

Covid-19 Scottish Business Support Summary

Correct as at 17:50, 19th March 2020

Name of Scheme	What does it do?	Who and what is eligible?	How can it be accessed?
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Relief Package	Allows small-and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19 • Employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020 • Employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19 • Employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP, but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note • Eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of Statutory Sick Pay to those staying at home comes into force. 	<p>The UK Government will work with employers over the coming months to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible. Further info available here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p>
Business Rates (All Businesses)	Rates Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6% relief for all properties, freezing the poundage rate next year 	<p>Directly applied to business rates bills from 1st April 2020. Further details available here:</p> <p>https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/</p>

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Business Rates (Specific Sectors)	Rates holiday for 2020/21 tax year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full year's 100% non-domestic rates relief for retail, hospitality and tourism business ratepayers. 	Directly applied to business rates bills from 1 st April 2020. Further details available here: https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/
Cash Grants	Direct grant support to specific businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10,000 grant awarded to all small firms receiving the small business bonus or rural relief • £25,000 grants for hospitality, leisure and retail properties with a rateable value between £18,000 and £51,000. 	Full details to be confirmed by Scottish Government and COSLA w/c 23 rd March 2020. Further details available here: https://www.mygov.scot/non-domestic-rates-coronavirus/
Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme	Loan Support with UK Government Guarantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) • No charge to businesses or banks from the UK Government • Supports loans of up to £5 million. • Interest free for the first 6 months – interest payments are covered by the UK Government 	Full details to be announced by UK Government w/c 23 rd March 2020. Further info available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19
COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility	Purchase of short-term debt (Larger firms only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New lending facility to raise working capital via the Bank of England directly purchasing short-term debt. • Supports companies that are fundamentally strong but have been affected by a short-term funding squeeze. • Supports the corporate finance market overall which eases the supply of credit to all firms. 	Full details to be announced by UK Government w/c 23 rd March 2020. Further info available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19

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Insurance	Insurance payout (based on cover)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that have cover for both pandemics and government-ordered closure should be covered. • UK Government has confirmed with the insurance industry their advice to avoid pubs, theatres etc on 17th March 2020 is sufficient to make a claim. 	Check with your businesses insurer
HMRC Time to Pay Service	Tax relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may receive support. • Case-by-case basis and tailored to individual circumstances 	Call HMRC's Dedicated Helpline on 0800 0159 559
Planning Rules Relaxed (Specific Sectors)	Change of operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities to relax planning rules to allow pubs and restaurants to operate temporarily as takeaways 	Guidance to be published by Local Authorities.
Visitor Levy Bill	Halting of Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of a visitor levy on tourism in Scotland will be halted 	Effective immediately
Deposit Return Scheme	Extension of Go-Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deposit Return Scheme will now be introduced in July 2022 	Effective immediately
Business Loans Scotland and West of Scotland Loan Fund	Businesses with existing loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 month capital and interest holiday for all existing borrowers 	Applied directly to loans via Business Loans Scotland

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EU Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative	Direct €37 billion increase in EU Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF); Cohesion Fund (CF); and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission has relinquished obligation to request refunding of unspent pre-financing for the listed Funds until programme closure. • Member States can now use the amounts not recovered in 2020 to accelerate investments related to COVID-19 outbreak. • Proposed for ERDF to support the financing of working capital in SMEs where necessary as a temporary measure. • ERDF investment priority to strengthen research, technological development and innovation is modified to cover investment in products and services for fostering the crisis response capacities in public health services. Expenditure on this is eligible from 1st February 2020. 	Awaiting full European Commission and Member State (i.e. UK & Scottish Governments) legislative approval.
Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund	£50 million fund across Scotland to support at-risk people affected by Covid-19, including homeless people and those experiencing fuel poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For charities and others who require additional capacity to work with target groups. 	Funding will be allocated direct to local authorities. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of when local authorities will receive these funds.

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Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund	£40 million fund to support the growth of community efforts at a local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds for organisations who support people at risk because of age, isolation, carers, homeless people and asylum seekers and signposting people to sources of help, such as applying for benefits. 	Funding will be allocated direct to local authorities. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of when local authorities will receive these funds.
Scottish Government Third Sector Resilience Fund	£20 million to ensure health and continued viability of third sector organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically focused on third sector organisations cash flow and other problems 	Funding provided directly to third sector. Awaiting further details from Scottish Government of how organisations can access funds.

Key Website Pages specific to Covid-19 Business Support:

- UK Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>
- Scottish Government: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>
- Business Gateway National: <https://www.bgateway.com/resources/coronavirus-support>
- Business Gateway Local Offices: <https://www.bgateway.com/local-offices>
- Federation of Small Businesses: [COVID-19: Advice and guidance for small businesses and the self-employed](#)
- Scottish Chambers of Commerce: [Business Advice & Guidance: Covid-19](#)
- ACAS - The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service: [Advice for employers and employees](#)