



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

Torfaen Start Up Grant: £145,000 awarded and funding available for just 5 further businesses! Act Now!

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.

We are very pleased to announce that we have now awarded 58 grants totalling £145,000 to our new start-up businesses in Torfaen. There is funding available for just 5 further businesses, so act now!

The eligibility criteria for the £2,500 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**

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>



HMRC: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Key dates for Employers (July/August 2020) & HMRC webinar

- 31st July: This is the last date you can submit claims for periods ending on or before 30th June
- For August: The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 for the hours an employee is on furlough and employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions for the hours the employee is on furlough. Employers will continue to be able to choose to top up employee wages above the 80% total and £2,500 cap for the hours not worked at their own expense if they wish.

Further detailed information, along with a timetable of the forthcoming changes to the scheme can be found [here](#).

Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – HMRC webinar (week commencing 3rd August)

The 'Extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and flexible furloughing' webinar will provide:

- an overview of the scheme including flexible furloughing
- examples of how to work out the amount you can claim
- information on changes due in September and October

[Book here](#)



Register for the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme

Eligible restaurants and establishments (see list below) can register for this scheme which aims to encourage diners to eat out. The scheme will run from 3rd – 31st August 2020 (all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

- 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

Full details of who can and cannot register, what you'll need and how the scheme works can be found at [here](#) Registration closes 31st August 2020.

Eat Out to Help Out Scheme Update: Free HMRC webinars and promotional resources now available

- HMRC are running [free webinars](#) (a number of dates/times are available throughout week commencing 27th July) which provide an overview of the scheme, how it works, eligibility and how claims work.
- HMRC have also produced a number of resources (available in Welsh also) including posters, images and other promotional materials for establishments taking part in the scheme. More information at [GOV.UK](#)

South Wales Argus also reports that a number of Torfaen venues have signed up to the scheme so far. Some restaurants may not have registered for the scheme yet.

- Amici D Italia, High Street, Pontypool.
- Boswells Cafe, Gwent Square, Cwmbran Shopping Centre.
- Brown Bear's Coffee House, The Parade, Cwmbran.
- Butterflies Bar and Kitchen, Queen Street, Blaenavon.
- Horseshoe Inn, Old Abergavenny Road, Mamhilad.
- Kaspas, Leisure at Cwmbran, Old Glyndwr Road, Cwmbran.
- McDonald's, A4042 roundabout, New Inn.



- McDonald's, North Walk, Cwmbran.
- Owen's Cafe, The Highway, Croesyceiliog.
- Page's Fish & Chips Restaurant, Woodside Road, Cwmbran.
- Rabaiotti's Restaurant, North Walk, Cwmbran.
- Starbucks, Cwmbran Centre, Cwmbran.
- Subway, North Walk, Cwmbran.
- TJ'S Catering, John Baker Close, Cwmbran.
- The Lower New Inn, Newport Road, New Inn.
- The Parkway Hotel and Ravellos Restaurant, Cwmbran Drive, Cwmbran.
- The Upper Cock Inn, The Highway, Croesyceiliog.
- The Wain-y-Clare, Usk Road, Penperlleni.

Read more at South Wales Argus:

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18614241.eat-help-cwmbran-pontypool-blaenavon/>

Coronavirus restrictions for sectors relaxed further in Wales

- From Saturday 25th July: Tourist accommodation with shared facilities, such as camping sites and all hotels plus underground attractions re-open
- From Monday 27th July: Current restrictions will be removed on indoor cinemas, museums, archives and galleries, enabling these to reopen but does not require it. Amusement arcades can also reopen. Close contact services (including nail salons, massage parlours, businesses offering beauty and other wellbeing treatments and tattoos) can also reopen, although facial treatments are not advised. The coronavirus regulations will also be amended to enable the housing market to re-open fully.
- The next formal review of the regulations will be carried out by 30 July 2020. A range of options will be considered including opening of pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants indoors from 3rd August
- [For more essential and sector based information](#)



We're Good to Go – free scheme for tourism and hospitality businesses

VisitEngland in partnership with the national tourist organisations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have launched a UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to provide a 'ring of confidence' for tourism as the sector works towards reopening. The 'We're Good To Go' industry standard and supporting mark means businesses can demonstrate that they are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and checked that they have the required processes in place.

To obtain the mark businesses must complete a self-assessment through the online platform <https://goodtogo.visitbritain.com/> including a check-list confirming they have put the necessary processes in place, before receiving certification and the 'We're Good To Go' mark for display in their premises and online.

The scheme is free to join and open to all businesses across the industry.

For further information please visit the [Visit Britain](#) Website.

Superfast Business Wales announces August schedule of webinars for businesses

Superfast Business Wales will be running a comprehensive schedule of [FREE webinars](#) for businesses throughout August which will encompass a wide range of essential topics.



Funding to support employment and training in Wales

The Welsh Government have pledged to support everyone to find work, education or training or help to start their own business as it launched a £40 million skills and jobs fund. The package will provide:

- more than £20 million to incentivise employers to recruit and retain 5,000 apprentices, increase the capacity of traineeship programmes and support more graduates to access work experience, work tasters and paid work placements
- almost £9 million to help workers access retraining and find new employment, including in areas of skills demand, through ReACT and the Union Learning Fund
- funding for traineeships, Working Wales and Communities for Work Plus will be increased to help match people to job opportunities and promote self-employment and new ways of working
- support for a new Barriers Fund, offering up to £2,000 to support people who may not have previously considered self-employment, in particular women, young people, people from BAME communities and disabled people

For further information please visit the GOV.Wales website.

<https://gov.wales/funding-support-employment-and-training-wales>



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](#)