



This is the thirtieth in our COVID 19 Business Support Information

Update: ERF Restrictions financial support grants for Torfaen businesses

APPLICATIONS OPEN FROM TODAY 16TH DECEMBER

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.
- Hospitality businesses with a rateable value of between £51,001 and £150,000 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.



Economy & Enterprise
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Economi a Mentergarwch
Torfaen ~ hybu arloesi mewn busnes

Applications for the ERF Restrictions Fund for Hospitality businesses with a rateable value between £51,001 and £150,000 and other eligible businesses **open as of 16th December.**

For full term and conditions see application form

visit <https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/Homepage-Stories/Coronavirus/Business-Economy/Restrictions-Business-Fund.aspx#>

ERF Restrictions Discretionary Grant: Applications open 16th December 2020

A discretionary grant of £2,000 is available to assist businesses that have:

Been forced or required to close as a result of the national restrictions put in place for hospitality businesses

OR are able to demonstrate that the **latest restrictions** put in place will result in at least a 40% reduction in their turnover for December 2020 as compared to December 2019 (or September 2020 turnover if not trading in December 2019)

The application procedure for this grant is now live **Wednesday 16th December** and can be accessed via Torfaen County Borough Council site website. **Apply now**

Please note you are **not eligible** for this grant if:

- *You are eligible for, or have received a Non-Domestic Rate Grant from your Local Authority*
- *If you have 50 or more employees*
- *If the business generated less than 50% of your income, the business must be your main source of income*
- *Limited company with a turnover of greater than £50,000*
- *Sole traders / partnerships with a turnover greater than £85,000*
- *You are eligible for, or have received, the ERF Sector Specific Grant **see below***

Please check Torfaen County Borough Council website for any further updates.



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 is available on the [Business Wales website](#) as of 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.

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

Export finance support for small businesses

UK Export Finance (UKEF) has launched a new guarantee scheme that will provide working capital to small and medium-sized exporters to help them recover from the impact of Covid-19. Under the General Export Facility exporters can apply for finance from the UK's five largest banks backed by a UKEF guarantee. This will enable exporters to free up working capital that can be used for export-related costs and to scale up their business operations.

Read more about the scheme at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>



Welsh Government further extends measures to protect businesses impacted by coronavirus from eviction until end of March 2021

Retailers, pubs, restaurants and other businesses affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) will now be protected from eviction until the end of March 2021, Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales Ken Skates has announced.

As part of the action Welsh Government is taking to support the business community from the impact of COVID-19 the moratorium against forfeiture for the non-payment of rent, which was due to end on 31 December, will now be extended until 31 March 2021.

While businesses should continue to pay rent wherever possible, the latest measure will ensure no business is forced out of its premises if it misses a payment between now and the end of March 2021. The move will help ease the burden on a range of sectors, including retail and hospitality, at what continues to be a time of immense challenge. Read more at [GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

Welsh business rates frozen for 2021 to 2022

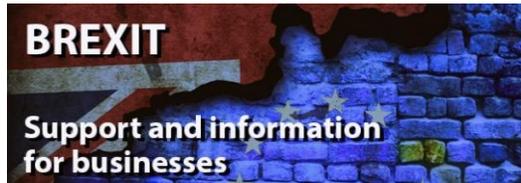
Business rates in Wales will not be subject to an inflationary increase in 2021-22 Finance Minister Rebecca Evans has confirmed.

Freezing the multiplier next year will help support around 54,000 ratepayers across Wales, who are not already receiving 100% rates relief. This takes the total amount of savings businesses have received on their rates bills to more than £90 million, since 2018 to 2019.

Earlier this year the Welsh Government also announced a rates relief package worth £580 million to provide businesses with the support they needed to survive the pandemic.

Finance Minister Rebecca Evans said: "We recognise the pressures that businesses are facing and we are continuing to explore the support measures we can put in place to help businesses cope with the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the end of the EU transition period.

The announcement I have made today provides businesses with the reassurance that they will not see an increase in their business rates liabilities next year."



Take action now to ensure personal data flows freely from the EU/EEA to the UK

Businesses are urged to ensure they can continue lawfully receiving personal data from the EU/EEA from 1 January 2021:

- Take stock of personal data you process prior to 1 January 2021.
- If you receive personal data from a company based in an [EU/EEA country](#), map your data flows and put in place [alternative transfer mechanisms](#) e.g. Standard Contractual Clauses with any relevant EU organisations
- Visit [UK/using-personal-data-2021](#) for essential fuller guidance

Transition Period: Intellectual Property rules are changing

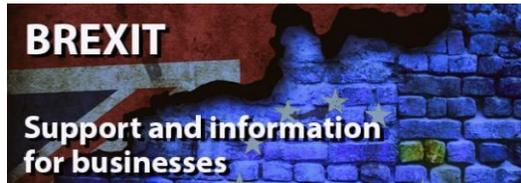
The transition period ends on 31 December 2020. On 1 January 2021 there will be changes to how the Intellectual Property (IP) system and the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) will operate.

These changes will affect:

- [Trade Marks and Designs](#)
- [Parallel trade from the UK to the EEA](#)
- [Unregistered Designs](#)

Business are being urged to:

- consider carefully where to [disclose your designs](#) to ensure they have adequate protection in their most important market
- if you export IP-protected goods on the secondary or parallel market, contact the rights holder in the EEA to see if you have permission to continue to [parallel export](#)
- consider if you want exports to continue if you are a business that owns the IP rights for goods currently parallel exported from the UK to the EEA



New Export Action Plan for Welsh economy launched

Launched on 15th December 2020 by Economy Minister Ken Skates, the plan will provide immediate assistance to business, and reinvent and adapt support to meet the needs of exporting businesses post-coronavirus and the end of EU transition.

The Export Action Plan sets out Welsh Government's focus on:

- Adapting existing programmes of export support so they align with new ways of working and the changing needs of business
- Providing advice and support to Welsh exporters to help them manage the end of the EU transition phase
- Reaching out to more businesses in Wales, particularly those businesses with a potential to export
- Building capacity and capability for exporting to ensure Welsh businesses have the right skills and confidence to be successful exporters
- Developing new export support interventions, including piloting a new Export Cluster initiative to facilitate strong networks of export support
- Delivering overseas activity in key markets and matching these opportunities for sectors where Wales has particular sectoral strengths

A new **online Export Hub** is also available for businesses. This is an important resource for Welsh firms and provides live information on a range of export issues. This will support both new and existing exporters to grow and address any challenges they face with the future trading environment.

In addition, a series of 'virtual export market visits' have been set up for the remainder of this financial year to ensure Welsh businesses can continue to meet with potential customers in target markets.

[New Export Action Plan crucial to Welsh economy | GOV.WALES](#)

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](#)