

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Businesses and Employers Bulletin

**1 April 2020**

This bulletin is issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and provides information for employers and businesses on Coronavirus (COVID-19). All guidance, information and announcements can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Organisations should pay particular attention to the [guidance for employees, employers and businesses](#) which is being updated regularly with the latest advice.

The UK Government is supporting businesses and their employees through a package of measures during this period of unprecedented disruption. The [Business Support website](#) helps businesses find the right support, advice and information to help with the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the [support measures that are available](#). This website will continue to be updated as information becomes available. Some aspects of business support are devolved. Specific information for businesses and employers in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#) is available.

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## Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter to the construction sector

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, has [written](#) to the UK's construction sector, paying tribute to all those who are working within the industry. The Government has advised that wherever possible, people should work at home. However, we know that for many people working in construction their job requires them to travel to their place of work, and they can continue to do so. This is consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's advice. The industry has worked to develop Site Operating Procedures (SOP), which were published by the Construction Leadership Council. [These](#) align with the latest guidance from Public Health England. As this health guidance updates, the SOP will reflect any changes.

## New Updates and Guidance

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on business support grant funding**

[Guidance](#) for local authorities setting out details of the Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF). Updated information on state aid, monitoring and reporting requirements, post payment checks, eligibility of charities.

### **COVID-19: guidance for the public on mental health and wellbeing**

[Advice and information](#) on how employees can look after their mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): temporary changes to driver certificate of professional competence(CPC) requirements**

The Department for Transport have set out [temporary changes](#) to allow bus and lorry drivers who cannot complete compulsory CPC training to continue to drive.

### **Slides and datasets to accompany coronavirus press conference: 31 March 2020**

[Press conference slides](#) and datasets used by The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

### **High street benefits from £22 billion grants and business rates package**

From 1 April, high streets begin to receive £22 billion coronavirus boost, with grants of up to £25,000 already being paid into bank accounts of high street businesses. Find out more [here](#).

### **Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports**

Chancellor waives import taxes on vital medical equipment including ventilators, coronavirus testing kits and protective clothing. Find out more [here](#).

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## **Requests for Business Intelligence and Assistance**

### **Can your business offer coronavirus (COVID-19) support?**

UK Government is looking for businesses who can offer support in the multiple areas and has set up an online tool where businesses can register. To find the list of areas and offer support click [here](#).

### **Business Intelligence: share the impact Coronavirus is having on your organisation**

We welcome information from businesses on impacts across supply, demand and labour markets, actions to address these impacts, and any gaps in the Government response from your perspective. Please send your intelligence to [intel@beis.gov.uk](mailto:intel@beis.gov.uk). We are aware that individual company information may be commercially sensitive, and it will be treated accordingly. Please note that this inbox is only for receiving intelligence and does not provide business advice.

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