

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Government Support for Businesses

	What is it?	How can I access it?	Is it available now?
Grants	Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment (CBLP): Businesses required to close in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will receive a one-off top-up grant payment of up to £9,000. The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property. Find out more here	This funding applies from the 5 th January and is being issued by local authorities.	Yes – the following local authorities have opened for applications 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) Stafford Borough Council (click here) Tamworth Borough Council (click here) Birmingham based businesses will need to register for a free BRUM account to apply – click here for details.
	The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed): Eligible businesses forced to close due to national and local restrictions will be able to access cash grants via their local authority. Find out more here	Businesses can apply via their local council's website. The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property.	Please note that businesses have until the 31 March 2021 to apply for the Local Restrictions Support Grant Schemes. Local authorities will issue the top-up grants automatically to businesses that have previously applied for the Local Restrictions Support Grants for closed businesses
	The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open): Businesses which were open but severely impacted due to temporary local restrictions in place may be eligible to receive a cash grant from their local authority. Find out more here		
	The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector): Eligible businesses that have been legally required to close due to the national restrictions introduced in March (and have not been able to re-open), will be able to claim a cash grant from their local authority. Find out more here	Businesses will receive a cash grant for each 14 day period they are required to close. The funding is available from 1 November 2020 and is not retrospective.	Please note: These grants were announced by government on 3 rd March. Local authorities are awaiting further guidance from government on the grants and issuing further information – including on how to access the grants and when they will be available - in due course.
	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 Birmingham City Council will be using some of the funding to issue one-off grant payments of £10,000 to hospitality and leisure businesses that have not been eligible for previous grant support.	Businesses can apply via their local council's website. Local authorities will determine the eligibility criteria and the level of funding.	
	The Restart Grant: Eligible businesses will be able to claim a grant to support them through to when they can reopen. 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.	Eligible businesses will be able to access grants via their local council's website.	

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. The Government is also offering employers £1,500 to set up support and training for those taking part.</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>Bounce Back Loans: The British Business Bank will issue a 100% government guarantee on loans for SMEs of between £2,000 and £50,000 with no fees, interest or repayments to pay for the first 12 months. The government have announced that the length of the loan is to be extended from 6 to 10 years. Struggling businesses can also choose to make interest only payments or to suspend payments entirely for up to 6 months with no impact on credit rating.</p>	<p>Available via accredited lenders, businesses will be required to complete a short, standardised application form.</p>	<p>Yes – Businesses now have until the end of March to apply.</p> <p>The rules for the scheme have been adjusted to enable businesses who have borrowed less than 25% of their turnover to top up their existing loan.</p> <p>Find out more here</p>

Finance	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.	The guarantee will cover relevant trading by domestic firms and exporting firms. The scheme has been extended until June 2021	Yes - Find out more here
Tax	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	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.	Yes – contact HMRC on 0800 0159 559
	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%.	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	Yes – this is being applied at present From 1 October to the 31 March 2022, VAT will rise from 5% to 12.5%. Click here to find out more
Self Employed	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).	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.	Eligible individuals will be able to claim for a fourth grant from April. Find out more here
	Self Assessed Income Tax Payments: The Government are deferring income tax payments due in July 2020 under the self-assessment system to January 2022.	Available for all applicable self-employed individuals. HMRC will offer this automatically.	Yes – HMRC will offer this automatically to applicable self-employed individuals
	Universal Credit: The Government has confirmed that self-employed individuals will be able to access the equivalent of Statutory Sick Pay through Universal Credit.	Available for all self-employed individuals who are sick or self-isolating. Applications can be made online via the Department for Work & Pensions here	Yes – find out more here
Business Rates	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 for the 2020/21 tax year.	Available for businesses of all sizes in the retail, leisure & hospitality sector & nurseries on Ofsted's Early Years Register. Your local authority will automatically apply the relief to your 2020 tax bill and contact you directly.	Yes – this is being applied at present. The government announced in the recent budget that 100% business rates relief will be extended until the end of June 2021

Insolvency	Relaxation of Wrongful Trading Rules: the Government have announced plans to reintroduce the suspension of wrongful trading provisions until the 30 April 2021 for company directors so they can keep their businesses going without the threat of personal liability.	Legislation to introduce these changes has been passed by Parliament.	Yes - has been implemented through the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill Find out more here
	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 30 June 2021. Tenants remain liable for the rent and must still pay after this date.	Available for all commercial tenants Applied by automatic operation of the law	Yes Find out more here
Commercial Tenants	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.	The government will temporarily ban the use of statutory demands and winding up petitions until the 31 March 2021, where a company cannot pay its bills due to coronavirus.	Yes – has been implemented through the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill and applied retrospectively Find out more here
	GBSLEP Business Recovery Programmes: The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Enterprise Partnership have put together a package of opportunities including grant funding, support for retail, and the digital skills training you need to operate under the new ways of working. The programme includes: Retail Recovery Planning, Click & Drop, Digital Welcome, Digital Skills Support, Apprenticeship and Employment Triage Services.	Available to SMEs and professionals within the GBSLEP area. Businesses can check whether they are eligible by completing a short application form via the GBSLEP Growth Hub.	Yes Find out more here
Other Support	Small Business Leadership Programme: A fully funded ten week programme designed to support senior leaders in developing their strategic leadership skills to help enhance their business's resilience and recovery from the impact of Covid-19. The programme will be delivered online by small business and enterprise experts from world-leading business schools.	Available to SMEs that employ between 5-249 people and have been operational for at least a year. Participants in the programme should be a decision maker or member of the senior management team within the business.	Yes Find out more and register here