**COVID19 Business Support - long form messaging**

A full range of measures have been made available to support businesses, public services and individuals during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. Businesses can find out here what support is available to them and where and how they can access it.

The measures available to business announced by the Chancellor are:

1. A Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme where small and large employers will be eligible to apply for a government grant of 80% of workers’ salaries up to £2,500 a month. The scheme will be backdated to March 1 and available for at least three months, with first grants to be paid within weeks.
2. For businesses with fewer than 250 employees, the cost of providing 14 days of Statutory Sick Pay per employee will be refunded by the government in full. This will provide two million businesses with up to £2 billion to cover the costs of large-scale sick leave.
3. VAT Deferral: UK Registered businesses will not need to make VAT payments normally due with VAT returns during this period. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020-21 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.
4. Deferral of Self Assessment: If you are due to make a self-assessment payment on account on 31 July 2020 then you are eligible for the deferment. The deferment is intended to assist self-assessment taxpayers, including those who are self-employed, who are suffering hardship as a result of the coronavirus.
5. A dedicated helpline 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 coronavirus, call HMRC’s dedicated helpline on 0800 0159 559.
6. Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020-21 tax year regardless of their rateable value. In addition to these measures, Businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of £15,000 and under may be eligible for a grant of £10,000. Businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 may be eligible for a grant of £25,000.
7. Nurseries in England do not have to pay business rates for the 2020-21 tax year. Properties that will benefit from the relief will be those occupied by providers on Ofsted’s Early Years Register and are wholly or mainly used for the provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
8. A £10,000 cash grant to for the smallest businesses, delivered by local authorities. Small businesses that pay little or no business rates and are eligible for small business rate relief (SBBR) or rural rate relief will be contacted by their local authority. The funding will be provided to local authorities in early April.
9. A Self Employment Income Support Scheme allows the self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 a month. It will be available for 3 months, but may be extended. The grant will be subject to Income Tax and National Insurance contributions but does not need to be repaid.
10. A Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme will be delivered by the British Business Bank. It will enable businesses to apply for a loan of up to £5 million, with the government covering up to 80% of any losses with no fees. The government will also make a Business Interruption Payment to cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied fees. This means smaller businesses will benefit from no upfront costs and lower initial repayments.
11. A Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme will be delivered by the British Business Bank. It 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.
12. For further information and updates on these schemes, please visit [our website](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support).