

Coronavirus Business Advice and Support Update – Friday 10 July 2020

The information in this newsletter is correct as of Friday 10 July 2020, but we suggest monitoring the key webpages outlined below as well as the [Council's website](#) for the latest updates.

Sources of information and support for businesses

The Government's [Business Support Helpline](#) number is FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098. The helpline provides free, impartial business support and signposting services to businesses in England – which currently includes business advice on Covid-19.

You can also find free support, advice and sources of finance through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [Growth Hub](#) or [speak to an advisor](#) on webchat about support for your business.

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1. The Government's 'Plan for Jobs 2020'

The Government has announced a range of new initiatives in its new ['Plan for Jobs 2020'](#). We will provide more information on how each one can be accessed as it becomes available.

Job Retention Bonus

This is a one-off payment to employers that have used the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who remains continuously employed until 31 January 2021. The bonus will provide additional support to retain employees.

To be eligible, employees will need to:

- earn at least £520 per month (above the Lower Earnings Limit) on average for November, December and January
- have been furloughed at any point and legitimately claimed for under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- have been continuously employed up until at least 31 January 2021.

Employers will be able to claim the bonus from February 2021 once accurate Real Time information (RTI) data to 31 January has been received. More information about this scheme will be available by 31 July and full guidance will be published in the autumn.

KickStart Scheme

The Government will introduce a new Kickstart Scheme to create high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment. Funding available for each job will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. Employers will be able to top this wage up.

Traineeships

Additional funding will be provided this year for [traineeships](#), to fund high quality work placements and training for 16-24 year olds. The Government will fund employers who provide trainees with work experience, at a rate of £1,000 per trainee. They will improve provision and expand eligibility for traineeships to those with Level 3 qualifications and below, to ensure that more young people have access to high quality training.

Apprenticeships

There will be a new payment of £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, from 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021. These payments will be in addition to the

existing £1,000 payment the Government already provides for new 16-18 year-old apprentices, and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan – where that applies. You can access support in recruiting apprentices locally from [Form the Future](#).

Sector-based work academy placements

The Government will provide additional funding this year to triple the number of [sector-based work academy](#) placements in England in order to provide vocational training and guaranteed interviews for more people, helping them gain the skills needed for the jobs available in their local area.

Careers advice

An additional £32 million will be provided over the next 2 years for the [National Careers Service](#) so that 269,000 more people in England can receive personalised advice on training and work.

Supporting unemployed workers into jobs

The Government will expand and increase the intensive support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to young jobseekers, to include all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.

They will enhance work search support by doubling the number of work coaches in Jobcentre Plus before the end of the financial year.

£95 million will be provided this year to expand the scope of the [Work and Health Programme](#) to introduce additional voluntary support in the autumn for those on benefits that have been unemployed for more than 3 months.

Private sector capacity will be funded to introduce a job finding support service in the autumn. This online, one-to-one service will help those who have been unemployed for less than three months increase their chances of finding employment.

There will be an increase in the funding for the Flexible Support Fund (which helps with the cost of travelling to an interview, training or for the first months of travelling to work), including to increase the capacity of the [Rapid Response Service](#). It will also provide local support to claimants by removing barriers to work such as travel expenses for attending interviews.

Green Homes Grant

The Government will introduce a Green Homes Grant, providing at least £2 for every £1 homeowners and landlords spend to make their homes more energy efficient, up to £5,000 per household. For those on the lowest incomes, the scheme will fully fund energy efficiency measures of up to £10,000 per household. The scheme aims to upgrade over 600,000 homes across England. Vouchers will be available to apply for from September.

Temporary Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) cut

The Government will temporarily increase the Nil Rate Band of Residential SDLT from £125,000 to £500,000. This will apply from 8 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 and cut the tax due for everyone who would have paid SDLT. Government guidance has been [updated](#) to reflect this change.

Eat Out to Help Out

The Government will introduce the Eat Out to Help Out scheme to encourage people to return to eating out. This will entitle every diner to a 50% discount of up to £10 per head on their meal, at any participating restaurant, café, pub or other eligible food service establishment. The discount can be used unlimited times and will be valid Monday to Wednesday on any eat-in meal (including on non-alcoholic drinks) for the entire month of August 2020 across the UK. Participating establishments will be fully reimbursed for the 50% discount. Businesses that want to take part in the scheme will have to register through a website that opens on Monday 13 July. More information and how to register can be found on the [Government's website](#).

Temporary VAT cut for food and non-alcoholic drinks

From 15 July 2020 to 12 January 2021, to support businesses and jobs in the hospitality sector, the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises across the UK. [Further guidance](#) on the scope of this relief has been published by Government.

Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions

From 15 July 2020 to 12 January 2021, to support businesses and jobs, the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK. The Government has published [guidance](#) on which attractions are eligible for the temporary VAT reduction and [further information](#) for holiday accommodation providers and attractions.

Construction Talent Retention Scheme

The Government is funding a Construction Talent Retention Scheme to support the redeployment of workers at risk of redundancy. This will help retain construction skills and match talented workers to opportunities across the UK. Businesses can register their interest in the scheme on the [Construction Leadership Council's Talent Retention Scheme portal](#).

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Government will invest £1 billion over the next year in a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme that will offer grants to public sector bodies, including schools and hospitals, to fund both energy efficiency and low carbon heat upgrades.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

The Government will also establish a new Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to help social landlords improve the least energy-efficient social rented homes, starting with a £50 million demonstrator project in 2020-21 to decarbonise social housing. This will mean warmer homes and lower annual energy bills for some of the lowest income households.

2. Other grants, funding and finance

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

The Government has [announced](#) a £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund which will bring forward funding to help charities and environmental organisations start work on projects across England to restore nature and tackle climate change. We will provide more information on this as it becomes available.

Fertilise the Future

Ecover has pledged over £500,000 to their new initiative: [Fertilise the Future](#). Their new fund aims to provide financial investments to innovative ideas promoting nature-based solutions, including:

1. The conservation and restoration of forest and other terrestrial ecosystems
2. The conservation and restoration of freshwater resources as well as marine and ocean ecosystems
3. Sustainable agriculture and food systems
4. Ensuring nature's systemic role in sustainable development in ways that end the loss of biodiversity and optimise nature's contribution to resilient livelihoods, green infrastructure, sustainable settlements and just rural transitions.

The closing date for applications is 1 September 2020.

Charity Survival Fund

The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust's [Charity Survival Fund](#) has been set up in response to the founders' ongoing concern about Covid-19's economic impact on charities. This £10m Fund will provide core funding to help charities, especially small and medium sized, to offset lost income in the current financial year. The fund is open to UK registered charities that:

- Have a beneficial area within the UK
- Actively operate across one of the three areas prioritised by The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust: Health and Wellbeing, Welfare and Education, Arts and Culture
- Have annual income below £5m
- Have lost (or are forecast to lose) income due to Covid-19
- Have not already received Covid-19 related funding from The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust

The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Monday 27 July.

Community Grant Fund – supporting local housing projects

Nationwide Building Society's [Community Grant Fund](#) is open to registered charities, charitable incorporated organisations, Community Land Trusts and housing co-operatives.

The grants are between £10,000 and £50,000 and can be used to support local housing projects working to strengthen local communities and support the most vulnerable. Projects must meet one of the following outcomes:

- preventing people from losing their home
- helping people into a home
- supporting people to thrive within the home environment

The fund will be looking for projects that are supporting people in housing need, in original or creative ways. This year there is also a focus on helping charities to get back on their feet after Covid-19.

Screwfix Foundation

The [Screwfix Foundation](#) provides grants up to £5,000 for projects that relate to the repair, maintenance, improvement or construction of homes, community buildings and other buildings. The aim is to help those in need: this could be by reason of financial hardship, sickness, distress or other disadvantages.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply. Applications are reviewed four times a year in February, May, August and November.

Supporting people with skills ready for employment

Registered charities can apply to the [Thomas Wall Trust](#) for grants towards supporting people with an emphasis on building confidence, knowledge and skills, and therefore increasing prospects of employment.

The Trust provides grants up to £5,000 towards specific projects or core activities that support literacy, numeracy, digital and additional skills for learning that are likely to assist employment prospects.

Change Makers

Comic Relief's Change Makers fund is inviting organisations in the United Kingdom to apply in one of two categories:

- Small and medium-sized organisations that focus on equalities and are user-led
- Other medium-sized organisations

They are interested in organisations that want to make lasting change related to their social change themes - homelessness, forced migration, gender justice, mental health, and early childhood development.

Funding is available for 3 to 5 years with investments from £150,000 to £600,000 funded. Applications open online on 13 July 2020 and close at 12 noon on 28 August 2020.

Financial support for education, early years and children's social care

The Government's guidance on the funding and financial support available for education, childcare and children's social care organisations has been [updated](#).

3. Support for businesses

Free one-to-one advice from expert advisers

The Recovery Advice for Business scheme, [supported by the Government](#) and hosted on the [Enterprise Nation website](#), will give small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser to help them through the Coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery.

Advice offered will include bespoke, specialist assistance from accountancy, legal, and advertising to marketing, recruitment and digital to help businesses adapt to difficult circumstances and to bounce back as the UK economy recovers.

Supporting High Street businesses

To help support our local businesses, South Cambridgeshire District Council have recruited two new High Street Business Support Officers.

This week they have started visiting local businesses, offering support and guidance and signposting. They will also be distributing window and floor stickers, posters and leaflets which support the Council's **Shop-Local Shop-Safe** message.

Please make the most of this opportunity to ask questions and share any views with our officers particularly on what else we could do to support businesses. Further information can be found [on our website](#).

This has been made possible by the allocation of funding by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support Reopening of the High Street.

Local skills and training needs survey

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Business Board, working with Skills Support for the Workforce, is seeking the views of employers in the area. They appreciate that this is a difficult time for many businesses but are keen to understand what funded training provision might benefit your organisation in better times and also what needs may have arisen through the impacts of recent events.

They are keen to hear from employers of all sizes (including sole traders) and from all sectors. Please share your views by [completing a short survey](#) (10-15 minutes) before the deadline of 7 August 2020.

This is an opportunity for employers to influence the future skills development and available support in the region.

4. Keeping your workplace safe

Reopening sport, gym and leisure facilities

The Government has [outlined the measures](#) that will allow outdoor pools to reopen from 11 July and indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports facilities to reopen from 25 July. It includes advice for providers of pool, gym and leisure facilities on cleaning, social distancing, and protection for staff to help venues get back up and running safely.

A [return to recreational team sport framework](#) has also been added to the guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation.

Performing Arts

Performing arts can now take place outdoors from 11 July with a socially distanced audience present. This means that outdoor theatres, opera, dance and music can resume from Saturday so long as they take place outside and with a limited and socially distanced audience.

[New guidance](#) has been published by Government to help performing arts organisations, venue operators and participants understand how they can work and take part in the performing arts safely, and keep their audiences safe.

Beauty salons

The Government has issued [practical guidelines](#) to allow beauty salons, nail bars, tattoo and massage studios, physical therapy businesses and spas businesses to reopen for some services from Monday 13 July.

Businesses must be able to meet the Covid-19 secure guidelines to reopen, protecting customers and workers. Only services that do not involve work in the highest risk zone – directly in front of the face – should be made available to clients.

The Government's [Close Contact guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this change. It includes details the services which cannot be offered as well as further information on saunas, hot tubs and steam rooms, alternative treatments and ventilation.

Restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services

The Government's [guidance](#) on restaurants, pubs, bars and takeaway services has been updated with added information on entertainment permitted in venues and fire risk assessments for repurposed spaces.

Advice for accommodation providers

Guidance and advice for those providing hotel and other accommodation in England has been [updated](#).

Customer Logging toolkit

Public Health England have published a [customer logging toolkit](#) to support the re-opening of many businesses. It includes:

- Guidance on maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace;
- Frequently Asked Questions on collecting and maintaining records; and
- A Privacy Notice template.

Temperature screening

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has warned that “temperature screening” products are not a reliable way to detect if people have the virus. It [has issued a warning](#) that thermal cameras and other such “temperature screening” products, some of which make direct claims to screen for Covid-19, are not a reliable way to detect whether people have the virus.

Staying Covid-19 secure in 2020: notice

A [notice](#) to display to show you have made your workplace Covid-secure is available and has been updated to reflect the change in the 2 metre social distancing rule.

Travel corridors

The guidance on travel corridors has been [updated](#) with more information on transit stops, passengers arriving in England before 10 July 2020 and British overseas territories.

Travellers exempt from border rules in the UK

Government guidance on travellers exempt from border rules in the UK has [updated](#) travel details and new Coronavirus guidance for travellers exempt from border rules in England.

How to self-isolate when you travel to the UK

Changes have been made to the guidance on [how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#) to make clear who now needs to self-isolate when travelling to the UK. Links to an exempt countries list have also been added.

Information for farmers, landowners and rural businesses

The [latest information](#) for farmers, landowners and rural businesses has been updated to include information on inspections starting.

Seasonal agricultural work on English farms

Advice for seasonal agricultural workers coming to England to pick fruit and vegetables on farms, and their employers, has been [updated](#) with guidance for travellers coming from countries that are exempt from quarantine rules.

FAQs

[Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do](#) have been updated to reflect recent changes in Government Guidance.

5. Other government guidance

Draft planning guidance to support the Business and Planning Bill

The Business and Planning Bill was introduced to the House of Commons on Thursday 25 June 2020. [Draft guidance](#) has been prepared to be read alongside a number of the planning measures set out in the Bill. The guidance has been updated with information on the extension of certain planning permissions.

Guidance for sampling and for diagnostic laboratories

Information for clinical diagnostic laboratories regarding safety, sampling and packaging specimens associated with Covid-19 has been [updated](#).

How to treat certain expenses and benefits provided to employees during Coronavirus

Find out about taxable expenses and benefits when they are paid to employees because of Coronavirus and how to report them to HMRC. The guidance has been [updated](#) to include information about Coronavirus tests and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Defer your Self Assessment payment on account

More information about the July 2020 payment on account deferment has been added [here](#).

Sending your forms to Companies House during the Coronavirus outbreak

As an emergency response to Coronavirus Companies House developed a [temporary online service](#) to upload a number of completed forms and send them to Companies House digitally. The “upload a document” service will now allow users to upload more form types, including Scottish limited and qualifying partnerships, articles and resolutions.