

COVID-19: Support for Businesses

	What is it?	How can I access it?	Is it available now?
Grants and Loans	<p>Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) The Government is introducing targeted grant support for hospitality and leisure premises that are experiencing difficulties because of the Omicron variant.</p>	<p>Recipients must be solvent businesses, and ratepayers in the hospitality and leisure sector. Grants are per premises and the amount paid is varied by rateable value of each eligible premises:</p> <p>Rateable value/Value of grant: £0-15,000 RV - £2,667 grant £15,000-51,000 RV - £4,000 grant More than £51,000 RV - £6,000 grant</p>	<p>The Government will be closing the scheme for applications on 18th March 2022, and all final payments must be made and dispersed to recipients by 31st March 2022.</p> <p>Check whether you are eligible.</p> <p>Find out more from Birmingham City Council. Find out more from Solihull Council. Find out more from Tamworth Borough Council. Find out more from Lichfield District Council.</p>
	<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>Find a lender.</p>	<p>The scheme has been extended until 30th June and is only open to small and medium sized enterprises.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>
	<p>Job Incentive Grant Programme - Lichfield Lichfield District Council, in partnership with the GBSLEP Skills Hub, are offering a £3,500 grant incentive to SME businesses in the Lichfield District seeking to create a new, full-time role for individuals aged 18-25 or 50+.</p>	<p>Each eligible SME will be limited to a maximum of five grants.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>	<p>The grant will be made in two instalments: three months after the application is successful and at the end of March 2022.</p>
	<p>Now's Your Time to Grow and Thrive – Staffordshire Staffordshire County Council are supporting small and medium businesses with a £5 million support fund. Businesses can access a variety of support, from £5,000 grants to upskill staff, to £5,000 loans to set-up a business, to £5,000 grants to grow, thrive, transform or diversify your business.</p>	<p>Details of each scheme are available on Staffordshire County Council's website.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>	<p>The application process is open.</p> <p>Find out more about all the options available.</p>

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Sick Pay	<p>Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme The Scheme will refund small and medium sized employers' Covid-related Statutory Sick Pay costs for up to two weeks per employee. Businesses must have employed fewer than 250 employees as of 30th November, and have already paid their employees' Covid-related SSP amongst other eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>Employers will be able to claim the costs for up to two weeks of Statutory Sick Pay per employee that has to take time off because of Covid-19.</p>	<p>Employers can claim for Covid-related sickness absences from 21st December 2021 onwards. The Scheme closes for Covid-related absences after 17th March.</p> <p>Make a claim.</p>
	<p>Self-Certification for Statutory Sick Pay The Government has extended the period by which employees must provide proof of sickness from more than seven days to more than 28 days in a row (including non-working days).</p>	<p>Employees must give their employers a doctor's 'fit note' or 'sick note' if they have been ill for more than 28 days in a row and have taken sick leave. If you started your sick leave before 10th December 2021, you must give proof if you've been ill for more than seven days.</p>	<p>Find out more about taking sick leave.</p> <p>Find out more about eligibility for Statutory Sick Pay.</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>Applications should be made online via the Government website.</p>	<p>Available for all self-employed individuals who are sick or self-isolating.</p> <p>Find out more.</p> <p>Apply for Universal Credit.</p>
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 25th March 2022. Tenants remain liable for the rent and must still pay after this date.</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>Contact HMRC on 0800 0159 559.</p> <p>Find out more.</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>Contact HMRC on 0800 0159 559.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>

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Insurance	<p>Live Events Reinsurance Scheme The Scheme will support live events across the country – such as music festivals, conferences and business events – that are at risk of being halted or delayed due to an inability to obtain COVID-19 cancellation insurance. Cover will be available to purchase alongside standard commercial events insurance for an additional premium.</p>	<p>Event organisers must purchase the relevant cover from participating insurers within the Scheme, and must also have or purchase a standard events cancellation policy provided at least in part by a participating insurer.</p>	<p>The Scheme will run from September 2021 to the end of September 2022, with a review point in Spring 2022.</p> <p>Apply for the Scheme.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>
Relief	<p>Temporary VAT Reductions From 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022, the temporary reduced rate of 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) will be 12.5%.</p>	<p>VAT registered businesses can apply the reduced rate to certain supplies relating to hospitality, hotel and holiday accommodation and admission to attractions.</p>	<p>This is being applied at present.</p> <p>Find out more</p>
	<p>Business Rates Relief for Retail, Leisure & Hospitality & Nurseries 2021-23 The Government will provide English businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors with 66% business rates relief from 1 July 2021 – 31 March 2022. From 1st April 2022, businesses in these sectors will have a 50% reduction in their business rates automatically applied.</p>	<p>Available for businesses of all sizes in the retail, leisure and hospitality sector. Your local authority will automatically apply the relief to your 2020 tax bill and contact you directly.</p>	<p>This is being applied at present.</p> <p>Find out more.</p>