



## This is the twenty-ninth in our COVID 19 Business Support Information

### Update: ERF Restrictions financial support grants for Torfaen businesses

On the 30 November the First Minister for Wales announced a £340m package of support directed primarily at the hospitality, tourism and related supply chain sectors.

The purpose of the fund is to support businesses into the New Year with cash flow support to help them survive the economic consequences of the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 starting on Friday 4th December.

The fund consists of two separate grants:

1. ERF Restrictions Business Fund (via local authority)
2. ERF Sector Specific Support (via Welsh Government/Business Wales)

#### ERF Restrictions Business Fund:

The ERF Restrictions Business Fund will provide the following financial assistance:

- Businesses in the hospitality sectors that are in receipt of Small Business rate relief (SBRR) and have a rateable value of £12,000 or less will be eligible for a **£3,000 payment**. Tourism, leisure, retail and supply chain business qualifying for SBRR will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period.
- Hospitality businesses with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000 being **eligible for a £5,000 payment** if they are forced to close. Tourism, leisure, retail and supply chain business in the same rateable value bracket will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period.

#### How to access the ERF Restrictions Fund:

Businesses must be on the non-domestic rates (NDR) rating list for their local authority on 1 September.

**Hospitality businesses who received the Lockdown Business Grant in October via their Local Authority and who fall into the above 2 categories will begin receiving automatic payments via the ERF Restriction Fund into their bank account during December. These businesses will not be required to re-register their details.**

Further information will follow on how Hospitality businesses with a rateable value between £51,001 and £150,000 and other eligible businesses can apply to receive any of the ERF Restrictions Fund.



### **ERF Sector Specific Support:**

The ERF Sector Specific Support (operating cost) package is targeted at Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (HTL) businesses or supply chain companies who are materially impacted with a greater than 60% impact of turnover as a result of the restrictions.

Eligible businesses will have to be employing staff via PAYE, and either VAT registered or (exempt from VAT) with turnover above £85,000, or limited companies with turnover above £50,000.

Businesses who have accessed the ERF Restrictions Business Fund can also apply for this fund.

A triage tool will be available on the Business Wales website by Friday 11th of December for businesses to check their eligibility for the fund and the fund will open to applications on the week commencing the 11th of January.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

### **FURTHER INFORMATION & DETAILS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY**

**The above information is correct to the best of our knowledge at time of printing/publication and is subject to change.**

### **COVID-19: Further help for Welsh Food & Drink Manufacturers**

A range of easily accessible resources, including support hotlines and a self-assessment tool have been launched by a Welsh Government backed COVID-19 Resilience Group.

The Group brings together a number of specialist support organisations across Wales aimed at supporting the sector through the current challenges and future recovery

Dedicated hotlines enable food and drink manufacturers to efficiently obtain targeted support including business planning, finance, product, and trade development.

The downloadable resilience self-assessment tool helps companies determine their preparedness to handle current and future economic challenges.

Visit: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/foodanddrink/how-we-can-help/innovation-centres>



## **COVID-19: Restrictions in place for hospitality setting from 6pm 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Information has been produced and updated in consultation with the Hospitality sector for pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants. Key summary:

- All hospitality settings, including restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars can open indoors and outdoors for the consumption of food and non-alcoholic drinks but must close between 18:00 and 06:00 the next morning. Alcoholic drinks cannot be served or consumed at any time within these premises and this will be strictly enforced.
- Hotels and other accommodation providers can remain open and can serve food and non-alcoholic drinks in bar/restaurant areas within their premises up to 22:00 to residents, but must close by 18:00 to non-residents.
- Residents in hotels and other accommodation can order food and drink at any time for consumption in their own rooms, but this must not include alcohol after 22:00 and before 06:00 the next day.
- Takeaway services without a license to sell alcohol can sell food and non-alcoholic drinks for consumption off the premises at any time. Premises with a license for off-sales can continue to sell alcohol until 22:00 as part of the takeaway offer.

**All settings must keep in place measures to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus in their venues. These include measures around:**

<b>Controlled entry</b>	<b>Table service,</b>	<b>Payment</b>
<b>Physical distancing</b>	<b>Groups of up to 4</b>	<b>Face coverings</b>
<b>Contact details</b>		

Fuller details can be found at:

[COVID-19: Restrictions in place for hospitality settings from 18:00 on Friday 4th December \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales)

[Wales Guidance for Hospitality - UKHospitality](https://www.ukhospitalsity.gov.uk)



In addition updated guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses to keep employees and visitors safe during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic can be found at:

[Keep Wales Safe: guidance for tourism and hospitality \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Information on the package of sector specific support is available at:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

Cinemas, bowling alleys, bingo halls, soft-play areas, casinos, museums, galleries and heritage sites, and other indoor entertainment venues will shut, although outdoor visitor attractions will not be affected

### **Self-employment Income Support Scheme extension (3<sup>rd</sup> grant) now open for claims**

SEISS has been extended and the online service to claim the third grant is now open. Those eligible must make their claim on or before 29 January 2021.

If you were not eligible for the first and second grant based on the information in your Self-Assessment tax returns, you will not be eligible for the third.

To make a claim for the third grant your business must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021, which you reasonably believe will have a significant reduction in your profits.

The third taxable grant is worth 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.

The grant does not need to be repaid if you're eligible, but will be subject to Income Tax and self-employed National Insurance and must be reported on your 2020 to 2021 Self-Assessment tax return.

For further information, eligibility and how to claim please [visit](#)



## **HSE: Updated guidance on workplace ventilation**

HSE has updated its guidance on ventilation during the pandemic.

Good ventilation, together with social distancing, keeping your workplace clean and frequent handwashing, can help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus.

The guidance will help you identify poorly ventilated areas of your workplace and provides steps you can take to improve ventilation. It will apply in most workplaces. Topics include balancing ventilation with keeping people warm, natural ventilation, fans and cleaning units mechanical ventilation and ventilation in vehicles.

[Visit the HSE site for further information:](#)

## **Pay VAT deferred due to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Find out how to pay VAT payments deferred between 20 March and 30 June 2020.

You can:

- pay the deferred VAT in full on or before 31 March 2021
- opt in to the VAT deferral new payment scheme when it launches in 2021
- contact HMRC if you need more help to pay

**Check how you can [pay your deferred VAT](#).**

If you want to opt in to the new payment scheme: You cannot opt in yet. The online opt in process will be available in early 2021. You must opt in yourself; your agent cannot do this for you.

Instead of paying the full amount by the end of March 2021, you can make up to 11 smaller monthly instalments, interest free.

**All instalments must be paid by the end of March 2022.**

For more information on the opt in paying system please visit the [GOV.UK](#) website.



## UK Transition Period New Guidance

### Check what declarations need to be made for goods you bring or receive into the UK from 1 January 2021

If you're a UK-based business bringing or receiving goods into Great Britain or Northern Ireland. Find out what declarations may need to be made by visiting the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

### Check what declarations need to be made for goods you send the UK from 1 January 2021

If you're a UK-based business sending goods from Great Britain or Northern Ireland find out what declarations may need to be made by visiting the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

### Using personal data in your business or other organisation after the transition period

Guidance about personal data provisions in the Withdrawal Agreement has been updated. Please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website for more information and to see what actions you need to take regarding data protection and data flows with the EU/EEA, after the end of the transition period.

### Sector Guidance

Recently published sector focussed guidance can be accessed for those working in:

- Digital, technology and computer services sectors – for more information to help you understand what you need to do before 1 January 2021, visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.
- Sports and recreation sector – for more information to help you understand what you need to do before 1 January 2021, visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.
- Art market sector – for more information to help you understand what you need to do before 1 January 2021, visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- Media and broadcasting sector – for more information to help you understand what you need to do before 1 January 2021, visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

Why not visit the [Business Wales EU Transition Portal](https://www.businesswales.gov.uk/eu-transition-portal) which provides important advice and guidance for businesses preparing for European transition.



## INVITE:

### ***Torfaen Manufacturing in the new economy***

**Lynne Neagle MS** and **Economy Minister, Ken Skates** invite Torfaen manufacturers to a roundtable discussion on Torfaen's economic future.

With the U.K. / EU transition period ending in January, this is your chance to discuss future challenges and opportunities with local MS, Lynne Neagle and the Welsh Government's Economy Minister, Ken Skates.

- **WHEN:** Monday, January 11th, 10am-11am
- **WHERE:** This is a virtual event, and will take place on Microsoft Teams
- **WHO:** This is a discussion event for Torfaen manufacturers
- **CONTACT:** lynne.neagle@senedd.wales to register



### **Torfaen Business Voice (Business Club) on line membership continues until April 2021**

We are pleased to announce that we will be continuing to offer local businesses the chance to sign up to Torfaen Business Voice for free on line until May 2021.

This is a real opportunity to start the New Year marketing your business, gaining support and speaking to people facing similar challenges.

Our on line meetings give you a chance to get to know local business owners, discuss any information or support you need and see if any of them have the answers or have found new opportunities. You are also able to tell the group about your business and what you are looking for.

If you would like to come on board for free please complete the link below and we will contact you shortly.

This is a unique opportunity not to be missed! [Find out more...](#)

***Our first virtual networking meeting of 2021 is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 4.30pm.***

***We are holding these virtual meetings on a monthly basis until April, which is a really good way of staying in touch with fellow business owners!***



## **Business Support Virtual Clinics starting in the New Year**

Starting in January we will be holding a monthly on line Business Support Clinic to help any existing or starting up business within Torfaen with impartial advice and support.

This gives you an opportunity to speak to our business support team for 20 minutes about your enquiry.

**Thursday 28th January 2021 - 10:00am - 12:00pm**

[Book your 20 minute slot](#)

**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](#)