

COVID-19

Coronavirus briefing, helpful advice and tips – 28 June 2021



At the time of writing, there is a delay to the easing of lockdown in England by the Government, possibly until 19 July 2021, subject to review. So here is an update on some of the coronavirus support available for businesses. Please see relevant Government online pages for [Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#).

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) – aka the furlough scheme

The Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) for furloughed staff is not expected to be extended, after its anticipated closing date of 30 September 2021.

Employers can currently claim for up to 80% of workers' salaries for time they haven't worked, worth up to £2,500 a month, while they meet the cost of National Insurance payments and pension contributions.

- **Claims for furlough payments in June** must be made by 14 July 2021. You can no longer submit claims for claim periods ending on or before 31 October 2020.
- **From 1 July 2021** employers will be asked to pay 10% of their workers' salaries for time that they haven't worked, up to £312.50. The Government will cover the remaining 70% up to £2,187.50.
- **From 1 August 2021 until the scheme ends**, employers will be expected to contribute 20% of employees' unworked earnings up to £625; the Government will contribute 60% up to £1,875.

To find out about claiming and to apply online [visit the Government website](#).

Coronavirus Recovery Loan Scheme

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) was introduced by the Government from the start of the new tax year on 6 April 2021.

The scheme gives lenders a guarantee of 80% on eligible loans between £25,000 and £10 million, to give them confidence in continuing to provide finance to UK businesses.

The RLS is open to all businesses, including those who have already received support under the existing COVID-

19 guaranteed loan schemes. It is initially available through [lenders accredited by the British Business Bank](#).

The Restart Grant scheme is open

The Restart Grant scheme, open since 1 April 2021, offers a one-off cash payment. Eligible businesses in the non-essential retail sector could get up to £6,000 from their local council. Those in the hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym sectors may be entitled to up to £18,000. [Read more in our article](#).

Help to Grow

The new Help to Grow initiative for small businesses will start in the autumn. It will allow them to access discounted software and advice, as well as subsidised training in areas such as financial management and marketing. You can find out [more about it here](#).

Fifth Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grant

Claims for the fourth SEISS grant closed on 1 June. The fifth SEISS grant covering May 2021 to September 2021 will open to claims **from late July**.

To be eligible for the grant, an individual must be self-employed or a member of a partnership. They must have traded in the tax year 2019/2020 and submitted their tax return on or before 2 March 2021, and also have traded in the tax year 2020/21.

The amount of the fifth grant will be determined by how much an individual's turnover has been reduced in the year April 2020 to April 2021.

In mid-July HMRC will contact individuals who are eligible based on their tax returns to give them a date from which they can make their claim. [Read more from the Government on the grant](#).

Schemes closed to new applications

Applications for the COVID Corporate Financing Facility, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme have now closed.

Help with Bounce Back Loan repayments

The BBLS closed to new applications and top-up applications on 31 March 2021. Many small businesses will soon be required to begin repaying loans taken out under the Government's Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS).

The BBLS helped to support businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and permitted firms to apply for a minimum of £2,000, up to a maximum of £50,000, or 25% of business turnover, with the government paying the interest for the first 12 months.

Many businesses have asked banks for more time to repay their BBLs loans. Some of these businesses have opted to extend the loan term from six years to ten years. However, for those firms who have stuck to the original terms, they are required to begin repaying after the 12-month payment holiday.

Businesses can choose to use the Government's Pay as You Grow initiative, which gives firms the option to extend the length of their loan from six to ten years; make interest-only payments for six months; or pause repayments entirely for up to six months.

The British Business Bank has [more details on the Pay as You Grow scheme](#).

Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRS)

The last payment cycle for the [Local Restrictions Support Grant \(LRS\)](#) scheme closed to new applications on 31 May 2021.

The LRS was for businesses that were open as usual, but then required to close due to national lockdowns imposed by Government.

If you haven't received your payment by 30 June 2021 please contact your local council.

We can help

There are often a range of solutions available depending on your circumstances. [Do get in touch](#) to discuss these in more detail.