centre in Clydebank.

Call handlers will answer questions from businesses related to COVID-19, as well as relaying the challenges faced by businesses to the Scottish Government.

The helpline number is 0300 303 0660.

Northern Ireland Executive

The Northern Ireland Executive are publishing regular updates and full statements from First Minister Arlene Foster and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill in relation to COVID-19 .

An immediate grant of £10,000 will be provided to all small businesses who are eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Executive has also committed to providing a 3 month rates holiday to all businesses from April to June.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/>

Interest Rates have been reduced

The Bank of England has cut the UK interest rates from 0.25% to 0.1% to lower financial costs and stimulate economic growth.