



This is the seventeenth in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information



Starting Tuesday! Have you booked?

PopUp Business School returning ‘virtually’ to Torfaen

The business support team to Torfaen Council – Torfaen Economy & Enterprise is able to give existing businesses an opportunity to attend a **free online business event** for anyone wanting to **start a business/not long started** or needing help and a **new direction with their existing businesses** during this time.

As it is **free you are able to book a place** as a Torfaen business and **dip in and out of the topics** that are of most interest to you. Topics below. I guarantee when you start listening to **“Make your business survive”** you will want to listen to the rest!

This is a unique opportunity to inject new and motivating ideas into your business by just signing up and listening to our enthusiastic, entertaining business speaker.

Tuesday 21st July - *All about starting a business (know anyone starting up?)*

- AM: *How to Start a Business for Free*
- PM: *The Quickest Way To Get Going*

Wednesday 22nd July - *Days 2 & 3 are all about growing and strengthening your existing business*

- AM: *Make Your Business Survive*
- PM: *Protecting Your Business*

Thursday 23rd July -

- AM: *Maximise Your Online Presence*
- PM: *Your Marketing Mind set to Boost Sales*

All sessions FREE, check them out and Book today!

Take a look at the promo video for even more reasons to attend!
<https://twitter.com/popUPbusiness/status/1283405645149081601>



UK Government announces further support for businesses

On Wednesday 8 July 2020, Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced further support for businesses with the aim of wanting to 'protect, support and create jobs.'

Key Summary:

Furlough Scheme/Job Retention Bonus - The Government are introducing a job retention bonus for UK employers who will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee (and still employed as of 31 January 2021). The employee must be paid over £520 per month to qualify.

Kickstart Scheme - Young People between the ages of 16 and 24, claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment will be eligible. Funding available for each six-month job placement will cover 100% of the National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week – and employers will be able to top this wage up.

The scheme will open for applications in August, with the first jobs expected to start in the autumn and run until December 2021 – with the option of being extended.

VAT Reduction - VAT reduced for the period 15 July 2020 to 12 January 2021, from 20% to 5% for the following:

- eat-in or hot takeaway food from restaurants, cafes and pubs
- accommodation in hotels, B&Bs, campsites and caravan sites
- attractions like cinemas, theme parks and zoos

Discounts on eating out - The scheme will entitle every diner to a 50% discount of up to £10 per head on their meal, at any participating restaurant, café, pub or other eligible food service establishment.

Businesses will be required to register through a website which is launching on Monday 13 July 2020.

The discount can be used unlimited times and will be valid Monday to Wednesday on any eat-in meal (including on non-alcoholic drinks) for the entire month of August 2020 across the UK.

Participating establishments will be fully reimbursed for the 50% discount.

For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.



Coronavirus restrictions relaxed further to support tourism and leisure sectors in Wales

Following the latest 21-day review of the coronavirus regulations, the First Minister for Wales, Mark Drakeford, has set out a phased timetable to ease restrictions for large parts of Wales' visitor, hospitality, and leisure and tourism sectors.

Immediate changes will come into effect (**Saturday 11 July**) when self-contained holiday accommodation opens.

From **Monday 13 July** the following will be able to open, subject to following the guidance about coronavirus-safe ways to operate:

- Hairdressing salons and barbershops, including mobile hairdressers.
- Pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes outdoors.
- Outdoor cinemas.
- Indoor visitor attractions, but a small number of underground visitor attractions will remain closed for the time being because of the higher risks associated with these environments. The Welsh Government will continue to work with these attractions towards safe re-opening.
- Places of worship. Faith leaders can begin to gradually resume services when they are ready to do so safely.

The Welsh Government is also making changes to the regulations to allow larger gatherings of up to 30 people outdoors only where these are organised and supervised by a responsible person for sports and other leisure activities and classes.

This will allow sports and leisure activities, such as fitness and dance classes to take place outdoors, as well as collective worship.

From **July 20**, playgrounds, community centres and outdoor gyms will be able to reopen gradually over the following weeks as and when safety checks and mitigations are put in place. Re-opening community centres will help local authorities provide summer holiday play schemes and childcare.



The First Minister is today calling on other businesses and sectors to prepare for re-opening from **27 July**:

- Close contact services, including nail and beauty salons and businesses providing tanning services, massages, body piercings, tattooing, electrolysis or acupuncture.
- Indoor cinemas, museums, galleries and archive services.
- Tourist accommodation with shared facilities, such as camping sites. Opening would be from 25 July.
- Reopening the housing market fully.

A final decision about reopening these sectors will depend on conditions and feedback from the initial opening of the tourism industry, indoor attractions and hairdressing sector.

Further information available at [GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.wales)

Astute 2020: Supporting Welsh Manufacturing through lockdown to recovery

If you are a manufacturing company, you can access University-based industrially focussed research specialists to support your business to grow out of lockdown and build long term resilience.... How can we support you?

- Drive Productivity
- Modelling Risks and Opportunities
- Sustainable Materials

www.astutewales.com

info@astutewales.com

@astutewales

HSE guidance issued on risk assessments. Protecting vulnerable workers and advice for manufacturing sector

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published a range of guidance and advice for employers and businesses to help them during the coronavirus pandemic including the following:

- [COVID-19 specific risk assessment](#) to help you manage risk and protect people
- advice on [protecting vulnerable workers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- advice for [employers and businesses in the manufacturing sector](#) that are returning to work

There are also links to other useful coronavirus-related guidance and details on the [HSE](#) website.



Torfaen Start Up Grant – £110k awarded last chance to claim

We are very pleased to announce that we have now awarded 44 grants totaling £110k to our new start up businesses in Torfaen. There is just a small number of further businesses that can claim before the end of the grant. Read on to see if you are eligible:

This is a grant to provide financial assistance for newly created businesses that are facing operational and financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The purpose of the grant is to support newly created businesses with immediate cash flow support to help them survive the economic consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak. The grant seeks to complement other Covid-19 response measures to support businesses, social enterprises and charitable organisations in Wales.

The eligibility criteria for the grant is as follows:

- **Started trading between 1st April 2019 and 1st March 2020**
- **Forecast annual turnover less than £50,000**
- **Not in receipt of Self Employment Income Support, Non Domestic Rate Grant, Economic Resilience Fund**
- **Businesses must be operating in Wales**

Businesses must have one or more of the following

- **HMRC Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) Number**
- **VAT Registration Number or a VAT exemption certificate**
- **Written correspondence confirming registration with HMRC**

Business must also have experienced a drop in turnover greater than >50% as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak between April and June 2020

Supported businesses must aim to maintain employment for 12 months.

For further information on this grant please read the [Start Up Grant Guidance Notes](#)

The [Eligibility Checker](#) for this grant can be found here.

Applications can be made from 29th June 2020 via <https://iweb.itouchvision.com>



£1.57 billion investment to protect Britain's world class cultural, arts and heritage institutions with £59 million for Wales

Britain's globally renowned arts, culture and heritage industries will receive a £1.57 billion rescue package to help weather the impact of coronavirus, the government has announced.

Thousands of organisations across a range of sectors including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, historic palaces, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinema will be able to access emergency grants and loans.

Support will be available across the UK with the aim of ensuring the future of these industries are secured.

Wales is set to receive £59 million. Further information to be announced.

Register your establishment for the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme

You can use the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme to offer a discount to diners and encourage them to eat at your restaurant.

You can use the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme:

- all day, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 to 31 August 2020
- to offer a 50% discount, up to a maximum of £10 per person, to diners for food or non-alcoholic drinks to eat or drink in
- to claim the money back from the government

You can register if your establishment:

- sells food for immediate consumption on the premises
- provides its own dining area or shares a dining area with another establishment for eat-in meals
- was registered as a food business with the relevant local authority on or before 7 July 2020

You cannot register:

- an establishment that only offers takeaway food or drink
- catering services for private functions
- a hotel that provides room service only
- dining services (such as packaged dinner cruises)
- mobile food vans or trailers

Alcohol and service charges are excluded from the offer.

Registration will close on 31 August 2020.

For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.



Are you a business in Torfaen that has a story on how you have helped in the fight against Covid 19, please get in touch so we can help you promote your business' efforts and encourage other local businesses to do the same? E-mail: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk

If you are a business in Torfaen, ready to open for your customers let us know by including us [@Torfaenbiz](#) & our [Facebook page](#) in your posts using **#Openforbusiness** with pictures.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

COVID-19: Support for businesses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

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