

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Government Support for Businesses

	What is it?	How can I access it?	Is it available now?
Grants	<p>The Restart Grant: Eligible businesses will be able to claim a grant to support them through to when they can reopen.</p> <p>Non-essential retail businesses will receive up to £6,000 per premises through the scheme to help them reopen. Those due to open later in hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gyms, can receive up to £18,000, depending on their rateable value.</p>	<p>Eligible businesses will be able to apply for the grants via their local council's website.</p> <p><u>Birmingham</u> based businesses will need to register for a free BRUM account to apply – click here for details.</p>	<p>Yes – some local authorities have opened up for applications.</p> <p>Birmingham City Council (click here) Cannock Chase (click here) East Staffordshire Borough Council (click here) Lichfield District Council (click here) Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (click here) Tamworth Borough Council (click here)</p> <p>Please note that some local authorities are advising businesses that have previously applied for (or been awarded) a Local Restrictions Grant that they will not need to complete another application to access the Restart Grants. Businesses should check their local authority website for guidance on how to proceed.</p>
	<p>The Additional Restrictions Grant: Local authorities will have the discretion to issue cash grants to impacted businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes (e.g. businesses that do not pay business rates directly). Find out more here</p>	<p>Businesses can apply via their local council's website. Local authorities will determine the eligibility criteria and the level of funding.</p>	
	<p>To Thrive Business Grant Scheme: Staffordshire County Council is issuing grants of up to £5,000 to help support SMEs based in Staffordshire. The grants can be spent on website design, accessing specialist advice, equipment/machinery and online payment facilities. Find out more here</p>	<p>Eligible businesses need to complete an expression of interest form via the Staffordshire County Council website.</p> <p>Priority will be given to those businesses that have received no other COVID-19 financial support.</p>	<p>Yes – the application process is now open.</p> <p>Businesses can apply here</p>
Staff Costs	<p>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Extension: The scheme has been extended until the 30th September 2021.</p> <p>Employees will remain entitled to 80% (capped at £2,500) of their normal monthly earnings, but from 1st July employers will be required to contribute to this payment. Between 1st-31st July 2021, employers will need to pay 10%, with the government paying 70%. From 1st August to 30th September, employers will be required to pay 20%, with the government paying 60%. Employers will continue to be required to pay employer National Insurance Contributions and pension contributions on furlough payments.</p>	<p>Available for businesses and charities of all sizes and sector who started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 30th October 2020 and have a UK bank account. Employers are required to submit a claim via the HMRC portal.</p>	<p>Yes - employers can submit a claim.</p> <p>Employers will be able to claim for employees who were PAYE registered from 2nd March for claims starting from 1st May 2021</p> <p>Find out more here</p>

	<p>Statutory Sick Pay Refund: the Government will refund employers up to 14 days statutory sick pay per employee off sick or self-isolating from day 1.</p>	<p>Available for businesses and charities with under 250 employees as of 28th February 2020. Employers can make their claims via a HMRC online service.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>All firms should keep careful records of sickness & self-isolation absence as evidence. Employers will receive the money within 6 working days. Find out more here</p>
	<p>Kickstart Scheme: A £2bn scheme to create subsidised work placements for 16-24 year olds who are out of work and claiming Universal Credit. Funding will be available to businesses for each job, to cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for up to 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment pension contributions for 6 months.</p>	<p>This scheme is open to all organisations. The jobs placements must be new jobs and involve a minimum of 25 hours per week. The role should not require extensive training prior to starting.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Employers can register for the scheme here or email kickstart@birmingham-chamber.com for more information</p> <p>The Government is also offering employers £1,500 to set up support and training for those taking part.</p>
Finance	<p>Recovery Loan Scheme: Businesses will be able to access loans and other types of finance up to £10m until the end of 2021. The loan repayment period will be up to 6 years and businesses will need to meet interest payments from the start. The scheme will be open to firms who have taken out a loan under the government's previous schemes (Bounce Back Loan, CBILS etc)</p>	<p>Available via accredited lenders, businesses will be required to complete an application form.</p>	<p>Yes – Businesses have until the end of December to apply</p> <p>Find out more here</p>
	<p>Trade Credit Insurance Guarantee: the government will temporarily guarantee business-to-business transactions currently supported by Trade Credit Insurance, ensuring the majority of insurance coverage will be maintained across the market. The guarantee will be delivered through a temporary reinsurance agreement with insurers currently operating in the market.</p>	<p>The guarantee will cover relevant trading by domestic firms and exporting firms. The scheme has been extended until 30 June 2021</p>	<p>Yes - find out more here</p>
Tax	<p>Time to Pay: HMRC's Time to Pay facility offers businesses and self-employed individuals in financial distress support to restructure payments and manage their tax affairs</p>	<p>Available for all businesses and self-employed individuals that pay tax to the UK Government. Requests are considered by HMRC on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>Yes – contact HMRC on 0800 0159 559</p>
	<p>Temporary VAT Reductions: From the 15th July 2020 to the 30th September 2021 the Government will reduce VAT for food and non-alcoholic drinks (supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises) and accommodation and attractions (supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions) to 5%.</p>	<p>VAT registered businesses can apply the reduced rate to certain supplies relating to hospitality, hotel and holiday accommodation and admission to attractions. Find out more here</p>	<p>Yes – this is being applied at present</p> <p>From 1 October to the 31 March 2022, VAT will rise from 5% to 12.5%.</p> <p>Click here to find out more</p>

Self Employed	<p>Self-Employed Income Support Scheme Extension: The scheme has been extended to 30 September 2021. The government will pay self-employed individuals a taxable grant worth 80% of average trading profits in a single instalment for the period February-April (up to £7,500).</p>	<p>Available for UK based self-employed people with a trading profit of up to £50,000, who make the majority of their income from self-employment and have submitted their 2019 tax return. People who filed a tax return in 2019-20 will now be able to claim.</p>	<p>No - eligible individuals will be able to claim for a fifth grant from late July</p> <p>Find out more here</p>
	<p>Self Assessed Income Tax Payments: The Government are deferring income tax payments due in July 2020 under the self-assessment system to January 2022.</p>	<p>Available for all applicable self-employed individuals. HMRC will offer this automatically.</p>	<p>Yes – HMRC will offer this automatically to applicable self-employed individuals</p>
	<p>Universal Credit: The Government has confirmed that self-employed individuals will be able to access the equivalent of Statutory Sick Pay through Universal Credit.</p>	<p>Available for all self-employed individuals who are sick or self-isolating Applications can be made online via the Department for Work & Pensions here</p>	<p>Yes – find out more here</p>
Business Rates	<p>Business Rates Holiday for Retail, Leisure & Hospitality Businesses & Nurseries: The Government will provide English businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors with 100% business rates relief from 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021. This will change to 66% business rates relief from 1 July 2021 – 31 March 2022.</p>	<p>Available for businesses of all sizes in the retail, leisure & hospitality sector. Your local authority will automatically apply the relief to your 2020 tax bill and contact you directly.</p>	<p>Yes – this is being applied at present</p>
Insolvency	<p>Relaxation of Wrongful Trading Rules: the Government have announced plans to reintroduce the suspension of wrongful trading provisions until the 30 June 2021 for company directors so they can keep their businesses going without the threat of personal liability.</p>	<p>Legislation to introduce these changes has been passed by Parliament.</p>	<p>Yes - find out more here</p>
Commercial Tenants	<p>Protection from Eviction for Commercial Tenants: Under the terms of the Coronavirus Act, no business unable to pay their rent should be automatically evicted if they miss a payment up to the 25 March 2022. Tenants remain liable for the rent and must still pay after this date.</p>	<p>Available for all commercial tenants</p> <p>Applied by automatic operation of the law</p>	<p>Yes - find out more here</p>
	<p>Suspension aggressive debt recovery: Under the Corporate Insolvency & Governance Bill statutory demands and winding up petitions issued to commercial tenants will be temporarily voided and changes will be made to the use of Commercial Rent Arrears Recovery.</p>	<p>The government will temporarily ban the use of statutory demands and winding up petitions until the 30 September 2021, where a company cannot pay its bills due to coronavirus</p>	<p>Yes – has been implemented through the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill and applied retrospectively</p> <p>Find out more here</p>