



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

All non-essential shops in Wales will be able to re-open from Monday 22nd June 2020

Retailers will be able to resume trading if they can take all reasonable measures to comply with the physical distancing duty in Welsh law to reduce the spread of coronavirus and protect shop workers and shoppers.

The changes are part of a comprehensive package of measures being introduced step by step every Monday over the next three weeks.

They follow the fourth statutory review of the coronavirus regulations by Welsh Ministers, using the latest scientific and medical evidence from the UK Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) and the advice from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales.

At the next review on 9 July, the Welsh Government will consider a range of specific options for opening:

- **self-contained holiday accommodation**
- **personal care services, such as hairdressing and beauty, by appointment**

Discussions will also be held with the hospitality sector about the potential phased reopening of pubs, cafes and restaurants while maintaining strict social distancing.

For further information please visit the [GOV.Wales](https://gov.wales) website which includes information about business closures, work and physical distancing

Please see [summary of businesses able to open and those to remain closed](#) as of Monday 22nd June (*Information extracted from [Welsh Government - The Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020, as amended with the changes illustrated \[20.06.20\]](#)*)



The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) will close on 31 October 2020 and the UK Government has updated their guidance

What you need to do from July:

- start your flexible furloughing of employees **from 1 July onwards**, you can decide the hours and shift patterns they work to suit the needs of your business – you'll pay their wages for the time they're in work and can apply for a job retention scheme grant to cover any of their usual hours they are still furloughed for and you can still keep employees on full furlough if you need to
- claim for periods ending on or before **30 June 2020, by 31 July 2020** – this is the last date you can make those claims
- claim for further furlough periods as needed – the first time you will be able to make a claim for days in July will be **1 July 2020**

From **1 August 2020**, the level of grant will be reduced each month.

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

HMRC webinar: week commencing 22nd June: Extension to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and flexible furloughing: Keep up to date with the latest information

This webinar is being offered several times throughout this week so select the date and time that works best for you. It will provide an overview of the changes to the scheme, how employers will be affected, flexible furloughing, key dates and support available.

Book your place [here](#)



5 Days left to apply for the Non domestic rates grant

30th June is the cut-off date for businesses to claim the **Non domestic rates grant** of up to £25k check if you, your suppliers or clients have claimed, pass the link below on!

- It doesn't matter if you have continued to trade through this pandemic
- It will not happen automatically if you pay business rates you still need to apply

Please complete the **Business Rates Grant (COVID-19)** form to allow Torfaen council to collate all requests and to consider if it is appropriate to award the grant. **Applications received after 5pm on 30th June 2020 will not be considered.**

Digital Boost: Free digital advice for small businesses and charities

Digital Boost aims to support the British small businesses and charities impacted by COVID-19 on their digitisation journey.

Digital Boost will be providing a community of digital expert volunteers to support charities and small businesses through:

- boost calls – support calls
- boost workshops – webinars
- boost skills – curated resources on digitisation

Sign up as a small business or charity to receive expert support by filling out Digital Boost's **organisation form**.

Become a digital expert volunteer or host workshops by filling out Digital Boost's **volunteer form**.

For further information please visit the **Digital Boost** website



Connect with your Acas Advisor – 8th July

Each year Acas supports millions of UK employers and employees in improving workplace relationships.

The Coronavirus outbreak has presented many challenges for businesses and their staff. Whether you have continued to operate or have had to close in line with government guidelines, working effectively with your people will be key to moving forward.

Acas are running free, virtual roadshows that will provide employers with insight to help your organisation navigate workplace challenges due to the coronavirus outbreak.

You will have the opportunity to connect with local Acas Advisers, learn about the essential services and guidance Acas provide and interact with other businesses from across the region.

The roadshows take place via Zoom on the following date for South Wales:

8 July 2020 – 10am to 11am – book your place [here](#)

Please visit the [ACAS](#) website for information for employers and employees workplace rules, rights and practices.

Coronavirus related updates and advice from HSE

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

- [using PPE and face masks at work](#) – guidance for healthcare workers, including face fit tests and advice on PPE for non-healthcare workers
- [regulating occupational health and safety](#) – outlining HSE's regulatory approach during the outbreak
- [divers' medical fitness and assessment](#) – when to return to diving after COVID-19 infection and arrangements for medical assessment

It is now more important than ever that businesses take a proactive and planned approach to risk management so their businesses can continue to operate safely during the coronavirus outbreak.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) and HSE's leaflet 'Leading health and safety at work' (INDG417) sets out the principles to help leaders across all industries use a '**Plan, Do, Check, Act**' approach to keep their workplaces safe.

Available as a [free download](#) the leaflet applies to organisations of all sizes.

For all the latest information and advice, visit the [HSE coronavirus microsite](#).



Torfaen Start Up Grant

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
 - 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

Further guidance and information on how to apply to follow week commencing 29th June 2020.



HMRC update – deferring VAT payments

As part of the UK Government's support for businesses during COVID-19, HMRC gave businesses the option of deferring their VAT payments if they were unable to pay on time, without incurring late payment interest or penalties. Payment of VAT falling due between 20 March and 30 June 2020 can be deferred until 31 March 2021.

You must continue to file your VAT return on time, even if you defer payment.

The option to defer paying VAT ends on 30 June 2020. This means that VAT returns with a payment due date after 30 June must be paid in full, on time.

If you haven't deferred any VAT payments, you don't need to take any further action. If you have deferred paying your VAT and normally pay by Direct Debit you should now reinstate it.

You should do this at least three working days before submitting your VAT return in order for HMRC to take payment.

Remember, any VAT payments you have deferred during this period should be paid in full on or before 31 March 2021. You can make ad hoc payments or additional payments with your subsequent VAT returns to reduce the amount outstanding, if you wish.

If you're unable to pay the VAT due and need additional time to pay, please contact HMRC before the payment is due. For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

SAVE THE DATE:

PopUp Business School returning 'virtually' to Torfaen 21st – 23rd July

The world has changed... Has your business idea?

This course will help you to grow your business and succeed in the new world COVID-19

Torfaen Economy and Enterprise along with Torfaen Foundation Economy and Torfaen Business Voice have partnered with PopUp Business School to bring you an exciting range of webinar sessions on **Tuesday 21st July, Wednesday 22nd July & Thursday 23rd July.**

Day 1 is all about starting a business

Days 2 & 3 is all about growing and strengthening your existing business

All sessions FREE! Full details to be released next week!



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](#)