

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

Firms in South Wales urged to apply for COVID - 19 non repayable business grants

Qualifying firms that are registered to pay business rates in Wales are being reminded that there's still time to apply for a Welsh Government non repayable grant worth £25,000 or £10,000 if they haven't done so already. These grants have been introduced to support businesses in Wales through the Coronavirus pandemic and could make all the difference to a business at this unprecedented time.

Delivered via local authorities, the two grants are:

Grant 1: a grant of £25,000 for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses (e.g. shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas, live music venues, hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation) occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000.

Grant 2: a £10,000 grant to all businesses (including qualifying charity run shops, sports premises and community centres) eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) in Wales with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

Both grants will apply to businesses that were on the rating list on 20 March, 2020.

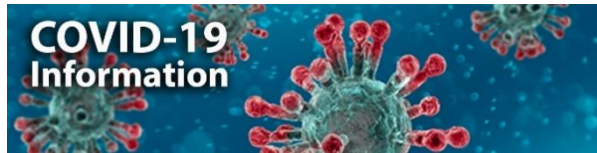
To find out more about how qualifying businesses can access a grant, businesses should visit their relevant local authority's website.

ICO Data Protection & Corona Virus Information Hub

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has a coronavirus information hub to help individuals and organisations navigate data protection. New and relevant information will be added to the hub as the pandemic continues.

If you cannot find the answer to your query on the hub you can contact the ICO by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

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



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Government set to launch on-line service to allow employers to recover Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payments

The government is set to launch an online service to allow employers to recover the Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payments they have made to their employees during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme, which was announced at the 2020 Budget as part of a package of support measures for businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, will launch on 26 May.

It will allow small and medium-sized employers to apply to HMRC to recover the costs of paying coronavirus-related SSP.

Employers are eligible if they have a Pay as You Earn (PAYE) payroll scheme that was created and started before 28 February 2020 and they had fewer than 250 employees before the same date.

The repayment will cover up to two weeks of SSP and is payable if an employee who is unable to work because they have COVID-19 or if they are self-isolating. More information [here](#)

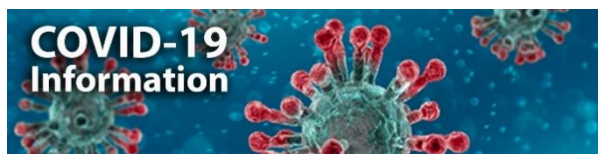
£40m boost for cutting-edge start-ups

Innovative businesses and start-ups across Wales are set to benefit from a £40 million UK Government investment aimed at fast-tracking the development of innovations borne out of the Corona Virus crisis.

UK Business Secretary Alok Sharma has announced the UK Government is doubling investment in the Fast Start Competition with an additional £20 million.

Include among the businesses to receive the funding to date in Wales are **Instructor Guru based in Cwmbran** which is looking to model and develop a digital application to facilitate the use of Instructor Guru Ltd's proprietary software for management of orthopaedic recovery remotely, and more cost-efficiently, whilst improving patient care. Peter Bishop, Founder, said *"We are very excited that Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency has chosen to support us to develop our solution, using AI to help patients and care providers with the orthopaedic recovery process."*

More information about the fund [here](#)



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Phase 2 of Economic Resilience Fund to open next month

The second phase of the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) will open in Wales next month, Economy minister Ken Skates has said.

The £400m ERF was launched by the Welsh Government in March and has received more than 9,500 applications, with over 6,000 offers already made to date - worth over a £100m.

In terms of eligibility, Phase 2 of the Fund will operate in the same way as Phase 1 but with an update to the micro scheme. Non-VAT registered businesses, the more recently self-employed and start-up businesses will be able to apply.

The eligibility checker for new applications will hopefully be open by the middle of June 2020, allowing companies' time to prepare their applications and Welsh Government expects to open the fund for full applications later in the month.

Further information to be announced in due course at [Business Wales](#)

COVID-19: Larger businesses to benefit from loans of up to £200 million

Businesses will be able to benefit from larger loans under the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS).

The maximum loan size available under the scheme will be increased from £50 million to £200 million to help ensure those large firms which do not qualify for the Bank of England's Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) have enough finance to meet cash flow needs during the outbreak.

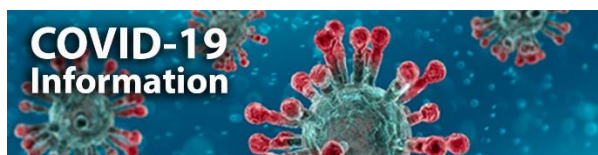
The expanded loans, which have been introduced following discussions with lenders and business groups, will be available **from 26 May 2020**. For further information please visit the [GOV.UK](#)

New Legislation to Relieve Burden on Businesses Facing Insolvency

The UK Government has introduced the Corporate Governance and Insolvency Bill in Parliament, which will put in place a series of measures to amend insolvency and company law to support business to address the challenges resulting from the impact of COVID-19.

Six insolvency measures will provide vital support to businesses to help through this period of instability

Two corporate governance measures will introduce temporary easements and flexibility to businesses where they are coping with reduced resources and restrictions. Read more [here](#)



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COVID-19: latest information and advice from HSE

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published the following guidance, which your business may find useful:

- RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19
- working from home
- driver welfare facilities
- regulation of chemicals during the outbreak
- the manufacture and supply of hand sanitisers

For all the latest information and advice please visit the [HSE](#) website

National Cyber Security Centre: business guidance

NCSC has published guidance to support businesses who are increasingly relying on IT services to run their business and moving to digital delivery as part of the ongoing Covid-19 response.

This invaluable support package includes guidance on home working, video teleconferencing and spotting email scams related to Covid-19 along with a wealth of information about risks and new ways of working plus a number of hubs which provide good entry points into the world of cyber security e.g. [self-employed and sole traders](#) and [small businesses](#). Please visit the [NCSC](#) website for further information

New £150,000 fund to help digital firms develop technology to combat coronavirus

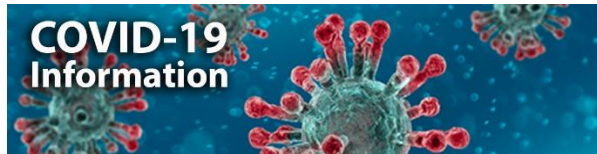
The Covid-19 Digital Solutions Fund aims to quickly trial solutions in health and care to improve remote diagnostics, data collection and monitor PPE availability. The fund will support the rapid piloting and evaluation of new digital platforms, apps and technologies to determine their long-term use and potential in the health service. Awards of up to £30k will be made to the best five to eight projects, which meet the criteria.

The rapid pilots will run throughout July and August with a potential for the new technology to be roll out from early September.

The following themes have been identified as offering the greatest challenge and potential impact:

- Remote diagnosis and triage of patients
- Optimising data collection and processing
- Tracking, managing and reporting on PPE availability and usage
- Remote citizen support and treatment

Submissions by 9am, 8th June 2020 - Further guidance, dates, criteria etc [here](#)



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METaL Courses - Autumn Update: free online 'Corrosion & Coatings Technology' course

During the COVID-19 crisis, Swansea University's, Project METaL is committed to ensuring they continue to support the Welsh manufacturing industry. METaL will continue to offer upskilling and CPD opportunities whilst adapting to a situation which finds many Welsh businesses working from home.

For a limited time period, they are offering their new accredited online 'Corrosion & Coatings Technology' course to Welsh businesses "Free of Charge".

This offer is based on first come first served.

Contact: www.project-metal.co.uk/contact

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](#)