

COVID-19 Scottish Business Support Summary (as at 26/3/2020)

Name of Scheme	What does it do?	Who and what is eligible?	How can it be accessed?
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	All UK employers will be able to access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All businesses are eligible 	<p>You will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers,' and notify your employees of this change - changing the status of employees remains subject to existing employment law and, depending on the employment contract, may be subject to negotiation • submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been furloughed and their earnings through a new online portal (HMRC will set out further details on the information required) <p>HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. HMRC are working urgently to set up a system for reimbursement. Existing systems are not set up to facilitate payments to employers.</p>

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VAT Deferral	Deferral of Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments for 3 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For VAT, the deferral will apply from 20th March 2020 until 30th June 2020. • All businesses are eligible. 	This is an automatic offer with no applications required. Businesses will not need to make a VAT payment during this period. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.
Income Tax Payments Deferral	Deferral of Income Tax Payments for self-employed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to 31st January 2021. • If you are self-employed you are eligible 	This is an automatic offer with no applications required. No penalties or interest for late payment will be charged in the deferral period.
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Relief Package	Allows small-and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID- 19 • Employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28th February 2020 • Employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19 • Employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP, but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note. If evidence is required by an employer, those with symptoms of coronavirus can get an isolation note from NHS 111 online and those who live with someone that 	<p>The UK Government is currently developing a rebate scheme. Further details will be provided in due course once the legislation has passed.</p> <p>Further info available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p>

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		<p>has symptoms can get a note from the NHS website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of SSP to those staying at home comes into force • The government will work with employers over the coming months to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible 	
Business Rates (All Businesses)	Rates Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-domestic properties in Scotland will get a 1.6% relief. This relief effectively reverses the change in poundage for 2020-21. • If you are struggling to pay your non-domestic rates bill you should contact your local council to ask them about your payment options 	<p>You do not need to apply for this relief – it will be applied to your bill by your local council from 1st April 2020. Further details available here: https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/</p>
Business Rates (Specific Sectors)	Rates holiday for 2020/21 tax year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will get 100% rates relief. • To get this relief, a property has to be occupied. Properties that have closed temporarily due to the government’s COVID-19 advice will be treated as occupied 	<p>The Scottish Government are working with Scotland’s 32 Councils to make sure this relief is administered in the most effective way.</p> <p>Updates, including information on any application process will be updated here: https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/</p>
Support for Water Bills	Suspension of pre-payment charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Water has agreed to suspend pre-payment charges for licensed providers for two months, beginning with the April payment. This means providers – who provide water to businesses – can be flexible with their 	Effective immediately

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		<p>customers at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Marketing Agency will also introduce other measures assist the market by suspending all performance standard charges to ensure licensed providers can focus on supporting customers 	<p>Comprehensive details of the package will be set out by the industry in a further letter to licensed providers.</p> <p>Businesses should liaise directly with their water services supplier.</p> <p>https://news.gov.scot/news/support-for-business-water-bills</p>
<p>Scottish Government Coronavirus Business Support Fund (Grants)</p>	<p>Direct grant support to specific businesses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-off grant of £10,000 available to small businesses who get Small Business Bonus Scheme Relief or Rural Relief A one-off grant of £25,000 for hospitality, leisure and retail businesses with properties with a rateable value between £18,001 and up to and including £50,999. You can get this grant if you applied for Nursery Relief, Business Growth Accelerator or Disabled Relief but are eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme You can only apply for one grant – even if you own multiple properties. 	<p>To apply you will need to complete an application form. You can do this from your local council website. Councils will aim to make payment within 10 working days of receiving a grant application form</p> <p>North Lanarkshire based businesses can find more information and download an application form here: https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=34891</p>

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Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme	This temporary Loan Scheme will support SMEs with access to loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance of up to £5 million and for up to 6 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports loans of up to £5 million available on repayment terms of up to six years • UK Government will provide lenders with a partial guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to an overall cap per lender). • No guarantee fee for SMEs to access the scheme – lenders will pay a fee to access the scheme • Interest and fees paid by UK Government for 12 months – this means no upfront costs and lower initial repayments for SMEs • For overdrafts and invoice finance facilities, term will be up to three years • Your business must be UK based with turnover of no more than £45 million per year. • Your business meets the other British Business Bank eligibility criteria here: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/finance-platform-referrals-eligibility-criteria/ 	<p>This scheme is now open for applications. There are 40 accredited lenders able to offer the scheme, including all major banks.</p> <p>To apply, talk to your bank or one of the accredited finance providers as soon as possible, to discuss your business plan. You can find out the latest on the best way to contact them via their websites. Please note that branches may currently be shut due to social distancing measures.</p> <p>The full rules of the scheme and a list of accredited lenders is available here: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/accredited-lenders/</p>
COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility	Purchase of short- term debt (Larger firms only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New lending facility to raise working capital via the Bank of England directly purchasing short-term debt. • Supports companies that are fundamentally strong but have been affected by a short-term funding squeeze. • Supports the corporate finance market overall which eases the supply of credit to all firms. 	<p>The scheme is now open for applications</p> <p>More information is available from the Bank of England:</p> <p>https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notices/2020/ccff-market-notice-march-2020</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All non-financial companies that meet the criteria set out by the Bank of England are eligible: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/the-covid-corporate-financing-facility 	
Insurance	Insurance pay out (based on cover)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses that have cover for both pandemics and government-ordered closure should be covered, as the government and insurance industry confirmed on 17 March 2020 that advice to avoid pubs, theatres etc is sufficient to make a claim as long as all other terms and conditions are met Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers. Most businesses are unlikely to be covered, as standard business interruption insurance policies are dependent on damage to property and will exclude pandemics. 	Check with your business insurer
HMRC Time to Pay Service	Tax relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may receive support with their tax affairs. Case-by-case basis and tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities 	Call HMRC's Dedicated Helpline on 0800 0159 559

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Planning Rules Relaxed (Specific Sectors)	Change of operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authorities to relax planning rules to allow pubs and restaurants to operate temporarily as takeaways 	Guidance to be published by Local Authorities.
Visitor Levy Bill	Halting of Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of a visitor levy on tourism in Scotland will be halted 	Effective immediately
Deposit Return Scheme	Extension of Go- Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Deposit Return Scheme will now be introduced in July 2022 	Effective immediately
Business Loans Scotland and West of Scotland Loan Fund	Businesses with existing loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-month capital and interest holiday for all existing borrowers <p>Note: Business Loans Scotland is aware of an Advanced Fee Fraud using their name. Business Loans Scotland does not ask a borrower for any up-front fees and any promise of this type of loan requiring an upfront fee is a con.</p>	Applied directly to loans via Business Loans Scotland

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EU Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative	Direct €37 billion increase in EU Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF); Cohesion Fund (CF); and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission has relinquished obligation to request refunding of unspent pre-financing for the listed Funds until programme closure. • Member States can now use the amounts not recovered in 2020 to accelerate investments related to COVID-19 outbreak. • Proposed for ERDF to support the financing of working capital in SMEs where necessary as a temporary measure. • ERDF investment priority to strengthen research, technological development and innovation is modified to cover investment in products and services for fostering the crisis response capacities in public health services. Expenditure on this is eligible from 1st February 2020. 	Awaiting full European Commission and Member State (i.e. UK & Scottish Governments) legislative approval.
Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund	£50 million fund across Scotland to support at-risk people affected by COVID-19, including homeless people and those experiencing fuel poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For charities and others who require additional capacity to work with target groups. 	Funding will be allocated direct to local authorities. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of when local authorities will receive these funds.

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Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund	£40 million fund to support the growth of community efforts at a local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds for organisations who support people at risk because of age, isolation, carers, homeless people and asylum seekers and signposting people to sources of help, such as applying for benefits. 	Funding will be allocated direct to local authorities. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of when local authorities will receive these funds.
Scottish Government Third Sector Resilience Fund	£20 million to ensure health and continued viability of third sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifically focused on third sector organisations cash flow and other problems 	Funding provided directly to third sector. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of how organisations can access funds.
State Aid	State Aid rules still apply in the UK until the end of 2020		

Key Website Pages specific to COVID-19 Business Support:

- UK Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>
- Scottish Government: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>
- Business Gateway National: <https://www.bgateway.com/resources/coronavirus-support>
- Business Gateway Local Offices: <https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices>
- Federation of Small Businesses: [COVID-19: Advice and guidance for small businesses and the self-employed](#)
- Scottish Chambers of Commerce: [Business Advice & Guidance: Covid-19](#)
- ACAS - The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service: [Advice for employers and employees](#)

If we can help you with this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Team at HR Services Scotland Ltd on 0800 652 2610