



# COVID-19 financial support for SME's



## Job Retention Scheme

- Under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, HMRC will reimburse 80% of 'furloughed workers' wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Employers can choose to top up this amount.
- To access the scheme employers need to (i) designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers,' and notify employees of this change; and (ii) submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been furloughed and their earnings through a new online portal (details to follow)
- Changing the status of employees remains subject to existing employment law and may be subject to negotiation.
- HMRC are working urgently to set up a system for reimbursement and the intention to start payments in April.
- KPMG is clarifying with HMRC how certain aspects of the scheme will operate.



## Business Interruption Loans

- Under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) UK businesses with annual turnover of no more than **£45m** can borrow up to **£5m interest-free for 12 months** under a British Business Bank (BBB) scheme where the Government provides the lender with a guarantee for **80%** of each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) and covers the cost of the first 12 months of interest.
- The scheme will launch during the w/c **23 March 2020**.
- Access to CBILS is through [40 BBB accredited lenders](#)
- Further details on CBILS can be found [here](#).
- Businesses should speak to their existing bank lender(s) if they wish to access CBILS.



## Business rate reliefs

- 12-month business rates holiday for all **retail, hospitality and leisure** businesses in **England and Scotland** for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.
- UK Government guidance can be found [here](#) and Scottish Government guidance [here](#).
- Your local authority should adjust the next council tax bill to remove the business rates charge.
- You can estimate the saving for your business using this [calculator](#) (based on English rates).
- In Northern Ireland no rates will be charged for April-June 2020 for all business ratepayers excluding public sector & utilities.
- There are also reliefs in Wales for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses.
- Businesses may also be able to request Hardship Relief via their local authority.



## Grants

- Under the Retail and Hospitality Grant Scheme businesses can access cash grants of **£25,000** for each property in England with a rateable value of **£15,001-£51,000** and **£10,000** for each property in England with a rateable value of **£15,000 or lower**.
- Details of the properties that will benefit from the relief can be found [here](#).
- Small businesses which occupy premises in England and already receive small business rate relief or rural rate relief are eligible for a one-off grant of **£10,000** to help meet their ongoing business costs.
- Scotland & Wales have announced similar grant schemes.
- Your local authority should be able to confirm if you are eligible for a grant.



## Tax measures

- Businesses can defer VAT payments which would have been due between 20 March and 30 June 2020 until 31 March 2021.
- Self-employed individuals with income tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system can defer payment until January 2021.
- HMRC have also scaled up their 'Time to Pay' service and requests can be made to defer other tax payments including corporation tax and PAYE which are due (or overdue) to HMRC by calling a dedicated HMRC Coronavirus helpline on **0800 015 9559**.
- 3 month deferrals have been agreed through this process during the last week.

## Statutory Sick Pay

- Businesses with less than 250 employees can obtain a refund from the Government for Statutory Sick Pay paid for up to 2 weeks' absence due to COVID-19. This also covers absence due to self-isolating in line with Government advice.
- See [our article](#) for details.

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