



## **This is the twenty first in our weekly COVID 19 Business Support Information**

### **Torfaen Start Up Grant – all grant support now awarded**

We are very pleased to announce that we have now awarded the maximum amount of grant funding available totalling £157,500 to our new start-up businesses in Torfaen.

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

### **Torfaen Economy & Enterprise hosts successful PopUp Business School event**

Between 21<sup>st</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> July, a number of businesses from across Torfaen along with budding entrepreneurs looking to start a business attended a FREE 'virtual' 3 day event held in partnership between Torfaen Economy & Enterprise and PopUp Business School.

Sponsored by **Torfaen Economy & Enterprise, Torfaen Foundation Economy and Torfaen Business Voice networking club**, the event consisted of live streamed webinar sessions aimed at helping businesses power up, put their creative ideas into practise, adapt to the new business environment and gain increased confidence to tackle the road ahead.

Topics included How to Start a Business for Free, Making Your Business Survive, Maximising Your Online Presence and Boosting Sales.

**Gaynor Wakeling, Business Support Manager at Torfaen Economy & Enterprise said** *"This was a fabulous event and the line- up of sessions was inspiring and motivating. I am sure businesses and individuals would have benefitted from this unique opportunity provided by Torfaen Economy & Enterprise."*

**Councillor Joanne Gauden, Executive Member for Economy, Skills & Regeneration at Torfaen council said,** *"It was a pleasure to open this event and to welcome attendees to this opportunity aimed at supporting their business and start up aspirations. I am sure the exciting, packed agenda would have provided much food for thought and many ideas for how to adapt and survive in the current circumstances. I wish all of those who attended the very best in the future."*

The team at Torfaen Economy & Enterprise will be examining the feedback from attendees and identifying any needs in order to provide them with ongoing support.



### **More businesses set to benefit from UK Government loan scheme**

Changes to state aid rules mean that more small businesses can now benefit from loans of up to £5 million under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

Previously businesses which were classed as ‘undertakings in difficulty’ were unable to access CBILS because of EU rules. Businesses in this category and which have fewer than 50 employees and a turnover of less than £9 million can apply to CBILS.

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

### **Welsh Government announces £53 million Cultural Recovery Fund**

The Welsh Government is investing £53 million to help Wales’ diverse culture sector deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The fund will be delivered jointly with the Arts Council of Wales and has a “cultural contract” at its heart to help the sector emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever.

The Cultural Recovery Fund will help protect organisations, individuals and jobs in the culture, including:

- theatres
- galleries
- music venues, businesses and individuals
- heritage sites
- local museums, libraries and archive services
- events and festivals
- independent cinemas

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



## **2<sup>nd</sup> stage Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) opens 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

The second stage of the UK government's Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) opens 17th August 2020 and those eligible may be set to receive a government grant, worth up to £6,570. Over 2.7 million benefited from the first stage of the SEISS according to the UK Government.

Those eligible will now be able to receive a second and final grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, with the money set to land in their bank accounts within six working days of making a claim. HMRC will work out if you're eligible and how much grant you may get

Anyone whose self-employed business has been adversely affected by coronavirus **since 14 July** is eligible for the scheme.

Eligible customers will be informed that they will be able to make their claim for the second and final grant at any time from a specified date, until the scheme closes on **19 October 2020**.

The eligibility criteria remains the same as for the first grant, with people needing to have had trading profits of no more than £50,000, making up at least half of their total income.

Further information and full guidance available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/million-of-self-employed-to-benefit-from-second-stage-of-support-scheme>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>



## Keep Wales Safe – Keeping records of staff, customers, and visitors

As legal restrictions are relaxed and more premises are allowed to open there will inevitably be more physical interaction between people. This means the risk of spreading coronavirus increases.

So as people increasingly visit the same places as others, businesses operating in sectors where there is a higher risk of spreading the coronavirus have a key role to play in supporting [contact tracing](#) and keeping **Wales** safe. It is clearly a reasonable measure for those responsible for the following businesses or premises to collect and retain contact information:

- hospitality, including pubs, bars, restaurants and cafes
- cinemas
- close contact services including hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattooists, sports and massage therapists
- swimming pools, indoor fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centres or facilities

Remember that the onus is on the business or person responsible for the premises to collect and retain contact information, not the customer or visitor.

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

## COVID-19: Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme Webinars

HMRC are hosting free webinars to support businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

The webinars provides an overview statutory sick pay rebate scheme including:

- who can claim
- when to start paying SSP
- employees you can claim for
- making a claim
- keeping records, and more

[Choose a date and time](#)



## COVID-19: guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses for a phased and safe re-opening

Welsh Government have updated their guidance to help tourism and hospitality businesses reopen. Updated information (10th August) includes:

- [Tourism and hospitality businesses: guidance for a phased reopening Visitor economy guidance](#)
- [Checklist for tourism and hospitality businesses](#)
- [Coronavirus regulations: frequently asked questions](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) social distancing guidance for everyone in Wales](#)

If you're considering what you need to do to safely re-start your business, then 'Keep Wales Safe at Work' has detailed [guidance, examples and resources](#).

## Torfaen Business Voice (Business Club) On line Membership

We are very pleased to announce that we are offering local businesses the chance to sign up to **Torfaen Business Voice** for **free on line** until the end of 2020.

This is a real opportunity for businesses who are looking for a new marketing opportunity, business support and to speak 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...](#)



## Superfast Business Wales: How to keep your business safe during lockdown

"During this pandemic, we're all taking extra measures to protect ourselves and those around us. But what about protecting your business?"

Unfortunately, [cyber criminals have been exploiting the global pandemic](#), using phishing emails and other scams to put individuals and firms under even more stress during an already difficult time.

What makes this even more troubling is many businesses owners will (understandably) be focusing on other vital aspects of running a business – cash flow, staff wellbeing and future sales to name a few.

Sadly, this means it's a perfect storm for hackers. It's difficult enough running a business usually, but with the added pressure of keeping things going during a pandemic, it's no wonder malicious groups are looking to capitalise.

Thankfully, there are a few simple things you can do to protect your business right now:

**Raise awareness** - Need help? UK Government's [National Cyber Security Centre](#) is a great place to start.

**Stay up to date** - Not sure where to start? Our [free Software Essentials guide](#) offers impartial advice on different security platforms.

**Be ready to recover** - Want to know more about data? Visit our [Data And Cyber Security](#) section in the Info Hub.

**Bring in the experts** - Superfast Business Wales: sign up for our [Staying Safe Online](#) webinar.

### Secure Your Business, Secure Your Future with Digital

Security doesn't just mean cyber security. We are all feeling the effects of the pandemic and understand the measures we need to take to protect ourselves and others.

Your business is no different. Whether you need to be on site or can work from home, Superfast Business Wales' webinars will give you the digital advice you need for right now and for what lies ahead. Visit the Superfast Business Wales [Working Smarter web page](#) to find out more and book your free place(s)."



**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](#)