

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Assistance for UK Businesses

The Government has announced several substantial financial packages and schemes in order to ease the financial impact on UK businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak.

A [Coronavirus Support Finder](#) has also been announced (20 April) for businesses and individuals to use in order to work out which schemes they will be eligible for.

Here is a breakdown of what has been announced over the past few weeks and how you might be able to get assistance with your business finances. These schemes and reliefs are extremely fluid and are **subject to daily changes**.

LOANS AND FINANCING

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)

The British Business Bank (BBB) will be providing guarantees (up to 80%) on facilities of between £1,000 and £5m per business through the CBILS, which will temporarily replace the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG). This is the existing Government-backed scheme which guarantees lending from banks and other institutions on facilities such as **overdrafts, invoice and asset finance** to business borrowers with little or no security.

The **Government will pay interest on the loans for the first 12 months**, as well **any lender-levied charges**.

The scheme **was launched on 23 March 2020, and expanded on 3 April 2020**. Businesses should contact one or more of the BBB's [accredited lenders and partners](#) to find out how to apply. General eligibility and application guidance can be found on the BBB's site, [here](#).

CBILS will be offered by lenders as an option to successful applicants if they cannot provide finance on normal commercial terms.

Key points to note on CBILS

- Facilities of **up to £5m**;
- **Up to 80% guarantee on each loan** (depending on loan size). **Guarantee is to the lender**, not the business. **Borrower is liable for 100% of the facility and any interest following the initial 12 month period**;
- Facility must be for **UK-based business activity**;
- Have an **annual turnover of no more than £45 million in the preceding 12 months**;
 - If the applicant is a group company, this limit applies to the entire group combined. **More than one company in a group can apply, but the combined turnover cannot exceed the £45m threshold.**
- Business generates **more than 50% of turnover from trading activity**.
- Offered **primarily to SMEs** (250 employees or fewer);
- **No longer limited to businesses that have been refused loans on commercial terms**;
- **No personal guarantees of any form for facilities below £250,000**;
- For facilities **above £250,000**, personal guarantees may still be required **at a lender's discretion** but:
 - Excludes the Principal Private Residence (PPR), **only business/investment assets**; and
 - **Capped at a maximum of 20% of the outstanding balance of the CBILS facility** after the proceeds of business assets have been applied.

- **Applicants must:**
 - Have a **'sound borrowing proposal'** which the lender would consider viable, were it not for the current pandemic;
 - **Self-certify** that it has been **adversely impacted by the coronavirus.**
- The following businesses **cannot apply**:
 - Banks, insurers and reinsurers (but not insurance brokers);
 - Public-sector bodies;
 - Further-education establishments (if they are grant-funded); and
 - State-funded primary and secondary schools.
- Repayment terms **up to six years** for term loans and asset finance; **up to three years** for overdrafts and invoice finance;
- **De Minimis state aid has been removed as a restriction** on applying for CBILS;
- As at 3 April, CBILS can now support lending to smaller businesses **even where a lender considers there to be sufficient security**, making more, smaller businesses eligible;
- Where there is sufficient security available, **it is likely that the lender will take such security in support of a CBILS facility.**

Prior to applying, **applicants should ideally have the following information ready** as evidence that the borrower can repay the loan (although these will vary from lender to lender):

- a cash flow statement for the next 3-6 months;
- a 'sound borrowing proposal' or business plan;
- details of assets;
- latest year end accounts; and
- Latest management accounts (profit & loss account and balance sheet).

Bounce Back Loan

A key [announcement](#) on 27 April 2020 gave smaller firms hope that easier access to crisis loans and finance offered by the government's partner banks was soon to be arriving.

The [Bounce Back](#) loan scheme launched on 4 May 2020 and will aim to fill the gaps left by unsuccessful applications by SMEs for CBILS. Eligible businesses need to apply through the British Business Bank's [accredited lenders](#), which include a mix of high street banks, specialist business lenders and peer-to-peer lenders.

Key points to note on the Bounce Back scheme

- **100% backed** by government;
 - The government will **provide the lender** with a guarantee the entire loan amount.
- Can borrow **between £2,000 and £50,000 – up to 25% of a business' turnover**;
- Loan terms of **up to six years**;
- **No repayments, interest or fees for first 12 months** – fixed rate of 2.5% thereafter;
- Funds provided **within a few days** of approval (some small loans provided within 24 hours);
- A short-form, seven question **online application**;
- **Cannot apply if already claiming under the CBILS**, but if you've already received a loan of up to £50,000 under CBILS, **you can transfer it** into the Bounce Back Loan scheme. This can be arranged with the lender until 4 November 2020;
- **No early repayment fees.**

You **can apply** if your business:

- Is **UK-based**;
- Has been **negatively affected by coronavirus**; and
- Was **not an 'undertaking in difficulty' on 31 December 2019**.
 - One definition of 'undertaking in difficulty' (in the case of limited companies) is that the business has **losses worth 50% of its subscribed share capital**.

You **CANNOT apply** if your business is a:

- Bank, insurer or reinsurer (insurance brokers can apply);
- Public-sector body;
- Grant-funded further-education establishment; or
- State-funded primary or secondary school.

Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS)

A further expansion to the government-backed loan schemes made available to UK businesses comes in the form of [the CLBILS](#), announced on 3 April (additional details [announced](#) on 16 April) and **launched on 20 April 2020**.

Similarly to CBILS, the government will provide a guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make **loans of up to £50 million** available through the BBB's [accredited lenders](#) to **viable businesses**.

Key points to note on CLBILS

Basic eligibility requirements released so far are that **applicants for CLBILS must:**

- be UK-based in its business activity;
- have an **annual turnover of over £45 million** (upper cap of £500m has now been lifted);
 - Financing of up to £25m available to these firms, but **up to £200m** (increased from £50m, [announced](#) on 19 May) is available for firms **with turnover of over £250m**.
- Finance terms of **three months to three years**;
- Loan size **capped at 25% of turnover**;
- be unable to secure regular commercial financing;
- have a borrowing proposal which the lender:
 - would consider viable, were it not for the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - believes will enable you to trade out of any short-term to medium-term difficulty
- **Have not have received a facility** under the Bank of England's **Covid Corporate Financing Facility** (CCFF);
- **Businesses from any sector can apply**, except for the following: credit institutions, insurers and reinsurers; building societies; public-sector bodies; further-education establishments (if they are grant funded); or state-funded primary and secondary schools.

Borrowers will need to show evidence of their ability to repay the loan, which will likely include management accounts, cash flow forecast, business plan, historic accounts and details of assets.

Future Fund

On 20 April, the government announced support schemes for innovative businesses in the UK tech/R&D sectors, including initiatives that will provide co-investment, loans and grants (totalling £1.25bn).

£500m of this will go into the [Future Fund](#), ([opened for applications](#) on **20 May 2020**) which will offer convertible loans of £125k-£5m to innovative, high growth UK companies. The government will provide £250m of this, with the other half being contributed by third-party investors.

In return for the finance, the Government will [take a share](#) of the company on the next funding round. The full headline terms can be found [here](#) and the standard form Convertible Loan Agreement can be found [here](#).

The target of the scheme is high growth, UK-based early stage companies, and will match investments by private investors.

Key points to note on the Future Fund

- Loans of between **£125k and £5m**;
 - There is **no cap on the amount the matched investor(s) can loan to the company**, therefore no cap on the aggregate bridge funding.
- Funding must only be used for **working capital purposes only**:
 - Must **not** be used to pay off other borrowings, make dividend or bonus payments, or use it pay any advisory or placement fees or bonuses to external advisers.
- Term of a maximum of 36 months;
- An **interest rate of 8% per annum** to be paid on maturity of the loan (unless a higher rate is agreed between the borrower and match investors);
- Scheme **launching on 20 May and is open until the end of September 2020** (to be kept under review and extended if necessary and feasible);
- Main eligibility requirements are that the borrower must:
 - Be a **UK-incorporated (unlisted) company** (if part of a group, only parent co can apply for this scheme);
 - Have **raised at least £250k** in equity investment from **private third party investors** over the **past 5 years**; and
 - Have a substantive economic presence in the UK.
- Funding will **automatically convert into equity on next qualifying funding round** at a minimum conversion discount of 20%;
- If the company is a member of a corporate group, the ultimate parent company (if a UK registered company) will receive the loan.

The remaining £750 million in that pot will provide support to SMEs focusing on research and development through **Innovate UK's grants and loan scheme**:

- Innovate UK will accelerate up to £200m of grant and loan payments for its 2,500 existing Innovate UK customers on an opt-in basis;
- Remaining £550 million will be made available to increase support for existing customers and **£175,000 of support will be offered to around 1,200 firms not currently in receipt of Innovate UK funding**;

Start Up Loan

An additional scheme open to smaller businesses which want to borrow lower amounts (particularly start-ups) is the [Start Up Loan](#).

This is a government-backed personal loan available to individuals looking to start or grow a business in the UK. Successful applicants also receive 12-months of free mentoring and business offers. The support made available to applicants, as well as the flexible amounts and terms available.

Some basic points to note on the loan are:

- **All owners or partners in a business can individually [apply](#)** for up to £25,000 each, with a maximum of £100,000 available per business;
- The loan is **unsecured** - no need to put forward any assets or guarantors;
- Loans of **£500-£25,000**;
- **Fixed interest rate of 6%** per annum;
- Repayment **terms of 1-5 years**; and
- **No application or set-up fees.**
- Applicants must meet **all** of the following requirements:
 - you **live in the UK**;
 - you're **18 or over**; and
 - you **have (or plan to start) a UK-based business that's been fully trading for less than 24 months.**

Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF)

The **CCFF** is a way that larger, non-financial firms - including subsidiaries of overseas companies - affected by a short-term funding squeeze (but were otherwise strong before the crisis) can deal with their short-term liabilities such as wages and paying suppliers. CCFF is open to firms that can **demonstrate they were in sound financial health prior to the shock.**

The CCFF will support corporate finance markets overall and help to free up credit for SMEs from banks. The scheme will be **available from the week commencing 23 March**.

The scheme will run *"for at least 12 months and for as long as steps are needed to relieve cash flow pressures on firms that make a material contribution to the UK economy."*

The Government is working with the Bank of England for a workaround for companies who don't have a credit rating (required for the CCFF) to construct one with their banks, therefore making it easier for those companies to benefit from the scheme.

Some features of the CCFF:

- **Minimum loan sizes of £1m** (*max. TBC*) with offers rounded to the closest £0.1m;
- Financing on "comparable terms to those prevailing in the market pre COVID-19".
- To provide **funding to pay wages, suppliers, or to boost cash flow.**

A list of the banks participating in the CCFF and related information about applying can be found [here](#), but in short the main banks taking part are:

- Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, Natwest, Bank of America, Citibank, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Standard Chartered.

Quick Eligibility Guide to Government Loan Schemes

Here is a reference guide to the basis eligibility criteria which the government has provided – 'X' denotes a 'Yes' answer/indication:

| Firm Size | Turnover < £45m | Turnover > £45m | Investment grade |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bounce Back Loans (up to £50,000) | X | X | X |
| Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) | X | | |
| Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) | | X | X |
| Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) | | | X |
| Job Retention Scheme | X | X | X |
| Business Grants (dependent on rateable value of the property) | X | X | X |
| VAT deferrals | X | X | X |
| Covering the cost of statutory sick pay | X | X | X |
| Future Fund (only if VC funded) | X | X | |

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| JOB AND INCOME PROTECTION |
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| Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme |
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The [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) (CJRS) is available for **any employer**, who will be reimbursed for **80% of the salary** of **employees and workers paid through PAYE** that **would otherwise have been laid off/at risk of redundancy during the crisis, up to £2,500 per month** (before the usual income tax and other deductions):

- Will **cover everybody on the PAYE scheme** - i.e. those with a set of regular earnings – including businesses, charities, recruitment agencies (agency workers paid through PAYE) and public authorities;
- Employers having the option to top this up. This can be **backdated to 1 March 2020**;
- Scheme will last until the **end of October 2020** (extended on 12 May by four months):
 - From the **start of August**, furloughed workers will be able to **return to work part-time**. From then, employers will be asked to pay a percentage towards the furlough salaries:
 - **From August**, employers will contribute to wages and contributions of furloughed staff:

| MONTH | GOVERNMENT | EMPLOYER |
|--------------------|---|--|
| June / July | 80% of wages up to £2,500 per month, National Insurance and pension contributions | None (top up to 100% optional, but not subsidised) |
| August | 80% of wages up to £2,500 per month | National Insurance and pension contributions |
| September | 70% of wages up to £ 2,190 per month | 10% of furlough wages, National Insurance and pension contributions |
| October | 60% of wages up to £1,875 per month | 20% of furlough wages, National Insurance and pension contributions |

- Employers will also have the option, from 1 July to us a 'flexible furlough,' whereby employees will be able to come back to work for a certain number of days per week, while remaining on furlough for the other days of the week.
 - The existing CJRS scheme will close to new entrants on June 30, and last applications by 10 June (allowing for the minimum furlough period).
- PAYE staff **can be furloughed multiple times**, but **must be furloughed for a minimum of 3 consecutive weeks at a time**;
- Will mean that **workers in any part of the UK can retain their job**, even if employers can't pay their salary;
- The grant can be claimed by employers for any of the following groups, **if they are paid via PAYE**:
 - **Office holders** (including company directors, but must be done by way of formal resolution of the board of directors, minuted and confirmed in writing);
 - **Salaried members of Limited Liability Partnerships** (LLPs);
 - **Agency workers** (including those employed by umbrella companies); and
 - **Limb (b) workers** (i.e. 'self-employed' workers providing services for someone else).
- The 80% now **includes salary/wages, past overtime, 'fees' and contractual commission** (**not** discretionary commission and/or bonuses);

- A furloughed worker **cannot undertake work for or on behalf of the organisation**. This includes providing services or generating revenue. **Training is permitted**, as long as the worker does not provide services to or generate revenue for the employer;
- Where **training is undertaken at the request of their employer**, furloughed workers are entitled to be paid at least their appropriate national minimum wage for this time. If the time spent training attracts a minimum wage entitlement in excess of the furlough payment, **employers will need to pay the additional wages**.
- Employers can **now also claim the associated Employer National Insurance contributions** and **minimum automatic enrolment employer pension contributions** on those wages;
- Open **to all UK employers** that had **created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 19 March 2020**, have **enrolled for PAYE online** and **have a UK bank account**;
- Any entity with a UK payroll can apply, including businesses, charities, **recruitment agencies** and **public authorities**.
- Scheme will be **open for at least 3 months** and could be extended if needed, with no limit on funds. The first grants will be **paid before the end of April**;
- Understood that the wage subsidy will apply to firms **where bosses have already had to lay off workers** due to the coronavirus, **as long as they are brought back into the workforce and instead granted a leave of absence**;
- The scheme **will include those workers who pay themselves a salary and dividends** through their own company and operating a PAYE scheme;
- Furloughed workers planning to take paid parental or adoption leave **will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate**, the government announced today (announced on 24 April 2020);
- If you have **already issued P45s** to any employees – you will need to seek specialist employment law advice.

Others eligible for CJRS include:

- Employers/workers on **any type of employment contract**, including **full-time, part-time, agency, flexible or zero-hour contracts**. **Foreign nationals are also eligible** to be furloughed;
- Employees on **unpaid leave**, but **only where that unpaid leave started after 28 February 2020**. If an employee went on unpaid leave **on or before 28 February**, you cannot furlough them until the date on which it was agreed they would return from unpaid leave
- Employees which have **more than one employer (can be furloughed for each job)**. The **cap applies to each employer individually**. Can receive a furloughed payment from one employer **but continue working for another employer and receive their normal wages**.
- Agency Workers (**including those employed by umbrella companies which operate PAYE schemes**). Will be for the umbrella company and the worker to agree whether to furlough the worker or not.
- The rules around **annual leave during furlough** are currently unclear, but general view at the moment is that taking annual leave **will not break the furlough period**.

To claim under the scheme, **employers will need:**

- **ePAYE reference number;**
- **Number of employees being furloughed;**
- **Claim period** (start and end date);
- **Amount claimed** (per the minimum length of **3 consecutive weeks**);
- **Bank account number and sort code;** and
- **Contact name** and **phone number** for the business making a claim.

The Government has [added a quick guide](#) to who can benefit from the CJRS:

| Was the employee employed with you as of this date? | Date RTI submission notifying payment was made to HMRC | Eligible for CJRS? |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| 28 February 2020 | On or before 28 February 2020 | Yes |
| 28 February 2020 | On or before 19 March 2020 | Yes |
| 28 February 2020 | On or after 20 March 2020 | No |
| 19 March 2020 | On or before 19 March 2020 | Yes |
| 19 March 2020 | On or after 20 March 2020 | No |
| On or after 20 March 2020 | On or after 20 March 2020 | No |

Self Employed Income Support Scheme

From 1 June 2020, the [Self Employed Income Support Scheme](#) (SEISS) will provide a **second, final taxable grant worth 70% of average monthly profits** over the **past 3 years, up to a maximum of £6,570 for the three month period** (June, July and August 2020).

[Eligible businesses](#) and self-employed people can now claim under the scheme, and successful applicants will receive the lump sum, taxable grant payment **within 6 working days** of applying.

*****If eligible businesses haven't yet applied for the first grant (80% of three months' of average taxable profits, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month) they can do so on or before 13 July 2020*****

The scheme is available to the self-employed with:

- **trading profits of less than £50,000 in 2018-19**; or
- **an average trading profit of less than £50,000** from 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19

Other requirements are that it is available to those who are:

- Making **more than half of their income from self-employed work**; and
- **Already in self-employed work with a tax return for 2019.**

Eligible parties will then need to complete an online form to receive the grant, with payments made into the recipient's bank account.

For those workers who don't have three years of tax returns (but more than one):

- will have profits for those periods averaged out to calculate the grant;
- If there is only one year of returns, then it will be assessed on that basis; and
- Those with no filings will be missed; otherwise there is a greater risk of fraud.

Non-UK residents may still be eligible to claim for this scheme if they're self-employed and are either:

- Not resident in the UK; or
- Resident in the UK and have chosen the [remittance basis](#) (i.e. resident but do not live permanently in the UK and have foreign income and gains).

Applicants would have to confirm to HMRC that their **UK trading profits are at least equal to your other worldwide income.**

Before grant payments are made under the scheme, self-employed workers also have access to:

- **Self-assessment deferrals** (deferred to January 2021);
- **CBILS**, and **business continuity loans where they have a business bank account** (subject to the lenders' normal requirements);
- **Universal credit in full** (subject to normal eligibility), Minimum Income Floor (MIF) suspended for the purposes of Universal Credit calculations, which can equate to up to £1,800 per month.
 - People can get an **advanced payment from DWP on Universal Credit**, as well as access to **Housing Allowance**.

SEISS is **not available** to those **who pay themselves a salary and dividends through their own company** (covered by the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme if they are operating PAYE schemes instead), but **is available to members of partnerships.**

BUSINESS GRANTS AND RELIEFS (England)

Non-repayable cash grants are available to small businesses in England with business properties (other UK countries have their own, comparable schemes).

The grants are for properties which are **occupied and wholly or mainly being used**: As shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues; for assembly and leisure; as hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation.

| SCHEME | AMOUNT | ELIBILITY | EXCLUSIONS |
|---|--|--|--|
| Business Rates discount | 100% discount | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All businesses in the leisure, retail and hospitality and nursery sectors; Includes estate agents, lettings agencies and bingo halls; Discount applies from 1 April 2020, to cover 2020/21 rates period. | Financial services, banks, building societies, cash points, bureaux de change, payday lenders, Medical services, Vets Dentists, Doctors, Osteopaths, chiropractors, Professional services, Solicitors, Accountants, Insurance, agents/ financial advisers, Post office sorting offices |
| Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) | £10,000 per property | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All businesses with a property that on the 11 March 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> were eligible for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) Scheme (including those with a Rateable Value between £12,000 and £15,000 which receive tapered relief); Businesses which on 11 March 2020 were eligible for relief under the Rural Rate Relief. | Cannot be claimed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or over; Properties occupied for personal uses, (i.e. private stables, loose boxes, beach huts, moorings); Car parks and spaces; or Businesses which as of the 11 March were in liquidation or were dissolved. |
| Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) | £10,000 per property | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses in these industries with Properties which on the 11 March 2020 had: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rateable value of up to and including £15,000 and would have been eligible for a discount under the business rates Expanded Retail Discount Scheme had that scheme been in force are eligible for the grant. | As above for SBGF |
| Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (RHLG) | £25,000 per property | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties which on the 11 March 2020 had: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000 and would have been eligible for a discount under the business rates Expanded Retail Discount Scheme had that scheme been in force are eligible for the grant. | As above for SBGF/RHLG |
| Discretionary local business grant fund | Capped at £25,000; other grants of £10,000 or under available at discretion of local authorities | Discretionary fund to assist certain small businesses previously outside the above scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 50 employees and able to demonstrate a significant drop of income due to Coronavirus. In shared spaces, market traders, small charity properties that would meet the criteria for SBRR, bed and breakfasts paying council tax rather than business rates. | Grants provided at discretion of local authorities (businesses will need to make contact with their LA in order to apply). |

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| OTHER RELIEFS AND MEASURES |
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- **Protection against eviction for commercial tenants** – the Government announced on 23 March that **no businesses will be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment in the next three months because of COVID-19**. The Government is also considering the impact on commercial landlords' cash flow and will build in support for them also.
 - No business will automatically forfeit their lease and be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment **up until 30 June**. There is the option for the government to extend this period if needed.
 - This is **not a rental holiday**. All commercial tenants will still be liable for the rent.
 - The [Coronavirus Act 2020](#) (now in force) **no need to apply**;
- **New insolvency rules** – the Government announced changes to the law on 28 March which will allow UK companies undergoing rescue/restructure to continue trading and possibly avoid insolvency flowing from the crisis:
 - **Wrongful trading provisions will be suspended retrospectively from 1 March 2020 for three months** for company directors. This will allow them keep businesses going without personal liability;
 - In practical terms, this means that **directors will be able to continue paying staff and suppliers**, even if there are fears the company could become insolvent.
- **Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme** - the Government will be providing support by way of rebates on SSP for staff members who decide to self-isolate. An extra £2billion is being made available to up to 2 million businesses with **fewer than 250 employees as at 28 February 2020**.
 - The rebates will cover the **first two weeks of SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19**. SSP is currently £94.25 per week, subject to changes the Government will make over the coming days and weeks.
 - SSP will be available to staff required to self-isolate, without the requirement to obtain a sick note from a doctor and even if they are not displaying symptoms. After seven days of absence, staff will be able to obtain an **"isolation note" via the NHS 111 online service**. This can be obtained [here](#).
 - **Applications for the scheme will be open from 26 May 2020:**
 - Employers will:
 - Be able to make claims **through a new online service**;
 - Receive **repayments at the relevant rate of SSP paid to current or former employees** for eligible periods of sickness, starting on or after 13 March 2020;
 - Be able to **instruct tax agents** to make claims on their behalf.
- **Tax payment deferrals** - You **do not need to tell HMRC** that you are deferring payment. No interest or charges will be payable either:
 - **VAT payment deferral** - No VAT will be payable from now until the end of the quarter. This means a direct injection of £30bn (1.5% of GDP) until end of financial year. **The deferral will apply from 20 March until 30 June 2020**. If you choose to defer your VAT payment as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), **you must pay the VAT due on or before 31 March 2021**;
 - **Self-Assessment payment on account deferral** - If you're due to pay **your second self-assessment payment on account by 31 July 2020**, you have an option to **defer payment until January 2021**. You do not need to self-employed to be eligible.

- **Insurance claims** – businesses (such as venues, pubs etc.) will **now be able to claim** under **business interruption insurances** which cover pandemics due to the Government's actions/policies.
 - Businesses with **event cancellation policies** that include **unspecified notifiable disease extensions** should be able to make a claim for the necessary and unavoidable cancellation, abandonment, curtailment, postponement and disruption of their event for reasons beyond the control of organisers and participants (subject to the other terms and exclusions of their policy). Specific policy wording should be checked.
- **Time to Pay service** - all businesses and self-employed people in financial distress (and with outstanding tax liabilities) could be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs from HMRC.
 - These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities. HMRC's dedicated helpline - 0800 0159 559.
- **Research and Development (R&D) cash acceleration** – Companies can obtain between 10% and 33% in cash from HMRC on qualifying R&D spend. There are also specialist lenders who will provide finance against the credits which will assist in generating and maintaining cash flow.
- **Accounts filing extension** - From 25 March 2020, businesses will be able to [apply](#) for a 3-month extension for filing their accounts. This is a joint initiative between the Government and Companies House, meaning businesses can prioritise managing the impact of Coronavirus.

POST-CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS INITIATIVES AND PLANS

On 8 June, Business Secretary Alok Sharma [announced](#) that the government has created ministerial-led task forces focused on the recovery and safe reopening of businesses in the UK.

New 'recovery roundtables' will aim to bring together businesses, representative groups and leading academics to consider measures to support economic recovery over the next 18 months.

There will also be a focus on the UK being placed at the forefront of new and emerging industries.

There will be **5 key themes**, focusing on how these groups can "work with government to deliver economic growth and jobs":

- **The future of industry:** How to [accelerate business innovation](#) and leverage private sector investment in research and development.
- **Green recovery:** How to capture [economic growth opportunities](#) from the [shift to net zero carbon emissions](#).
- **Backing new businesses:** How to make the UK the best place in the world to [start and scale a business](#).
- **Increasing opportunity:** How to level up economic performance across the UK, including through [skills and apprenticeships](#).
- **The UK open for business:** How to win and retain [more high value investment for the UK](#).

Details of the groups and participants in the groups are due to be published shortly.