

COVID-19

This guide contains information regarding national grants and schemes available to small businesses and the self-employed.

Grants and funding are also available at local authority level to help support businesses through the COVID-19 crisis. To find out what help and support is available in your area, we strongly recommend you contact your local council.

FSB members can also log into their dashboard to find details of their local FSB contacts, who can outline local support available.

[fsb.org.uk/coronavirus](https://www.fsb.org.uk/coronavirus)

Information correct as of 16th June 2020.

For further updates, please visit www.fsb.org.uk, [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or your local authority's website.

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What funding is available for my business?

VAT Deferral

The VAT payments deferral scheme ended on 30th June 2020. If you're a UK VAT-registered business that deferred VAT payments between 20th March and 30th June, you now need to:

- set-up cancelled Direct Debits
- continue to submit VAT returns as normal and on time
- pay VAT in full on payments due after 30th June

Any deferred payments should be paid in full on or before 31st March 2021.

HMRC Time To Pay

You can contact HMRC Time To Pay on 0800 015 9559. HMRC will be generous with any request to defer due tax payments. It's important you call them to agree this, don't just cancel your Direct Debit.

Job Retention Scheme

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme offers a grant for furloughed staff. It covers 80% of salary costs, capped at £2,500 per month. From August, employers will need to make contributions to the scheme. [Click here](#) to find out about the changes to the scheme, including flexible furlough. You may also be eligible for the CJRS if you are a limited company director or a salaried member of a limited liability partnership - but only for the part of your income that you pay yourself as a salary via PAYE.

Extra Financial Support

The Department for Communities has launched a discretionary support fund for people in extreme financial distress, including self-employed people or small business owners. Check the NI Direct website and fill out the form: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/extra-financial-support>

Invoice Payment Terms

If you receive payments for services and have delivered work for clients and customers, have you issued an invoice? Contact them and ask for the invoice to be paid now, regardless of payment terms.

Mortgage & Rent Breaks

Contact your landlord about rent holidays, or speak to your bank about mortgage holidays. The Treasury announced emergency legislation through the COVID Bill in Parliament to ban evictions for commercial tenants for at least 3 months. This is not a payment holiday, you will still remain liable for your rent and will need to make payments unless your landlord agrees a rent holiday with you. NI guidance was released for tenants and landlords on April 16th: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-guidance-private-rented-sector-landlords-and-tenants>

Statutory Sick Pay

The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of SSP that you pay to current or former employees for periods of sickness starting on or after 13th March 2020. The repayment will cover up to 2 weeks starting from the first day of sickness due to COVID-19. The scheme can be used if you had a PAYE payroll scheme that was created and started on or before 28th February 2020, and you had fewer than 250 employees on 28th February 2020.

In Northern Ireland, the NI Business info phone number is 0800 181 4422.

Lines open Mon - Friday 8:30am - 5pm

Further information will be available on the NI Business info website at: www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Specific queries can be sent to fsbni@fsb.org.uk

fsb.org.uk/coronavirus

Information correct as of 28th April 2020.

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What funding is available for my business?

Business Rates & Grants

There is a 4 month rates holiday for all business ratepayers (excluding public sector and utilities) until the end of July 2020.

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/news/murphy-announces-further-ps213m-business-rates-support>

Are you eligible for Small Business Rates Relief?

NO
-
DON'T
KNOW

Your rates valuation can be checked at:
www.finance-ni.gov.uk/services/non-domestic-valuation-list

YES

The Small Business Rate Relief scheme will continue in 2020-21. A £10,000 grant should be available to you - check www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk for more details.

If Land and Property Services (LPS) does not hold your bank details for the purposes of paying rates by Direct Debit then you need to fill in an online form to register for the scheme and provide your bank details for payment. The Grants telephone helpline is **0300 200 7809** and is open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

Are you a hospitality, tourism, retail or leisure business?

NO

As well as the 3 month Rates holiday for all businesses, certain manufacturers, fishing boats and childcare providers can access grants or funding.

Manufacturers: Check NI Business Info
Fishing Boats: Check Daera Website

Childcare: You should be eligible for 100% rates relief until 31st March 2021. Check Family Support NI Website.

YES

Do you have a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000?

NO

Hospitality, tourism, leisure and retail properties (with the exception of retail food stores over 300m² and off-licences) will receive 100% rates relief until 31st March 2021

Keep checking www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk for further support, which we understand is due to be announced to assist businesses who have not benefited so far.

YES

Hospitality, tourism, leisure and retail properties (with the exception of retail food stores over 300m² and off-licences) will receive 100% rates relief until 31st March 2021. You should be eligible for a £25,000 grant. Check www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk for more information and to apply.

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What funding is available
for my business?

NI Micro-business Hardship Fund

For businesses unable to access other coronavirus business support, this fund will provide a grant of up to £10,000 for businesses that pay business rates and £5,000 for those who don't.

You should be eligible if you:

- employ between one and nine employees paid via PAYE as of 29th February 2020 (excluding where the sole employee is the business owner or director)
- since 1st March 2020 have experienced in excess of 40% reduction in turnover as a result of COVID-19 or government restrictions.

Please visit NI Business Info for full details and an eligibility checker

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-ni-micro-business-hardship-fund>

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What funding is available for my business?

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Are you a UK based SME with a turnover of more than £45m?

YES

For larger firms, you may be eligible for the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility.

The Bank of England will buy short term debt from larger companies to support your business if it has been affected. It will also support corporate finance markets overall, and ease the supply of credit to all firms. All UK based businesses are eligible.

NO

Do you need to borrow less than £250,000?

YES

You may be eligible for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme. This gives an 80% government guarantee to lenders and is 12 months interest free and fee free. Loans of less than £250,000 cannot use the personal guarantee. You can apply directly to one of over 40 accredited lenders or you can use the FSB Funding Platform.

NO

Is your business and personal security adequate?

NO

YES

If you have security, you may be eligible for a CBILS loan of over £250,000, which is 12 months interest free and fee free. It covers loans of up to £5m. For loans over £250,000, you will not be able to use your personal primary residence for security. You can apply directly to one of over 40 accredited lenders or you can use the FSB Funding Platform.

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What funding is available for my business?

Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan

Do you meet the following criteria?

- UK based business
- Negatively impacted by coronavirus
 - Existed by 1st March 2020
- Not 'undertaking in difficulty' on 31/12/19

YES

Is your business one of the following?

- Insurer or re-insurer (but not insurance broker)
 - Bank • Public-sector body
- Grant-funded further education establishment
- State-funded primary and secondary school

YES

Are you already claiming under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme?

NO

NO

YES

You won't be eligible for the Bounce Back Loan; other funding options may be available.

Do you have a tax return?

YES

NO

You won't be eligible for the Bounce Back Loan. However, if you've already received a loan of up to £50,000 under CBILS and would like to transfer it to the Bounce Back Loan, you can arrange this with your lender until 4th November 2020.

If you don't have a tax return, you can use a business tax account to prove your eligibility for the Bounce Back Loan.

You should be eligible for the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, which allows SMEs to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000. Loans are capped at 25% of turnover, but there is no turnover limit. The government will guarantee 100% of the loan, with no fees or interest in the first 12 months. Loan terms will be up to 6 years, and no repayments will be due in the first 12 months. If you do decide to pay back in the first year, there is no penalty.

From 4th May 2020, you'll be able to apply online through all the CBILS providers, but it won't be via the British Business Bank. There is no security or credit assessment required.

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What funding is available for my business?

I'm self-employed - what's available?

Do you meet the following criteria?

- Submitted your Self Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19, or will do so by 23rd April. (If you have returns for 2017-18 and 2016-17 they will also be used to assess your average tradable profits.)
- Traded in the tax year 2019-20.
- Are trading when you apply, or would be except for COVID-19.
- Intend to continue trading in the tax year 2020-21.
- Lost trading profits as a result of coronavirus.

YES

Are your self-employed trading profits less than £50,000?

YES

You may be eligible for the Self Employed Income Support Scheme if you:

- Have average tradable profits over the last three years of below £50,000 or your tradable profits for 2018-19 were below £50,000
- Earn more than 50% of your income from self employment.

You can 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. 3.8 million will benefit from this scheme, but some exclusions apply: company director's dividends, those who earn more than £50,000 and those whose other income makes up more than 50% of their earnings.

Universal Credit

Can be accessed in full at a rate equivalent to Statutory Sick Pay, but you must have savings below £16,000.

Tax Return Deferral

June tax return and payment deferred to January 2021.

Proposed changes to IR35 have been postponed to 2021

The government announced on 17th March that the reform to the off-payroll working rules (commonly known as IR35) - that would have applied for people contracting their services to large or medium-sized organisations outside the public sector - will be delayed for one year from 6th April 2020 until 6th April 2021. Businesses and individuals do not need to take any action.

Extra Financial Support

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