

COVID-19: Devolved Administrations

The Chancellor has clarified that as part of additional measures to tackle the coronavirus outbreak, devolved administrations will receive funding to support businesses in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. UK-wide measures are available [here](#). Devolved administrations have also announced the following measures to support businesses:

Wales



Business Rates Holiday

In Wales, retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable of £500,000 or less will receive 100% rates relief between 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021. This will be administered through the business rates system. You do not need to do anything. Your local authority will contact you.

Grants

- Businesses in Wales that receive Small Business Rates Relief will receive a cash grant of £10,000. The multiple property restriction applied to the Small Business Rates Relief scheme applies to this grant.
- Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value between £12,001 and £51,000 will receive a cash grant of £25,000.

Business will need to apply for the grants. More information is available on Business Wales [here](#). The deadline to apply for grants is 5pm on 30th June 2020.

Economic Resilience Fund

Grants of up to £10,000 will be available for microbusinesses, up to £100,000 for SMEs and up to £690,000 for large businesses. The full eligibility criteria and application portal are available [here](#). The online eligibility checker has reopened. Businesses will be able to make applications for support by the end of June 2020.

Development Bank of Wales Loan Scheme

The Welsh Government and the Development Bank of Wales have announced the £100m Covid-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme to support businesses affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Loans available between £5,000 – £250,000 with a 12-month capital and interest repayment holiday. More information is available [here](#). **The Loan is now fully subscribed.**

Carrier Bag Charge Exemption for Home Deliveries

The Welsh Government has introduced a temporary 3-month exemption (from 9th April) to legal requirements for retailers to charge for single-use carrier bags used for grocery deliveries and collections in Wales. More information is available [here](#).

Welsh Business Support Helpline

The Business Wales Helpline is available on 03000 6 03000 from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm except on public holidays.

Workplace Guidance for Employers

The Welsh Government has published guidance for businesses and employers including details about their responsibilities as an employer and how to implement physical distancing in the workplace. The guidance is available [here](#).

Enforcement of Social Distancing Measures

Guidance on social distancing has been issued by the Welsh Government, outlining that food retailers must take all reasonable measures to ensure that a distance of 2 metres is maintained between person on the premises and waiting to enter the premises. These measures have been introduced using regulation in Wales and can be enforced by the police and local authorities by issuing fixed penalty notices of £60 to responsible persons.

For more information about support offered by the Welsh Government, click [here](#).

Reopening of Businesses

The Welsh Government will update this [webpage](#) with the latest information about the reopening of businesses and premises.

Scotland



Business Rates Holiday

Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses will receive 100% rates relief for 12 months.

Business Rates Relief

There will be 1.6% rates relief for all properties across Scotland, effectively reversing the planned below inflation uplift in the poundage from 1st April 2020. Businesses do not need to apply for this relief as it will be applied to their bill by the local council.

Cash Grants

Stores which benefit from the Small Business Bonus Scheme or Rural Relief or have a property within retail, hospitality or leisure with a rateable value not exceeding £18,000 will be entitled to a one-off £10,000 cash grant. £25,000 cash grants will be offered to retail, leisure and hospitality stores with a rateable value between £18,001 and £51,000. Businesses with more than one store will have all subsequent store grants offered at 75% of the initial grant. Businesses can apply now for the grant and should be able to find the application form on their local council website. For more information on the grants and to look up your local council, click [here](#). The closing date is 10th July 2020.

Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund

A £120m fund was created to be managed by the Enterprise Agencies for vulnerable SME firms who are vital to the local or national economic foundations of Scotland. **The fund has now closed.**

Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund

Anyone newly self-employed on or after 6th April 2019 and facing hardship will be eligible for a £2,000 grant. Applications are open and managed by Local Authorities. More information [here](#).

Commercial Leases

The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act has extended the notice period before a commercial lease can be terminated for non-payment of rent from fourteen days to fourteen weeks.

Critical Workers

The Scottish Government has given [guidance](#) to local authorities about defining 'key workers' to enable them to continue sending their children to school in order to work. This includes workers 'supporting our Critical National Infrastructure' and 'all workers without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland'. Local authorities will make their own definitions so please check your council website. To find out what support is available, contact the Scottish Government by email at keyworkers@gov.scot.

Returning to Work Safely Guidance

The Scottish Government has published guidance for workers and employers on returning to work safely. The guidance is available [here](#).

Enforcement of Social Distancing Measures

The Scottish Government has [strengthened its social distancing measures](#) by formalising the two metre distancing rules to all businesses that remain open. Businesses that do not take all reasonable measures to enforce those rules could be fined or ultimately prosecuted.

Scottish Business Support Helpline

If you run a business in Scotland you can get advice by calling the Scottish Government's helpline on 0300 303 0660. The helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:30pm. Select option 1 to speak to the COVID-19 team.

Northern Ireland



Business Rates Holiday

All businesses will pay zero rates for April, May, June, and July 2020. For more information, click [here](#).

Rate Relief for Specific Sectors

Retail, hospitality, leisure, tourism and childcare businesses will pay no rates for the full financial year up until 31st March 2021.

Small Business Support Grant Scheme

A cash grant of £10,000 is available to all small businesses with a rateable value up to £15,000. More information is available [here](#). The Grant is also available to businesses who are sole tenants of a rental property, or who own and occupy a property with a total NAV or £1,590 or below. More information is available [here](#). **Applications for the grant scheme closed on 20th May 2020.**

Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant

A cash grant of £25,000 is available to businesses in the hospitality, tourism and retail sectors with a rateable value from £15,001 up to £51,000. Businesses need to register for the grant scheme by 20th May 2020. More information is available [here](#). The Grant is also available to businesses who are sole tenants of a rental property, or who own and occupy a property with a total NAV or £1,590 or below. More information is available [here](#). **Applications for the grant scheme closed on 20th May 2020.**

NI Micro-business Hardship Fund

The Northern Ireland Executive has launched a new fund to help Northern Ireland based microbusinesses and social enterprises unable to access other COVID-19 support measures. The £40m fund is available to businesses unable to access the cash grant schemes. Microbusinesses will be able to apply for up to £10,000 (if they pay business rates) and up to £5,000 for those who do not pay business rates. More information is available [here](#). Applications will close on Friday 12th June.

Rural ATMs Rates Relief

The rural ATM scheme has been restored which will help to sustain cash flow in isolated rural areas.

Carrier Bag Charge Exemption for Home Deliveries

The Northern Ireland Executive has introduced a temporary 6-month exemption (from 1st April) to legal requirements for retailers to charge for single-use carrier bags used for grocery deliveries in Northern Ireland. More information is available [here](#).

Priority Sectors List

The Northern Ireland Executive has published a list of priority business sectors. The sectors list aims to clarify what constitutes a priority sector at this time and to support companies to continue their business operations if they can work within social distancing guidelines. The Northern Ireland Executive has also published a workplace safety guide. More information is available [here](#).

Reopening Businesses

The Northern Ireland has published a timeline for when businesses in Northern Ireland can reopen as coronavirus lockdown restrictions are eased. The timeline is available [here](#).