

COVID-19: Devolved Administrations

The UK Government has supplied funding to the devolved administrations to support retailers with the impacts of Covid-19. This briefing provides an overview of the relevant measures announced.

Guidance for retailers on employment responsibilities and social distancing is available for Welsh retailers [here](#) and Scottish retailers [here](#). For UK-wide measures, click [here](#).

Wales



Business Rates Holiday

Retailers with a rateable value of £500,000 or less will receive 100% rates relief until 31 March 2022. 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. **The deadline date for applications has now passed.**

Lockdown Business Fund

Retail stores eligible for Small Business Relief are eligible for a £1,000 grant. Businesses eligible for small business rates relief that have been subject to local restrictions for three weeks or more and have been materially impacted (>50% reduction in turnover) up to the 23rd October are eligible for a further grant of £1,000. **The deadline for this fund has passed.**

Commercial Property

Forfeiture for non-payment of rent cannot be enforced before 1st July 2021, where non-payment is due to covid-19. Further information available [here](#).

Economic Resilience Fund (ERF)

Retailers can apply for financial assistance due to the impact of local restrictions under the third phase of the ERF. Eligible retailers can also apply for up to £2,000 from a £25 million discretionary fund via their local authority. Further information [here](#). **The application process is currently suspended due to a high volume of applications.**

Development Bank of Wales Loan Scheme

The Welsh Government and the Development Bank of Wales have announced a £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 Scheme is now fully subscribed.**

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.



Business Rates Holiday

All retailers will receive 100% business rates relief until 31 March 2022. All convenience retailers are eligible but will need to apply. Further details will be published shortly.

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 are entitled to a one-off £10,000 cash grant. £25,000 cash grants have been offered to retail stores with a rateable value between £18,001 and £51,000. Businesses with more than one store have had all subsequent store grants offered at 75% of the initial grant. **The deadline date for applications has now passed.**

Restrictions Hardship Fund

Retail stores significantly impacted by trading due to local restrictions can claim £1,440 for a property up to £51,000 rateable value, up to a cap of £14,000. **The deadline date for applications has now passed.**

Commercial Property

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.

Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund

Anyone newly self-employed on or after 6th April 2019 and facing hardship may be eligible for a £2,000 grant. **The deadline date for applications has now passed.**

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.