



This is the twenty fourth in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information

Local coronavirus restrictions introduced to control Covid-19 in Torfaen

Coronavirus laws are being further tightened in Torfaen Monday 28 September in response to a rising rate of Covid-19 cases in the borough and due to Torfaen's proximity to neighbouring areas where numbers are significantly higher. This follows a meeting on Sunday between Welsh Government Ministers and the Leader of Torfaen Council, Cllr Anthony Hunt.

The restrictions, which will apply to everyone living in Torfaen are:

- People will not be allowed to enter or leave Torfaen without a reasonable excuse, such as travel for work or education;
- People will only be able to meet people they don't live with outdoors for the time being. They will not be able to form, or be in, extended households (sometimes known as 'bubbles'). This means meeting indoors (in people's houses, in a pub or elsewhere) with anyone you don't live with is not allowed at the moment unless you have a good reason, such as providing care to a vulnerable person.
- All licensed premises have to stop serving alcohol at 10pm. See below for details on the hospitality sector
- Everyone over 11 will be required to wear face coverings in indoor places, which are open to the public, such as shops, as well as on public transport – as is the case in the rest of Wales. (There are some limited exemptions for people with disabilities and medical conditions – these are the same as for public transport).



COVID-19: Welsh Government update for the hospitality sector

Hospitality businesses in Wales will have to close at 10pm, as new measures are introduced in Wales to prevent a fresh coronavirus crisis.

Hospitality businesses will have to provide table service only from Thursday 24 September 2020 and all off-licences, including supermarkets, will have to stop selling alcohol at 10pm.

The new measures are part of a package of co-ordinated actions to control the spread of coronavirus, which are being introduced across the UK. They will come into force in Wales at 6pm on Thursday, 24 September 2020.

To help further prevent the spread of coronavirus, the First Minister also announced:

- a new £500 payment to support people on low incomes who are asked to self-isolate if they have coronavirus
- strengthened regulations to ensure employers support people who need to self-isolate

More information at [GOV.Wales](https://gov.wales)

HSE Covid-19 updates for your business

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published a range of coronavirus-related guidance and information, which your business may find useful. It includes:

- [Social distancing in the workplace](#) – social distancing means keeping people apart to help reduce the spread of COVID-19
- [Drivers' welfare](#) – duty holders sites where loading or unloading happens must take reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of drivers delivering and collecting
- [Cleaning your workplace](#) – how to clean your workplace to reduce risk from coronavirus



Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from October 2020

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will close on 31 October 2020.

Just a reminder about the changes to the CJRS for October.

For October: The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.

HMRC is offering further guidance and live webinars on changes to the scheme and how they impact businesses are available to book online.

Please visit gov.uk website for further details.

[Guidance:](#)

[Help & Support:](#)

[Changes:](#)

Welsh Government further extends measures to protect businesses impacted by coronavirus from eviction until end of year

As part of action to support the business community amid continuing hardship due to Covid-19 the moratorium against forfeiture for the non-payment of rent, which was due to end on 30 September, will now run up to and include 31 December, 2020.

Rent due should continue to be paid whenever possible, but the latest measure will ensure no business is forced out of its premises if it misses a payment between now and the end of 2020.

For further information please visit the [GOV.Wales website.](#)



Torfaen County Borough Council Business Consultation

Temporary Traffic Management COVID Measures for Torfaen Town Centres

Consultation ends TOMORROW Friday 2nd October 2020 5pm

Torfaen County Borough Council are inviting Torfaen businesses to give their views on the proposed temporary traffic management COVID measures. These changes are intended to support social distancing. [Click here for full details:](#)

For further information and to provide feedback please contact:

Craig Williams - Highways & Transportation, Torfaen County Borough Council

Telephone: 01495 742423/07980 682801 Email: craig.williams@torfaen.gov.uk

Funding package for sport and leisure sector in Wales

The Welsh Government has announced a £14 million fund to support the sport and leisure sector in Wales. The fund will provide essential support to sports clubs and organisations, independent providers and sporting events that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding package will be managed by Sport Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Read more about the fund at [GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales) and [Sports Wales](https://sports.wales):



Wales Cultural Recovery Fund Freelancer Grant Scheme (Torfaen)

The Welsh Government Wales Cultural Recovery Fund Freelancer Grant Scheme aims to provide eligible applicants with a grant of £2,500 each. Each local authority area has been allocated a set proportion of the budget – Torfaen County Borough Council has been allocated £222,500 to support 89 applications.

Support is being made available to assist freelancer professionals whose work has direct creative/cultural outcomes, and who work in the four key sub sectors:

The Arts; Creative Industries; Arts and Heritage Events; Culture and Heritage.

Applicants will also be eligible to apply if they are employed part-time and also have a freelance professional creative practice.

Freelancers that received previous support from either the Government Job Retention Scheme and Self-employment Income Support Scheme and are experiencing financial challenges are still eligible to apply for this fund. Further details will be available in due course at <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/> and <https://www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk/en/home.aspx>

The Wales Cultural Recovery Fund Freelancer Grant Scheme will open on Monday 5th October.

Are you looking for funding to support your business needs?

The Development Bank of Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council – Economy & Enterprise team are delighted to be holding a **Business Support Clinic from 10.00 – 16:00**

TODAY! Thursday 1st October 2020 Virtual On line Business Support Clinic

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

As locally based representatives we are dedicated to ensuring that the businesses we work with secure the funding and support they need to help with start-up costs or to grow your existing business.

At the session, you can find out more about local support available for your business. Working together we can provide funding to start or expand a business, supporting you with funding in order to purchase new equipment or even to buy a business. Whether you're a start-up or existing business, book on talk to us about your business and future plans. To book a 10 minute chat please click the [link](#):



Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Paying grants back, over claims and penalties

Full guidance is available on how to pay all or some of your CJRS grant back if you've over claimed, or if you do not need the grant and want to make a voluntary repayment.

If you've over claimed and have not paid HMRC back you must notify HMRC by the latest of either:

- 90 days after the date you received the grant you were not entitled to
- 90 days after the date you received the grant that you were no longer entitled to keep because your circumstances changed
- 20 October 2020

If you do not do this, you may have to pay a penalty. Full details on all the above can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

FareShare's Surplus with Purpose £3 million Fund open for applications

FareShare's Surplus with Purpose is a £3 million Fund that provides funding of up to £50,000 to food businesses in the UK to offset the costs of sending good quality surplus food to good causes, helping the people most in need.

The fund is open to companies seeking to unlock new or hard to reach surplus (or 'waste') food, as well as those that haven't previously worked with FareShare. A wide range of types of food are eligible for support ([see FareShare website](#))

The funding can be used to cover:

- Additional staff costs needed for packing and sorting edible surplus food
- Building, implementing and managing new processes.
- Packaging and transportation costs,
- Lost income from the sale of surplus to animal feed or anaerobic digestion.

Funding applications can be submitted at any time. More information at <https://fareshare.org.uk/>



Popular Torfaen business club adapts during pandemic and see membership numbers increase

Torfaen Business Voice, a popular business networking club in south east Wales has not only seen membership recruitment numbers jump over the past few months with a stream of businesses signing up, but has also speedily adapted to the pandemic by offering regular online 'virtual' networking.

Membership now stands at over 80 and comprises existing businesses as well as start-ups across a wide range of sectors.

Always keen to adapt and provide new opportunities for members, the committee, led by local business people, quickly developed monthly 'virtual' meetings in place of 'in person' quarterly events. These have enabled members to continue regular networking, make new leads, share their experiences, provide support to each other as well as learn from others.

In addition Torfaen Business Voice has recently published its [quarterly magazine](#). This features case studies by members which focus on how they have approached sustaining and adapting their business in light of the COVID-19 situation.

A bumper crowd of business people attended the most recent 'virtual' meeting held on Thursday 17th September.

Carolyn Jenkins, Business Development Officer at Torfaen based law firm Rubin Lewis O' Brien said,

"The Torfaen business Voice meeting on the 17th September was very enjoyable, seeing contacts I have not seen for a while and being introduced to some new businesses - some of which had started during lockdown and some local businesses that have joined our friendly vibrant network. I am looking forward to the next meeting on **22nd October.**"

The business club actively welcomes new members and is continuing its offer of free online membership until the end of December 2020 to businesses and start-ups. Online 'virtual' meetings for members will be taking place in October and November.

More information about Torfaen Business Voice, how to join and the [list of current members](#) can be found at [Business Club](#)



Economy & Enterprise Team – Business Support - If you need to get in touch with an enquiry complete your [details here](#) and we will contact you as soon as possible.

COVID-19: [guidance for employees, employers and businesses](#)

COVID-19: [Support for businesses](#)

Watch our twitter for further updates [@Torfaenbiz](#)

All editions of our COVID-19 e-shot can be found/viewed [here](#)

All editions of our COVID-19 e-shot are also available in Welsh [here](#)