



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

### Claim for wages through Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is being extended until 31 March 2021.

30 November 2020 is the last day employers can submit or change claims for periods ending on or before 31 October 2020.

Claims from 1 November 2020 must be submitted by 11.59pm 14 calendar days after the month you're claiming for. If this time falls on the weekend then claims should be submitted on the next working day.

Claim for furlough days in	Claim must be submitted by
November 2020	14 December 2020
December 2020	14 January 2021
January 2021	15 February 2021
February 2021	15 March 2021
March 2021	14 April 2021

For further details including:

- What you'll need
- How to claim
- After you've claimed

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wages-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>



### **Freelancer Fund Phase 3: Eligibility checker now open**

Following high demand for funding support across the arts and cultural sectors a further £10.7 million will be made available to support organisations and individuals during the pandemic.

The funding will be used to open a third phase of the successful Freelancer Fund which will see a further £3.5 million being made available nationwide across all local authority areas.

**The Phase 3 of the Freelancer Fund will open for applications at 10am on Monday 23 November 2020.**

The fund will support freelancers who work in the following sectors:

- The Arts
- Arts and Heritage Events
- Non Sport related events that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic
- Creative Industries
- Culture and Heritage

Please review the criteria now to help prepare for the opening of the applications.

In this phase we will also look to support freelancers who work in events that have been significantly impacted by the pandemic, including those working in weddings and corporate events, but not sport events.

To check your eligibility before the application process opens visit the [Eligibility Checker for the Cultural Recovery Fund](#).



## **Business Wales Barriers Grant**

The Welsh Government is putting in place a programme of employment and skills support to help people back to work as part of its COVID 19 commitment

Part of this programme includes additional support for individuals considering self-employment. In addition to the existing start-up service, a grant to support unemployed individuals that face greater economic barriers to starting a business is being made available. This discretionary grant will help up to 600 individuals become self-employed or start a business, between December 2020 and March 2021.

The grant will be open to all unemployed individuals, however priority in allocating funding will be given to those most affected by the Covid-19 outbreak:

- Women
- Disabled people
- People from BAME backgrounds
- Young people not in education or training (NEETS) aged 18-24 or a College and University leaver in 2019 or 2020

Individuals will be able to apply for up to £2,000 to contribute towards the essential costs of starting a business.

The grant will be managed through the Business Wales service.

**The fund will open for applications on 1 December 2020.**

For further information please visit the Business Wales [Barriers Grant pages](#).



## **Major new employer incentives announced to help recruit apprentices**

Apprenticeships continue to play a vital role in delivering the skills employers and the economy need, offering the opportunity to recruit cost effectively and build a skilled workforce.

Any employer in Wales, regardless of size or sector, can benefit from the apprenticeship recruitment incentives:

- up to a £3,000 incentive for employing a new apprentice
- up to a £2,600 incentive for re-employing a redundant apprentice
- a £1,500 incentive for employing a disabled apprentice, which can be claimed in addition to the new and redundant apprentice incentives

To find out more please visit the [Business Wales Skills Gateway](#) website.

## **£1 million tax break for manufacturing extended until 1 January 2022**

A £1 million tax break to stimulate investment in UK manufacturing is to be extended.

Businesses, including manufacturing firms, can continue to claim up to £1 million in same-year tax relief through the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) for capital investments in plant and machinery assets until 1 January 2022. This move is intended to boost confidence as companies look to weather the pandemic and plan for the future.

The extension of the temporary £1 million cap was originally due to revert to £200,000 on 1 January 2021.

For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](#) website.



## **Torfaen Economy & Skills can work with local businesses as a Kickstart Scheme Gateway to help young people with job placements**

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the National Minimum Wage (or the National Living Wage depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- associated employer National Insurance contributions
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

There are 2 ways to make an application for the Kickstart Scheme:

1. If you're creating more than 30 job placements you can apply directly by [submitting an online application yourself](#)
2. If you're creating fewer than 30 job placements, a **Kickstart Gateway** can act on your behalf and apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant for you.

**The Economy & Skills department at Torfaen council are acting as a Kickstart Gateway for businesses in Torfaen. They will**

- gather information from you about the job placements you'd like to offer
- use this information to submit an online application on behalf of a group of employers
- pass on the relevant payments made by DWP to you (for example the young person's salary)

The [attached leaflet](#) provides further information about eligibility and how the Economy & Skills department at Torfaen council can work with you.

Contact details: [Ceri.moffatt@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Ceri.moffatt@torfaen.gov.uk) [Gareth.jones4@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.jones4@torfaen.gov.uk)

Additional information about how the Kickstart Gateway option operates can be found [here](#):



## **Brexit: Intellectual property after 1 January 2021**

The transition period ends on 31 December 2020. On 1 January 2021 there will be changes to UK intellectual property law to ensure the smooth departure from EU IP systems. These changes will affect:

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

Businesses are 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.

Key information is now available for customers and users of IP about how the IP system and the Intellectual Property Office will operate after the end of the transition period.

## **Redundancy Support Service for Businesses**

Torfaen Council's Economy and Skills department are working with partners to support Torfaen employers, and their employees, who are experiencing redundancy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you are an employer who is having to make staff redundant during these difficult times, there is free support available for you and your employees from our Redundancy Support Service.

The Redundancy Support Service is a FREE service available to Torfaen employers of all sizes to help your employees find alternative employment and access new opportunities. Support on offer includes:

- Job matching to current local vacancies
- Job searching and help with online vacancies
- CV Development
- Free training
- Career Planning
- Starting a business

For further information please follow the link and complete our short [online enquiry form](#)



## **Torfaen Business Voice networking club rounds off successful year with virtual networking event TODAY**

**Join us if you can at 11:00am!**

Torfaen Business Voice (TBV) is a popular local business networking club and has grown during the past six months with membership now standing at nearly 100.

Members include businesses from across Torfaen, south east wales and beyond and represent all sectors. Over the past months TBV, run by a committee which includes local business leaders, has adapted to the pandemic by offering a programme of virtual events for members.

These events have not only provided opportunities for networking and making new contacts, but also a chance for businesses to discuss their experiences throughout the pandemic and provide support for and advice to each other. The events have been well attended and appreciated by our businesses.

The final networking event of 2020 is being held this morning and businesses are welcome to join us at 11:00am.

[Find out more here](#)

**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](#)