



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

Covid-19 non-domestic rates (NDR) grant schemes will close to new applications on 30th June 2020 at 5pm

If your business has not applied for a business rates grant regardless of whether you are currently trading or closed 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.

Pass this information on to any business associates, suppliers or business clients to ensure they receive their government entitlement from this scheme!

Applications received after 5pm on 30th June 2020 will not be considered.

First Minister for Wales announces changes to lockdown measures in Wales plus non-essential retail businesses can start preparing for reopening in 3 weeks

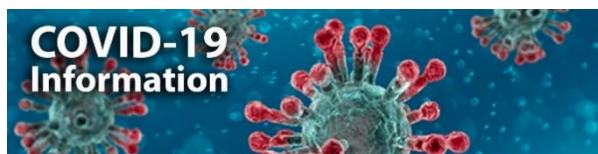
The First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, on 29th May 2020 announced the changes following the third statutory review of the regulations by Welsh Ministers.

From Monday 1 June 2020, 2 households in the same local area will be able to meet outdoors. In doing this, however, people must follow social distancing and strict hand hygiene practices to control the spread of the virus. 'Local' means not generally travelling more than 5 miles from home to reduce the risk of coronavirus spreading from one area to another. The changes mean people can meet another household outdoors in their local area but all the other rules to protect people from coronavirus will stay in place for the time being.

Non-essential retail businesses, which can comply with the physical distancing duty, should start to prepare to reopen over the next 3 weeks. A decision about whether non-essential retail will reopen will be taken at the **next review on 18 June** and will depend on the scientific and medical evidence.

Beauty and tourist spots will remain closed.

For further detailed information please visit the [GOV.Wales](#) website where [fuller guidance](#), along with [FAQ's](#), on changes to the regulations from 1st June can be found.



UK Chancellor extends Self-Employment Support Scheme

UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced on Friday 29th May 2020 that the UK wide Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will be extended - with those eligible able to claim a second and final grant in August 2020.

Key points:

Individuals can continue to apply for the first SEISS grant until 13 July. Under the first grant, eligible individuals can claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total. Those eligible have the money paid into their bank account within six working days of completing a claim.

Applications for the second grant will open in August. Individuals will be able to claim a second taxable grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total.

The eligibility criteria are the same for both grants, and individuals will need to confirm that their business has been adversely affected by coronavirus. An individual does not need to have claimed the first grant to receive the second grant: for example, they may only have been adversely affected by COVID-19 in this later phase.

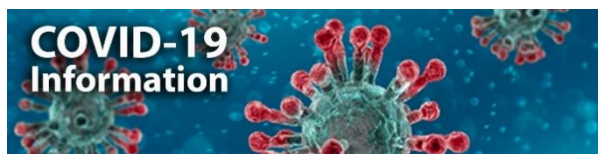
Eligibility criteria

Self-employed individuals, including members of partnerships, are eligible if they:

- submitted their Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19;
- continued to trade in 2019-20 and intend to keep trading in 2020-21;
- carry on a trade which has been adversely affected by COVID-19;
- have average self-employed trading profits of no more than £50,000 and at least equal to their non-trading income.

Further guidance on the second grant is due to be published on **Friday 12 June**.

Further information from GOV.UK can be found [here](#), including a Factsheet.



Chancellor confirms extension of UK wide Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which features flexibility, new tapering and employer contributions

The UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak set out details on Friday 29th May 2020 on how the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) will continue to support jobs and business until October 2020.

Summary of key points:

June and July: The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 as well as employer National Insurance (ER NICs) and pension contributions. Employers are not required to pay anything.

From 1 July 2020, businesses can bring previously furloughed employees back part time. A month earlier than previously announced, this means that firms can agree working arrangements e.g. hours, shift patterns with returning employees and will be responsible for paying employee wages while in work.

Claims from July onwards will be restricted to employers currently using the scheme and previously furloughed employees. The scheme will close to new entrants on 30 June, with the last three-week furloughs before that point commencing on 10 June.

From August 2020, the level of government grant provided through the job retention scheme will be slowly tapered to reflect that people will be returning to work. Businesses will be asked to contribute a modest share, and individuals will continue to receive that 80% of salary covering the time they are unable to work.

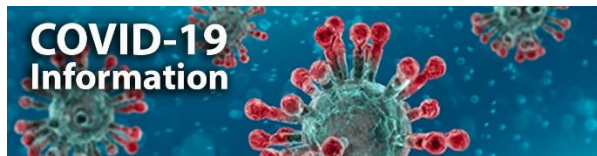
August: The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions

September: The government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.

October: The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.

Further details can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) including a factsheet.

[Check if you can claim for your employees' wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme here.](#)



Test, Trace, Protect: guidance for employers

Test, Trace, Protect is the Welsh Government's approach to testing and contact tracing which will help citizens of Wales to resume their normal lives gradually and safely. Test, Trace, Protect will be delivered through the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service which includes a number of public sector partners working together to help contain the spread of the virus.

The guidance explains how employers in Wales can play their part in helping to deliver Wales' Test, Trace, Protect strategy to slow the spread of the virus, protect health and care systems and save lives. This covers their responsibilities to employees and contractors associated with the operation of their business and includes relevant information for the self-employed.

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

All Wales COVID-19 Workforce Risk Assessment Tool available

A new risk assessment tool has been launched by Welsh Government to support people from Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in the NHS and social care in Wales.

The Tool asks a number of questions designed to identify whether you are at a higher risk from Covid-19. It asks questions about health, weight and ethnicity, which may increase your risk of serious illness following an infection with Covid-19.

It features a simple scoring table, which could be transferred to other workplaces and sectors.

People at increased risk may, in discussion with their line manager, agree to adjustments to their working arrangements or to work from home. You can download the tool [here](#).

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



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Business Wales: Keep Wales Safe at Work: Restarting and re-opening business

As we move through the challenges of dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak and carefully start to look at moving out of lock down, across different business areas, Business Wales has created a range of practical support and guidance for employers. The links and guidance will evolve over time to reflect the lockdown status, so please revisit these pages for the most up-to-date guidance.

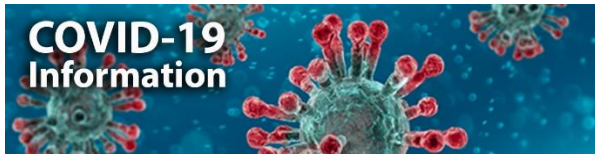
Please visit the [Business Wales Keep Wales Safe at Work pages](#) for further information for your business on dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak.

EHRC Coronavirus guidance for employers

Employers play an important role in ensuring the issues their employees face aren't made worse by discriminatory decisions regarding furlough, sick pay or redundancy.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have produced guidance for employers as the coronavirus pandemic is having a particular impact on people with certain [protected characteristics](#), as an employer, you are still under legal obligations to ensure the decisions you make in response to coronavirus do not directly or indirectly discriminate against employees with protected characteristics.

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



Using PPE and face masks at work: HSE guidance

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has worked with others to develop guidance about current issues with PPE (personal protective equipment).

Health and safety law says that employers must protect workers from injury or harm to health which could happen as a result of work-related activity.

This includes taking reasonable steps to protect your workers and others from coronavirus.

HSE also has specific advice to help employers and workers including:

- [PPE in health and social care](#)
- [PPE in non-healthcare businesses](#)

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

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](#)