

**COVID-19 FINANCIAL MEASURES PUT IN PLACE BY GOVERNMENT
BUSINESS SUPPORT**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the various financial measures put in place by Government to support businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Business Continuity Committee are asked to consider the financial measures put in place by Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Due to the COVID-19 outbreak all non-essential businesses must close. There is information on the Scottish Government website in respect of which business premises are permitted to remain open. The Scottish Government is advising all business premises, sites and attractions to close unless:
- essential to the health and welfare of the country during this crisis; or
 - supporting (or being repurposed to support) essential services; or
 - capable of working in a way which is fully consistent with established social distancing advice; or
 - wider public health, health and safety or other considerations apply and require a facility or service to continue to operate or a specific period of time for a safe shutdown process to be completed.
- 3.2 The UK and Scottish Governments have announced a package of support to assist businesses. You can find out more at [COVID-19 UK Govt Support for business](#) and [FindBusinessSupportScotland](#) and more information is contained within Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The business support offered includes:
- Business Support Grant - £10,000 or £25,000 available to non-domestic ratepayers
 - Job Retention Scheme
 - Self-employment Income Support
 - Business Interruption Loan Scheme
 - Non-Domestic Rates Relief
 - Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees
 - Deferral of VAT payments
 - Defer Income Tax for Self Employed.

- 3.4 The Council is administering the business support grant and an initial advance of the funding (80%) was provided to Council's on 1 April, with the remaining amount to be disbursed at a later stage. As at close of business on 6 April 2020, there is approximately 1,300 emails relating to business grants (some will be applications, others will be queries or follow-up to information requested) and 446 applications have been processed. By grant type, 418 have been processed for the £10,000 grant with 390 approved and 49 processed for the £25,000 grant with 37 approved.
- 3.5 The Council have launched a Coronavirus Caring for People helpline and this is set up to help with all types of advice linked to coronavirus. The number is 01546 605524. Information on support for businesses is also on the Council website within the Coronavirus Help and Advice section and is updated regularly.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A number of financial measures to support businesses have been announced by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as summarised within this report.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – None.
- 5.2 Financial – The Scottish Government have announced additional funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of which is being routed via the Council.
- 5.3 Legal – None.
- 5.4 HR – None
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – See below
- 5.5.1 Equalities – None
- 5.5.2 Socio Economic Duty – None
- 5.5.3 Islands Duty - None
- 5.6 Risk – Funding is insufficient to meet the demand/needs across the Council.
- 5.7 Customer Service – None

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Appendix 1 – Support for Businesses

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UPDATED 30TH MARCH 2020

CORONAVIRUS COVID - 19

Support for Businesses

The UK and Scottish Governments have announced a package of support to assist businesses.

You can find out more at COVID-19 UK Govt Support for business and FindBusinessSupportScotland.

A summary of this support is outlined in this document, please click on each to find out more information:

Two types of grant are available to non domestic ratepayers:



£25K GRANT

A one-off grant of £25,000 available to retail, hospitality and leisure business ratepayers with a rateable value between £18,001 and £50,999



£10K GRANT

A one-off grant of £10,000 to ratepayers of small businesses.



AM I ELIGIBLE?

The £10,000 grant is available to eligible small businesses in receipt of either Small Business Bonus Scheme relief or Rural Relief. You can also get this grant if you applied for Nursery Relief, Business Growth Accelerator Relief or Disabled Relief but are eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme.

Businesses must have been on the Non-Domestic Rates Roll from 17th March 2020.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about applying for the grant, contact Argyll and Bute Council on 01546 605524 and press option 2



HOW DO I APPLY?

To apply, please download an application form here.

Please note that you must submit a scanned bank statement or image of the nominated online account, dated less than 3 months ago, with your application form.

Information for Businesses

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak all non-essential businesses **must close**.

Guidance on this, including which premises are permitted to remain open, is available **here**. Businesses permitted to remain open must follow the Government's social distancing advice.



Financial Support for Businesses



JOB RETENTION SCHEME

Government grants will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers up to a total of £2,500 a month.

The scheme is open to all UK employers that had created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on 28 February 2020.



SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME

Government grants will allow self-employed individuals to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of trading profits up to maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months.



BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME

A new temporary loan scheme delivered by the British Business Bank is available to support SME and those in self-employment to access bank lending and overdrafts.

The Scheme can support loans of up to £5 million in value and is interest free for 12 months.

Further Government Support for Businesses



VAT AND INCOME TAX DEFERRED

Income Tax Self-Assessment, payments due on the 31 July 2020 can be deferred until 31 January 2021.

VAT payments from March -end of June 2020 have been automatically deferred until the end of the next tax year.



12 MONTHS BUSINESS RATES HOLIDAYS

ALL non-domestic properties in Scotland will get a 1.6% rates relief.

Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will get 100% rates relief.

These reliefs will be available to non-domestic properties from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.



SICK PAY RELIEF

SME's can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19.

A rebate scheme is being developed. Further details will be provided once the legislation has passed.



Help and advice for your business is available from Business Gateway.

bgateway.com
Contact the local team via 01546 604555 or business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Local business advice.

<https://www.facebook.com/bgargyllandbute/>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
<p>Business Support Fund</p> <p>Two types of grant are available to non domestic ratepayers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a one-off £10,000 grant to ratepayers of small businesses • a one-off grant of £25,000 available to retail, hospitality and leisure business ratepayers with a rateable value between £18,001 and £50,999 	<p>These grants are administered by Argyll and Bute Council in line with eligibility criteria set by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The £10,000 grant is available to eligible small businesses in receipt of either Small Business Bonus Scheme relief or Rural Relief. You can also get this grant if you applied for Nursery Relief, Business Growth Accelerator Relief or Disabled Relief but are eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme</p> <p>The eligibility criteria are stated on the application form. The form is updated for the new guidance opening up support to self-catering lets and caravans in certain circumstances</p> <p><u>Apply online for a</u></p> <p><u>Business Support Fund</u></p> <p><u>Grant</u></p> <p><u>Download the application form (Microsoft Word)</u></p> <p><u>Download the application form (PDF)</u></p> <p>Please note that you must</p>	<p><u>https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/</u></p> <p><u>Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions before submitting your application</u></p> <p>If you have any questions about applying for the grant contact the Council’s Coronavirus Caring for People Helpline Service on 01546 605524 and select option 2 (Business Related Help) followed by option 1 (Applying for the Business Support Grant).</p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
	<p>submit a scanned bank statement or image of the nominated online account, dated less than 3 months ago, with your application form.</p> <p>You can only apply for one grant – even if you own multiple properties</p>	
<p>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p>	<p>This is a temporary scheme open to all UK employers for at least three months starting from 1 March 2020. Employers can use the scheme anytime during this period.</p> <p>Employers can claim for 80% of furloughed employees' (employees on a leave of absence) usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month, plus the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and minimum automatic enrolment employer pension contributions on that wage.</p> <p>The scheme is open to all UK employers that had created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on 28 February 2020.</p> <p>The online service you'll</p>	<p><u>Job Retention Scheme guidance</u></p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
	<p>use to claim is not available yet. It is expected to be available by the end of April 2020.</p>	
<p>Self-employment Income Support Scheme</p>	<p>The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19).</p> <p>This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.</p> <p>You cannot apply for this scheme yet. HMRC will contact you if you are eligible for the scheme and invite you to apply online.</p> <p>To be eligible you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have submitted an Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19 traded in the tax year 2019-20 are trading when you apply, or would be except for COVID-19 intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020-21 	<p><u>self-employment-income-support-scheme guidance</u></p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
	<p>have lost trading/partnership trading profits due to COVID-19</p> <p>have self-employed trading profits of less than £50,000</p> <p>have more than half of your income from self-employment</p> <p>If you are not eligible for this support, or eligible but in need of immediate support, you may be eligible for other support including universal credit or a business interruption loan.</p> <p>If you're a director of your own company and paid through PAYE you may be able to get support using the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.</p>	
<p>Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme</p>	<p>A new temporary loan scheme delivered by the British Business Bank is available to support SME and those in self-employment to access bank lending and overdrafts.</p> <p>The Scheme can support loans of up to £5 million in value and is interest free for 12 months.</p> <p>To be eligible your business</p>	<p>The full rules of the Scheme and the list of accredited lenders is available on the <u>British Business Bank website</u></p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
	<p>must:</p> <p>be UK based, with turnover of no more than £45 million per year; and have a borrowing proposal which, were it not for the current pandemic, would be considered viable by the lender, and for which the lender believes the provision of finance will enable the business to trade out of any short-to-medium term difficulty</p> <p>All the major banks offer the Scheme. There are 40 accredited providers in all.</p>	
<p>Non domestic Rates relief</p>	<p>ALL non-domestic properties in Scotland will get a 1.6% rates relief.</p> <p>Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will get 100% rates relief. To get this relief, a property has to be occupied.</p> <p>These reliefs will be available to non-domestic properties from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>You do not need to apply for these reliefs as they will be applied to your bill by the Council.</p> <p>If you are struggling to pay your non-domestic rates bill</p>	<p>https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/</p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
	<p>you should contact the Council and ask about your payment options.</p>	
<p>Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees</p>	<p>The Government will bring forward legislation to allow small-and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19.</p> <p>A rebate scheme is being developed. Further details will be provided once the legislation has passed.</p>	<p><u>support-for-businesses-who-are-paying-sick-pay-to-employees</u></p>
<p>Defer VAT payment</p>	<p>If you're a UK VAT registered business and have a VAT payment due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you have the option to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defer the payment until a later date pay the VAT due as normal <p>If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19 more help is available from HMRC's <u>Time to Pay scheme</u>.</p>	<p><u>how to defer your VAT payment</u></p>

Type of support	Outline of what is available	How to find out more
<p>Defer Income tax for Self Employed</p>	<p>For Income Tax Self-Assessment, payments due on the 31 July 2020 may be deferred until 31 January 2021.</p> <p>The deferment is optional. This is an automatic offer with no applications required. No penalties or interest for late payment will be charged if you defer payment until January 2021. You do not need to be self-employed to be eligible for the deferment</p> <p>If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19 more help is available from HMRC's Time to Pay scheme.</p>	<p>deferring-income-tax-payments</p>
<p>Business Gateway</p>	<p>Help and advice your business is available from Business Gateway.</p> <p>You can talk to one of the local business advisers, free and in confidence.</p> <p>Online guides, tutorials and further resources are available on the website.</p>	<p>bgateway.com</p> <p>Contact the local team via 01546 604555 or business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/bgargyllandbute/</p>