

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Businesses and Employers Bulletin

27 March 2020

This bulletin 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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Claim for wage costs through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

[Guidance for employers](#) on the coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme has now been published. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is a temporary scheme open to all UK employers for at least three months starting from 1 March 2020. We expect the scheme to be up and running by the end of April. 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 2020.

Self-employment Income Support Scheme



The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The scheme will provide a grant to self-employed individuals or partnerships, worth 80% of their profits up to a cap of £2,500 per month. The business support website provides [more information](#) and [FAQs](#).

New Updates and Guidance

Deferral of VAT payments due to coronavirus

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 date or pay the VAT due as normal. Further guidance can be found [here](#).

Check which expenses are taxable if your employee works from home due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

HMRC have produced [guidance](#) to help you find out what equipment, services or supplies are taxable if your employees are working from home due to coronavirus.

Updated guidance for staff in the transport sector

[This guidance](#) will assist transport settings in addressing coronavirus (COVID-19). This guidance may be updated in line with the changing situation.

Guidance for food businesses and COVID-19: Defra Update

[New guidance for food businesses](#) on Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been published. You can also find a summary of the [latest news and guidance](#) from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Other guidance on the page includes updates on latest retailer activity, summary of seasonal roundtables as well as wider advice on coronavirus.

MHRA guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[New guidance](#) on the Regulatory status of equipment being used to help prevent coronavirus (COVID-19)

Specification for ventilators to be used in UK hospitals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

This [guidance](#) sets out the clinical requirements based on the consensus of what is 'minimally acceptable' performance in the opinion of the anaesthesia and intensive care medicine professionals and medical device regulators.

Requests for Business Intelligence and Assistance

Help us reach businesses to urgently raise awareness of available support

We need your help to reach businesses across the UK to urgently raise awareness of the new coronavirus government Business Support campaign and the assistance available. [A new toolkit](#) includes content and messaging for you to share on your social media, websites, internal channels and newsletters to amplify campaign messages. The toolkit will help ensure all businesses have the best and most up to date information on the support that is available to them in a fast-moving situation.

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. 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.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Business Intelligence and Readiness Directorate

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