

Covid-19: Business support information sheet

This is a dynamic sheet which is being regularly updated. Key interventions from the Chancellor (20 March) highlighted in red.

For more information, please call the Chamber's Information team on 0333 053 8639



Subject	Measure	Date available	Application process	Contact information
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who cannot work due to coronavirus and are eligible for SSP will get it from day one, rather than from the fourth day of their illness • SSP will be payable to people staying at home on Government advice, not just those who are infected • If employees need to provide evidence to their employer that they need to stay at home due to coronavirus, they can get it from NHS 111 Online instead of having to get a fit note from their doctor • Self-employed claimants on Universal Credit required to stay at home or are ill as a result of coronavirus will not have a Minimum Income Floor applied for a period of time while affected 	Retrospectively from 13 March 2020	Directly with employer	https://www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay/how-to-claim https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-for-employees
SSP Relief	Statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This refund will cover up to two weeks' SSP per eligible employee who are either ill or been told to self-isolate. • Employers with <250 employees (as of 28 February) can reclaim SSP for employees unable to work due to coronavirus. Refund will be for up to two weeks per employee. 	Retrospectively from 13 March 2020	Government will work with employers to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible	https://www.gov.uk/employer-s-sick-pay https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19
Business Rates Holidays For those that pay:	A 12-month business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are currently receiving the retail discount for your Business Rates bill, you will receive a revised bill with 100% relief. • If your business occupies a property in the retail sector with a rateable value of £51,000 or more, or your business occupies a property in the leisure/hospitality sectors, you may also be eligible for the 100% discount on your business rates bill. 	Guidance to be published by 20 March	Contact your Local Authority	https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-

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<p>For those that pay little or none:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are a nursery, you will be entitled to the 100% relief for the next year. You should contact your Local Authority for more information. <p>You are entitled to a one-off cash grant of £10,000:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your business is in the retail, hospitality or leisure sector in England, you may be entitled to a cash grant. If you have a property with a rateable value of less than £15,000 you will be entitled to a grant of £10,000, whether or not you are entitled to small business rate relief or rural rate relief. If you have a property with a rateable value of between £14,999 and £51,000 you will be entitled to a cash grant of £25,000. 	<p>Funding from early April</p>	<p>Local Authority will then be in touch in the coming weeks to provide details of how to claim this money</p>	<p>businesses-that-pay-little-or-none-business-rates</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-that-pay-little-or-no-business-rates</p>
<p>Loans</p>	<p>The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by British Business Bank, will support businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts. Government will provide lenders with a partial guarantee of 80% on each loan to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The Government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £5m in value. The first six months of these loans will be interest free, as the Government will cover these payments. Business remain responsible for repaying any facility they take out. 	<p>Early w/c 23 March 2020.</p>	<p>Businesses will be able to get finance under the scheme from a large number of providers, including the main high street banks</p>	<p>https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/our-partners/</p>
<p>Tax</p>	<p>The HMRC Time To Pay Scheme to help with tax</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Call HMRC - 0800 0159 559</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/difficulties-paying-hmrc</p>
<p>Business Insurance</p>	<p>Government's medical advice is sufficient to enable businesses which have insurance policy that covers both pandemics and Government ordered closure to make a claim</p>	<p>16 March</p>	<p>Directly with your own insurance company</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-</p>

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Mortgage Break	Mortgage lenders have agreed to support customers experiencing issues with finances as a result of Covid-19, including payment holidays of up to three months, to give people time to recover and ensure they do not have to pay towards their mortgage in the interim.	17 March	Directly with your own mortgage company	
Essential Workers	Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those in health and social care and in other key sectors.	20 March		https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision
Chancellor's emergency measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government will help pay people's wages through a coronavirus job retention scheme. Businesses can apply for a grant of up to £2,500 a month to cover 80% of salary for those retained but not working VAT for all businesses deferred until end of June and the business loan scheme will now be interest free for 12 months Universal Credit allowance increases £1,000 a year and the next tax self-assessments will be deferred until start of next year Self-employed will get full Universal Credit at a rate equivalent to statutory sick pay, and a further £1bn to cover 30% of house rental costs Further measures next week (w/c 23 March) to ensure SMEs will be able to access the credit they need 	20 March	<p>Many of the measures will be implemented at Government level.</p> <p>Grant applications can be made through HMRC - 0800 0159 559 with information available from the Chamber's Information team</p>	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19

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