

CORONAVIRUS PLAN: Updated Business Support Measures

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Businesses, with a turnover of less than £41 million, can borrow £5 million and the first 6 months of that finance will be interest free, as the Government will cover the first 6 months of interest payments. More details including the 40+ accredited lenders and partners can be found here:

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/supporting-business-loans-enterprise-finance-guarantee/>

You should talk to your bank as the first port of call, assuming they are on this list. If you need an introduction, then please get in touch with us.

£10,000 Cash Grant

Small businesses that pay little or no business rates and are eligible for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rate Relief will be contacted by their local authority about this grant - they do not need to apply. The funding will be provided to local authorities in early April. GOV.UK will be updated with the details.

In addition, further £25,000 grants will be available to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000

Time to Pay

A dedicated helpline has been set up to help businesses and self-employed individuals in financial distress and with outstanding tax liabilities receive support with their tax affairs. Through this, businesses may be able to agree a bespoke Time to Pay arrangement. If you are concerned about being able to pay your tax due to COVID-19, call HMRC's dedicated helpline on **0800 0159 559**.

Business rates retail discount in England

100% relief for 2020-21 for properties below £51,000 rateable value. All retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England will receive a 100% business rates holiday for the next 12 months.

Other

- Mortgage lenders have agreed they will support customers that are experiencing issues with their finances as a result of Covid-19, including through payment holidays of up to 3 months
- Confirmation that government advice to avoid pubs, clubs and theatres etc. is sufficient for businesses to claim on their insurance where they have appropriate business interruption cover for pandemics in place.
- To support the food industry and help provide meals for people who need to self-isolate, planning regulations will be relaxed to allow pubs and restaurants to start providing takeaways without a planning application.
- A new Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) will provide funding to businesses by purchasing commercial paper of up to one-year maturity, issued by firms making a material contribution to the UK economy. It will help businesses across a wide range of sectors to bridge across the economic disruption that is likely to be associated with Covid-19, supporting them in paying salaries, rents and suppliers, even while experiencing severe disruption to cashflows. The Bank of England will implement the facility on behalf of the Treasury and will put it into place as soon as possible. The Bank of England will be publishing a market notice with the details of the facility today.