



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



Less than two weeks to go!

PopUp Business School returning 'virtually' to Torfaen

The world has changed... Has your business?

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 on-line sessions:

Tuesday 21st July - *All about starting a business (know anyone starting up?)*

- AM: *How to Start a Business for Free*
- PM: *The Quickest Way To Get Going*

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

Wednesday 22nd July -

- AM: *Make Your Business Survive*
- PM: *Protecting Your Business*

Thursday 23rd July -

- AM: *Maximise Your Online Presence*
- PM: *Your Marketing Mind set to Boost Sales*

All sessions FREE, check them out and Book today!



Torfaen Start up Grant Success

We are pleased to announce within the first week we have approved 22 start-up grants totalling £55k with the money getting out to the businesses quickly and helping them secure their future business prospects.

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 £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
 - 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

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 this link:

https://iweb.itsvision.com/portal/f?p=customer:category_link:::::CUID,LANG:A8EE6F20C0EE01F7802E0553914601A8EC0D0EF0,EN&P_LANG=en



Legionnaires Disease – Businesses urgently reminded to check their water systems before re-opening

As lockdown restrictions continue to ease, businesses and building owners are reminded to check the maintenance of their premises as they reopen.

The Public Health Team at Torfaen County Borough Council are raising awareness to businesses of an increased risk of Legionella bacteria being present as a result of water systems not being used during the lockdown period.

Legionnaires' disease can be contracted by breathing in small droplets of water suspended in the air which contain Legionella bacteria. Symptoms include fever, a non-productive cough and pneumonia.

All water systems need to be considered including those with small water tanks such as the under counter water systems and combination systems.

Water systems at shops, hairdressers, offices, hotels, gyms, sports clubs, golf clubs, hotels, pubs, clubs, restaurants, voluntary-run premises and anywhere that has a water supply and is currently shut you must undertake a risk assessment of your system and implement adequate controls in line with current guidance.

More information is also available from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires

Please see the link below to the CIEH guidance document on legionella: lockdown risks and reopening safely.

Legionnaires' disease: lockdown risks and reopening safely

CIEH guidance document provides essential advice and information on the steps needed to mitigate the dangers of Legionella.

[Legionnaires' disease: lockdown risks and reopening safely](#)

Legionella webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/772254493272990733>



The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has been extended, with a second and final grant in August.

If you're eligible and your business has been adversely affected you must make your claim for the **first grant on or before 13 July 2020**.

This scheme is being extended. If you're eligible for the second and final grant, and your business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020 you'll be able to make a claim from 17 August 2020.

You can make a claim for the second grant if you're eligible, even if you did not make a claim for the first grant. [Find out more about the extension to the scheme.](#)

Food Industry Centre, Cardiff Metropolitan University – Product Reformulation – Call for Project Partners

Our innovation group are seeking to work with partner companies to help them reformulate food and drink products across a range of categories.

Since the COVID-19 global pandemic, the food and drink industry has been faced with raw material availability issues, ingredient price increases and other supply chain complexities. To remain competitive in this changing marketplace, companies may need to consider reformulation as part of their product development strategy.

ZERO2FIVE's dedicated innovation group are able to offer the following support to SMEs in Wales:

- Fully or part funded projects.
- Access to a team of NPD technologists with industry experience in launching innovative products across a wide range of product categories.
- Market data, competitor benchmarking, trend reports and a commercial viability review.
- A team that understands the technical implications of ingredient substitution.
- On-site support for scale up, process trials and launch (in accordance with COVID-19 safety protocols).
- Assistance in the origination of a critical path, specific to your business, to support a successful launch.
- Access to academic expertise in a variety of disciplines including food science, food legislation, new product development and biomedical sciences.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 24th July**.

[Check if your company is eligible and apply here](#)



Torfaen Business Club supports members via virtual events during Pandemic

Torfaen Business Voice, one of south wales' most popular business networking clubs with over 65 members, has continued to support its members via a series of monthly 'virtual' networking events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 50 members have taken full advantage of the opportunities arranged by the committee to showcase their businesses and organisations through the virtual networking rounds. Additionally, businesses have been able to share and discuss their business experiences, challenges, successes and innovative ways of adapting their operations during the situation as well as gain support and benefit from fresh ideas provided by other members.

Torfaen Business Voice members come from a wide range of sectors across south wales and beyond; and include professional services (legal, finance, HR and coaching), digital/IT and creative services. A nursery school, local arts centre and a creative balloon specialist for example also demonstrate the truly diverse nature of the membership body.

Louise Jones-Williams, Director of Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre who attended for the first time at the recent July event said *"I really enjoyed my first meeting of Torfaen Business Voice and found it very useful and informative. It was great to feel more in touch with the fantastic businesses in our area and discover what they have to offer. I am looking forward to not only making further contact with members but also attending the autumn events when I can let the group know more about what LGAC can offer the local community."*

Andrew Evans, Associate Partner at Green and Co Accountants & Tax Advisors, Cwmbran said *"The virtual business meetings, led by Torfaen Business Voice, have given me the opportunity to stay connected with local businesses, sharing insights and experiences during these unusual times. The meetings are well organised and structured, providing a great way to market our services and continue making new contacts while working from home."*

Steve Marsh of The Balloon Experience said *"I have enjoyed taking the opportunity to keep in touch with fellow TBV members over the previous weeks and months. Being able to talk about new ideas and ways of adapting a business to the situation has been useful, supportive and enlightening."*

Torfaen Business Voice will be resuming its autumn programme of events from September.

To find out more about business networking opportunities in Torfaen and what Torfaen Business Voice can offer businesses in the area please email Joanne.john@torfaen.gov.uk



ICO guidance to businesses collecting personal data for contact tracing

As hospitality businesses start to re-open the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have issued initial guidance for businesses asked to record and maintain personal data of customers, staff and visitors in support of the test and trace scheme.

There's no need for you to develop special apps or digital solutions – just choose the process that best suits your business.

The ICO recommends following five simple steps to help that data protection is not a barrier to your business recovery: **ask for only what's needed**

- be transparent with customers
- don't use it for other purposes
- carefully store the data
- erase it in line with government guidance

For further information please visit the [ICO's Data Protection and Coronavirus Hub](#).

The ICO also have also have a team of experts offering advice and support through their [small business helpline](#).

University of South Wales Exchange Virtual Events during Wales Tech Week

The USW Exchange business network supports businesses via:

- Access to expertise
- Events
- Exchange hubs
- Partnership development

In light of COVID-19, their onsite events have been paused, however a range of webinars and virtual events are being delivered.

As part of Wales Tech Week, the following webinars will be taking place:

Using Emerging Technology in Business July 14th, 12:14-12:45

Photonics R&D Support with CPE July 15th, 12:15-12:45

Advanced Technologies in Manufacturing July 16th, 12:15-12:45

[Register](#) to the free USW Exchange network to receive invites to their coming virtual events (free), discover opportunities to connect with our expertise to enable growth and innovation, and to receive updates on relevant funding from the University.



HM Treasury extends tax cut to PPE costs

The temporary scrapping of VAT on PPE has been extended until the **end of October 2020**.

The decision - which will make it easier and cheaper for care homes, charities and businesses to acquire the vital kit - comes after a temporary zero-rate of VAT was applied to PPE sales for an initial three months from 1 May 2020 to 31 July 2020.

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

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](https://twitter.com/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](https://twitter.com/Torfaenbiz)